

Why Did Jesus Have to Die?

1. In Lesson 4-2, we offered evidence that Jesus suffered and died. The Bible tells us why Jesus had to die. Please read:

2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NAS)

1 Peter 2:24 and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. (NAS)

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree." (NAS)

So, this is the plan that God chose to bring us back to Him; If you were God, would you have chosen this plan?

2. Can you think of a better plan than this one?

3. Are you willing to accept, by faith, that God knows what He is doing and that His method is the best possible choice?

4. Most other religions make sense to man, but Christianity doesn't. Please read:

Isaiah 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Is it important that we understand everything? Do we have the mental capability to understand everything?

5. Consider the Garden of Eden, just after Adam and Eve sinned. They were naked and made aprons out of fig leaves for themselves

as a covering. Even though they had a covering, they hid themselves from God. What did God do? He killed some animals and gave the skins for a covering. Why did He do this? Up until this time there was no death. Therefore, the first killing was done by God. He took the innocent animals and killed them to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve. Why do you think the man made aprons weren't good enough?

6. Why did God have to kill the innocent animals to cover Adam and Eve? Couldn't God have given them robes made from something else?

7. Do you see any prophecy in this act of the innocent giving life to cover Adam and Eve?

8. Cain and Able (sons of Adam and Eve) brought sacrifices to God. Cain offered produce and Able offered a slain animal. In your opinion, how did they know to do this?

9. When God gave Israel the law, He had them shed blood of innocent animals to make atonement for the sins of the people. Why do you think the blood made atonement for the sins of the people?

10. There is a principle in life: nothing is free. If you get something free, it is because someone else worked for it and paid the price. For instance a burglar steals and for him it is free, but someone paid the price. Is there anything in life that is truly free? Take the breath of life, air, it is free to you, but where did it come from?

Genesis 2:2 And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

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.

11. Can you summarize these scriptures in your own words?

12. Did not God create the laws of science?

13. Would He not create spiritual laws as well? Can you think of any?

14. Let's list a few spiritual laws:

Sin results in death

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, . . .

God does not accept a sacrifice unless it is perfect

Deuteronomy 17:1 "You shall not sacrifice to the LORD your God an ox or a sheep in which is a blemish, any defect whatever, for that is an abomination to the LORD your God.

You cannot enter the Kingdom of God unless you are perfect

Matthew 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness

Hebrews 9:22 . . . and without shedding of blood is no remission.

These are just a few spiritual laws. They may not make sense to us, but neither do the physical laws. Take gravity for instance, we don't understand why mass attracts mass; we appreciate it, but don't understand it. We have accepted gravity as fact, but even the most advanced scientists don't understand it. Actually it isn't a law, it is a theory; the reason it is a theory is because scientists don't understand the fundamentals of it. They don't know how it works, but by faith they understand that it

does work. This is how we need to approach the death of Jesus, we don't know how it works, but by faith we know it does work and we apply it to our lives.

Please read:

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
Ephesians 2:9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

15. When someone gives you something, it is free to you?

16. Was it free to the one who gave it to you?

17. Conclusion: Jesus paid the price of our sin with His suffering and death. This is the basis of Christianity and taught throughout the Bible. It's not important that we understand this but only that we accept it, by faith. This is pleasing to God.

1 Corinthians 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory