

The Death of Jesus

1. How did Jesus' death fulfill the Old Testament sacrificial system?

- God's plan for deliverance was built on the sacrificial system; He instituted the blood sacrifice. Final deliverance came with Jesus' sacrifice
- Here is how the sacrificial system developed:
 - Humanity has a persistent bent toward sin, separating us from an infinitely holy God.
 - God, in mercy, takes the initiative and provides the way by which our estrangement can be ended.
 - The first sin recorded in the Bible is followed by the need for covering.
 - Gen. 3:21
 - 4:3-5
 - The idea of sacrifice was divinely revealed and directed toward the goal of personal holiness, to cover our sin, to reconcile us with God.
 - Forgiveness was thought to be obtained by the blood sacrifices, demonstrating the holiness of God and the deadly nature of sin.
 - The Passover
 - Perfect lamb, shedding of blood, and substitution
- Those who in faith offered animal sacrifices did so believing that God would accept the death and blood of the perfect animal as a substitute for their own life and blood. They had to offer sacrifices again and again.
- The sacrifices did not save, but faith in what they symbolized did.
- By faith, we see Jesus as the fulfillment of the symbols.

2. How do the following terms describe Jesus' death on the cross?

- Atonement – for our sin. Literally means “to cover.” The animal sacrifices provided a covering for sin until the death of Christ would forever destroy sin's power.
- Reconciliation – Sin separates us from a holy God, we are hostile towards God and God towards our sin.
 - Romans 5:10
 - The death of Christ did away with the cause of God's enmity by taking away our sin – the root cause of our alienation has been removed.
- Ransom—closely linked to the idea of redemption, buying back or restoring.
 - Commonly used in Greek to refer to the price paid for redeeming a slave, that is the price paid to release a slave from bondage.
 - Jesus paid the price to free us all from bondage to sin. We are now free to live the life God created us to live.
 - 1 Peter 1:18-19.
- Substitution—Christ died for us, in our place.
 - 2 Cor. 5:21
- Propitiation – turning away God's wrath, not just removal of guilt.
 - Wrath: the stern reaction of the divine nature to evil in humanity.
 - Hebrews 2:17

- Romans 3:5
- 1 John 2:2, 4:10

3. Why was the cross necessary? Why couldn't God just forgive?

- God's will is not His own in the sense that anything is permissible to Him.
- God cannot deal with sin except as how His holiness demands that He deal with it.
 - Wrath towards evil and sin.
- God's holiness is majestic, undiluted righteousness. That is why we need to be forgiven.
- God cannot merely forgive sin. It must be forgiven in a way that shows that God forever hates evil and can never treat it as other than completely hateful.
- God's holiness demands atonement for sin. God's amazing love provides the payment.

God is glorified in that he is the only one who could obtain salvation for humanity, and He did what was necessary in a way that satisfied his righteousness and holiness.

But He also revealed His love, self-giving love. God was motivated by His glory and love to save us.

- The cross reveals the love of God for us.
- Romans 5:8
- 1 John 4:9-10