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Did Jesus Die for Muslims?

Romans 5:18: (NASB) *So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men.*



As Christians, we pin all our hopes on the belief that Jesus was crucified and died for our sins. This is the core reason for our coming to Christ, for it speaks of him doing something for us out of pure love that we in no way could do for ourselves. To us, the sacrifice of Jesus represents the ultimate gift. Those outside of Christianity often look at this belief with disdain and even sarcasm, for to them it is foolishness and evidence of a blood thirsty god. One question that is probably not talked about much is the breadth of Jesus' sacrifice. Whom did it cover and how do we know? In the present conditions of our world, the Muslim faith is often thought about and referenced. What do Muslims think of Jesus? While they do believe in him, they do not see him as a redeemer. Does this mean they are not covered by his sacrifice?

Disclosure: We firmly believe in the Bible and in Jesus as its centerpiece. We believe Islam and therefore Muhammad, while widely accepted in our day, are in fact *not* representations of God - the Creator of all things and His plan. *Islam and Muhammad actually act in opposition to God's plan.* Having said that, we also believe there are many good principles taught in Islam and will seek to engage our discussion today with care and respect for the closely held beliefs of others. We would ask you to do the same. As we quote sources from the Islamic faith, we intentionally searched for its most peaceful and inclusive representations. In our conversation, we will not attempt to interpret their scriptures but instead simply accept them as they are used.

Islam has several different factions within the Islamic faith, just as Christianity has different factions. Just as we do not want to be represented by the actions of the Papacy in the Dark Ages, we will not only represent one faction of Islam. (Source: Islamreligion.com) Please see the Full Edition Rewind for this excerpt. A Muslim view (as well as all Islam) of their god is very lofty and very sacred and they look toward their god with solemnity, honor and respect, which we appreciate. Muslims state their god does not have a son and does not share worship, which are references to the Christian faith and Jesus.

Scriptural view of God's approach to humanity: **A portion of the curse on Satan:** Genesis 3:15: (NASB) *And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your seed and her seed (Jesus); he shall bruise you on the head (Satan will be destroyed), and you shall bruise him on the heel.* Here we have a battle to the death and a veiled promise of a posterity that will reconcile with God. God allowed sin and struggle so we could observe and distinguish between good and evil. **A portion of the curse on Adam:** Genesis 3:19: Death is the certain penalty for sin and thus the necessary subject of atonement.

Our theme chapter - the plan of God: Romans 5:1-5: (NASB) *¹Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. (The true followers of Jesus who have given up their will to do the will of God through Christ have been justified or made right by faith in Jesus.) ³And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; ⁵and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. (We often learn the greatest lessons in life through difficulty and tribulation.) There is one God who works His plan perfectly through Jesus, His son.*



Just forgive question, *Christian vs. Muslim Debate, Did Jesus Die for Our Sins?*

(Source: Wikipedia) The Islamic view of the Christian Bible is based on the belief... Please see the Full Edition Rewind for this excerpt.

Islam's view of the Christian Bible is that the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy) is good. The Psalms, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are good. However, they believe all the prophets and the Jewish history (outside of Genesis through Deuteronomy) are *not* good. They also state the Christian letters in the New Testament are *not* good. They take a very small portion of Scripture and say Muhammad was given the revelation to correct and complete the message of God. That is a Muslim opinion, which we will address later.



 **A Christian answer to the previous sound byte, *Christian vs. Muslim Debate, Did Jesus Die for Our Sins?***

Let's look for a comprehensive scriptural answer to a difficult question. **First, God's justice:** Genesis 3:20-22: There had to be an animal sacrifice made and blood shed to have skins to cover the nakedness of sinful man. Animal blood was shed, perhaps as a symbol to show sin brings shame which leads to death. All need covering with a sacrificed life. In that simple act of clothing Adam and Eve, God gave us a very small profound look at what would unfold over time. And finally, there was a banishing from eternal earthly life, which is a major part of what was lost.

The next beginning - Noah, upon leaving the Ark, offers sacrifices to God and receives God's commands: Genesis 9:3-7

Blood is again singled out as a sacred part of all life. The necessity for *a life for a life* shows the priceless nature of human life. There is a clear basis for justice in Genesis long before the Jewish Law Covenant was established.

Romans 5:6-11: (God required a sacrifice and Jesus volunteered his life.) God did not "kill His son" as was suggested in the previous debate; He required a sacrifice and Jesus willingly volunteered and said, "*Here am I, send me.*" He sacrificed himself for the preciousness and value of life. Men and women who are in the military protect us daily and when one of them dies protecting us we do not say, "That is terrible!" We thank them for putting their life on the line and giving it up so we can live.

There is a clear focus on the Christian privilege of receiving the blood of Christ and the just price needed that could only be accomplished by a loving gift: (The focus here is on the followers of Jesus.) Reconciliation is the key here and is much more than a mere feeling. Forgiveness from God is an action that changes things. Forgiveness happens through God's justice.

We will attempt to represent the Muslim view of Jesus by reading Muslim writings. (Source: Islamreligion.com) Please see the Full Edition Rewind for this excerpt.

 **A Muslim answer, *Christian vs. Muslim Debate, Did Jesus Die for Our Sins?***

The wages of sin is death, not according to Paul but according to God in Genesis, which he was quoting: Genesis 2:17: We must look at the Scriptures as an inclusive unit that complement one another.

(Source: www.islam-guide.com/jesus) Please see the Full Edition Rewind for this excerpt. They are describing Jesus as just a great prophet and saying it was a set-up and he was not crucified. Obviously as Christians, we do not believe that.

 **Story revised, *Christian vs. Muslim Debate, Did Jesus Die for Our Sins?***

The Muslim perspective says it is only recorded in the book of John that the son was offering himself. When they state the first three Gospels do not show Jesus offering himself as a sacrifice yet they are trying to represent the Scriptures, they are doing everyone a disservice. Let's check.

This first revealing of his death was general and puts the coming events into the hands of the Pharisees and chief priests. Also, it was after the revealing by Peter that Jesus is the Messiah - as if to say this is the cost of being the Messiah: Matthew 16:21-23 (Also in Mark 8:31-33, Luke 9:22) The second revealing focuses on "the hands of men" - the Gentiles, and was after Jesus released the boy from demon possession, a possession that was more difficult than others. Perhaps this was again a reminder of the cost of being the chosen one: Mark 9:30-32: (NASB) (Also in Matthew 17:22-23, Luke 9:43-45) Jesus tells them he had to die to fulfill the ransom price and buy back the life of Adam. Adam's life was forfeited because of sin, and another man had to die to bring him back.

The third revealing was the most detailed and dramatic and was after the most dramatic of all the miracles Jesus would perform - the raising of Lazarus: Luke 18:31-34: (NASB) (Also in Matthew 20:17-19, Mark 10:32-34) Note all the main elements through the three revealing statements and see the high level of cost and privilege by the attachment to the surrounding



events. The point? Jesus' crucifixion was the centerpiece for him living and *the key to salvation*.



Why not forgive, Christian vs. Muslim Debate, Did Jesus Die For Our Sins?

There are many views of Christianity and many views of Islam. *All Christians do not believe in a hell of torment and we are amongst those who do not.* We are convinced the Scriptures do not teach hell nor the idea that you can do whatever you want and everyone is going to be saved. Both of those views are extreme.

Romans 5:12-14: Adam was entirely responsible for inherited human sin. Death reigned even before the Law was given, therefore the death penalty was clearly upon all humanity.

A New Testament view helps us to see the process that God's plan of salvation had in place: Galatians 3:19-22 **What does a mediator do?** 1 Timothy 2:5-6: This "mediator" relationship is describing the role of Jesus with the entire world before God. The followers of Jesus have a different relationship with God than those who do not follow Jesus. Jesus is their advocate and not their mediator. (We will discuss this point later.)

The mediator of the Law for Israel was Moses; the mediator of grace for the world is Jesus: Romans 3:19-21 **The promise given to those who believe:** Genesis 22:17-18 Galatians 3:29: (Jesus and his followers are that seed.) There are two general classes of people in this world. Some will be a part of giving the blessing and some in receiving the blessing.

God's plan is written in the Scriptures from beginning to end and Jesus is the centerpiece for the world to have an opportunity for life. *All the world may become accountable to God* - there will be a judgment. We will look at the Muslim perspective first and then explain the scriptural Christian perspective on judgment. There are several different views, and we will explain our scriptural reasoning.

(Source: www.islam-guide.com) Please see the Full Edition Rewind for this excerpt. The Muslim perspective of the Day of Judgment is that everyone will appear before God. If you hold the views, deeds and beliefs of Islam you are saved. If not, you are doomed to eternal fire and torment. Many Christians have a similar view that if you do not hold their beliefs you will burn forever. *We do not see it in this way!*



Save or do not save, Christian vs. Muslim Debate, Christian vs. Muslim Debate, Did Jesus Die for Our Sins?

We believe everyone has an *opportunity* for eternal life, although it is not a free ride. There is work involved. **Who is saved and how?** **Romans 5** clearly shows all (every human being) but especially a few: Romans 5:15-17: (NASB) ¹⁵*But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, ("the many" must mean all humanity according to the previous context which said death reigned over all) much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. (This must mean the same "the many" - all humanity.)* ¹⁶*The gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification.* ¹⁷*For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, (again, who did death reign over? Everyone - the many) much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.* (Aha! There IS a qualifier here applying to the called-out ones. This shows a reign for them - they are given an authority.)

The followers of Jesus must prove themselves faithful *now*. They do not get a chance later since their judgment is here and now in this life.

1 Timothy 4:10: We who believe we have been called by Jesus to follow in his footsteps have a different level of responsibility to the word of God than our Muslim friends. We believe the reward will be different if we are faithful.

There are two different classes of people with positive effects from the ransom - some under a mediator and others under the advocate concept: 1 John 2:1-2: A mediator sits between two parties who are at odds to help bring them together. An advocate does not go between; he sits with you and represents you. Jesus is a mediator and an advocate. This

advocate relationship describes those for whom Jesus stands (his footstep followers) vs. those for whom he mediates ("everybody else"). These are two different classes of people with positive effects from his dying and resurrection.

1 Peter 2:7-10: The chosen are elevated to several titles, referred to as the "sons of God," the "bride," the "little flock," "more than overcomers," the "body of Christ," the "church," the "144,000" and the "elect." These titles describe job descriptions. Jesus earned the right to both mediate and advocate, and he now can give everyone an opportunity to life. Those who follow him will be working with him in the rehabilitation of the rest of the world. Even though we have incredible differences, Jesus still died for Muslims.

One more title that helps to answer this question: Hebrews 12:23

When we think of the firstborn, what do we think of? Exodus 12:13: The deliverance of the entire nation of Israel came through the deliverance of the firstborn of Israel. That is why true Christians are called the *church of the firstborn*.

1 Corinthians 5:7: There are two different classes shown in the incredible picture of Israel as a nation delivered by the firstborn. Israel is a metaphor for the world of mankind while the firstborn pictures the church, the followers of Jesus.

God's plan is for all to be delivered, (including Muslims) because Jesus earned the right to buy back the sinful race of humanity. He gave a perfect life for Adam's perfect life - *a ransom for all, to be testified in due time*. Humankind was put on this earth to be able to live eternally, but that opportunity went away with the sin of Adam and comes back through the sacrifice of Jesus. The path IS different, but both paths lead to freedom. For the Christian, it is freedom from sin in heaven and for the world it is freedom from sin on earth.

Romans 5:18-21: *Sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus* - this is a picture of what is going to happen as a result of the sacrifice of Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:3-4

This is backwards from what we understand as the Christian approach: Romans 10:13: (NASB) *...for whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved. (That is the normal Christian approach.) Who will have all men to be saved, and to (then) come unto the knowledge of the truth* - to be saved is to have the sacrifice of Jesus applied to every human being who ever lived. After they are resurrected, they must learn and decide to follow righteousness. The job of the *church of the firstborn* is to be there to help them as a minister of reconciliation. The true footstep followers of Christ *now* must give up their will and do the will of God. In God's future kingdom, the world will not be asked to walk in the steps of sacrifice; they will be instructed to walk in steps of obedience. They will be given a day of judgment, which is a day of opportunity to learn and bring their hearts in alignment with the righteousness of God without the influence of Satan. There may be some who after being given a full and fair opportunity to come to a full discernment of God's truth, will not choose it. They will die what the Bible calls the *second death*, where there is no resurrection. They will sleep forever.

Seeing there are two paths to salvation, this next verse, the previous context of Romans 5 above makes more sense: Romans 5:9-10:

- *We shall be saved from the wrath of God through him* - the path of the unbeliever must pass through wrath - the great day of judgment is an opportunity to do the work to earn life.
- *Having been reconciled, we shall be saved by his life* - the path of the true Christian must pass through belief, faith and sacrifice - the work necessary to inherit heavenly life.

Jesus died for EVERYONE. God's plan is magnificent!

*So, did Jesus die for Muslims?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*