BIBLE TOPICS · NEW TESTAMENT

The Crucifixion

From the Upper Room to the Empty Tomb

Passover	Six Hours	Seven Sayings	The Third Day
Jerusalem, c. A.D. 30	On the cross	From the cross	He is risen

THE GOSPELS

The Cross in Nine Scenes

The Gospels tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection in nine scenes.

1
The Last Supper
Jesus gives the bread and the cup, and speaks of His death.
LUKE 22:7–23

2
Gethsemane
Jesus prays in agony while His disciples sleep.
MATTHEW 26:36–46

3
Betrayed and Arrested
Judas comes with soldiers; Jesus steps forward and is taken.
JOHN 18:1–12

4
Tried and Denied
The council condemns Jesus while Peter denies Him three times.
MATTHEW 26:57–75

5
Before Pilate
Pilate finds no fault in Him, yet releases Barabbas.
JOHN 18:28–19:16

6
Crucified
Between two thieves, Jesus prays for those who crucify Him.
LUKE 23:26–43

7
"It Is Finished"
Darkness, His death, the torn veil, and the centurion's confession.
MATTHEW 27:45–56

8
Laid in the Tomb
Joseph of Arimathæa buries Him; the stone is sealed and guarded.
MATTHEW 27:57–66

9
He Is Risen
The stone is rolled away and the women meet the risen Lord.
MATTHEW 28:1–10

KEY VERSE

"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 53:5 (KJV)

The Final Hours and the Seven Sayings

BIBLE TOPICS · NEW TESTAMENT

The Final Hours of Jesus

From the upper room to the empty tomb

Thursday evening to Sunday dawn · c. A.D. 30

Thursday Night

1 The Last Supper
Thursday evening: the bread and the cup
LUKE 22:14–20

2 Gethsemane
Late that night: not as I will
MATTHEW 26:36–46

3 Betrayed
Around midnight: Judas and the soldiers
JOHN 18:1–12

4 Tried and Denied
Through the night: Caiaphas; Peter
JOHN 18:13–27

Friday

5 Condemned
At daybreak: sent to Pilate
LUKE 22:66–23:1

6 Before Pilate and Herod
Early morning: Barabbas released
LUKE 23:1–25

7 Crucified
The third hour, about 9 a.m.
MARK 15:25

8 Darkness
Noon to 3 p.m., over all the land
MARK 15:33

9 He Dies
About 3 p.m.: the veil is torn
MARK 15:34–38

10 Buried
Before sunset: Joseph's new tomb
LUKE 23:50–54

Saturday and Sunday

11 The Sabbath
The tomb sealed and guarded
MATTHEW 27:62–66

12 He Is Risen
Sunday at dawn: the tomb is empty
MATTHEW 28:1–7

Seven Sayings from the Cross

1 Forgiveness
"Father, forgive them"
LUKE 23:34

2 Salvation
"To day shalt thou be with Me in paradise"
LUKE 23:43

3 Care
"Woman, behold thy son!"
JOHN 19:26

4 Forsaken
"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?"
MATTHEW 27:46

5 Thirst
"I thirst."
JOHN 19:28

6 Victory
"It is finished"
JOHN 19:30

7 Trust
"Father, into Thy hands I commend My spirit"
LUKE 23:46

KEY VERSE

"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 53:5 (KJV)

Prophecies Fulfilled

FORETOLD LONG BEFORE

Prophecies Fulfilled at the Cross

After His resurrection Jesus showed His disciples that the Scriptures had spoken of His suffering all along: “Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?” (Luke 24:26).

FORETOLD	FULFILLED
Sold for thirty pieces of silver ZECHARIAH 11:12	**Judas paid thirty pieces of silver** MATTHEW 26:15
Silent before His accusers ISAIAH 53:7	**“But Jesus held His peace”** MATTHEW 26:63
Wounded for our transgressions ISAIAH 53:5	**Scourged and crucified** JOHN 19:1, 18
Numbered with the transgressors ISAIAH 53:12	**Crucified between two thieves** LUKE 23:33
Hands and feet pierced PSALM 22:16	**“Behold My hands and My feet”** LUKE 24:39
Lots cast for His clothing PSALM 22:18	**The soldiers cast lots for His coat** JOHN 19:23–24
Vinegar for His thirst PSALM 69:21	**Given vinegar on a sponge** JOHN 19:29
Not a bone broken PSALM 34:20	**His legs were not broken** JOHN 19:33, 36
They shall look on Him whom they pierced ZECHARIAH 12:10	**A soldier pierced His side** JOHN 19:34, 37
With the rich in His death ISAIAH 53:9	**Buried in a rich man’s new tomb** MATTHEW 27:57–60

> *“Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”*
>
> Isaiah 53:4 (KJV)

The Passover Lamb and What the Cross Accomplished

EXODUS 12 · JOHN 1:29

The Passover Lamb and Jesus

Jesus died at Passover, the feast that remembered Israel's rescue from Egypt. Paul wrote, "For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

THE PASSOVER LAMB	JESUS, THE LAMB OF GOD
A lamb without blemish was chosen EXODUS 12:5	**A lamb without blemish and without spot** 1 PETER 1:19
Killed at Passover EXODUS 12:6	**Died at Passover, outside Jerusalem's walls** JOHN 19:14, 20
Its blood on the door: judgment passed over EXODUS 12:13	**His blood shed for the remission of sins** MATTHEW 26:28
Not one bone broken EXODUS 12:46	**"A bone of Him shall not be broken"** JOHN 19:36
The meal remembered the rescue from Egypt EXODUS 12:14	**The Lord's Supper shews His death till He come** 1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

What the Cross Accomplished

The New Testament uses many pictures to explain the cross. Each shows a different side of the same great work: Christ died in our place, for our sins.

Sheltered from Judgment

THE LAMB

Like the Passover lamb, His blood shelters God's people.

"For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us"

1 CORINTHIANS 5:7

He Bore Our Sins

IN OUR PLACE

He carried the sin and its penalty that were ours.

"and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

ISAIAH 53:6

Set Free

A RANSOM

He paid the price to set captives free.

"and to give His life a ransom for many."

MARK 10:45

Reconciled

PEACE WITH GOD

Enemies are brought home to God.

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself"

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

The Devil Defeated

VICTORY

Sin, death and the devil are overcome.

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

COLOSSIANS 2:15

God's Love

LOVE SHOWN

The cross shows how much God loves.

"while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

ROMANS 5:8

Salvation is a gift, received by grace through faith in Christ, not by works (Ephesians 2:8–9). See The Plan of Salvation.

How to Respond

LIVING BY THE CROSS

How Should We Respond?

The cross is not only something to understand. Jesus and the apostles call everyone who hears it to respond.

1

Come to the Cross

Turn from sin and trust Christ, who died for you.

"that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

JOHN 3:16

2

Remember His Death

Every Lord's Supper proclaims His death.

"this do in remembrance of Me."

LUKE 22:19

3

Take Up Your Cross

Daily say no to self and yes to Him.

"let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."

LUKE 9:23

4

Forgive as He Forgave

We forgive because we have been forgiven.

"forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

EPHESIANS 4:32

5

Glory in the Cross

Boast in nothing else.

"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"

GALATIANS 6:14

6

Live in His Love

Christ now lives in those who trust Him.

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me"

GALATIANS 2:20

FOR TODAY

Five Things to Remember

If you remember nothing else about the crucifixion, remember these five things.

1

He Chose the Cross

Jesus laid down His life of His own will.

JOHN 10:18

2

He Died Innocent

Pilate found no fault in Him; He died for others.

LUKE 23:4

3

He Died for Sin

The Lamb of God bore our sins in His body.

1 PETER 2:24

4

It Is Finished

Nothing can be added to what He has done.

JOHN 19:30

5

He Rose Again

On the third day the tomb was empty.

MATTHEW 28:6

6

He Is Coming Again

Every Lord's Supper looks ahead to His return.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:26

THINK ABOUT IT

Questions for Reflection

In Gethsemane Jesus prayed, "not as I will, but as Thou wilt." What makes that prayer hard to pray? Barabbas went free while Jesus died: in what way is Barabbas' story your story too? Of the seven sayings from the cross, which speaks to you most right now? Jesus said, "It is finished." Is there anything you are still trying to add to what He has done?

Six Themes of the Cross

KEY THEMES

Six Themes of the Cross

These six truths run through everything the Bible says about the death and resurrection of Jesus.

1

The Lamb of God

He takes away the sin of the world.

"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world."

JOHN 1:29

2

Love Laid Down

No greater love has ever been shown.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

JOHN 15:13

3

In Our Place

He bore what we deserved.

"Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree"

1 PETER 2:24

4

Forgiveness

He prayed for those who crucified Him.

"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

LUKE 23:34

5

It Is Finished

His work of salvation is complete.

"It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost."

JOHN 19:30

6

Death Defeated

The tomb is empty.

"He is not here: for He is risen, as He said."

MATTHEW 28:6