



50 Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die

Part 10

41. To secure our resurrection from the dead



Good...Better...Best

- This truth is the final and most glorious promise in a series of glorious promises. Humanity is in a state of physical and spiritual ruin. Our sin has brought death and disease to our physical bodies and it has brought spiritual death and separation from God to us as well. On our own we are utterly helpless in this state yet God promises to all of us in Christ that...

1. Good: While we live in Christ

- We receive partial restoration of the presence of the Lord
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 13:12--*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*
- We receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
 - ❖ John 16:7--*if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.*
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:19--*Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?*
- We may receive healing to our physical bodies
 - ❖ Matthew 10:1--*And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.*
 - One might ask, would Jesus choose to work this way today? Isn't he done with miracles?
 - ❖ Hebrews 13:8--*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*
 - ❖ James 5:14--*Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*

2. Better: When we die in Christ

- The death of a Christian brings two amazing benefits.
 - (1) They are no longer plagued with an aging, decaying, disease riddled, fragile body.
 - (2) They are instantly with the Lord
 - These two truths cause the apostle Paul to say...
 - ❖ 2 Corinthians 5:8--*Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

3. Best: When Christ comes again

- For the Christian, The return of the king means so much more than the conclusion to the Lord of the Rings trilogy. It means that the perfect glorious state that God himself described as "very good" (Genesis 1:31) is completely renewed! The perfect state for the Christian is not to remain disembodied before the throne of God for all eternity. The perfect state is to be resurrected to enjoy a perfect, eternal, glorified, body while living on a perfect, eternal, glorified earth, in the presence of our glorious God forever and ever.
 - (1) We will be resurrected to enjoy perfect, eternal, glorified bodies



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- ❖ Romans 6:5--*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
- When?
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:51-52--*Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed*
 - ❖ 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16--*15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left **until the coming of the Lord**, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first*
- What will they be like?
 - ❖ Matthew 13:43--*Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father*
 - ❖ Philippians 3:21--*who will **transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body**, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself*

(2) We will be resurrected to enjoy a perfect, eternal, glorified earth in the presence of our glorious God forever and ever

- ❖ Revelation 21:1-5--*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. 5 And he who was seated on the throne said, Behold, I am making all things new.*



Why does this seem so under appreciated today?

- Back in the days Christians sang songs celebrating this glorious truth. We sang “I’ll Fly Away” and “One Day Jesus will Call My Name.” We used to sing lyrics that said,

*Oh where shall I be when the last trumpet sounds
Oh where shall I be when it sounds so loud
When it sounds so loud that it wakes up the dead
Oh where shall I be when it sounds*

I think the reason we don’t celebrate this truth in song as much as we used to is because we love this life way too much and we have way too little understanding of how glorious it will be to be with the Lord forever in our eternal, glorified bodies.



Are all people resurrected, believers and non-believers?

- ❖ John 5:28-29--*Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment*



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- ❖ Acts 24:15--*having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.*

42.To disarm the rulers and authorities

- ❖ Colossians 2:15--*He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*



Who are these rulers?

- This obviously can't be referring to human rulers and authorities as they have stayed, in many cases, very well armed. Not only that, but many human rulers and authorities have used their power to persecute Christians. For an example of this, lets briefly look at what happened in the Roman empire after the ascension...
 1. **Nero 67 AD:** Nero burned down part of the of the city of Rome and blamed Christians. Under Nero the punishment for being a Christian might very well be... "sewed up in the skins of wild beasts, and then worried by dogs till they expired; and others dressed in shirts made stiff with wax, fixed to axletrees, and set on fire in his gardens, in order to illuminate them. This persecution was general throughout the whole Roman empire;¹"
 2. **Domitian 81 AD:** Domitian blamed Christians for just about anything. If there was famine, earthquakes, pestilence, or any other affliction Christians were blamed and put to death.
 3. **Marcus Aurelius Antoninus 162 AD:** Under Marcus Aurelius, "Some of the martyrs were obliged to pass, with their already wounded feet, over thorns, nails, sharp shells, &c. upon their points, others were scourged till their sinews and veins lay bare, and after suffering the most excruciating tortures that could be devised, they were destroyed by the most terrible deaths.²" Other martyrs "were compelled to sit in red-hot iron chairs till their flesh broiled.³"
 4. **Maximus 235 AD:** "During this persecution, raised by Maximinus, numberless christians were slain without trial, and buried indiscriminately in heaps, sometimes fifty or sixty being cast into a pit together, without the least decency.⁴"
 5. **Valerian 257 AD:** Persecution under Valerian "continued for three years and six months. The martyrs that fell in this persecution were innumerable, and their tortures and deaths as various and painful.⁵"
 6. **Diocletian 303 AD:** In 303 AD, Diocletian issued a series of decrees that purposed to destroy Christianity. He not only sought to kill all Christians, but sought also to destroy Christian church

¹ John Foxe. Fox's Book of Martyrs / Or A History of the Lives, Sufferings, and Triumphant / Deaths of the Primitive Protestant Martyrs (Kindle Locations 349-351)

² Ibid, 409

³ Ibid, 470

⁴ Ibid, 531-533

⁵ Ibid, 629-630



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buildings, Christian scripture, and literature as well so that the world would be done with Christianity once and for all. Under Diocletian, “Racks, scourges, swords, daggers, crosses, poison, and famine, were made use of in various parts to despatch the christians; and invention was exhausted to devise tortures...A city of Phrygia, consisting entirely of christians, was burnt, and all the inhabitants perished in the flames.⁶”

- So who then are these rulers? Piper argues that, “In the Bible, “rulers and authorities” can refer to human governments. But when we read that on the cross Christ “disarmed the rulers and authorities” and “put them to open shame” and “triumphed over them,” we should think of the demonic powers that afflict the world.⁷”
- We see that this is true when Paul, himself, clarifies what he means...
 - ❖ Ephesians 6:12--*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*



What is it that Satan and his demons were once armed with and who was their target?

1. Target--humanity

- ❖ 1 Peter 5:8--*Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*

2. Weaponry--it is important to remember that we are not asking how the enemy still works against us today. The devil can still lie (John 8:44), the devil can still appear as an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:14), demons can still possess non-believers (Acts 16:16-18). We are asking which weapons of Satan’s arsenal have been rendered useless because of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

- **Sin**--We were once enslaved to our sin (John 8:34). In Christ what is now true is...
 - ❖ Romans 6:6-7--*We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.*
 - ❖ Romans 6:14--*For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.*
- **Possession**--The devil has now power to possess a believer. Why? For three reasons...
 - (1) A believer is filled with the Holy Spirit
 - ❖ Romans 8:9--*You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.*
 - (2) A believer is sealed by the Holy Spirit
 - ❖ Ephesians 1:13--*In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,*
 - ❖ Ephesians 4:30--*And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

⁶ Ibid, 768-771

⁷ Piper, John. Fifty Reasons Why Jesus Came to Die (p. 102). Good News Publishers. Kindle Edition.



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(3) The Holy Spirit in us is far greater than the demonic forces that sometimes possess non-believers

❖ 1 John 4:4--*Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

• **Reality**--The devil has no power to accuse us of the sins that we have indeed committed before God.

❖ Revelation 12:10--*Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers **has been thrown down**, who accuses them day and night before our God.*



How have Satan and his demons been disarmed?

❖ Revelation 12:10-11--*Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.*

• Jesus came and died to punch the teeth right out of the “roaring lion’s” mouth!

43. To unleash the power of God in the Gospel



What do we mean by unleash?

• **Divine perspective:** from God’s perspective unleashing simply means to enact what has always been preordained.

• **Human perspective:** from a human perspective, particularly from a OT Jewish perspective, this looks radical. In spite of the fact that...

❖ Galatians 3:8--*And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, In you shall all the nations be blessed.*

Many OT believers thought that salvation was just for the Jewish people.

❖ Deuteronomy 7:6-8--*For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, 8 but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers,*

Yet they often failed to understand that they were chosen for a very special purpose. Jesus would come from their line. It would be their scripture and their prophets that foretold the coming of Jesus. It would be the Law that they were given that Jesus would perfectly fulfill. They were chosen to be a people through whom the whole world would be blessed. Unfortunately, many couldn’t make that connection so they saw salvation as small.

To these people, God was unleashing something massive. Think about what it sounded like for these people who believed that God was only interested in one tiny, insignificant, nation to hear things like...

❖ Matthew 28:19--*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,*



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- ❖ John 3:16--*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
 - ❖ Acts 1:8--*you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*
 - ❖ Romans 1:16--*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.*
 - ❖ 1 John 2:2--*He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.*
 - ❖ Revelation 5:9--*Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,*
 - ❖ Revelation 7:9-10--*After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*
- To such a people, this salvation was radical and massive. In response to this some would ask or even argue, “doesn’t this mean then that God is saving everyone?” No, but it certainly means that he is saving way more people that previously imagined.



The power of God in the Gospel

- What do we mean by this? Does this mean that the Gospel is like some kind of powerful incantation that God invented? Of course not, what we mean is that God exercises his mighty power to save all who believe the Gospel. Let’s unpack what this means...
 1. **God powerfully overcomes our inability**
 - We were...
 - ❖ Romans 8:7-8--*For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 2:14--*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.*
 - Yet God used his power to overcome our inability
 - ❖ John 15:16--*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide,*
 - ❖ Romans 9:16--*So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.*
 2. **God powerfully regenerates us**
 - We were...
 - ❖ Ephesians 2:1--*And you were dead in the trespasses and sins*
 - Yet God used his power to make us alive
 - Ephesians 2:4-5--*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ*
 3. **God powerfully sanctifies us**
 - We were...



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- ❖ Isaiah 64:6--*We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.*
- ❖ Romans 3:10-12--*None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one.*
- Yet God uses his power to make us righteous
 - ❖ 1 Corinthians 5:21--*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
 - ❖ 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24--*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.*
- 4. God's power keeps us in him**
 - ❖ John 6:39--*And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.*
 - ❖ Philippians 1:6--*And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*
- 5. God's power will one day resurrect us**
 - ❖ Romans 6:5--*For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*
 - ❖ 1 Thessalonians 4:16--*For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.*