Did Jesus really die?

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Being born into a non-Christian family, as a child my first observation of Jesus was Him hung on a cross. Why Jesus, the Christian God was hung on a cross – with his face bowed down and his hands and feet pierced to the cross? As a child my mind couldn't comprehend why the Christian God is like this. I didn't ponder over it much as well. Many a times I saw the sculpture again and it was just impressed to my mind, but not giving much thought to it.

Why Jesus had to die? Wasn't it sufficient to just come to earth, display His power as God and then go back to heaven? Why this cruel death on the cross??

My question as a child – Why Jesus the Christian God was hung on the cross? Why he had to die?

Now no longer a child, and having many years of experience in life, I think I understand why Jesus had to die…

All of us know of the Adam Eve story in which they ate the forbidden fruit.

[13] And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

[14] And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

[15] 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.**

[11] For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for **it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.** – Leviticus 17:11

they **pierced** my hands and my feet. – psalm 22:16

[14] As many were astonied at thee; **his visage was so marred more than any man**, and his form more than the sons of men: – Isaiah 52:14

[3] He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

[4] Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

[5] 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.

[6] All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

[7] He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, **yet he opened not his mouth**: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

[8] He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: **for the transgression of my people was he stricken**.

[9] And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; **because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.**

[10] 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.

[11] He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; **for he shall bear their iniquities.**

[12] Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil

with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and **he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

In the Old Testament and Tanakh (Jewish Bible), Jesus' death was prophesied years before He came to earth as a man.

Romans 3

[23] For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

[24] Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in **Christ Jesus**:

[25] Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation through faith in his blood**, to declare his righteousness for the **remission of sins** that are past, through the forbearance of God;

[8] But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**

[9] Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

[11] And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom **we have now received the atonement.**

[12] Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

[19] For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

[23] **For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

[27] Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his

own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. – Hebrews 7

[14] 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?

[15] And for **this cause he is the mediator of the new testament**, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

[16] For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the **death of the testator.**

[17] For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

[18] Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood.

[19] For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people,

[20] Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.

[21] Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry.

[22] And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and **without shedding of blood is no remission.**

[23] It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

[24] For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God

for us:

[25] Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

[26] For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

[27] And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

[28] So **Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many**; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

[2] For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins.

[3] But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

[4] For **it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.**

[5] Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

[6] In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

[7] Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

[8] Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

[9] Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. **He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.**

[10] By the which will **we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

[11] And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

[12] **But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;**

[17] And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

[18] Now where remission of these is, **there is no more offering for sin.**

[28] He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

[29] Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath **trodden under foot the Son of God**, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

[30] For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

[31] **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**

[29] The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

[17] And **he bearing his cross** went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

[18] Where they **crucified him**, and two other with him, on either side one, and **Jesus** in the midst.

[19] And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus Of Nazareth The King Of The Jews.

[28] After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

[29] Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

[30] When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he **bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**

[9] Now when **Jesus was risen early the first day of the week**

[13] And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

[14] And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

[15] And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

[16] But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

[17] And he said unto them, What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, **as ye walk, and are sad?**

[18] And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answering said unto him, Art thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?

[19] And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

[20] And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to

death, and have crucified him.

[21] But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

[22] Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre;

[23] And when they found not his body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that he was alive.

[24] And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found it even so as the women had said: but him they saw not.

[25] Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

[26] **Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?**

[27] And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

[32] And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

[33] And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them,

[34] Saying, **The Lord is risen indeed**, and hath appeared to Simon.

[35] And they told what things were done in the way, and how he was known of them in breaking of bread.

[36] And as they thus spake, **Jesus himself** stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

[37] But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit.

[38] And he said unto them, **Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?**

[39] Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

[40] And when he had thus spoken, he shewed them his hands and his feet.

[41] And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, he said unto them, Have ye here any meat?

[42] And they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, and of an honeycomb.

[43] And he took it, and did eat before them.

[44] And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that **all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me**.

[45] Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

[46] And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day**:

[47] And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

[7] But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

[8] If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

[9] If we confess our sins, **he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

[7] In whom **we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of his grace;

The Revelation of **Jesus Christ**, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass;

[13] And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

[14] His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

[15] And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

[16] And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

[17] And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

[18] **I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore**, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

[9] 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;**

[10] And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

[11] And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

[12] Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and**

blessing.

[13] And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, **Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.**

[14] And the four beasts said, **Amen**. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

Jesus