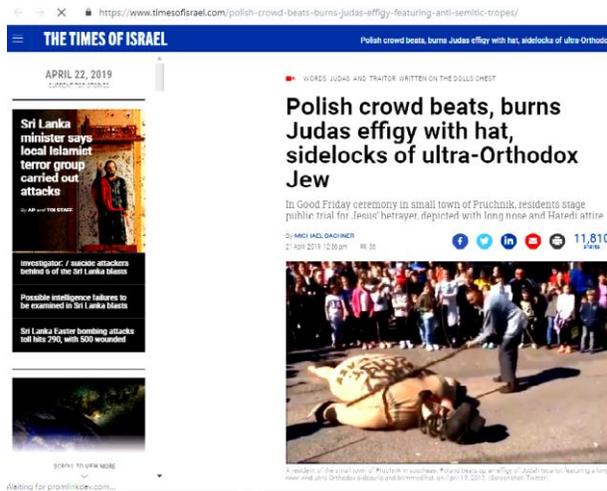


# Who Really Killed Jesus?

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Yesterday I saw this article from Jerusalem On Line. I also saw it in a couple of other web sites as well. It is an example of the anti-Semitic spirit that is prevalent in Europe today, but sadly it is not a new phenomenon. Such things have been taking place since the second century when the early church fathers started teaching that God no longer loves Israel.

We should note that up until the fourth century AD most Christians celebrated Passover according to the Jewish calendar, this was changed only in 325 AD at the Council of Nicea when Emperor Constantine said "we (Christians) should have nothing to do with the murderers of Christ".

Apostle Paul said "Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." (1 Corinthians 5:7-8) Paul was referring to the festival of Passover and the week long observance of eating unleavened bread. He uses "leavened" and "unleavened" six times in two verses. He was also speaking to a predominantly Gentile church in Corinth.

But ever since the days of the early Church Fathers, particularly people like John Chrysostom, the Jews have been blamed by the church for the death of Christ.

This sentiment went down through the ages and one practice that church in Europe had was that on Good Friday they would attend mass and there they would go through the account of the trial and crucifixion of the Lord. Then after the mass they would go out of the church and attack any Jews they could find, beating them up and calling them "Christ killers".

They also made up "blood libels", stories of Jews kidnapping Christian boys to extract their blood to make Matzoh (unleavened bread) for Passover.

Also there were stories of Jews breaking into Catholic Churches with knives to stab the Communion Wafers to reenact the killing of Christ.

This type of teaching in the church eventually led to the death of 6 million Jews during the Second World War.

So with this article I want to address the question of who really killed Jesus, is it just the Jews or were there others involved in this "plot"? In this article I would like to bring before four people and prove to you through the scriptures how they were all involved in the killing of Jesus. Let's call the first accused:

## God The Father

The first person that we want to look at is God the Father Himself. Let's see what the scriptures say about how His involvement in this event.

*Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, **Smitten by God,** and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4 NKJV)*

*Yet **it pleased the LORD** to bruise Him; **He** has put Him to grief. (Isaiah 53:10 NKJV)*

Isaiah writing prophetically about the Messiah said that it was Father God who struck him, it **pleased God** (made God happy) to bruise or hurt him.

Apostle Paul said: "**He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up** (gave him up, surrendered him) *for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?*" (Romans 8:32NKJV)

This tells us that it was God the Father's intention that His Son should suffer and die that horrible death on the cross, it was not primarily the plan or the will of man for this to happen, neither was it an accident, but it was first and foremost the will of God. He had foretold it hundreds of years before the event, through His prophet Isaiah. The suffering and death of Jesus therefore was not an accident, not something that just happened, and when it happened, God the Father did not say "oops, I made a mistake". The Father wanted it to happen.

That's why when Jesus was in the garden of Gethsemane after struggling with the issue until He sweated blood said "nevertheless not my will but yours be done".

## Jesus

The next person that is responsible for Jesus' death was Jesus Himself. Again let's look at the evidence of scripture.

### He Went Of His Own Accord

*Therefore My Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life** that I may take it again. **No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.** I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. (John 10:17-18 NKJV)*

Jesus laid down his own life and he was always aware that the cross was ahead of him, we know this because He forewarned His disciples:

*From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. (Matthew 16:21 NKJV)*

*Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, 23 and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful. (Matthew 17:22-23NKJV)*

*Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, 18 "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death 19 and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" (Matthew 20:17-19NIV)*

*When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "As you know, the Passover is two days away-and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified." (Matthew 26:1-2 NIV)*

Over and over again he told his disciples that he was going to be arrested, suffer and die and then resurrected on the third day. He told them that it would happen in Jerusalem, yet He still chose to go to the city, in spite of that.

One of the things he was accused of at the trial was of saying that he could rebuild the temple in three days (Matthew 26:60-61). The accusers talked about the real temple but Jesus was speaking about His body:

*So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days **I will raise it up.**" 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" **21 But He was speaking of the temple of His body.** (John 2:18-21 NKJV)*

Also when he was arrested he rebuked Peter for trying to resist his arrestors, look at what he said:

*But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" (Matthew 26:52-54 NKJV)*

Jesus could have resisted arrest if he wanted to, but he did not because it was the plan of the Father for Him to go to suffer and die.

### He Did It To Please The Father

*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You 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 the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:10-11 NKJV)*

Jesus was so willing to please Father God that He was willing to endure the most horrible suffering and death. What was it about Jesus' suffering and death that pleased the Father? It is the fact that because he suffered and died that we could have a relationship with the Father, we could never have this relationship if Jesus did not pay for our sins (V 11b). This is what made the Father happy, so this is what made Jesus happy too.

### He Did It For the Joy

*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 has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2 NKJV)*

What was that joy? Some say it was the throne, but I say no. The throne belonged to Him from the very beginning; the joy was that you and I could live in relationship with Him and the Father. The joy that Jesus looked forward to on the cross was our salvation.

### The Jews

Some Christians in the pro-Israel circle would like to try to absolve the Jews from all blame saying the Jews were not guilty for the death at all, the Bible tells us clearly that they are also responsible for the death of the Lord.

*"Pilate said to them, "What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, "Let Him be crucified!" Then the governor said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they cried out all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children." (Matthew 27:22-25 NKJV)*

When Peter spoke to the crowd in Jerusalem, who were all Jews, he said: "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, **whom you crucified**, both Lord and Christ.*" (Acts 2:36 NKJV)

Then when he spoke to the Sanhedrin, the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem, he said: *The God of our fathers raised up Jesus **whom you murdered** by hanging on a tree.* (Acts 5:30 NKJV)

The Jews are responsible in part for the death of Jesus, like it or not they have to accept it, but before we point a finger at them in condemnation remember that Jesus forgave them while he was on the cross, he said “Father forgive them, they don’t know what they are doing”. So if Jesus forgave them who are we to condemn them, after all we had a part to play as well. Also let us remember that He died for their sins first since Apostle Paul tells us that the gospel is to the Jew first and then to the Gentiles (Romans 1:16)

## All of Us

It was the Romans who actually carried out the torture and execution of Jesus; some point out that Pilate was forced to condemn Jesus and was not guilty of this crime. Pilate, being the governor always had the choice to either fear God or man, he chose to fear man and thus put Jesus to death. Pilate being a Gentile represented all of us and it was for our sin that Jesus suffered and died.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. (John 3:16-17NKJV)*

*For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation. (Romans 5:10-11 NKJV)*

*He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up **for us all**, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? (Rom 8:32 NKJ)*

All of us are responsible for the suffering and death of Jesus; he endured all that for us, so that we could be reconciled to God. In the natural we are far away from God but through Jesus we have been made God’s children.

## He Lives

Talking about Jesus’ death can sometimes make us sad, and rightly so, we are saddened that the Son of God had to die because of our sin. But thankfully the story does not end with just his death, as Jesus prophesied he arose on the third day and by doing so conquered sin and death.



*This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. (Acts 2:32-33 NKJV)*

His death alone would not have been enough to give us life but because he did not stay in the tomb but arose on the third day, we have life:

*But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Romans 8:11 NKJV)*

Because he died and rose again we have the assurance of salvation. Let us be ever more grateful today, let us never point a finger at someone and say that it was they who killed Christ but let us always remember that it was us as well, it was the Father’s plan, it was Jesus’ joy and he paid for all our sins and rose again to give us life and hope.

The conclusion is this, Jesus' death was no accident, it was part of the master plan of God to enable you and I to have a relationship with Him, that relationship ensures us of everlasting life, Jesus said:

*Now this is eternal life: that **they may know you**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. (John 17:3)*

Do you have a relationship with Jesus? If not say this simple prayer from you heart and you will:

“Dear Jesus, I ask you to forgive of all my sin, I know I can't save myself and I ask you to help me. I accept the sacrifice that you made for me on that cross so long ago and by faith believe that my sins are forgiven because of that. Today I make the choice to follow you for the rest of my life”.

If you said that prayer sincerely then you can be assured that your sins are forgiven and you have been accepted and adopted by God into his family and you are saved. God bless you