

DESIGN OF THE CROSS (27 Points to Ponder With Bible References)

Why did Jesus come to earth and die?

"And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again" (Mk. 8:31, all verses are from the NKJV)

1. To deliver us from wrath

- a. 1Thessalonians 1:10, "and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come."
- b. 1Thessalonians 5:9, "For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ."

2. To deliver us from an evil age

- a. Galatians 1:4 "who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father."

3. To deliver us from the devil's power of death

- a. Genesis 3:15, "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."
- b. Hebrews 2:14, "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil."
- c. John 12:31, "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out."

4. To deliver us from the curse of the law

- a. Galatians 3:13, "Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')."
- b. See also Galatians 4:4, 5.

5. To provide us opportunity to live together with Him

- a. 1Thessalonians 5:10, "who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him."

6. To provide ransom pay for all (Matt. 20:28)

- a. 1Timothy 2:6, "who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."
- b. Hebrews 2:9, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."
- c. Revelation 5:9, "And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation."
- d. John 15:13; Acts 20:28

7. To become our Passover Lamb

- a. 1 Corinthians 5:7, "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us."
- b. John 1:29

8. To purge our sins as a preordained sacrificed (Matt. 26:28)

- a. Isaiah 53:5, "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed." (see also 53:6, 8)
- b. Ephesians 1:7, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace."
- c. Titus 2:14, "who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."
- d. Hebrews 1:3, "who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."
- e. Hebrews 10:12, "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God"
- f. Hebrews 10:17, "then He adds, 'Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.'"

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- g. 1 Peter 1:19, 20, “but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.”
- h. 1 John 1:7, “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- i. 1 John 2:2, “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”

9. To release man from the fear of death

- a. Hebrews 2:15, “and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”

10. To provide aid in our own temptations

- a. Hebrews 2:18, “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”

11. To enter the Most Holy Place with His own blood, obtaining eternal redemption

- a. Hebrews 9:12-15, “Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

12. To take away the Old Testament

- a. Colossians 2:14-17, “having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”
- b. Hebrews 10:9, “then He said, ‘Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first that He may establish the second.”

13. To put an end to sacrifices

- a. Hebrews 10:14, “For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.”
- b. Hebrews 10:18, “Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer an offering for sin.”

14. To bring to force a New Testament

- a. Hebrews 9:16, 17, “For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives.”
- b. Hebrews 10:10, “By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

15. To bring in the last age with his appearance/sacrifice

- a. Hebrews 9:25, 26, “not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.”

16. To convert judgment into salvation

- a. John 3:14-17
- b. Hebrews 9:27, 28, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.”

17. To allow entrance into the Holiest

- a. Hebrews 10:19-22, “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”
- b. Breakdown of passage:
 - i. “Boldness” (freedom of speech, courage, confidence, license)
 - ii. “Holiest” (the most Holy Place which is symbolic of heaven’s throne)

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- iii. “New” (here properly means a newly killed, freshly slain...a recent way)
- iv. “and Living Way” (as opposed to dead, a constant perpetual living way, a new method that is living and imparts life, compare “living water,” John 4:10)
- v. “consecrated” (initiated, inaugurated, dedicated)
- vi. “through the veil, that is, His flesh” (the heavy veil divided the holy place from the most holy place in the Old Temple. God’s presence was behind the veil in the most holy place. That served as a shadow of the real where heaven is the real Most Holy Place, Heb. 9:11, 24; access into it is through the veil of Christ’s body. As that O.T. veil concealed the glory of God, we might think also how Christ’s body concealed the glory of His deity. See also Matt. 27:50, 51.)
- vii. “let us draw near” (Access to the Father is now fully granted through the Son, see Jn. 14:6. This passage connects our baptism to the death of Christ like Rom. 6:3, 4 does. It also encourages the confidence that we can now have through Christ in coming to God. This kind of confidence had never been enjoyed before Christ’s sacrifice.)

18. To bring forth faith in God

- a. 1Peter 1:21, “who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”

19. To provide an example of how we are to live

- a. 1Peter 2:21, “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”
- b. 1Peter 2:24, “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.”
- c. 1Peter 4:1, “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin.”
- d. 2 Cor. 5:14, 15; Eph. 5:1, 2

20. To provide us an example of how we are to love our brethren

- a. 1 John 3:16, “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”

21. To provide us an example of God’s love for us

- a. 1 John 4:10, “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”
- b. See Romans 5:6-11.

22. To bring to God many sons

- a. 1Peter 3:18, “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”
- b. Hebrews 2:10, “For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

23. To be glorified by God

- a. John 12:24, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”
- b. Acts 5:30, 31, “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.”

24. To make us priests

- a. Revelation 1:5, 6, “and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”
- b. See Revelation 5:9, 10.

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- c. Revelation 7:14, "And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

25. To attract people from all nations

- a. John 12:32, 33, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.' This He said, signifying by what death He would die."

26. To bring many into the church where reconciliation is

- a. John 11:49-52
- b. Ephesians 2:13-16

27. To have our names written in the Book of Life

- a. Revelation 13:8, "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."
- b. John 14:19, "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also."