

Why did
Jesus
have to
die?



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All people die ... including Jesus

“All share a common destiny – the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not” (Ecclesiastes 9:2)

Jesus, too, though Son of God, was part of the human race, which is mortal

To destroy that which
has the power of death

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Sin brings death

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23)

“When men sin against you (for there is no one who does not sin), and you become angry with them ...” (1 Kings 8:46)

All men and women sin ...

“For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power” (Acts 2:24)

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Jesus never sinned

- So long as Jesus lived, the possibility always existed that he might sin
- He could only confirm his sinlessness by dying without ever having sinned
- Therefore he had to die to prove he was sinless

To remove the Curse of the Law

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, ‘Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree’ – that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (Galatians 3:13,14)

Righteousness by Grace

“The law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ” (John 1:17)

“If righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain” (Galatians 2:21)

The Crucifixion

Psalm 22 (and other Old Testament passages) revealed to Jesus in advance the nature of the death he had to die.

“Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again’” (Luke 24:6,7)

Bruised for our iniquities

“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:4,5)

Of First Importance

“I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures” (1 Cor 15:3)

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:14,15)

To reveal the nature of God's love

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16,17)

To declare God's righteousness

1. All men & women sin and (away from God) are without hope
2. Salvation is not through law (but grace)
3. Those who believe can be saved
4. God's grace is extended in Jesus
5. He is God's mercy seat
6. He declares God's righteousness

How was God right?

1. Making death the consequence of sin –
“Sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and because of sin, he condemned sin in the flesh” (Romans 8:3)
2. Forgiving the sins of faithful men & women who lived before Jesus came –
“To demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance God had passed over sins that were previously committed” (Romans 3:25)

Was there no other way for man to live?

- “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will” (Matthew 26:39)
- “Shall I not drink the cup which my Father has given me?” (John 18:11)

- Because all men & women die
- To destroy sin & the power of death
- To prove he was completely sinless
- To replace the curse of the law with grace
- Because you and I are sinners
- To show the wonder of God's love
- To declare that God is always right
- Because there was no other way for man to live

“In all things Jesus had to be made like his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself suffered, being tempted, he is able to aid those who are tempted. Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus” (Hebrews 2:17 – 3:1)