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WHAT THE PASSION OF JESUS TELLS US ABOUT GOD Understanding the Passion

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Part 2 of 3

INTRO: “Passion” – old English word for suffering.
Specifically it refers to the last 12 hours of Jesus’ life.

1. THE TRIAL SHOWS US GOD’S PURPOSE.

It was Jesus’ purpose to come to earth intentionally to die.

“No one can kill me without my consent. I lay down my life voluntarily for I have the right and the power to lay it down when I want to and also the right and the power to take it again. For the Father has given Me this right.” John 10:18 (Amp)

The Garden of Gethsemane scene with Jesus going through emotional and mental agony is a clear description of His suffering (Passion).

“Now my soul is troubled and distressed. And what shall I say? Father save Me from this hour of trial and agony? But it was for this very purpose that I have come to this hour.” John 12:27 (Amp)

“Jesus said, I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.” John 12:47 (NIV)

Obviously, as God, He could have prevented the whole thing. What was His purpose? His purpose was to save the world.

“Christ was truly God. But He gave up everything and became a slave when He became like one of us. He even died on a cross. Then God gave Him the highest place and honored His name above all others so that at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down – those in heaven, on earth and under the earth.” Phil 2:6-10 (CEV)

The issue is not, are you ever going to admit that Jesus is God?

The issue is not if, it’s when?

Either now in love, or later in regret.

Either now in love, or later in judgment.

2. THE DEATH OF JESUS SHOWS US THE PASSION OF GOD.

The death of Jesus demonstrates how much God loves you. It demonstrates to what length God was willing to go in order to get you to Heaven.

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What length did He go to?

- He went all night without food or rest through 6 trials
- Soldiers mocked Him
- They pulled out His beard and beat Him
- Scourged
- Carried His own cross
- The agonizing death of crucifixion

“When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners ... God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us.”
Romans 5:6,8 (NLT)

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

- **First, the Bible says none of us are perfect** (we are sinners). *“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* Romans 3:23
- **Sin deserves punishment.** *“The wages of sin is death...”* Rom 6:23
- **Someone has to pay – either you are someone else.** “Tetelestai” – IT IS FINISHED.

“Christ sacrificed His life’s blood to set us free which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because of God’s amazing grace.” Eph. 1:7 (CEV)

This verse tells three very important truths:

It tells us that God was in complete control while all this suffering was going on.

Two benefits: To be saved.
 To share His glory.

3. THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS SHOWS US GOD’S POWER.

Fortunately the story does not end at the cross.

“He showed Himself alive to them after His Passion by many demonstrations: for forty days He continued to appear to them and tell them about the Kingdom of God.” Acts 1:3 (NJB)

That’s why about half the city became believers. Archeologists and historians tell us that within twenty years of the resurrection, Jerusalem, a city of about a quarter million people, had between 100,000 and 125,000 believers.

“By being raised from the dead He proved He was the mighty Son of God with the nature of God Himself.” Rom. 1:4 (LB)

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The power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead, it is available to you to help you with your problems if you get Jesus Christ in your life.

"I pray that you will begin to understand how incredibly great His power is to help those who believe Him. It is that same mighty power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead." Eph 1:19-20 (LB)

HOW SHOULD I RESPOND TO HIS DEATH FOR ME?

- I OUGHT TO LOVE JESUS CHRIST

"We love Him because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19 (NIV)

- I OUGHT TO HATE SIN.

"Our old life died with Christ on the cross so that our sinful selves would have no power over us and we'd no longer be slaves to sin." Rom. 6:6 (NCV)

- I OUGHT TO NOT ONLY LOVE CHRIST AND HATE SIN BUT TELL OTHERS.

"God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself. No longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others." 2 Cor. 5:19 (NLT)