

The Crucifixion of Christ

- Crucifixion was probably the most horrible form of capital punishment ever used by man
- The victim was scourged – beaten from the upper back to the lower parts of the legs

- Bones of the back, including the spinal column might be exposed in a bloody mass
- The scourging often resulted in death

- The victims were then forced to carry their cross – perhaps only the upper cross bar weighing some 125 lbs.

Lk. 23:26

- And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus

- The cause of death was the loss of blood and the inability to breathe due to the position of the body
- The victim eventually suffocated when he became unable to support his body

I. Prophecy

**Ps. 22:14-18 (written some 500 years⁸
before Christ was crucified)**

- I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

- For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

- Hands and feet pierced
- Garments would be divided
- Would be given vinegar and gall to drink
- Not a bone was broken (it was common to break the legs to hasten death)

- The body normally was not buried but left to rot or be eaten by animals

II. Crucifixion of Christ and God's¹² plan of salvation

- The Jews, in the first century, used 4 methods of capital punishment
- Stoning, burning, decapitation and strangulation
- Jesus was executed by the Romans and their method was crucifixion

- Christ had to die in a way that involved the shedding of blood
- Heb. 9:22
- “...without shedding of blood is no remission”

- The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23) – and since man sinned he actually gave up his right to live
- However, God determined that His Son would offer His life in exchange for man's

1 Cor. 15:3

- For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

- Life is in the blood – so it was necessary that Christ shed His blood to bring about redemption

Lev. 17:11

- For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Is. 53:10-12

- 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. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

- because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Mt. 26:28

- “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
- -The crucifixion fit into the heavenly plan – a means whereby Christ could shed His blood

- The Lord's death by crucifixion on the cross was a symbol of the fact that He was bearing the "curse" and "shame" of sin for all men

Heb. 12:2

- Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Deut. 21:22

- And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree:

Deut. 21:23

- His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

III. The Cross as a witness

- Death on the cross which was so despised became a badge of honor for Christians

1 Cor. 1:18

- For the preaching of the cross (gospel) is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Gal. 6:14

- But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

- How many people today honor the hangman's noose, or the electric chair?

- The cross ceased to be an embarrassment in the light of the resurrection
- The cross became a silent witness for the reality of Christianity

Is. 53:6

- All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.