

## 4-- Prerequisites to the Resurrection: Proof of Life and Death

Matthew 26-27; Mark 15; Luke 3, 23; John 19

1. In order for skeptics and other religious groups to debunk Christianity, they must debunk the resurrection of Jesus. This often means the life or death of Jesus on the cross is attacked. What are some alternative arguments you have heard used which aim to disprove the death of Jesus on the cross?

2. With the above theories in mind, it becomes imperative for us to be able to prove the legitimacy of the life and death of Jesus before we can ever get to a resurrection. What do the following Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillments state about Jesus?

- Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 27:26--
- Isaiah 53:3; John 19:14-15--
- Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 26:67—
- Isaiah 53:12; Mark 15:27-28—
- Psalm 38:11; Luke 23:49—
- Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46—
- Psalm 22:14; John 19:34—
- Psalm 22:16; Luke 23:33—
- Psalm 22:7-8; Matthew 27:39-43—
- Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34; John 19:28-30—
- Psalm 31:5; Luke 23:46—
- Psalm 34:20; Exodus 12:46; John 19:32-33, 36—
- Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34, 37—
- Isaiah 53:9; Mark 15:43-46—

### 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

- *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received:*
- *that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*
- *and that He was buried,*
- *and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*
- *and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

3. Read the following first-century eyewitness accounts of the death of Jesus (Matthew 27:22-50, 55-56; Mark 15:12-47; Luke 23:13-55; John 19:1-42). How do these accounts discredit the alternative theories?

4. No historical document ever denies the death of Jesus until around 150 A.D. On the other hand, many historical documents outside of the gospels verify the eyewitness details found within the gospels. Why might the citation of uninspired sources be of help in this specific controversy?

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5. Some may want medical evidence of the death of Jesus. Do you remember what occupation the gospel writer, Luke, held (see Colossians 4:14)? What medical condition is noted in Luke 22:44?

6. What was involved in the “scourging” Jesus received as documented in Matthew 27:26? What kind of physical consequences would this have had upon him?

7. After this beating of Jesus, what do the soldiers do to Jesus as documented in Matthew 27:28-29? What happens when a piece of cloth is applied to an open, bloody wound before the wound has been allowed to clot?

8. Matthew 27:35 says, “*Then they crucified Him...*” What does “crucifixion” involve? How does it lead to death?

9. What happened when the Roman soldier pierced the side of Jesus in John 19:34? Why do such details matter? What, medically, do the details John includes here indicate about the death of Jesus?

10. What was done with the body of Jesus in Matthew 27:57-60? How is this a proof of death as we consider the role of Joseph of Arimathea at the burial of Jesus?