

Sub-title: Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Today is Resurrection Sunday:

- We commemorate the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ
- In Judaism, they call this time of the year the “Passover” (Pesach)
- In the world, this time of the year is called “Easter”

1 Cor. 5:7 (NLT) ... *Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.*

For the last 2000 years, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached around the world, proclaiming the Good News of His sacrificial death, His burial and His glorious resurrection.

Mark 16:1-2, 4–7 (NLT) *Saturday evening, when the Sabbath ended, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome went out and purchased burial spices so they could anoint Jesus’ body. **2 Very early on Sunday morning, just at sunrise, they went to the tomb.** ... **4** But as they arrived, they looked up and saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled aside. **5** When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a white robe sitting on the right side. The women were shocked, **6** but the angel said, “Don’t be alarmed. **You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He is risen from the dead!** Look, this is where they laid his body. **7 Now go and tell** his disciples, including Peter, that Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you before he died.”*

- In the four gospels, the last few chapters recount the last few days of the earthly life of Jesus Christ
- The countdown towards His death began with His triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
- It ended with His gruesome death on the Cross of Calvary
- His last days were marked by betrayal, abandonment, court appearances, physical, mental and emotional abuse, before finally being nailed to the cross
- Early on Sunday morning, three women went to the tomb with burial spices to embalm His body
- They found the tomb empty, and an angel told them that Christ had risen from the dead
- In verse 7, the angel said: Now go and tell ...

- Three women were the first people to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, specifically, His resurrection from the dead

Romans 1:3–5 (LB) It is the Good News about his (God's) Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who came as a human baby, born into King David's royal family line; **4** and by being raised from the dead he was proved to be the mighty Son of God, with the holy nature of God himself. **5** And now, through Christ, **all the kindness of God has been poured out upon us undeserving sinners**; and now he is sending us out around the world to tell all people everywhere the great things God has done for them, so that they, too, will believe and obey him.

- The resurrection of Jesus Christ proved that He was the Son of God!
- Through Christ's sacrificial death, God's kindness is now poured out upon all the people
- Now, God is sending believers around the world to tell all people everywhere the great things God has done for humanity
- It is God's desire that people believe the gospel, and obey Jesus Christ

1 Timothy 2:3–7 (GW) *This is good and pleases God our Savior. **4 He wants all people to be saved and to learn the truth.** **5 There is one God. There is also one mediator between God and humans—a human, Christ Jesus. **6 He sacrificed himself for all people to free them from their sins.** This message is valid for every era. **7 I was appointed to spread this Good News and to be an apostle to teach people who are not Jewish about faith and truth. I'm telling you the truth. I'm not lying.*****

2 Peter 3:9–10 (LB) *He (Jesus) isn't really being slow about his promised return, even though it sometimes seems that way. **But he is waiting, for the good reason that he is not willing that any should perish, and he is giving more time for sinners to repent.** **10 The day of the Lord is surely coming, as unexpectedly as a thief ...***

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF JESUS' DEATH, AND HIS RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD

There are three absolute fundamental reasons why Jesus died on the cross:

1. Jesus **bore the sins** of mankind, and paid the penalty for our wrongdoings
2. Jesus **carried our sicknesses** and **bore our pains**
3. Jesus **became poor** that through His **poverty** we might be made rich

- The four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke & John) are narratives of what the authors saw with their natural eyes
- These gospels are an “eyewitness account” of what took place
- Isaiah chpt. 53 describes what prophet Isaiah saw in the realm of the Spirit (prophetic insight)
- Isaiah chapter 53 is sometimes called the 5th Gospel

A. Jesus bore the sins of mankind & paid the penalty for our wrongdoings

Isaiah 53:5 (NLT) *But he was **pierced** for our rebellion, crushed for our sins...*

Isaiah 53:12 (NKJV) ... *He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and **He bore the sin of many**, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV) *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, **that He**, by the grace of God, **might taste death for everyone**.*

Our heavenly Father is now legally able to forgive & forget our sins, because Jesus Christ bore our sins sacrificially, and went to hell on our behalf.

B. Jesus carried our sicknesses and bore our pains

Isaiah 53:4 (CSB) *Yet **he himself bore our sicknesses**, and he carried **our pains**; but we in turn regarded him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.*

Matthew 8:16–17 (NKJV) *When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and **healed all who were sick**, **17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet**, saying: **“He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”***

Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) *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**.*

Healing is available for every sick person today because Jesus Christ has borne our sicknesses and pains sacrificially.

C. Jesus became poor that through His poverty we might be made rich

Isaiah 53:5 (AMP) ... *the chastisement [needful to obtain] **peace** and well-being for us was upon Him ...*

Peace – Heb. Shalom – peace, welfare, success, prosperity

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV) *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet **for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.***

- Jesus Christ became utterly poor on the cross
- Prosperity is available today for every believer because Jesus carried our poverty sacrificially

Romans 14:9 (NCV) *The reason **Christ died and rose from the dead to live again was so He would be Lord over both the dead and the living.***

- Is Jesus Christ your Lord yet?
- Have you received Him as your personal Lord and Saviour yet?
- If not, pray this prayer, out aloud:

Salvation Prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I thank You that You sent Your Son Jesus Christ into the world to save me. I recognise that I have broken Your commandments, and that I cannot save myself by my own good deeds. Lord Jesus, I thank You that You took the punishment for my sins by dying on the cross. I believe you rose from the dead, and I make a decision now to surrender my whole life to You. I receive You as my personal Lord and Saviour. I thank You that I am now forgiven, and that I am now born again. Please lead me and guide me and show me Your plan for my life. Help me to be strong so that I can live according to Your plan and Your purpose for my life. In Jesus’ Name, amen.”