

# **GOD'S ONLY ANSWER**

## **Why Did Jesus Die?**

### **Revelation 5 | John 3:14-18**

One can answer this question from different perspectives. Some will offer a historical answer, The Romans were afraid of a Revolution, The Jews were threatened by him—one man should die . Then you have a more theological answer, Jesus died to save us. But, there remains the lingering the question—**But why did Jesus die?** Why did Jesus have to die?

## **VISION OF THE SON OF MAN & THE LAMB**

1. **Revelation 1:1** – The Revelation of Jesus Christ
  - a. John is in the Spirit on the Lord's Day (v.10)
  - b. Write what you see and send it to the 7 churches
  - c. Now the description of the Son of Man
2. **Revelation 1:12-16** – The Vision of the Son of Man
3. **Revelation 4** – The Throne in Heaven
  - a. The one seated on the throne—Jasper, Carnelian
  - b. 24 Thrones and 24 Elders—white clothes/crown
  - c. Four living creatures—Lion/Ox/Face of Man/Eagle

4. **Revelation 5** – The Scroll and the Lamb
  - a. Scroll in the hand of the one seated/throne
  - b. Scroll written within and on back, Seven Seals
  - c. **No One** found worthy to **Open the Scroll**
  - d. The **Lion of Judah/Root of David** can Open it.
5. **Revelation 5:6,9,12** – The Lamb who was Slain
  - a. A lamb standing, as though it had been slain
  - b. The conquering Lamb has died
  - c. **Revelation 7:14** – *“They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb”*
  - d. **Revelation 5:9** – He accomplished through death
  - e. **His Death has become his Victory!**
  - f. **The death of the Lamb** is not seen in Revelation so much as a **Tragedy**, but as a **Triumph!**
  - g. The Triumph is that the **Lamb is not dead**, but alive having been slain—He has been resurrected!
  - h. **Revelation 19:11-16** – Jesus on the White Horse
  - i. **Revelation 21:4** – **Death is No More.**

**Now lets ask, “Why did Jesus die?” we could start with the O.T.—**Leviticus 17:11** (the life of the flesh is in the blood) and ending in **Hebrews 9:22**-w/o shed**

**I have chosen to approach this topic by using the words of Jesus himself. This will show our Savior's awareness of what is going on and his own prophecy of what is about to happen.**

**Very many folks today object, they conclude, “A God who would kill his own son is not a good God. I just can't believe in a God like that.”**

**We might respond that what one believes in no way determines what is. Or, we can say that I think you are not seeing all that is going on here, so let's explore a little further. We will explore three truths**

## **JESUS DIED—TO BE RESURRECTED**

1. The Resurrection was a part of this all along and Jesus was very aware and he participated:  
(**Matthew 16:21, 17:22,23, 20:17-19**)
2. **John 10:17-18** – Jesus claims power for himself
3. **1 Corinthians 15:17-20** – Paul says everything hinges on the Resurrection. **Christ has been raised!**
4. **JESUS DIED SO THAT HE MIGHT BE RESURRECTED!**  
The shed blood of Jesus secures our forgiveness/salvation, His resurrection secures our resurrection.

## Matthew 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

## Matthew 17:22-23

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, **“The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, <sup>23</sup> and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.”** And they were greatly distressed<sup>1</sup>

## Matthew 20:17-19

“See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

## JESUS DIED—TO TAKE ON OUR SINS/CROSS

1. **Matthew 26:28** – “for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.”
2. **1 Corinthians 15:3** – “Christ died for our sins”
3. **1 Peter 2:24** – “He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. *By his wounds you have been healed.*” (quoted from **Isaiah 53:5**)
4. **Matthew 26:39** – “...My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” (**John 12:27**—for this purpose...I come)

## JESUS DIED—THAT WE MIGHT BELIEVE/HIM

1. **John 3:14-15** – As the serpent in the wilderness
2. It would be the **Death** and **Resurrection** that would prove who He is—a show of **Power over Death!**
3. If Jesus had only died, we would mourn him as a wonderful teacher, but He was RESURRECTED!!.
4. He died that we might Believe in Him!

**Charles Hodge would always say, “We must read the familiar more carefully.”**

**Let’s notice three simple movements of this text:**

1. **John 3:14-15** – He draws an analogy between the serpent on the pole in the wilderness and his own crucifixion. He will say in **John 12:32**, “**And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.**”
2. **John 3:16** – God so loved that He Gave. That whoever BELIEVES IN HIM should NOT PERISH!
3. **John 3:17-18** – Jesus came NOT to Condemn, but that the world might be SAVED through him.
  - a. “How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God...” **Hebrews 10:29**
  - b. The RSV used the word “*spurned*”
  - c. This is exactly what so many have done and exactly what **v18** here in **John 3** says.

**If we are lost, it will be our choice, our choice to not believe in Jesus, the Christ, who died to save us.**

**GOD WILL LET US MAKE OUR CHOICES!**

## SUMMARY:

One of the great truths recorded on that day came from an unbeliever. The Centurion said it well, “Truly this man was the Son of God”, **Mark 15:39**.

Let’s go back to our objection from the beginning, the statement, “**I can’t believe in a God who would kill his innocent son...**” conjures images of you or me taking the life of our child—which is repulsive & should be!

But with a more informed understanding, and knowing the Scripture—We see the larger picture here....

What happened on the cross was that God had come down in human form in the person of Jesus (lived and taught among the people) and gave himself to die the death of the cross as the full and final sacrifice for sin.

**Philippians 2:5-11** – He left heaven to come down

**John 14:6** – Divides the world into two groups – those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and those who do not yet believe—for all will believe