

# Who Crucified Jesus?

*And Why Does it Matter*

## 1. **NATIONALLY** – *Israel demanded it.*

The Jewish people did not have the political authority to carry out capital punishment. However, their leaders with loud voices pressured the Roman governor to crucify Messiah. It seemed strange to the governor to put to death a man not guilty of the allegation as he said, *“I find no fault in him”*. But Israel shouted out; *“Crucify him”* and then voluntarily took perpetual responsibility for His blood. The Jew, Peter, would later preach to Israel: *“Therefore, let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made, that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ,”* (Acts 2:36).

**Why does it matter?** Israel’s national future under God will never have lasting peace from God until they repent of unbelief on the Jesus issue (Zech. 12-14; Acts 3:13-21). It’s not a political solution needed but a spiritual! (The same is true on a personal level for all).

## 2. **GOVERNMENTALLY** – *Rome commanded it*

Though Rome knew Jesus was innocent of the charges they acquiesced for political relations. To them it was unfortunate that an innocent man had to die but one less life probably prevented riots and saved a society from much unrest. So it was the Roman governor that officially said Jesus was *“to be crucified”*. And Acts 2:23 reminds the Jews that, *“Ye have taken, and by wicked hands [the Romans], have crucified and slain”*.

**Why does it matter?** However, the Gentiles hadn’t a clue that this Jesus was God’s Son, *“for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory”*. But this ignorant blunder of crucifying God - in the flesh - revealed the fallen status of mankind:

\* The cross exposed the human mind as foolish – having no natural capability or wisdom to know and understand God, (1Cor. 1:18-21; 2:8; 3:19).

\* The cross exposed the human heart as hateful and wicked – torturing an innocent man to the point where His visage was marred more than any man, (Jer. 17:9 / Isa. 52:14 - 53:3).

\*The cross exposed the human soul as religiously confused – passionately loving their rituals of worship yet hating what God loved, (Matt. 15: 1-9 / John 16:1-3; John 18-19).

\* The cross exposed the human spirit as sinfully misguided - the princes of this world (philosophical, political and religious) united to crucify Christ, (1Cor. 2:4-8 / Lk. 23:10-12).

These are lessons of the cross that are meant to break our confidence in self.

## 3. **INDIVIDUALLY** – *Judas betrayed him to it.*

It was Judas who for a small bribe (30 pieces of silver) conspired with the Jewish leaders to find a quiet place and identify the Lord. And at Christ’s arrest Judas said the infamous words, *“hold him fast”* and sealed it with a kiss. His reason was because of disillusionment. He expected a kingdom and a position of power for following the Lord. When that didn’t happen on his timetable, he revealed his heart of no faith and bailed out.

**Why does it matter?** Judas unwittingly proved the reliability of Holy Scripture by fulfilling its ancient prediction that this would happen (Psa. 41:9 / Jn. 13:18 / Mt. 27:3-9).

#### 4. PERSONALLY – *Jesus Christ submitted to it.*

When it came down to it, it was the Lord Jesus Himself who took His life on the cross. As the Son of God, He said of His life; *“No man taketh it from me but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again”*. As the Son of Man, He submitted to the Father concerning the cross and said; *“Not my will, but thine, be done”*. He did *not* call for the legions of angels that God *would have* given Him to deliver Him. He died by choice not by chance.

**Why does it matter?** The Lord Jesus had to intentionally dismiss His spirit to die and so cried with a *“loud voice”* – in full strength. He was not gasping with His life eking out. He died *on* the cross but not *by* the cross. The Roman guard in recognizing this miracle of death said, *“Truly this man was the Son of God”*. This truly demonstrated the loving power of choosing submission to accomplish great things, and to know Him (Philp. 2:5-11).

#### 5. SOVREIGNLY – *God predetermined it.*

God Himself sent His beloved Son to the cross. He was *“delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God ... crucified and slain”* (Acts 2:23). Yes, Christ was God’s perfect lamb, *“Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world”*.

**Why does it matter?** But why would the Father do this to the Son of His love? What kind of love is this? *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

#### 6. SPIRITUALLY – *Satan orchestrated it.*

Behind the movement of religious and political men was the unseen enemy in the spirit realm, Satan – whose nature is a murderer (John. 8:44). Thus *“Satan entered him [Judas]”* to motivate him to betray the Lord unto death. Satan thought death would end it.

**Why does it matter?** Here we see Satan’s limitations. Though he could arrange death, he could not prevent life. And God raised His Son from the dead proving His greater power and that Jesus indeed is the Son of God and the chosen of God (Rom. 1:4).

#### 7. SOCIALLY - *We as sinners needed it.*

*“Christ died for our sins”*, reveals Scripture. Thus Jesus was not dying just as an example of how to love, or as a martyr for a good cause to gain attention. But the Lord Jesus Christ died because of our sins against our Creator God that separates us from knowing and being with His Holiness. Therefore, in love, righteousness and justice, the sinless Lord Jesus went to the cross to *“bare our sins in his own body on the tree”*. For He was perfect and thus the only satisfactory offering acceptable to an offended God.

**Why does it matter?** I am the reason He died. My sins sent Him to the cross. The beloved Son of God suffered in order that I can be saved from the judgment of God. Now that there is a perfect sacrifice presented to God and He has showed His acceptance of it by resurrection – God is no longer winking at our sin but commanding all men everywhere to repent and come for salvation (Acts 4:10-12; 17:30-31). As the converted Jesus-hater Paul said: *“the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me”*.