

The Christ Was Sent To Die. Why?

The death of Jesus still serves as evidence that He was not “The Christ” of the Jews. Jesus was an itinerant Rabbi who claimed to be The Christ of God, The Hope of the Jewish people. He succeeded in obtaining enough popularity as the Jewish Messiah that the rulers of the Jews were worried about Roman suppression.

His death caused His followers to doubt and scatter in disappointment and it confirmed the doubt of all the skeptics. A resurrection would of course reverse an opinion created by His death but very few people ever testified to His resurrection.

Why is this? Why does everyone believe that He died and very few believe that He arose? Seeing is believing - more people saw Him die than saw Him live again.

Historians today, in search of the historical Jesus, still see His death exactly as the people who first witnessed it - a death determined by religious envy and executed by political expediency.

The religion of the Jewish remnant anticipated a messiah to reign in Judea. When Jesus came to Jerusalem to keep the Feast of Passover, a multitude was excited to crown Him to be their Christ.

The arrest of Jesus was a surprise to those who had seen His power over nature and expected Him to use His power to save Himself. Therefore, His death was convincing evidence that God had not sent Him to be their Christ.

If a man is sent by God He will not fail. If a man is truly God’s Messiah, He will restore the Kingdom back to the Jews. The Messiah must do what the Jews have assigned to him; not what God has given Him to do. God must fulfill our hope if He is to find faith in us. Religion puts faith in people which their God must obey to keep the faith alive.

God put faith in His chosen people who He must test to find hope in them. But, they put their hope in God, expecting Him to fulfill it according to their faith.

When the Emperor Augustus began to register, regulate, tax and control the Jews in the land that God gave to them for an everlasting inheritance, they

began to resist and hope was revived in God to send a Christ.

Many claimed to be Messiah, but they failed to restore the Rule of God to the land. Jesus was no different in this. He also failed to accomplish this objective. Jesus only differed in methodology. He used words and doctrines while others used the sword to conquer and control. Hope was in the power of the sword, not in the power of the word.

King Herod believed the infant Jesus to be the heir of David’s throne. This was a just cause for death because if the young Prince should live to reign, Herod would lose his throne. The problem with this thinking is that Herod rules for the Romans and no Messiah will ever be a satrap or Vice Regent like Herod.

The crucifixion of Jesus was undeniable proof to everyone that He was not the Jewish Messiah.

We see this in His disciples leaving town and disappointed that Jesus was not The Christ. What caused them to change their minds about Him?

No change of mind was involved for those who never knew the historical Jesus of Bethlehem. Death did not change the faith and hope of those Jews or Romans who witnessed the crucifixion unless their faith and hope was in a military messiah. Saul had a messianic hope similar to the twelve disciples but the crucifixion had no effect upon it because he never encountered Jesus or witnessed his death.

The resurrection did not change Saul’s faith about the crucifixion as it did for the disciples but it did change his messianic faith to the Christian faith. Paul’s hope was a spiritual hope in a Spiritual Christ that he saw pictured throughout the Bible and fulfilled in the death of Jesus.

Paul made Good News out of bad news; Good Friday out of black Friday and found a hope for all men in the hope of Israel as God promised, not as Jews were anticipating.

How did the death of Jesus prove to everyone (including His Disciples) that none of His messianic claims were true?

How did Paul take the same death and prove to everyone (even the Disciples who were now Apostles) that all the claims of Christ were true? The same death that ended Messianic Hope is now the foundation for The Christian Hope.

We can see how a resurrection can revive a faith that death destroyed. But with Paul, faith begins when he sees the risen Christ – Death became the Good News of Paul’s Gospel. But it had been bad news in the Pentecostal Gospel.

Paul takes the bad news of Jesus’ death from The Gospel of Circumcision in the Great Commission and makes it Good News in his Gospel of Uncircumcision in a greater Commission to every tongue and tribe of mankind.

There has never been a more mysterious death than that of Jesus. No death has affected civilization like His. There are now crucifixes in every part of the globe. Billions of books have been written about Jesus but none of them would exist without His mysterious death. Death is final, bringing an end to life. Death is not something to celebrate. Paul made Jesus’ death to be the most celebrated death of mankind by connecting it to Adam, the author of death in mankind.

In search of the cause

When we speak of the cause of death today, we may refer to the coroner’s report relating to physical-life but such was not available in the first century.

The literature we have is set in the context of the Jewish Bible, making the cause of Jesus’ death to be His offending the rulers of the Jews. The Cross was the physical cause from loss of blood, or loss of breath, which would have been revealed in an autopsy report.

An offense was the cause of the cross. But exactly what was the offense?

The Gospel accounts plainly set forth the ridicule and rebuke of religious leaders as the offense that led to the crucifixion. But would they have put a non-Messianic Rabbi to death? A teacher without claims to be The Christ? Yet, with doctrines of blasphemy.

The Sanhedrin found Jesus to be guilty of heresy; and that would have made stoning the cause of death. The heresy was His messianic claims that the Sanhedrin sent to Pilate as a cause for jurisdiction in Caesar’s court.

We tend to think if Jesus had simply denied any claims to be king, He would have gone free from Pilate’s court. The truth is Pilate never believed Jesus to be more than a harmless Rabbi who had offended the Jews, and court evidence confirmed it.

Pilate tried in vain to save Jesus from death on the cross. He even had Jesus scourged to the brink of death in hopes that it would satisfy the people’s demand for blood.

Pilate may not be a just man, but he is a just judge, seeking a just cause for death.

Has there ever been a greater effort by any ruler to save a man from death? Darius interceded on Daniel’s behalf after God had saved him. Nebuchadnezzar interceded for the Hebrew children after God prevented their death. But, God never acted to save Jesus.

Pilate is seeking to prevent death but he does not know that he is involved in a drama involving two rulers in Kingdoms that are not of this world at all.

The Sanhedrin had condemned Jesus to death. Pilate is trying to save him while the people are demanding death. No one is aware of the Spiritual warfare involved or the impact that victory may have upon the kingdoms of men.

Those who had hope in God expected Him to save Jesus, but they shouldn’t have had that hope. This was the major emphasis in Jesus’ teachings and was the entire subject of His farewell address to those people the night before He stood in Pilate’s court.

The disciples did not need to know the Spiritual warfare involved to believe in messianic death. They could have simply believed Jesus when He told them He would die.

We now have revelation from God, through the Apostle Paul, that Lucifer was defeated and how it affected the kingdoms of the visible world.

Paul identifies a cause unlike any to ever bring death to a man. This cause is unknown to Jews and Pilate, as well as anyone who ever lived because they never thought of it; even in their imagination.

Just how many causes could be found for this man’s death by looking at the thoughts of men? We find only one cause when looking into the Mind of God.

Just four days before His death, the crowd was singing Hosannah (save us) to the King; now they were demanding His death. What changed their minds? How can He save you if you kill Him? Can He save anyone after He dies?

Pilate tried Jesus but could not find a reason for death, but when he sought to release him the people demanded His death. Pilate asked, “Why? What has

He done to offend you so much?" He had offended them while alive...can He save them in death?

Jesus predicted His own death long before it came. He told His followers that He must die before He would become their King. This is the most intriguing aspect to His death. How can He be a king when He is dead? Can he reign after death?

Imagine a person coming to save a people from occupation. Then, He tells them that He must first die before He can be King and, rule the land.

Geronimo was seen by some Indians as a messiah to restore the land to tribal rule. Defeat, of course, prevented this and it destroyed all hope in him, Was Jesus defeated by death or did He conquer death?.

Why is death required for the Jewish Messiah before He could save His people?

The question is, Why did God send Jesus to die; not why did He die? We know that He died, but do we know that was the reason for Him to have life?

If we could find the answer to that question we could solve the mystery of His death, along with the mystery of His Kingdom, the mystery of the Gospel, the mystery of God, the mystery of iniquity, even the mystery of Israel's blindness.

False Causes

The prevailing thought at the time (and continues to be popular today) is that a martyr is one who dies due to the movement, or cause, they support. A martyr may submit willingly to death, but He has no power to prevent it. Jesus willingly died, but did not die to inspire and promote any earthly agenda.

Jesus made it clear that martyrdom was not the cause of His death. He said that He would submit to it because it was necessary. He said that He had the power to prevent it, but that he would not use it.

If anyone truly believed that His miracle working power was from God, they could also believe that such power could save Him from the Jews and the Romans. This is why Jesus called attention to His signs and wonders. They were evidence that God had sent Him to them.

If we knew why God forsook His prophets when the people stoned them, we might gain some insight into the death of Jesus; why did God forsake Jesus when His death involved much more than the death of any servant of God?

Paul says that God did not save His own Son from the Cross but freely gave Him up for our benefit. This confirms what Jesus said was the cause of His birth. He was born to die.

Why would God have a son for the very purpose of dying? What will be accomplished in death that cannot be obtained some other way?

Christians have given various causes for Jesus death but none are sufficient to justify such radical action by God. The sacrifice of a passover lamb for all the first born in Adam (not in Egypt).

Christ died so God could forgive sin but God has been forgiving sins ever since man has been sinning.

Christ died so man could be justified by faith but faith has been justifying man since Abel.

Christ died so man could be filled with the Holy Spirit but many have been filled with the Holy Ghost before Christ died.

Christ died to keep people from going to hell but people were already in hell when the Messiah died.

Christ died so people could go to heaven but The Just were already in the bosom of Abraham when He died. Was death necessary to transfer the just from paradise to heaven?

If Jesus' death would indeed keep people out of hell this, obviously, would justify His death. But, such a reason is not found in the Bible.

Why would God let His son die to accomplish what God was already doing or to give people what they already had?

Christ died to propitiate the wrath of God and turn the judgement seat into a mercy seat and usher in a day of grace.

A dispensation of the church age whereby God is forgiving sins instead of judging sins.

This also is a false cause which assumes that Jesus came to change God when really He came to change man.

Jesus was not paying a penalty; rather, He was paying a ransom which would release from the bondage of death in Adam.

God does not accept a ransom to release from penalty on sin. Only a broken and contrite spirit in the heart that did the sin can restore the sinner..

It is true that many religions offer gifts and sacrifices to their deities to petition them for favors. But, God warned His people against such practices.

Gifts are giving and may involve sacrifices to the giver. Sacrifice is the cost to the giver of what must be given up in order to give.

Blood sacrifices of animals represent a costly gift which speaks of death for the animal but it never paid the wage on any sin.

Blood atonement was not substitutionary. Restitution was required where possible and equivalent harm otherwise.

Animals could not pay with an eye, tooth, or life the wage on such sin.

False causes abound today among Jews and Christians for the (desolation) Iahabod day of Judaism. Likewise, false causes abound regarding the emmanuel days of Christianity.

A Divine Cause

When coroners seek the cause of death, they are looking for a physical cause of a physical-death. When scientist, explorers, theologians, etc. are studying, seeking and searching...they are looking for *visible*, physical things of the creation - not *invisible* spiritual things of The Creator.

When Columbus sought a new way to the Orient, he found a new world. When Galileo sought to prove a theory, he discovered many more. Those in search of the Ark of the Covenant have not found it. So we don't always find what we are seeking. Maybe it does not exist, or maybe we are looking in the wrong place, or maybe it is spiritual; therefore, invisible to physical observation.

When Albert Schweitzer, a great theologian of a century ago wrote the book *In Search of the Historical Jesus*, and found the physical-Jesus (who he sought) along with a physical cause for His death.

Schweitzer rejected the Christian theory of God needing a victim to bear His judgement upon sin. He saw God's forgiveness in the Grace of God, which means that justice is not related to forgiveness at all. He contended it would not be just for God to punish the innocent Jesus instead of punishing those who deserved it.

People have many and varied opinions about the life and death of Jesus. There has never been a human anywhere near 'the likes' of this man. His own king sought to kill Him when He was born (Matt. 2:13). His own religion rejected Him when He

announced the reason for His ministry (Luke 4:18-28). His own disciples found His teachings very difficult to understand (John 6:60) and adamantly rejected His speaking of dying (Matt. 16:21).

People are adamant today in their opinion of Jesus. He is the most controversial person of our day even though we are 2,000 years removed from His day and time. Today we have a religion of millions of people that is ascribed to Him, yet He only spoke of changing man's relationship to God, not the institution of another religion or to change God's wrath into Grace.

God was already gracious. In fact, this is why He brought Jesus into the world. God had always been just, merciful, forgiving and kind...having no delight in the death of the wicked.

Jesus never spoke of appeasing the wrath of God; rather, He appealed to the love of God to give the spirit to His disciples.

Jesus spoke to the blindness of Judaism to reveal the truth about His Father God. Christians today need to speak to the blindness of Christianity to reveal the truth about their Father God.

Conclusion

I suggest we consider the Divine cause for both His life and death to be a New Life for human souls, saving them from the death-life of natural birth. This means paying the wage on natural birth, which is death, and replacing it with New Life (resurrection).

If this is the real cause for His life and death, then Jesus did succeed in the ministry that God gave Him. If His purpose was to change the kingdoms of this world, then He failed. But, if He hoped to establish a New Kingdom for all men then He succeeded. If He came to save His people from the Romans, then He failed. But, if He came to save the Jews from the wages of natural birth (circumcision) then He succeeded.

If His objective was peace on earth, then obviously He failed. But, if it was peace with God, then He did not fail.

Jesus was a failed Messiah to His own Jewish followers because He died. Likewise, His death today is proof to many that He could not accomplish His objectives.

Whether a thing is good or evil, right or wrong, depends upon the beholder. Likewise, success and failure depend on the perception of the beholder. Therefore, how can one judge what he has never seen? How can we see Spiritual things in Spiritual Places? With spiritual eyes by revelation we are allowed to see the love of God for man in Adam through the price that was paid in the ransom.

The release cost God His only Son and the Son His life. A great high priest with His own blood (sparing all the animals) entering the presence of God, bringing many sons to glory.

If we perceive the Truth, given by scripture to Jesus, then we have much more than a Jewish Messiah to understand. If He is to save the world from death, He must take a journey out of time and out of sight.

The Messianic concept of a Messiah was the perception that caused the physical death of the historic Jesus. This still prevails today to prevent people from seeing the two Adams of the Bible. And, the work of the Last Adam to save mankind.

The Second Adam, Jesus, would replace the death-life passed on at natural birth; physical life is temporal, ending in death while the spirit-life given by the Last Adam is eternal.

The scriptures of the New Testament agree with the Jewish Bible in the Messianic hope but they find an 'anointed one' in Abraham long before there were Israelites with hope in a Messiah.

This Seed in Abraham would bless all nations with New Life not just the flesh-descendent Israelites of Abraham; a Spiritual blessing for everyone.

Flesh-families result from flesh-birth's providing a relationship of family life for the children of men, but spirit-families result from spirit births providing a relationship of family life for the children of God.

Natural birth results in natural flesh families of mankind, while spiritual birth results in a spirit Family of God.

God is a spirit and the Father of spirits. Having a very large family of children rescued by the Second Adam and brought into the family by the Last Adam..

This is a relationship for the children of God which costs Jesus His life. The religion of the Jews did play a part by rejecting their Messiah, but Judaism is not the religion for God's family. And Jewish rejection

is not the cause of Jesus' death.

A person may be condemned to die for a cause or to die from a cause. Everyone dies 'because'.

We may not know a cause, we just know there exist a cause...be-cause we live in a be cause world.

Everyone will die but not from the same cause, unless we mean Adamic death..

If a person is condemned to death by a disease, where there is a cure we may say that he died because he rejected the cure. But, we must remember that he was condemned before he made the choice. He died because of the diseases. The cure would have prevented death. A cure is worthless, after the cause has produced the effect. No cure for death was provided by Jesus.

Adam was driven from the tree of life in the garden to prevent him from the cure for death. Did he die because he let sin enter or because God withheld the cure? Was he driven from the Garden to die? or to live? What cause of death could you write on his gravestone? He died because he sinned? He died because of something he did? Or, was it that he died because of what God did?

The people of God killed those sent by God to them; but the prophets were not sent by God to die; rather to preach to God's people. Jesus was sent by God to die for His people and the world. This is the cause for which he died. He had a choice which would have prevented His death but neither Satan nor man could prevent Jesus from doing what God sent him to do.

Jesus is the only person that God ever sent to die. Christians are the only beneficiaries of that death. They are sent to live the Life which Jesus bought with His blood.

They are heirs of their father's nature and character which they are sent to manifest in flesh-life.

Jesus was the light of the world in flesh-life. Now Christians in the flesh are the light of the world.

Christians in flesh-life are The Epistles being read by those in search of the truth about God.

The Christ was sent to die. The Christian is sent to live the life purchased by His death

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