

Who Killed Jesus?

No. 266

Introduction.

- I. Some months ago Mel Gibson produced the movie “The Passion” about the crucifixion of Christ.
 - A. The word “passion” comes from the Latin and originally meant “pain and suffering.” Through the years the meaning of the word has changed somewhat and is used also to denote the compassion or pity and love Jesus has for the human race.
 - B. **As all of know, “The Passion” is a movie depicting graphically the crucifixion of Christ.**
 1. Many have left the movie with tears in their eyes after viewing the horrible, agonizing, torturous way Christ died, but with unchanged lives.
 2. Others who have seen the movie have developed a greater love and appreciation of Christ.
- II. **The movie has caused a lot of controversy over the involvement of the Jews in the crucifixion.**
 - A. Some modern Jews are up in arms because they say the movie is anti-Semitic.
 - B. They say it seeks to place the blame for the death of Jesus on the Jews, the descendants of Seth the son of Noah.
- III. **Anti-Semitism is a problem in the world.**
 - A. **There are some or many who have hated the Jews in the past and there are likely many still hate them.**
 - B. This hatred has been for a variety of reasons.
 - C. One thing is clear Christians are not to have hatred or discrimination against anyone including the Jews.
 1. We are to love all men, and should not hate the descendants of those who crucified Christ.
 2. Furthermore, the Jews today had no part, than you and I, in the death of Christ, and should not be blamed. (Ezek. 18:20).
- III. Let us look closely at the scriptures to see who actually killed Jesus keeping in mind that the death of Jesus, as horrible as it was, was temporary, and He is now alive. (Lk.24:5, 6; Rev. 1:17, 18).
 - I. **The Romans Were Responsible** - The Bible teaches the Romans were responsible for the death of Christ.
 - A. **The Jews had no authority under Roman rule to put anyone to death.** (Jn. 18:28-31).
 1. The Jewish Sanhedrin condemned Jesus and brought Him to Pilate charging He was an evil doer and desiring Pilate to condemn Him to death.

2. **Pilate** said. (Jn. 18:31).

B. The Bible tells us that Pilate, the Roman governor, gave the orders for Christ to be crucified. (Jn. 19:15-18).

15 They therefore cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 So he then delivered Him to them to be crucified. 17 They took Jesus therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. 18 There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between.

C. **The Bible also tells us that the Roman soldiers carried out the crucifixion.**

1. The Roman soldiers stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him
2. They wove a crown of thorns and put it on His head and placed a reed in His right hand.
3. They knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
4. They then spat on Him and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head.
5. They then mocked Him and removed the scarlet robe and put back on His garments.
6. They then led Him away to crucify Him according to Matthew 27:26-31.

D. It is undeniable that the Roman governor and his soldiers were responsible for the death of Christ.

1. They did not just kill Him, but killed Him in the most heartless and gruesome way they knew.
2. In addition to mutilating His body with the scourge, they drove spikes into His hands and feet and a spear into His side.

II. **The Jews Were Responsible For Jesus' Death** - The Bible teaches that the Jews were responsible for Jesus' death.

A. Jesus knew He would die, and prophesied the Jews would kill Him. (Matt. 16:21).

B. The Jewish leaders hated Jesus and planned early to kill Jesus. (Jn. 11:47-53).

47 Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. 48 "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." 49 But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, 50 nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish. " 51 Now this he did not say on his own initiative; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to

die for the nation, 52 and not for the nation only, but that He might also gather together into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. 53 So from that day on they planned together to kill Him.

C. They later paid Judas 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus. (Matt. 26:15).

D. Jesus taught the Jews carried the greater sin. (Jn. 19:10-15).

10 Pilate therefore said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" 11 Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin." 12 As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar." 13 When Pilate therefore heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" 15 They therefore cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

1. Jesus here indicates the Jews carried the greater sin. The Jews pressured Pilate into crucifying Jesus.

2. **They accepted the responsibility for crucifying Jesus.** (Matt.27:22-25).

3. Peter declared. (Acts 2:23, 36).

III. **God Allowed Jesus To Be Killed** - The Bible teaches that God allowed Jesus to be killed.

A. God planned before the foundation of the world that His Son would die for mankind. (Eph. 1:4).

B. The prophets of God prophesied Jesus would die for man.

1. **David** was a king and a prophet. (Psa. 22:16, 18).

2. **Isaiah** penned these words about 300 years later. (Isa. 53:5,6).

C. God sent His Son into the world to die for man. (Jn. 3:16, 17; 1 Jn. 4:10).

1. God did not have to let His Son die, but He sent Christ to die that man might be saved.

2. The Jews and Romans were instruments in carrying out God's will, though they did not know it.

IV. **Jesus Himself Was Responsible For His Own Death** - Jesus was responsible for His own death.

- A. Jesus came into the world to minister and to give His life for a ransom. (Matt. 20:28).
 - B. Jesus had the power to save Himself from the Romans and the Jews, but He chose to lay down His life for mankind. (Jn. 15:13; Jn. 10:18).
 - C. **In the garden Jesus made it clear that He could save Himself.** (Matt. 26:51-53).
 - D. **Paul** tells us that He became obedient to death, even the death of the cross. (Phil. 2:8).
 - E. It was the **mission of Jesus** to “taste death for every man.” (Heb. 2:9).
 - F. The Bible says of Jesus “who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross.” (Heb. 12:2).
- V. **You And I Are Responsible For Jesus’ Death** - The Bible teaches that you and I are responsible for Jesus’ death.
- A. The Bible affirms we are all sinners, and Jesus came into this world to die for our sins. (Matt. 1:21; Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 1 Pet. 2:24).
 - B. Yes, because of our sins, are worthy of death, but **Jesus died for our sins.**
 1. He died for the sins of every person who has ever lived.
 2. Thus, every person who has ever sinned is responsible for the death of Christ.
 3. Forgiveness is only possible when we accept Jesus and the atonement He made for us.

Conclusion.

- I. We come back to the question of “Who killed Jesus?”
- II. The answer is the Roman crucified Him. The Jews demanded that He die and pressured the Romans into crucifying Him. God sent His Son to die for us. Jesus willingly died to redeem us from our sins. All of us, because we are sinners, must bear responsibility for Jesus’ death.
- III. **What is your reaction to Jesus’ death?**
 - A. Are you willing to accept your responsibility in the matter? Are you willing to accept the fact that Jesus died on the cross because of your sins? Or do you just want to blame it on others?
 - B. **Why not accept your blame in the death of Christ?** Why not come to Him acknowledging Him as the Son of God and the One who died for your sins. Turn away from your sins and confess His glorious name. Be baptized and live for Him that you might enjoy the benefits of His death. Come as we stand and sing.

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