

# The Significance of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

By: Pete Stockton

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." John 3:16

Jesus Christ died on the cross. Since birth from the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived the way God wanted us to live. Jesus showed that as a man if he could act in a way that would save mankind, then surely he could save himself from his sins. There's a reason why Jesus, the Son of God, was given to us to live the life of a simple carpenter.

The crucifixion was a gradual event. It didn't happen overnight. First the Son of God, Jesus, was betrayed by Judas for a bag of coins. Then Jesus was arrested. He was tried, convicted guilty, and then punished and tortured. He was made to carry the cross to the top of the hill where he was tied down, nailed to the cross, and left to die in front of his loved ones.

Jesus saw all of this coming. None of these was a surprise to him. He knew what was coming and what God asked of him, and he fulfilled it all for the sake of mankind. He entrusted his life into the hands of God, our Creator. Jesus Christ, by dying on the cross, saved us.

"Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  
In you, O LORD, I take refuge;  
let me never be put to shame.  
In your justice rescue me.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
you will redeem me, O LORD, O faithful God." Luke 23:46

It's ironic how the story of the life and death of Jesus Christ mirrored another event in the Bible: the saving of the Israelites from the plague. If you remember that story, God sent the plague to claim the life of all first born sons. But the Israelites can save themselves by killing a lamb and offering its blood. The story parallels Jesus' life and death. When Jesus was crucified on top of the mountain, he became the lamb that needed to be sacrificed in order to save the human race. No one else could bear the weight of the sins of man. Only the Son of God, Jesus Christ, could do it. God loved us so much He had to give us His only Son to us from ourselves.

Then Jesus resurrected on the third day, a huge celebration for Christianity, and the rest is history.

Jesus proved to us that you don't have to be the Son of God to be a son of God. Technically, we are all sons of God. He's our Creator, isn't He? But why can't we all be like Jesus Christ who lived according to God's wishes? We must remember that it is a matter of choice. Jesus knew what was coming and he chose to live and die according to God's plan. Ask yourself. You know what is right and what is wrong. Do you live according to what is right and avoid doing what is wrong?

"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.'" John 11:25-26

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