

Lesson 4-2 The Death of Jesus

1. In lesson 4-1 we stated that the Bible is clear that Jesus is God. Those of us who believe in the Bible also believe: that Jesus came in the flesh; He lived as a mortal; He suffered; He was killed; and, He descended to the "heart of the earth, bearing our sins." He was raised up for a short time on earth, and ascended to heaven in victory, having conquered sin and death. Does this make sense to you? Do you know any other religions with this theme?

who killed Jesus?

2. Please read the following scriptures:

Matther 27:1 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

John 19:12 From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

John 19:13 So when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement,

John 19:16 So he delivered him over to them to be crucified.

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.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;

Considering these scriptures, who do you think was ultimately responsible for Jesus' death?

3. Please read the words of Jesus when talking about who is to blame for His death:

John 10:18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Does this change your answer in number 2.

Jesus' Death Prophesied

4. Consider the following story of Abraham and Isaac. Do you see any prophesy here?

Genesis 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Genesis 22:6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?

Genesis 22:8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.

Genesis 22:9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

Genesis 22:10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

Genesis 22:11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I.

Genesis 22:12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Genesis 22:13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. (KJV)

5. Considering the account of Abraham and Isaac, how do you think God felt about giving His Son, Jesus to die on the cross?

6. why do you think God didn't let Abraham slay his son?

7. In verse 22:7, Isaac asked Abraham, "but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Isaac saw the fire and the wood, but he didn't see the lamb. Abraham responded, "My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering." What do you think Abraham meant by that? Who do you think the "lamb" was?

8. The death and resurrection are recurring themes in the Bible. Hundreds of years before Jesus' death, the prophets clearly wrote details of His suffering and death. Here are a couple of examples:

Jesus would die by crucifixion

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. (NIV)

Jesus would die for the sins of mankind

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

9. Please read the words of Jesus just before the crucifixion:

Mark 14:36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. (KJV)

Did Jesus want to die?

Did Jesus voluntarily die?

10. The Bible credits Jesus (the word) for the creation. Considering the magnificence of the creation with the trillions of stars, what kind of God would submit himself to the shame, humiliation, and pain?

11. Does this reveal the personality of God? What do you think is the personality of God?

12. Wherever Jesus went and whatever He did, miracles were present. This is also true with His death:

Matthew 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

Matthew 27:51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.

Matthew 27:52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,

Matthew 27:53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Matthew 27:54 when the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (ESV)

Proof of Jesus' death

13. Probably the greatest proof that Jesus died (by crucifixion) is that thousands of people were killed for believing that He died and was resurrected. They witnessed these things and were not willing to deny their testimony even if it meant giving their lives. Also, contemporary historians attested to the life and death of Jesus. See: Josephus, Thallus, Tacitus, Lucian of Samosata, numerous Gnostic writings, and many others.

Note: According to the Bible, death has several depths. For the purpose of this lesson, it means (1) separation of the soul from the body and (2) separation from God. Jesus experienced both. We will have more teaching about death in the future.

Conclusion

14. Jesus died a painful and humiliating death. No one took His life, but He gave it. This is a mystery, but God's ways are much higher than our ways. To deny the death of Jesus, one must reject Bible prophesy, old and new testaments; one must deny the Christian witnesses that were willing to give their lives for their testimony; one must deny the secular historians; and, one must deny the words of Jesus.

Note: Lesson 4-3 deals with The purpose of Jesus death.