

# *MORE SEED & BREAD, ISSUE NO. 295*

## **WHY DID JESUS DIE?**

By James Witt

**The Origin of Sin And Death.** It all began with Adam and Eve, the first man and woman who ever lived, according to the Bible.

In Genesis, the first book of the Old Testament, chapter three, God commanded Adam and Eve to eat freely of every tree in the garden, called "Eden," except the tree in the midst of the garden, called "The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." Since Eve ate of the fruit first, and then offered it to Adam and he did eat of it, they were both guilty of disobedience to God. Because of this sin against God, death began to work in them, slowly, until it consumed them. The ancient record tells us Adam died 930 years later, and then Eve. Since death did not happen soon after they had sinned, the passage should be translated: "Dying, thou shalt die." The sacred record also tells us that they both returned to the dust from which they were made. Their transgression was that which caused sin and death to be inherited by all generations since that time. It also does not help matters to assume that it was only spiritual death that they suffered; however, there is no such thing as "spiritual death" in the Word of God.

In the New Testament, 1 Corinthians 15:22 says: "**For as in Adam all die (all are dying) even so, in Christ, shall all be made alive.**" Therefore, we conclude that by death of the Savior, Jesus Christ, He purchased another life for everyone who ever lived since Adam and Eve. Jesus Christ, therefore, died for all humanity, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

Jesus died for you and me and became our personal Savior, but in order to claim Him as our Savior, we must believe His Word concerning the matter. Ephesians 2:8-9 says: "**For by grace are ye saved through faith (believing); and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.**" The words "faith" and "believing" are the same and mean "taking God at His

Word"—accepting everything He says about Himself, and incorporating it into our system of belief. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says: "**For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteous of God in Him.**" It would be more accurate to quote it: "He who knew no sin became sin for us."

**He Died For His Own People.** The Israelites were the chosen race, or the seed of Abraham. In Romans 1:16 the Apostle Paul says: "**For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jews first, and also to the Greek** (of the nations)." However, in the present time of God's gracious administration, our God is dealing with us as individuals, Jews and Gentiles alike. There is no favoritism. All are equal before God in matters of believing. In fact, I believe God deals with us individually, through His Word. We can understand this in the gospel of John 20:31 which says: "**But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, ye might have life through His name.**" One reason our Lord Jesus Christ died was to save His people from their sins.

Our God also made it possible to resurrect the whole house of Israel. This is most powerfully recorded in the prophecy of Ezekiel 37. This is the very well-known story of the "Valley of Dry Bones." For these reasons the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ began to unfold before the gospel records came into being.

**He Died To Redeem Us From Destruction.** Romans 8:21 says: "**Because the creature (creation) itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**" In John 3: 17 we read that "**God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved (made safe for habitation).**" No super power on earth can change this. The world will not be destroyed by man's weapons of mass destruction.

**He Died That we, The Believers, Might Share In His Plans To Govern The Earth (The Kingdom Of God).** The word "kingdom" in the Word of God has to do with "sovereignty," or "to rule forever over a restored Earth"—even our world. He will reign from His rightful place in Heaven. When Jesus was on trial for His life, standing before Pilate in the Hall of Judgment, Pilate asked Him if he was a King. Jesus answered by saying, "**To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth**" (John 18:37). It continues: "**Everyone who is of the truth heareth My voice.**"

**He Died That He Might Provide Us With The Present Era Of Dispensation (The Dispensation of Grace).** The Dispensation of Grace is an administration of absolute grace, where every act of God, in our time, is one of love and grace to the undeserving. This time (era) has now lasted more than 2,000 years. And all justice and judgment has been reserved for the future.

Isaiah 25:8-9 says: **"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord will wipe away tears from off all faces, and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the Earth: for the Lord hath spoken it."** And it shall be said in that day: **"Lo, this is our God."** We have waited for Him. We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

For all of the reasons aforementioned, the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ began to unfold before the gospel records came into being. We can read about it in the prophecy of Isaiah: **"But He was wounded for our transgressions (sins), He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed"** (Isa. 53:5).

The Apostle Paul, chosen by God to be the apostle to the Gentiles (nations), tells us in Philippians 2:5-11: **"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God highly exalted Him, and gave Him a name which is above the very name of Jesus. Every knee should bow to things in Heaven, and things in Earth, and things under the Earth; that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Jehovah) to the glory of God, the Father."**

Let us therefore believe God, and in believing, claim that blessed hope of the glorious appearing of our great God, even our Savior (Titus 2:13-14). Then, we will someday be in His likeness through Divine Intervention, or by resurrection from the state of death (Rom. 6:3-10). We can also claim to be in a company of those having not seen and yet believed (John 20:31). Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world and we are included.

In conclusion, let us all believe God where He tells us that He sent (commissioned) Christ to be the Savior of the world. He was and is the Expression of God, full of grace and truth, incarnate Son of God, and was manifested in the flesh. Further, John 1:14 says: **"And the Word was made flesh,**

**and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) (the Expression of God), full of grace and truth."**

Acts 17:31 explains God's plan for assuming control over all mankind and over all Earth: **"Because He has appointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that Man (Jesus Christ) whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead."** Romans 4:25 says: **"Who (He) was delivered for our offenses, and was raised again for our justification."** However, let us remember and understand the next verse in Romans 5:1: **"Therefore being justified by faith (believing), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."**

When I was much younger, we used to sing this short chorus: "If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy, let Jesus come into your heart. /Your sins he'll wash away, your night He'll turn into day, your life He'll make it over anew. /If you want joy, real joy, wonderful joy, let Jesus come into your heart." These words are true if you receive Him by faith in His Word. Philippians 4:7 (NKJV) says: **"And the peace of God, which surpasses (transcends) all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds through Christ Jesus."** May our God give us wisdom to really understand His passion, His love for us, and His love for the world.

Jesus Christ had to die, because without the shedding of blood there is no remission for sins. He is the sacrifice that makes it possible for all men to be resurrected and come into the Kingdom of God.

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