

# Who was responsible for the death of Jesus?

## Was it the Romans?

*“Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee?”*

(John 19:10)

*“Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments...”*

(John 19:23)

### But why?

**Politics!** Pontius Pilate was governor of the land of Judea where Jesus lived and taught. He didn't want any disturbances. No uprisings. No fuss.

Was Jesus inciting rebellion then? No, not at all, in fact his message was a message of love not war. So why was Pilate so afraid of insurrection? He was under pressure from a large and emotionally charged crowd – the Jewish people.

## Was it the Jews?

*“Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.”*

(John 18:3)

*“When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him.”*

(John 19:6)

### But why?

**Religion!** Many (not all) of the religious leaders in Israel despised Jesus. They had waited a long time for their Messiah. They had a mental image of what they thought he would be like and what he would do. He would be a mighty man of war and would deliver the nation from Roman occupation. Jesus preached peace and love and went about everywhere just “doing good.” He performed

such miracles that the Jews knew only Messiah could do. If he were allowed to carry on he would have the whole nation “loving their enemies!” Some of the nation's leaders were bitterly jealous as well as disappointed but this was more than ordinary human hatred. The Bible shows that there were spiritual forces of wickedness at work driving those who hated Jesus.

## Was it the devil?

*“And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him.”*

(John 13:2)

*“...And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. And after the sop Satan entered into him.”*

(John 13:26,27)

### But why?

**Pride!** And more jealousy! The devil (known also as Satan and Lucifer) had a hatred of Jesus long before Jesus entered this world. He was not content to simply be who and what God had made him. He wanted more:

*“How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.”*

(Isaiah 14:12,13)

But could he have become powerful enough to destroy *The Son of God?* Not unless God allowed him to, but why would God allow Jesus to be subjected to such suffering?

## Was it you?

*“Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.”*

(1Cor 15:3)

*“While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

(Romans 5:8)

### But why?

**Guilt!** Ours: not his. That is, not just a *feeling* of guilt but the fact that:

*“all have sinned and have fallen short of God's standard.”*

In other words, we are all responsible. Jesus was hung on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin and mine – the sins of the world.

## Conclusion

Returning to our first quote, we read:

*“Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?”*

(John 19:10)

But see what Jesus answered:

*“Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above.”*

(John 19:11)

The Romans, the Jews, the devil, and even you and I are all implicated one way or another. However, nothing could happen to Jesus unless God, his father, allowed it to be so. Therefore the ultimate conclusion is: God, his father, appointed it to be so.

### But why?

**Sacrifice!** The book of Isaiah was written over 700 years before Christ's crucifixion. Isaiah was a prophet. He saw something that was going to happen in the future and having seen this event by a revelation from God, it was recorded...

*“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities... he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*

Jesus was a sacrifice: an offering to make peace. What kind of a God could ever demand such a sacrifice? - A Holy God!

God cannot and will not tolerate sin in anyone. He did not make man a sinner; but man has sinned. The Bible says: *“The wages of sin is death.”* (Romans 6:23). That is, not only has physical death entered the world because of sin but also a state of spiritual deadness has come upon all men, which, if not remedied, will leave men eternally separated from God. Are you prepared to pay that price for your sin? Thank God, we don't have to! We can be wholly forgiven and completely reconciled to God because of Jesus' sacrifice. Romans 6:23 goes on to say: *“but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* Someone has paid the

price, in full, for us. Thank you Jesus! He agreed to do this; he was willing to do this.

During those hours on the Cross Jesus experienced not only physical suffering but also a separation from his eternal father as God's judgement for our sin fell on him. Although the agony he faced was going to be excruciating he agreed to do this:

*“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”*

(Mt 26:39)

**But why?**

Because he loves you...

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”*

(John 3:16)

Forgiveness of sins is just the first part of the Gospel message. Jesus conquered the power of death and rose again. He ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit who has the power to change us. God has promised to give us a *new heart* and a new life in Christ if we repent from our sins and turn to him. The Bible says that Jesus' death *for us* can reconcile us to God but only his abiding life *in us* can in all ways 'save us' and completely change our lives:

*“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.”*

(Romans 5:10)

Many have believed on him and have received forgiveness for their sins and everlasting life. You can too.

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For further help contact:

## Why did Jesus Die?



**Why did Jesus have to suffer so much?**

**Could it have been prevented?**

**Surely God could have helped him?**

**Why didn't he help him?**

**Who was responsible for his death?**