

The Significance of the Crucifixion

The death of Christ is not just an event in Scripture it is the purpose of all Scripture. Many times we say that but we think as if God was coming up with this plan as He went along. We think that God created Adam and Eve and the whole world was perfect and God thought that this would be the way it would be forever. We read Genesis as if Satan foiled God's plans when he snuck into the garden and tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God. We see God crushed that His creation turned against Him and resolving to make a new plan for get back at Satan – this is not how it happened, and I think understanding that God created Adam and Eve with the fall of mankind in mind sets a new tone to whole story.

Let's take a look at some of the Scriptures that tell us what and when God was planning when He created us.

Before the foundations of the world – this was the plan.

1 Peter 1:18-21 - knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown **before the foundation of the world** but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Titus 1:2-3 - in hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised **before the ages began** and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by the command of God our Savior;

Matthew 25:31-34 - 31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. **32** Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **33** And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. **34** Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you **from the foundation of the world**

Revelation 13:8 - and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written **before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain**

So, before the world was ever created, before the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters, God wrote a book. In this book he wrote all of the names of those that were called to be saved. He wrote my name and your name. He wrote the names of every person who calls upon the name of the Lord. He closed the book and wrote across the cover, The Slaughter of the Lamb of God is for These:

Then He created man and woman. It kind of changes things a little doesn't it? Ephesians 1 tells us that He chose us **before the foundations of the world** that we should be **Holy and blameless before Him having redemption in His blood**. God knew the plan before He created Adam and Eve that he would send His son to die for us, but He did it anyway so that we might know how much He loves us and so that we might see the glory of His grace.

Right from the beginning the plan was the crucifixion. Let's quickly follow some of the references to this in the Old Testament.

From Genesis to Revelation it is all about the crucifixion.

Immediately following the sin of Adam and Eve, God promises there will be one who crushes the head of Satan.

Genesis 3:15 - I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel**.

God promises Abram that He will be the Father of many nations, that kings will come from him. That this will be an eternal covenant for an everlasting possession and that He will be their God. This covenant is fulfilled in the many sons of Abraham that are grafted in through faith in Jesus Christ.

Genesis 17:1-8 - When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty;^[a] walk before me, and be blameless,² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly."³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him,⁴ **"Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations."**⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram,^[b] but your name shall be Abraham,^[c] for I have made you the father of **a multitude of nations**.⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and **I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you**.⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations **for an everlasting covenant**, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, **for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.**"

When Jacob was going to die in Genesis 49 he calls all of His sons and blesses them. Look at the blessing that he gives to Judah.

Genesis 49:8-12 - "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. **Judah is a lion's cub**; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as

a lioness; who dares rouse him? **The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.** Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.

Revelation 5:5 - And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.”

Revelation 19:13 - He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

After God led the Israelites out of the land of Egypt just as he promised, he led them to Mt. Sinai and gave Moses the law. For 40 days Moses was on the mountain, and the people of Israel began to lose faith. They made the golden calf and worshiped it. God was angry with them, and told Moses He would wipe them out and start a new race to fulfill the promise through Moses. Moses introduces us to one of the clearest pictures of substitution of punishment in the Old Testament.

Exodus 32:30-33

The next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” ³¹ So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. ³² But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of **your book that you have written.**” ³³ But the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, **I will blot out of my book.**

God promises David through the prophet Nathan that the throne of his kingdom will last forever. This is true through the kingship of Jesus Christ. That is why the genealogies in the beginning of Matthew were so important to Matthew. That Jesus was a son of David and the rightful heir of the kingdom of David.

2 Samuel 7:12-17

¹² **When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.** ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, ¹⁵ but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ¹⁶ **And your**

house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’” ¹⁷ In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.

When Jesus died on the cross He cried out with a loud voice, “My God, My God why have you forsaken me?” This was taken from Psalms 22 vs 1. Look at some of the later verses in this same psalms that also refer to Jesus death – written a thousand years before Christ’s death.

Psalms 22

¹⁴ **I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;
¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.**

¹⁶ **For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet** ^[b]—
¹⁷ **I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
¹⁸ they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.**

And check out the last few verses of this Psalm. David writes that from God all of the nation’s worship and that He will be king over all the nations.

²⁷ **All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.
²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.**

Later on the prophet Isaiah tells of the suffering and the reality of the crucifixion. He shows us that the sins of the world are laid upon Christ, and that he suffered for our sakes.

Isaiah 53 Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and

as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ **But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities;** upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and **with his wounds we are healed.** ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and **the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? ⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ **Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;** he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. ¹¹ **Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.** ¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; **yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.**

The plan to send Jesus to die for our sins was not a quickly developed “plan B,” but the plan all along. God knew that we would be sinners, and that we would turn from Him. God devised this plan before the foundation of the world to send His son to pay the price that we couldn’t pay. To suffer the death that we could not die. To justify us through His son Jesus. This was the plan all along. Nothing is a surprise to God, and the sins that we commit are not a surprise to him either. All sin is covered under the blood of Christ

The plan doesn’t end with the crucifixion, it ends in Revelation 5 with people from every tribe and tongue and nation worshiping God in Heaven forever.

Revelation 5:6-14

⁶ And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, **as though it had been slain**, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
**for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,**
¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders
the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of
thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ **And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in
the sea, and all that is in them,** saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Did Jesus die for my sins in the past, present, or future – or all of them?

1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered **once for sins**, the righteous for the unrighteous,
that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

Hebrews 7:27-28 - He **has no need**, like those high priests, **to offer sacrifices daily**,
first for his own sins and then for those of the people, **since he did this once for all** when
he offered up himself. ²⁸ For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but
the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who **has been made
perfect forever**.

Hebrews 10: 1-18 –

For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of
these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year,
make perfect those who draw near. ² Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be
offered, since the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have any

consciousness of sins? ³ But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ^[a] came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through **the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

¹¹ And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when Christ had offered **for all time a single sacrifice for sins**, he sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³ waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. ¹⁴ For **by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.**

¹⁵ And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,

¹⁶ “This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, declares the Lord:
I will put my laws on their hearts,
and write them on their minds,”

¹⁷ then he adds,

“I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.”

From Jeremiah 31

¹⁸ Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

How do I know that I’m saved?

I Corinthians 2:12-16

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, **that we might understand the things freely given us by God.** ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.^[a]

¹⁴ **The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.** ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” **But we have the mind of Christ.**

John 10:27-30 - ²⁷ **My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.** ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and **no one will snatch them out of my hand.** ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and **no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.** ³⁰ I and the Father are one.”

John 3:16-17 - ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Romans 3:23-24 - ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

Romans 10:9-10 - because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Romans 10:12-13 - For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.