

INSIGHTS INTO THE LIFE OF CHRIST [Paul E. Engle 3/23]

Session #10 Crucifixion of Christ

INTRODUCTION

Calvin Miller, Once Upon a Tree: *"History is nailed together! Literally it is! The story of man, from the beginning to the present, is so varied and disconnected that it had to be nailed together to give it continuity. Since the nail was driven human history reads more smoothly. Since that time there is a vital interrelatedness, between its widely separated parts."* (p.11) The cross is at the center of human history giving it meaning!

I. How did crucifixion become a method of execution?

A. Pre-Roman early origin: Who did it begin with? _____

B. Roman adoption of crucifixion:

1. Under the Romans crucifixion increased in extent and severity. **Richard Bauckham** (Jesus: A Very Short Intro., Oxford 2004 – p. 95 – *"The Romans did not invent crucifixion, but they made it an essential means of retaining power and maintaining order in their empire."*

2. Who were spared from crucifixion? _____

3. _____ is the first Roman Emperor to engage in mass crucifixion of Christians. (Tacitus, Ann. 15.44)

C. How did it disappear? Under the reign of _____ what happened?

II. What was crucifixion like and how did it bring death?

A. The Greek word for cross (*stauros*) means an upright, sometimes pointed, stake. The condemned could be fastened to this cross lying on the ground then the stake was raised and placed in a hole. The height of the cross was not much higher than the average height of a man.
* Or sometimes the stake was planted into the ground before the execution. The victim would be tied or nailed to the cross-piece which was hoisted up with the horizontal beam fastened to the vertical stake.

B. When and how would death come? _____

III. What were the reasons for crucifying Christ?

A. The most obvious but inaccurate answer some would _____ Cf. Calvin Miller: "No one should feel that Jesus simply got caught in the political machinery of His day and was crushed in the gears. The cross was not an accident. It was not a tragedy that surprised God."

1. We see a vivid contrast between Jesus and the insurrectionists of 1st century.

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B. If all this is true, why did Pilate decide to have Jesus crucified? Pilate was a self-seeking ruler who loathed Jewish leadership but feared antagonizing them.

1. Execution would _____
2. Execution would also _____
3. Execution would strongly warn Jewish opposition.

C. A significant factor leading to the crucifixion was the conflict between the Jewish leaders and Jesus in regard to _____

D. Crucifixion sets him apart from Buddha, Confucius, and Mohammad. (Koran denies reality of crucifixion in Sura 4-157)

VI. Should we blame the Jews or the Romans?

A. Historically the primary responsibility for the crucifixion has been placed on the Jews and their leaders in Jerusalem. Led to problems...

B. More recent scholarship has _____

C. Why do we say the Romans had an important role?

D. Yet the Jews also had a part:

1. Because _____
2. Because _____

E. Ultimately it was _____ Acts 2:23; 4:27-28

VIII. What are the theological implications of his death?

A. _____ (Mark 10:45)

Several **THEORIES OF THE ATONEMENT** have been offered:

- a. The moral influence theory or moral government:
- b. Christus victor:
- c. The satisfaction theory of Anselm:
- d. The penal substitution view:

B. Redemption

(Mk. 10:45; Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:18–19).

* John Bunyan and movie "The Mission"

C. _____ – wrath of God

D. Defeat of Satan:

E. Relationship to our suffering: What does this mean?

CONCLUSION - Phil. 3:18-19; 1 Cor. 1:18

