

SOME THINGS ABOUT THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Matthew 27:33-37

Introduction: There's just no way for us to understand the why's involved in all that God, the Father and Jesus, the Son of God did for our salvation. What all happened at the cross can never be understood by anybody but God and His Son, Jesus. The only thing we can do is to accept what they did and be eternally grateful. Easter is a special time of the year when we focus on the death on the cross, the burial and the resurrection of the Lord. Perhaps some of these things about the death of Jesus might help us focus more clearly.

I. THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS *NATURAL*

1. It was a genuine, real death.
2. The one who died was none other than the only begotten Son of God.
3. The blood that was shed was real and was also divine.
4. **"...and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on the cross..." (Philippians 2:8)**
 - He who started out as the "Word," who was WITH God, and who WAS God, BECAME FLESH.
 - Therefore becoming a human being, Jesus, the Lord was capable of suffering for all flesh dies.

II. THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS *UN-NATURAL (abnormal)*

1. **"...the wages of sin is death..."** Every human being is under this death penalty.
 - Jesus had no sin. He did no sin, He knew no sin, He had none.
 - Jesus was without spot or blemish. **Death had no claim on him** as on every body else.
 - For the Son of God, pure, spotless of sin to die was **un-natural**.

III. THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS *PRE-DETERMINED*

1. Before Adam was created, before Satan and sin entered the world, Salvation had been planned by God.
2. It was foreordained by the Heavenly Trinity that there should be a Savior for sinners.
 - A Savior who would suffer, being just, for the unjust, to die in order that the unjust might live.
3. Since there was none other good enough to pay the price for sin, the only begotten of the Father offered Himself as the one, as the ransom.
4. It was because of the approaching death for man's sins that God "passed over the sins done during the Old Testament times. Had it not been for Jesus Christ, every person would have gone to Hell the moment he/she committed sin.

IV. THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST WAS *SUPER-NATURAL (DIFFERENT)*

1. In all things Jesus Christ has the pre-eminence - His birth was different from all other births, His life different from all other lives, and His death was different from all other deaths.
2. **"...Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again, No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to take it again. (John 10:17-18)**

- When approached by a band of officers from the Temple, with soldiers, the Lord asks who did they want, they answered "Jesus" and Jesus answered, "I am." Everyone was stunned. They were in the presence of almighty God and were overcome. They had no power to take Him then.
 - **Matthew 27:46** - Jesus cried in a LOUD voice, *"...Eli, Eli, lama, sabachthani..My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me...?"* Jesus repeated the question again in a loud voice a bit later. Jesus was in control He was not exhausted. He was still Lord and Master.
3. *"...I thirst.. 'After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, said, 'I thirst...'"*
 - As Jesus hung on the cross, at the close of six hours, his mind reviewed the entire scope of the prophecies about what was happening and there were two left to be filled: *"...they gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst, they gave me vinegar to drink..." (Psalm 69:21)*
 - Jesus knew what He had to do next. He deliberately laid down His life, Himself.
 4. *"...When Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished;' and he bowed his head and gave up the spirit..."*
 - Jesus had not been in a swoon, he had not passed out nor at a lack of control in any manner. His head had not been rolling around helplessly on His chest.
 - Jesus deliberately bowed His head. This is what caused the guard to cry out: *"...Truly this was the Son of God..."*
 5. *"...And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit;' and having said this, HE GAVE UP THE SPIRIT..."*
 - Nobody ever did this nor died in this manner.
 - *"...I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it away from me, but I lay it down of myself..."*
 - At his death, Stephen cried, *"...Lord Jesus, receive my spirit..."* It was taken from him.
 - Jesus deliberately gave up His spirit.
 6. When the soldiers came to break Jesus' legs, they saw that he was already dead.
 - It was not natural that Jesus should be dead so early, it usually took two to three days before death overtook one on a cross. Jesus was there only six (6) hours.
 - Since no bones had to be broken to bring death, the last prophecy was fulfilled.
 7. Many super-natural things accompanied Jesus' death.
 - The veil in the Temple was ripped from top to bottom revealing the Holiest place.
 - The entire earth shook to its foundation.
 - Graves opened, showing that Satan's power over death had ended.

CONCLUSION:

1. So, putting all these things together:
 - Deliberately yielding to those who came to arrest Him - His crying with a loud voice at least twice showing His control - remembering to fulfill the last prophecy by asking for a drink - then knowing that all was done - He deliberately bowed His erect head, committed His Spirit into the hands of the Father, gave up His life, therefore fulfilling the prophecy that "no bone would be broken."
2. Tearing of the temple veil, earthquake, rending rocks, opening graves, all testified to the supernatural character of Jesus Christ's death. **TRULY THE SON OF GOD.**