

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

Ephesians 5:1,2

Introduction:

- A. An event of ancient times can only be known through h_____ research making it an o_____ fact.
1. Julius Caesar's death by the hands of his own s_____ on the Eides of March is an objective fact.
 - a. How many eye witness accounts exist today? _____
 - b. How many records do we have from sources accessing eye-witness testimony about this event? (Cicero within _____ year of the death; Nicolas of Damascus within _____ years of the death; Plutarch within 150 years of the event).
 - c. How much archeological evidence do we have? _____
 - d. How many copies do we have of the above writings that can be compared to ensure accuracy? About _____, the earliest one being a 9th century copy (800 years removed from his death)
 2. Jesus crucifixion under Pontus Pilate is an objective fact.
 - a. How many eye witness accounts exist today? _____ (Matthew, Mark, John, and P_____).
 - b. How many records do we have from sources accessing eye-witness testimony about this event? _____ (Several Christian sources; some Jewish sources; Roman and Greek sources).
 - c. How much archeological evidence do we have? _____
 - d. How many copies do we have of the above writings that can be compared to ensure accuracy? _____, the earliest ones being within 300 years of the event.
- B. The reason for Jesus' death cannot be known through historical research but only can be known by divine r_____
1. Bible contains that revelation.
 2. Eph 5:1,2 is just one of many places that answer the question, why did Jesus have to die?

Because He v_____ to die – He gave Himself up

A. He decided to become a m_____

1. Jesus claimed to be the I _____ of the Old Testament who would be the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Jn 8:58; Ex 3:14)
2. Jn 1:1,14 teaches us that Jesus is God in the f _____
3. Phil 2:5-8 teaches us that He voluntarily emptied Himself of His e _____ with God by becoming a man and putting Himself under the Father's authority (see Jn 5:50; 12:49; 14:28)

B. He decided to go to Jerusalem to suffer and d _____

1. Jn 10:18 – Jesus declared that no one could take His life, but that He would l _____ His own life down.
2. Matt 20:17-19 – Jesus told His disciples that He m _____ go to Jerusalem to die.
3. Matt 26:46 – Jesus went to meet Judas so that Judas could b _____ Him.
4. Matt 26:51-56 – He stopped Peter from preventing His arrest and gave Himself up to the arresting officers.
5. Matt 26:63,64 – He gave no d _____ at His trial and gave them the reason to condemn Him to death.

C. Jesus came to earth with the full knowledge that He would die a horrible death.

In order to take our p _____ – He gave Himself up for us

A. Jesus s _____ Himself for us (Paul is referring to his readers whom he called s _____ in Eph 3:1)

1. Jesus did NOT receive the p _____ for everyone
 - a. If that were the case, then everyone would be s _____
 - b. The Bible explicitly states that many will not be saved (e.g. Matt 7: 13,14; 21-23; Rev 14:9-11; 20:15).
2. Jesus received the punishment for b _____ only.
 - a. Eph 2:8 – salvation is by grace through f _____
 - b. Jn 3:16 – whoever b _____ in Jesus will not perish but have eternal life.
 - c. Jn 3:18 - whoever does NOT believe in Jesus is c _____

- B. There are not many paths to salvation but only ONE
1. Jn 14:6 – Jesus said “NO ONE can come to the F_____ except by Me.
 2. Rom 10:14,17 - a person can only believe by hearing the w_____ of Christ.
 3. Acts 4:12 – there is no other n_____ given under heaven by whom anyone can be saved than the name of Jesus.

In order to satisfy God’s w_____ against sin – *an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma*

- A. Paul was writing to those who came out of a p_____ culture.
1. The belief in many g_____
 2. The belief that natural disasters were attributed to the a_____ of the gods.
 3. The belief that sacrifices had to be made to s_____ the anger of the gods so that they are not angry anymore.
- B. Paul calls the sacrifice of Jesus as a fragrant aroma to God.
1. This tells us that God was pleased with Jesus’s sacrifice.
 2. This tells us that God’s anger upon s_____ was satisfied in the sacrifice of Jesus.
- C. Jesus received the wrath of God for us and so magnified God’s love
1. Jn 3:35,36 – God the Father l_____ the Son (remember God is one being in three persons)
 2. Because Jesus is one being with the Father, His sacrifice brings both the wrath of God and the love of God together.
 - a. Jn 15:13 – Greater l_____ has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for his friends
 - b. Jn 3:16 – God demonstrated His love by giving His own S_____
 - c. Rom 5:9 – we will be saved from God’s coming w_____

Thank you, Jesus, for receiving God’s wrath upon my sin so that I could receive His love through faith in You.