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What You Need to Know About the Death of Jesus: Part 2

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST: PART TWO

- I. Who were the parties involved in the death of Jesus Christ?
In reality there were seven secondary sources and three primary sources.

A. The seven secondary sources:

1. Satan
"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" (Gen. 3:15).
2. Judas (Matt. 26:14-16, 47-50)
 - a. Judas sold Jesus to His enemies for 30 pieces of silver (Matt. 26:14-16).
 - b. Judas identified Jesus for His enemies in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:47-50).
3. Annas and Caiaphas (John 18:12-14, 19-24; Matt. 26:57, 62-65)
This wicked former High Priest (Annas), and his ungodly current High Priest (Caiaphas) ordered the arrest of Jesus, and, after shamefully mistreating Him, voted to put Him to death.
4. Pilate (Matt. 27:15-26)
After ordering Jesus to be cruelly scourged (knowing full well of His innocence), Pilate releases the Savior to be crucified!
5. The Jewish leaders (Matt. 26:3, 4, 59-61; 27:1)
"When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death" (Matt. 27:1).
6. The Roman soldiers (Matt. 27:27-35)
"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers ... And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots" (Matt. 27:27, 35).
7. All sinners
"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed" (Isa. 53:5).

"Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him"(Heb. 2:8).

B. The three primary sources:

1. God the Father!

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted ... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand"(Isa. 53:4, 10).

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"(John 3:16).

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"
(Rom. 8:32).

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him"(2 Cor. 5:21).

2. God the Son!

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"(Matt. 20:28).

"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father"(John 10:18).

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"
(Gal. 2:20).

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it"(Eph. 5:25).

3. God the Holy Spirit!

"How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"(Heb. 9:14).

II. What kind of emotional suffering did Jesus Christ endure for our redemption?

A. The kind that came from His friends.

1. One apostle denied Him (Luke 22:54-62).
2. One apostle betrayed Him (Matt. 26:14-16).
3. All the apostles forsook Him (Matt. 26:56).

B. The kind that came from His foes.

1. From the political world. Both Pilate and Herod refused to give Him a fair trial (Matt. 27:22-26; Luke 23:6-12).
2. From the religious world. The High Priest (Caiaphas) and the Jewish leaders plotted against Him (Matt. 26:57, 59).
3. From the military world. He was taunted and ridiculed by the Roman soldiers (Matt. 27:27-31).
4. From the demonic world. There is evidence that Satan attempted to kill Jesus in Gethsemane, perhaps to prevent Him from going to the cross (Mark 14:32-36; Luke 22:39-44).

C. The kind that came from His Father.

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46).

III. What was truly unique concerning Jesus Christ's death on the cross?

In the Old Testament two specific factors were involved in the offering up of an acceptable sacrifice. The first was the service of a qualified priest (from the Tribe of Levi, Num. 3:5-8) and the second involved an acceptable victim (from the list of clean animals, Lev. 20:25).

On the cross Jesus functioned as both priest (even though He came from the Tribe of Judah, Heb. 7:14), and acceptable victim!

Author Ray Stedman writes:

As a priest, Jesus Christ could find no unblemished sacrifice that He could offer except Himself, so He offered Himself as a sacrifice; there was found no other priest worthy of offering such a sacrifice, so Christ became both Priest and Victim.

(What More Can God Say?, Regal Press, p. 115)

This dual arrangement can be seen by listening to His seven final sentences while on the cross. The first three demonstrate His priestly ministry while the final four speak of His sacrificial role.

A. His priestly ministry.

1. *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23:34).
2. *"Verily, I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise"* (Luke 23:43).
1. *"Woman, behold thy son! ... Behold thy mother!"* (John 19:26, 27).

B. His sacrificial ministry:

1. *"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Matt. 27:46).
2. *"I thirst"* (John 19:28).
3. *"It is finished"* (John 19:30).
4. *"Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"* (Luke 23:46).

IV. When did Jesus Christ die?

A. Historically speaking, He died on Friday (many believe), March 30, A.D. 33 at 3:00 P.M.

"Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost" (Matt. 27:50).

"And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost" (Mark 15:37).

"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost" (Luke 23:46).

"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost" (John 19:30).

B. Theologically speaking, He died before the foundation of the world. At least four New Testament passages bring this out:

"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love ... In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (Eph. 1:4, 7).

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God" (Heb. 10:4-7).

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a

lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you"(1 Peter 1:18-20).

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world"(Rev. 13:8).

Stated another way, in the mind and plan of God, the last Adam was already on the cross of Calvary before the first Adam was in the Garden of Eden!

V. What were the results of Jesus Christ's death on the cross?

The effects of His victorious death were ten-fold!

A. In relation to sinners—Redemption

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Gal. 3:13).

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace"(Eph. 1:7).

"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation" (Rev. 5:9).

B. In relation to the saved—Sanctification

"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father"(Gal. 1:4).

"By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all ... Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh" (Heb. 10:10, 19, 20).

C. In relation to the Father—Reconciliation

"For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (Rom. 5:10).

"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their

trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation"(2 Cor. 5:18, 19).

"And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby"(Eph. 2:16).

"And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven"(Col. 1:20).

D. In relation to the Savior—Expectation

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool"(Heb. 10:12, 13).

E. In relation to the devil—Destruction

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it"(Col. 2:15).

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil"(Heb. 2:14).

"He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"(1 John 3:8).

F. In relation to the Law—Completion

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil"(Matt. 5:17).

"For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth"(Rom. 10:4).

G. In relation to the Nation Israel—Restoration

"In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness"(Zech. 13:1).

"And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins"
(Rom. 11:26, 27).

H. In relation to the sin nature—Condemnation

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus

Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Rom. 6:1-6).

I. In relation to sin itself—Purification

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:9-11).

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5).

J. In relation to the wrath of God—Protection

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:16-18).

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain” (1 Thess. 5:9).