

## Three Essentials of the Cross

### Essential #1: Intentionality – Jesus was born to die on the cross to save the lost

#### **Old Testament Details of the Messiah**

It is estimated that there are more than 570 verses in the Old Testament, offering dozens of prophecies that provide some aspect of insight to the person of the Messiah. This allowed the Jewish people to prepare for His coming, and to recognize Him when He arrived. These prophetic revelations included:

- He would be a human male. (*Genesis 3:15*)
- He would be Semitic (*Genesis 9:27*); specifically, Abrahamic (*Genesis 12:3*); more specifically, Jewish (a descendant of Jacob's son Judah – *Genesis 49:8-12*); even more specifically, from the house of King David (*2 Sam 7*; *Psalms 132*)
- He would be born of a virgin (*Isaiah 7:14*)
- He would be born in Bethlehem (*Micah 5:2*)
- He would be preceded by John the Baptist (*Isaiah 40:3*; *Malachi 3:1*)

These are just a few of the earliest details of the Messiah (many more exist about his life, his reception, and the details of his betrayal, death by crucifixion, and resurrection). These prophetic details revealed essential details of the identity of the person who was uniquely God's Messiah.

*Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" (Luke 2 :46-29, NKJV)*

*"No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father." (John 10:18)*

### Essential #2: Innocence – Jesus was sinless before God and man

### Essential #3: Incidents – Jesus died, was buried, and rose from the dead three days later

The four gospels record the sordid details of the cruel crucifixion of Jesus:

- On the evening of Passover, Jesus hosted a Passover meal with His followers and later dismissed Judas to accomplish his conspiracy to betray Jesus to the Pharisees and Scribes (Mark 14:1, 12-26)
- He was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Judas arrived and completed his betrayal. (Luke 22:47-53)
- He was unfairly prosecuted in front of multiple courts for crimes He didn't commit. (Matthew 26:1; Mark 14:53; Luke 22:54; John 18:13)
- He was declared innocent by Pontius Pilate (John 18:38) but gave in to the demands of the same people who

had earlier in the week celebrated His arrival as Messiah but now demanded His death. (John 18:39-40; Luke 23:23-25)

- He was mocked, beaten, whipped, and tortured as part of His punishment. (Matthew 27:26-31; Luke 23:38-39; Mark 15:16-20; John 19:1-3)
- He was nailed to the crude wooden cross (see John 20:25), crucified around 9 AM. (Mark 15:25)
- About six hours later that same day, He died. (Matthew 27:46-50)
- He was taken down from the cross and buried in a borrowed tomb. (Luke 23:50-56)
- A large stone was rolled in front of His tomb so His body couldn't be removed, and it was guarded by Roman Centurions. (Matthew 27:57-66)
- Three days after His burial, women who went to care for His body found the stone rolled aside, the tomb empty, and His body not there. (Luke 24:1-3)
- He appeared visibly and physically...first to His followers that day, and over the next 40 days, in the presence of more than 500 people before ascending to the Heavens, as He had promised. (1 Cor. 15:1-8; Acts 1:6-11)

## The Implications of the Cross

### Reconciliation Accomplished

*And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him (Colossians 1:21-22)*

*For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. (Romans 5:10)*

### Restoration Available

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so **that everyone who believes in him** may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3:16, emphasis added)*

### Restored by Adoption

*For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" (Romans 8:15)*

*As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise....So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. (Galatians 3:26-29; 4:7)*

### Relationship Assured

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)*