

Savior - cont.

*be unto our God a kingdom and priests;
and they reign upon the earth”*
(Revelation 5:9-10; see also John 11:50-51; 18:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:10; Revelation 13:8).

Jesus died because of his love (John 15:12-13) and his Father’s love (John 3:16) for all mankind:

“This is my commandment, that ye love one another, even as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:12-13).

Jesus died to save us from the penalty of sin - God’s wrath. Paul wrote:

“But God commends his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, shall we be saved from the wrath of God through him” (Romans 5:8-9; see also Matthew 20:28; Romans 3:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:2,19; 2:24; Revelation 1:5; 7:14; 12:11).

You see, friends, our Savior Jesus came to earth for a very special reason. Thank God! - *Chris Reeves*
(continued next week)

- Scripture of the Week -

“Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day.”
- Psalm 119:97 -

Do you really love God’s law like the psalmist did? If you really love it, you will read it regularly, study it carefully, apply it thoroughly, defend it ardently, and proclaim it widely. So, do you love God’s law?

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Why Did My Savior Come to Earth? - Part I

There are a number of reasons why Jesus came to earth. He came to fulfill Old Testament prophecy. He came to teach mankind the gospel. He came to demonstrate to mankind the right way to live. He came to show mankind a picture of God and deity. Ultimately, Jesus came to earth to die on the cross for the sins of mankind.

Many people die, so how was the death of Jesus different? Additionally, many people died in the 1st century by hanging on a cross. Crucifixion was a common form of the death penalty under Roman rule. So, how was the death of Jesus on a cross different? Let's consider in this series of articles why our Savior came to earth and how his death was different.

I. A Suffering Death

First of all, the death of Jesus was very painful. He did not die a natural, peaceful death. I have been at the bedside of individuals who have passed away in their sleep. It is truly a peaceful site to behold. But, Jesus did not die this way.

Jesus did not avoid a painful death, but in fact suffered a painful death. Jesus said of himself:

“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests and scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him unto the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify: and the third day he shall be raised up” (Matthew 20:18-19; see also Matthew 27:26,34,40-42; Mark 15:15,23,30-32)

Jesus died on a shameful, cruel, painful cross. Isaiah prophesied of the cruel death of Jesus this way:

“He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:3-5; see also (John 12:32-33; 18:32; 19:17; 1 Corinthians 1:17-18,23; Galatians 3:13; 5:11; Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 12:2; 13:12).

Jesus died a cruel death voluntarily and innocently. This is amazing! Sometimes people die a painful and cruel death, but they do it against their will. The voluntary and innocent death of Jesus is what sets his

death apart from others who died painfully. Jesus knew in advance that his death would be painful and he voluntarily chose to die that way, and he did so as an innocent man. Jesus said:

“Therefore doth the Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one taketh it away from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment received I from my Father” (Jn. 10:17-18; for Jesus' innocent death see Acts 13:28; Matthew 27:4,24).

II. A Saving Death

Second, the death of Jesus was a saving death. He died to save mankind from their sins. People die all the time, but they do not die an “atoning” or “sacrificial” death like Jesus did.

Jesus died for all mankind giving them an opportunity to be saved. John saw in a vision the heavenly host singing about Jesus:

Worthy art thou to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and didst purchase unto God with thy blood men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, and madest them to