

Crucified

Galatians 2:20-21

Can we each say as Paul did in Galatians 2:20 that we have been crucified with Christ?

Main Point: Do we fully grasp the Love

Jesus has for us and what He was willing to endure on our behalf?

Point one: God knew before time began that

Jesus would die on a cross!

(Luke 24:13-32)

The Evidence:

- Genesis 3:15 (Jesus was to be that seed of the woman)
- Numbers 21:9 (mentioned in John 3:14) - Moses lifting up the serpent in the wilderness.
- Psalm 22 - Written 1,000 years before the crucifixion and 800 years before the Romans adopted crucifixion as one of their forms of execution.
- Isaiah 50-53 - written 700 years before the crucifixion and quoted throughout the New Testament.
- Daniel 9:24-26 - written more than 400 years before Jesus was born, predicted the exact year of Jesus Christ's Crucifixion. (1 week equals 7 years: so sixty nine sevens = 483 years) In Nehemiah 2:1 & 2:18 the command was given to rebuild the temple in year 454 B.C. putting the crucifixion date to be 29 A.D.

Point two: The agony of the cross!

To this day crucifixion is considered to be the most brutal form of execution.

There were several different forms of Roman crucifixion:

Standing tree: The victim was simply backed up to a tree and tacked onto it, in whatever shape the branches flowed. Josephus, the first century Jewish historian, records the Roman soldiers entertaining themselves by crucifying captives in unusual positions.



I-Shaped: A simple post in the ground. hands were nailed over the head.

X-shaped: Basically two logs planted at angles. The body was splayed out with the hands and feet fixed at four corners.

T-Shaped: A pole with a cross bar on the top. This was probably the most common, next to the tree. The arms were stretched out along the bar.



t-Shaped: Usually reserved for notorious criminals. A certificate disclosing one's crime would be tacked to the top of the cross this was the type on which Jesus was crucified. John 19:19 records, "Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.'"

The victim was usually stretched out naked. Hands and feet were held in place by nails driven through the wrist and ankle bones. Victims would last for days before becoming too exhausted to pick themselves up to breath and die from asphyxiation.

Point three: The completed act of the cross!

"IT IS FINISHED!" (John 19:30)

While Jesus made this cry of victory, "The curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom." (Mark 15:38) God was saying that there was now no separation from anyone to enter the Most Holy Place of the temple. Once restricted to only the High Priest to enter once a year is now freely given to all of you to commune with the Lord face to face anytime you so desire.

Are you willing to be identified with the crucified and now resurrected Christ?