

Today, we are going to make a case for grace! Why the Cross matters! What did Jesus accomplish through his death & resurrection?

A. Prophecy: Jesus died for sin, was buried, & rose from the dead

1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (NIV) ³ *For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

Paul – Jesus’ death FOR sins, burial, and resurrection were ALL in accordance with the Scriptures!

Jesus’ death for sins: Isaiah 53:3–6 (ESV) ⁴ *Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

- 700 years BEFORE Jesus: (Dead Sea Scrolls CONFIRM) He was sinless. Died for the sins of ALL people. ALL people have sinned.
- The Lord laid those sins upon his suffering servant.

Jesus’ burial with the wicked & a rich man: Isaiah 53:9 (ESV) ⁹ *And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

Matthew 27:38 (ESV) *Then two robbers were crucified with him, ...*

Matthew 27:57–60 (ESV) *...there came a rich man, named Joseph, ...and laid it in his own new tomb,*

- Jesus died between two wicked men, AND Joseph of Arimathea (a rich man) buried him in a tomb!! ALL gospel accounts confirm.

Jesus rose from the dead, securing our salvation! Isaiah 53:8–12 (ESV) *And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, ... when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. ... by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.*

- He died, his death was an offering for SIN, HE LIVES AFTERWARDS – MANY saved as a result!
- **WRITTEN 700 years BEFORE Jesus was born!**

In 48 hrs -Jesus fulfilled 30 prophecies! (*The Comprehensive Guide to Apologetics by Joseph M. Holden*)

1. He will be betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Matthew 26:49).
2. The price of His betrayal will be 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15).
3. His betrayal money will be cast to the floor of My temple (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:5).
4. His betrayal money will be used to buy the potter's field (Zechariah 11:13; Matthew 27:7).
5. He will be forsaken and deserted by His disciples (Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:50).
6. He will be accused by false witnesses (Psalm 35:11; Matthew 26:59–60).
7. He will be silent before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12).
8. He will be wounded and bruised (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 27:26).
9. He will be hated without a cause (Psalm 69:4; John 15:25).
10. He will be struck and spit on (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 26:67).
11. He will be mocked, ridiculed, and rejected (Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 27:27–31; John 7:5, 48).
12. He will collapse from weakness (Psalm 109:24–25; Luke 23:26).
13. He will be taunted with specific words (Psalm 22:6–8; Matthew 27:39–43).
14. People will shake their heads at Him (Psalm 109:25; Matthew 27:39).
15. People will stare at Him (Psalm 22:17; Luke 23:35).
16. He will be executed among sinners (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38).
17. His hands and feet will be pierced (Psalm 22:16; Luke 23:33).
18. He will pray for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34).
19. His friends and family will stand afar off and watch (Psalm 38:11; Luke 23:49).
20. His garments will be divided up and awarded by the casting of lots (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-24).
21. He will thirst (Psalm 69:21; John 19:28).
22. He will be given gall and vinegar (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34).
23. He will commit Himself to God (Psalm 31:5; Luke 23:46).
24. His bones will be left unbroken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:33).
25. His heart will rupture (Psalm 22:14; John 19:34).
26. His side will be pierced (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34).
27. Darkness will come over the land at midday (Amos 8:9; Matthew 27:45).
28. He will be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60).
29. He will die 483 years after the declaration of Artaxerxes to rebuild the temple in 444 BC (Daniel 9:24).
30. "As a final testimony, on the third day after His death, He will be raised from the dead [Psalm 16:10; Acts 2:31],
31. BONUS: ascend to heaven [Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9],
32. BONUS: and be seated at the right hand of God in full majesty and authority [Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3]."

God wanted to ensure that NO ONE would miss what He did! Why? BECAUSE HE DESIRED TO SAVE SINNERS! Like YOU! Like ME!

John 1:29 (ESV) The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Prophecy Fulfillment Probability Factor: To give scale - if you had 100 quadrillion pennies, they would cover the entire surface of the Earth (both land and ocean) in a layer about 2 feet deep.

Why go through so much trouble to ensure we would NOT miss it? BECAUSE of LOVE. Because of GRACE. God did not want you or me to be LOST IN SIN.

B. The Cross Matters: It is FINISHED

John 19:30 (ESV) ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

What was finished? Why did Jesus die for sins?

Genesis 2:17 (ESV) ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

- **You cannot have LOVE without CHOICE. God had to give a legitimate choice to LOVE him or REJECT him. REJECTION of God is SIN. You cannot REJECT God without rejecting His GOODNESS**

The consequence of SIN: Death, sickness, war, sex trafficking, abuse, hatred, racism, natural disasters, sexual immorality, adultery, homosexuality, pornography, rebellion, greed, lust, addiction, foul language, rejection, gossip, murder, lying, deception, slander, envy, broken families, broken homes, broken people, anxiety, depression, and more!

- **We ALL find ourselves on this list!**

Romans 1:18 (ESV) For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Romans 2:5 (NIV) "But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

Romans 6:23 (ESV) For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 3:23–25 (ESV) for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

- **We ALL sin – just like Isaiah said! And Paul reiterated! ALL of us have gone astray!**

Jesus BECAME sin – the very thing He HATES – then suffered the consequence of sin = DEATH → ALL because He LOVES you and me! So that we could be made ALIVE with HIM!

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV) *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Romans 5:6–10 (ESV) *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

The phrase "**It is finished**" comes from the Greek word **Tetelestai** (Τετέλεσται). While it sounds like a cry of exhaustion in English, in the original Greek, it was a cry of completion and victory.

In the original text of **John 19:30**, the verb is in the **perfect tense**. In Greek, the perfect tense describes an action that was completed in the past but has **ongoing, permanent results** in the present.

FINISHED means: Paid in full, work completed, victory won, perfect sacrifice
→ **NO OTHER PAYMENT FOR SIN CAN EVER BE REQUIRED – EVER! DONE! PAID! FULL!!**

THE INVITATION → **To accept Jesus' GIFT!! And to LIVE FOR HIM! Are there areas of your life you have been holding back from Jesus? TODAY – CHOOSE TO SURRENDER TO JESUS!**

C. Communion – the Lord's Supper

- 1. MARANATHA** – *the Lord has come (PAST) the Lord is coming! (FUTURE)*
- 2. PAST the Last Supper** - *what Jesus did for you. He defeated death, defeated Satan & paid the debt you owed for your sin!*
- 3. FUTURE the Marriage Supper of the Lamb** - *Jesus is coming back! When he returns, he is going to right every wrong and establish his Kingdom!*

1 Corinthians 11:24-26 (ESV) *and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*