

Why Jesus' Death Is ...

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provide covering for them. Since this first sacrifice foreshadowed what Christ would do for humanity, who was called the "Lamb of God," the sacrifice was most likely a sheep. From the first sin, blood had to be shed because of sin.

"Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them."

Gen. 3:21

Side note: Many of the references to Lamb in the New Testament, where capitalized, as they are proper nouns referring to a person — Christ.

Throughout the Old Testament, blood continued to be shed to cover humankind's iniquities. The offering had to be repeated because it did not permanently cover the people's sins.

The blood of animals, such as sheep, goats, bulls, and birds, was sacrificed as an offering for people's transgressions against God. Eventually, God made laws (from Genesis to Leviticus) detailing how offerings should be made and when.

After more sin was committed or during certain times of the year, blood again had to be offered as a sacrifice for personal and Israel's sins. Animals were sacrificed to cover humankind's transgressions. That is what God insisted. If there was no blood sacrifice, there was no forgiveness of iniquity.

Those sacrifices were not a good work to earn anyone Heaven. No one can earn an eternity with God. Salvation from Hell is a gift that God gives to those who trust and believe what Jesus did for them.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9

Disobedience to God's laws continued. At times, God's laws were not followed.

God, however, not wanting any to perish offered a permanent sacrifice to cover all iniquity's violators. That gift was the blood of God's only son, Jesus. After realizing one's sinfulness and knowing without that payment for their iniquities one would go to Hell, one can escape eternal punishment by trusting Jesus' sacrifice for what they did against God.

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

John 1:29

Trusting Christ's payment for our iniquities is the only way to pay our sin-debt to God. After asking Jesus to save, any sinner can be saved and spared an eternally tormenting Hell.

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6

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The Bible View



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Who Is Jesus?

Bill Brinkworth

Today, Jesus is the key to anyone getting into Heaven. Since having faith in Jesus and what He has done for us is important, it is essential to know who He is and what He has done. Here is some of what the Bible says about Jesus, the Saviour of mankind:

Jesus was the prophesied Messiah that God promised to send.



Some of the 300-plus prophecies about the Messiah include:

- * It was prophesied about 599 B. C. (years before Christ was born), that the Messiah ("anointed", "consecrated one") would come from the lineage of King David (Jer. 23:5-6, Mat. 1:1).
- * Jesus' purpose was foretold to His earthly father (Joseph) before Christ was born (Mat. 1:21).
- * It was foretold more than

1,020 years B. C., that man's Saviour would ask God why His heavenly Father turned His head and did not stop Christ's death. (*Psalm 22:1*)

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Why Jesus' Death Is Important

Bill Brinkworth

When asked, the majority of professing Christians would acknowledge that Jesus died for their sins. But if asked why that was important, most would shrug and be unable to explain.

From man's beginning, as recorded in Genesis, it is found that our first parents, Adam and Eve, were sinners. Because of their sin of disobedience to God, as promised, death entered the human race.

"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 2:17

To cover their nakedness after they sinned, God killed animals to

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- * It was foretold approximately 1,020 years B. C., that the Messiah would have His hands and feet pierced. (Ps. 22:16, John 20:25)
- * It was prophesied, at least 1,020 years B.C., that the Saviour would not have any of His bones broken. (Psalm 34:20, John 19:36)
- * It was also foretold about 1,020 years B. C., that the Son of God would not say a word to His prosecutors. (Isaiah 53:7, Mat. 26:63)

Jesus preached and taught God's message. (Mat. 4:17)

Jesus performed miracles. He did things only a divine person could do.

- * Lepers were healed. (Mat. 8:3, Luke 17:11-19)
- * Jesus healed the lame. (John 5:8, Mat. 15:30)
- * Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52).
- * Jesus healed a paralyzed man (Mat. 9:2-8).
- * Jesus healed a man with a withered hand (Mark 3:1-5).
- * Jesus raised the dead (Luke 7:11-16).
- * Jesus cast out demons (Mat. 12:22-37, Mark 5:13).
- * Jesus walked on water (Mat. 14:22-33).
- * Jesus knew the thoughts of the people around Him. (Mat. 12:25)
- * Jesus rose from the dead (Mat. 28:2-10, Luke 24:34) and ap-

peared to many after He rose from the dead (John 20:26-29).

- * Jesus ascended back to Heaven. (Mark 16:19-20)
- * He performed many more miracles (John 21:25).
- * Jesus is God's only son. This is why He could do all the miracles He did. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* John 3:16 (John 3:18, John 4:15)

Why Jesus is so important:

- * Jesus was sent so that man would know the Truth and not have to live in sin. *"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."* John 8:12 "Darkness" is referring to sin. When a person is saved, he no longer has to sin. Sin is always a choice.
- * Jesus is man's only way to Heaven. *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* John 14:6
- * Jesus' death on the Cross is the only payment for man's sin that God will accept. One's good deeds, kindness, goodness, traditions, or following religious ordinances

and rules will not get anyone to Heaven! *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

Rom. 8:1

Jesus was God in the flesh. Jesus and God are one! This is part of the teaching of the Trinity. God is three in one — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *"I and my Father are one."*

John 10:30

Jesus was sinless. Only one born supernaturally, as was Christ, could be without sin. Jesus' sinlessness was necessary so He could be an acceptable payment for our sins. Only Jesus was sinless. All others born on Earth are guilty of iniquity.

"And being made perfect, he [Jesus] became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;" Heb. 5:9

Jesus was God's gift to man.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Rom. 6:23 (John 13:3)

Jesus was not just a man, as some claim. He was God in the flesh come down to Earth to die for man's sins. All who believe and trust what Jesus did for them by dying on the Cross and rising from the dead, can be saved.

That is why making Jesus one's personal Saviour from the punishment for our sins is so important. Jesus is the only way anyone will get to Heaven.

There is nothing we can do to earn Heaven. It has all been done for us by Jesus. All we have to do is believe He died for us, believe that He rose again from the dead on the third day, and ask Him to be our Saviour. If you have never been saved, and you believe Jesus died for you and rose again, you can ask Him to be your Saviour right now!

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The majority of man-made religions teach that there are other ways to Heaven. Some declare that following ordinances, doing good deeds, baptism, praying to dead saints of the past, rituals, and many other works will earn one Heaven, please God and then He will let them into His Heaven. They will not!

Jesus paid a tremendous price for our sins — His life. By accepting His free gift, one can have God's promise of Heaven. It is the only way. Have you asked and trusted Christ to be your Saviour?

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Romans 10:9