THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS

Why Did Jesus Die?

• Jesus predicts his own death – he recognizes where things are going.
• From the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, he faces opposition and threats against his life.
• Why would a man of peace and non-violence be put to death?
  Many religious leaders...
  o didn’t like Jesus’ association with the outcasts and sinners.
  o did not like Jesus’ interpretation of the Law.
  o considered it blasphemy for Jesus to speak with the authority of God and to speak of God on intimate terms.
  o saw Jesus as a threat to the religious and political establishment.
• These religious leaders convinced the Romans that Jesus was a threat to the social order and that he must be removed.
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How Did Jesus Die?

- We refer to the experience of Jesus’ suffering and death as his *Passion*.
- The high priest Caiaphas concluded that it was better for one man to die than for a whole nation to suffer.
- Judas Iscariot arranged to have Jesus arrested by the Jewish guards.
- The Jewish Sanhedrin holds a “trial” and finds Jesus guilty of blasphemy, punishable by death.
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How Did Jesus Die?

- The Jewish leaders arrange to have Jesus brought before the Roman Procurator, Pontius Pilate, to face charges of treason for claiming to be the king of the Jews.
- Afraid of the mobs calling for Jesus’ death, Pilate hands Jesus over to be crucified – the punishment for treason.
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Crucifixion

- Crucifixion was a gruesome, public execution.
- The condemned man carried a crossbeam, which weighed between 75-125 pounds, on his shoulders.
- The criminal was then nailed to the upright beam of wood, using spikes about 7 inches long, most likely driven through the wrists and feet.
- Death was caused by blood loss and asphyxiation (suffocation).
- Often the criminal’s legs were broken to hasten death.
- Death would occur within hours or days, depending on the individual’s physical condition.
- Jesus, having been severely beaten, died after 3 hours on the cross.
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After Jesus Died

- Jesus was removed from the cross and placed in the arms of his mother, Mary.
- Nicodemus, a member of the Pharisees, provided a tomb for Jesus to be buried.
- Jesus was buried in the tomb on Friday, late in the afternoon.
- At sundown, the Sabbath began, so the women were unable to go to the tomb to anoint the body.
- They had to wait until Sunday morning.
- Meanwhile, Jewish officials asked for and received Roman guards to watch over the tomb so that the body would not be stolen.
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The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

- There are no accounts of the moment of Resurrection, only the discovery of an empty tomb and accounts of encounters with the Risen Christ.
- The women who come to the tomb on Sunday morning find the stone rolled away and the tomb empty.
- Peter and John run to the tomb and find it just as the women described.
- On that day, the Risen Christ appears to:
  - Mary Magdalene
  - The “other” women
  - 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus
  - Simon Peter
  - The disciples without Thomas
- In most cases, the Risen Christ is not immediately recognized.
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The Resurrection Appearances
Of Jesus Christ

1. The Risen Christ’s first appearance was to Mary Magdalene on that early Sunday morning. (Mark 16:9, John 20:11-18).
2. Jesus appeared to the women returning from the tomb. (Matthew 28:9-10).
5. On Sunday afternoon, Jesus appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. (Luke 24:36-43).
6. On Sunday evening, he appeared to His disciples and other followers in a locked room in Jerusalem. Note: the apostle Thomas was not there at this time. (John 20:19-23).
7. Eight days after His appearance in No. 5, Jesus again appeared to His disciples behind locked doors, and this time Thomas was present. (John 20:24-29).
9. Jesus was seen by 500 believers at one time. (1 Corinthians 15:6).
10. He appeared to James. (1 Corinthians 15:7).
11. He appeared to eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee. (Matthew 28:16-20).
12. He walked with His disciples along the road to Bethany, on the Mount of Olives, and then ascended into to Heaven. (Luke 24:50-53).
13. Some time after He was seen by over 500 people in the above list, He was seen by Paul on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:3-6, 1 Corinthians 15:8).
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Faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

• We have no proof of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

• We do however have compelling evidence:
  o people willing to give up their lives based on their testimony that they have encountered the Risen Christ.
  o lives transformed by people who give testimony (witness) to having encountered the Risen Christ.

  ▪ the disciples
  ▪ Saul of Tarsus/Paul
  ▪ the Saints (capital S)
  ▪ the saints (small s)