

Why Believe In The Crucifixion?

Sunday Morning, April 17, 2011

Mark 15:22-37

Introduction: What some believe about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ?

Denying atheist: Jesus, the Son of God has never existed, never came to earth, never died on the cross, and never rose again.

Doubting agnostic: Jesus may or may not have ever lived and died on the earth.

Non-Christian religions: Jesus may have been a good man and even a prophet; however He did not bear the sins of the world in His death.

Islamic Qur'an, Sura 4:157: "They killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them...for of a surety they killed him not."

From a Muslim perspective, Jesus was never crucified and, thus, never resurrected. Instead, in Islam, God made someone look like Jesus and the look-alike was mistakenly crucified in His place.

All Christians: Jesus died for our sins and rose again.

1. Believe the predictions of the crucifixion.

a. Psalms foretold His death.

- i. He would thirst. (Psalm 22:15)**
- ii. He would suffer the piercing of his hands and feet. (Psalm 22:16, Zechariah 12:10)**
- iii. His garments would be parted from gambling. (Psalm 22:18)**
- iv. He would be surrounded and ridiculed by his enemies. (Psalm 22:7-8)**

- v. He would commend his spirit to the Father. (Psalm 31:5)
 - vi. His bones would not be broken. (Psalm 34:20, Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12)
 - vii. He would be given vinegar to drink. (Psalm 69:21)
- b. Isaiah foretold His death.
- i. He would be scourged and spat upon. (Isaiah 50:6)
 - ii. He would be crucified between two thieves. (Isaiah 53:12)
- c. Zechariah foretold His death.
- i. He would be stared at in death. (Zechariah 12:10)
 - ii. He would be mourned by loved ones. (Zechariah 12:10)
- d. Jesus foretold His death.
- i. He introduced His disciples to His death and resurrection. (Matthew 16:21)
 - ii. He reminded His disciples of His death and resurrection. (Matthew 17:22-23)
 - iii. He prepared His disciples for His crucifixion and resurrection. (Matthew 20:17-19)

2. Believe the pain of the crucifixion.

- a. Jesus was beaten by Priest's servants. (Matthew 26:67-68)
- b. Jesus was battered by Pilot's orders. (Matthew 27:26)
- c. Jesus was brutalized by Pilot's soldiers. (Matthew 27:27-31)
- d. Jesus was bolted by painful crucifixion. (Matthew 27:32-35)

3. Believe the pronouncements of the crucifixion.

- a. Jesus was pronounced dead by all four gospels. (Matthew 27:50, Mark 15:37, Luke 23:46, John 19:30)

Jesus from seven sources: <http://jesusseven.tripod.com/jesus.html>

- b. Jesus was pronounced dead by the sky & earth. (Matthew 27:45, 50-51, Mark 15:33-37)
- c. Jesus was pronounced dead by the temple veil. (Mark 15:37-38)
“Midnight and High Noon”
- d. Jesus was pronounced dead by the centurion. (Mark 15:39, 42-45)
- e. Jesus was pronounced dead by many women. (Mark 15:40-41)
- f. Jesus was pronounced dead by Himself. (Luke 23:46)
- g. Jesus was pronounced dead by His mother. (John 19:25-27)
- h. Jesus was pronounced dead by the soldiers. (John 19:30-34)
- i. Jesus was pronounced dead by John as eye witness. (John 19:35-37)
- j. Jesus was pronounced dead by Joseph & Nicodemus. (John 19:38-42)

4. Believe the purpose of the crucifixion.

- a. The crucifixion of Christ is God’s only payment for sin. (Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 Peter 2:21-24)
- b. The crucifixion of Christ is God’s only provision for forgiveness. (Ephesians 1:7)
 - i. Jesus can forgive executioners. (Luke 23:34)
 - ii. Jesus can forgive the executed. (Luke 23:43)
 - iii. Jesus can forgive everyone. (John 3:16)
- c. The crucifixion of Christ is God’s only pathway to discipleship. (Luke 9:23, Galatians 2:20, Galatians 6:14)

Conclusion: Lost little girl tells policeman, "Take me to the cross, and I can find my way home from there."