

# **Who Really Crucified Christ?**



**GARY HARGRAVE**



## God's Detailed Plan of Redemption

The cross is an amazing mystical reality and part of the miracle that we call salvation. Yeshua (Jesus) died as a replacement for us so that we could receive forgiveness and be washed. When you read all the prophecies in the Psalms and study everything said about the cross throughout the Scriptures, you realize that it was the key event in all human history. The Father gave us His Son to bring about salvation, forgiveness, and reconciliation—not only for His covenant people Israel, but for all humanity that we might be reconciled to our Father. We know that God had a very detailed plan; look at the covenants, the Tabernacle, the sacrifices, and the detail in which those things were done. In one way or another, it all had to be fulfilled through the crucifixion of Yeshua our Messiah. I encourage you to read the prophecies about the Messiah in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms, and see what had to take place for them to be fulfilled (Luke 24:44).

Since Christ had to die to fulfill the prophecies, the idea that people must attach blame and responsibility on Jews for the death of Christ on the cross is just a wrong way of thinking. It is anti-Semitic. And it is all part of the way deception has been brought into the Church. If you are asking, “Who crucified Jesus?” it is the wrong question to be asking. It is not pertinent to the reality of the cross. The cross came to bring forgiveness, not to point blame. So if you think that some nation or individuals must be blamed, punished, and suffer because of the cross, then you are nullifying the reality that it was to bring forgiveness and salvation. The cross itself was God’s perfect predestined plan from before the foundation of the world to bring salvation to all mankind (1 Peter 1:18–20). So I want to hit those wrong doctrines head on and look at what the Bible is saying really transpired surrounding Yeshua and the cross. In studying the Scriptures, I find six parties that are responsible for our Lord’s crucifixion.



## The Father's Predestined Plan

**T**he first Person responsible for the death and crucifixion of Yeshua is God the Father. The cross was the predestined plan of God to sacrifice His Son and bring salvation and deliverance to all mankind. Very simply stated that is the truth. It was God's plan from the very beginning that Christ go to the cross and redeem us with His precious blood.

Knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you. (1 Peter 1:18-20)

The crucifixion was no accident. It was not something that happened spontaneously or was thought up by the Jewish people or the high priest or the Romans. God had carefully planned and established the pattern for it from before the foundation of the world. It was God's eternal plan that His Son would suffer and die on that cross to bring salvation to all mankind (Romans 8:32). God predestined our adoption and salvation through the cross (Acts 4:28). It was announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets that Christ would suffer (Acts 3:18). It was not something done and invented by the people of that generation who were there at the moment. Therefore, you cannot affix blame and say, "Oh, it was their idea. They did this." No, it was a beautiful plan in the heart of God that the Father executed by the kind intention of His will for us all. Therefore, we have redemption through the blood of Christ and forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of God's grace which He lavished on us (Ephesians 1:5-7).

The things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. (Acts 3:18)

God fulfilled the prophecies that Christ would suffer. This was God's plan. The Father required blood for atonement and the forgiveness of sin. So if you want to blame someone, you can

blame the Father. During Yeshua's lifetime thousands of people, including Jews, died on crosses. Yet none of them won salvation because none of them were fulfilling the plan of God or the Scriptures or the prophecies. Only in Yeshua were those prophecies fulfilled; and because of their perfect fulfillment, His death succeeded in bringing about salvation. Let us remember that. The cross was God's eternal, predestined plan to bring about salvation and deliverance for all creation. So we see that the first and most important aspect of the cross is that it was the will of the Father.



## Christ Was an Obedient Sacrifice

The second Person that you could say is responsible for the death of Yeshua is Christ Himself. I know that may sound strange, but it is the truth. Our Lord went to the cross willingly (Philippians 2:8). He chose to do the will of God, and the will of God was for Him to hang on that cross and suffer for our sins. From the time Yeshua was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane until the time He died on that cross, He chose to be obedient to the Father and do the will of God.

“Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will.” (Mark 14:36)

Yeshua had the choice and went to the cross willingly to fulfill the Scriptures. He chose to do the whole will of God in absolute obedience to the plan God had foreordained for Him to accomplish. Christ was crucified with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12). Those passing by the cross hurled abuse at Him, wagged their heads, and said, “Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” (Mark 15:29–30). They mocked and jeered Him. It was Satan's temptation to try and stop Christ from being completely obedient to do the will of the Father. Nevertheless, Yeshua went to the cross willingly.

He said, “Do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?” (Matthew 26:53–54). This is important for us to recognize. If you do the mathematics, Christ had about seventy-two thousand angels at His disposal ready to take Him down from the cross. All He had to do was say, “Get Me down; I changed My mind.” Yeshua had to have that ability to come down.

There was never a moment from the time Christ was arrested until the time He died on that cross that He did not have a choice. For salvation to come, it had to be that by His own choice He was obedient to do the will of God. By His own admission, Yeshua said, “No one takes My life, but I lay it down on My own initiative” (see John 10:18). If you say, “Oh, the Jews killed Jesus,” you are removing the very accomplishment of Christ in His obedience of laying down His life to redeem you by His precious blood. Yeshua never violated God’s plan of redemption; He knew there were very specific details of the plan that had to be fulfilled. Thus, salvation was released to all humanity at the moment He proclaimed, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Christ had the choice and could have come down from that cross at any moment, but He laid down His life in obedience to the Father.



## The Influence of the Demonic Realm

The third entity involved in the death of Yeshua is satan, whose greatest desire was the destruction of Christ. We know that satan entered the heart of Judas to betray the Lord (John 13:2, 27). So satan and the demonic forces manipulated and influenced what humans did surrounding the crucifixion. Now that does not remove human culpability as individual players in it. Humans were definitely involved, but they were not nearly as involved as God or Yeshua. And humans were not nearly as involved as satan was in everything that transpired. Unless you see the influence of the demonic forces surrounding this time of the crucifixion, you do not have a clear picture of what really happened. Therefore, through satan’s involvement, he brought about his own judgment. Had the rulers of this age understood the plan of God “they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Corinthians 2:8). The devil may have some

wisdom, but he also has a great deal of ignorance about things. He does not know what God knows; he does not understand what God understands. And he certainly did not understand that what he did surrounding Christ and the cross brought about his own judgment. That was all part of God's grand plan of what had to transpire during the crucifixion. Christ came to the earth to bring about salvation and "to destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8).



## Fulfillment of the Passover by the Jewish Nation

The fourth element involved in the sacrificial plan of God is the Jewish nation. The children of Israel are very important. The Passover was given to the Jewish people as a permanent ordinance (Exodus 12:13–14). God established the patterns for atonement and salvation with them. Therefore, the sacrifice of the lamb had to be prophetically accomplished by the Jewish people through the covenants coming down all the way from Abraham (Galatians 3:8–9; Genesis 26:4–5, 28:13–14). And God gave them the difficult job of then fulfilling the requirements of that salvation, which included the crucifixion of Christ. Yeshua was a Jew. He was part of God's plan so that through the Jewish people, through the line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, all the families of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 12:3). Yeshua was the representative of that Passover lamb; and by virtue of the sacrifice of the lamb, the blood was then available over the people for deliverance and release from death. By fulfilling these covenants, the Jewish nation brought about salvation to all mankind. Christ was the Lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of the whole world (John 1:29).

At the first Passover, the judgment of the gods of Egypt was accomplished by the children of Israel. How did they accomplish it? Each family took a lamb into their house, slayed it, and put the blood of the lamb on the doorposts, so God passed over them. God delivered the Israelites but brought judgment on all the gods of Egypt and on all the Egyptians who served those gods.

“For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.”

EXODUS 12:12-14

Only the children of Israel could fulfill the type of Passover for salvation to come. In Matthew 27:24-25, Pilate “took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, ‘I am innocent of this Man’s blood; see to that yourselves.’ And all the people said, [this is a prophetic cry] ‘His blood shall be on us and on our children!’” No other people could bring the sacrifice of Passover because it was given as an ordinance, as part of the plan of deliverance and salvation through covenant by God to the Jewish people. They were the ones who sacrificed the lamb and said prophetically—read it again and see how prophetic it is—as they were crying for Him to go to the cross—“His blood shall be on us and on our children.” It was the exact type of Passover being fulfilled over them. And so it was that Yeshua’s blood was shed and was provided for the Jewish people and their children down through all generations. Yeshua is the Messiah who came through the Jewish people by covenant promise. They also had to be involved in the sacrifice of the Lamb of God because salvation comes from the Jewish people (John 4:22). It was their fulfillment of the type of Passover that put the blood of the Lamb over them and over their children and over all the world. Thank God for the Jewish people, their relationship and walk with the Lord, and their fulfilling of the covenant job they had to do to bring about salvation to mankind through this perfect plan of God that had been created before the foundation of the world.





## The High Priest Made the Atonement Sacrifice

A fifth very important player in the crucifixion of Yeshua was the high priest because no one else could make the atonement sacrifice (Leviticus 16:29–34). The only pattern of atonement God had created was the Day of Atonement and that pattern had to be fulfilled at the crucifixion of Christ. To validate the pattern, the high priest had to be involved in the crucifixion; he also had to choose the sacrificial lamb and proclaim that one lamb was dying for all Israel. Thus, the high priest proclaimed that Yeshua was the Atonement Lamb of God for all people: “Now Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was expedient for one man to die on behalf of the people” (John 18:14). The high priest chose Yeshua over Barabbas, and Christ was sacrificed by the high priest to fulfill the Day of Atonement. Both Passover and Atonement had to be fulfilled. We know that Passover brought the blood that covered the children of Israel, but it was the Day of Atonement that brought the washing, forgiveness, and removal of sin. All these things had to transpire because they are the mystery of our salvation and the way in which salvation comes through the great plan of God. Read Psalm 22 about the suffering Messiah, His resurrection, and the prophetic statements proclaimed by the priesthood (Psalm 22:7–8; Matthew 27:41–43).





## The Gentiles Were Included

The sixth component involved in the crucifixion of Christ was the Romans. They represented the Gentile world. Yeshua was beaten and nailed to the cross by the hands of godless men who inflicted His suffering and pain. In this way, the Gentile world was included in the salvation that Christ won on the cross.

This Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. (Acts 2:23)

I love this Scripture because it includes so many parties in the event. It talks about the predetermined plan of God, the foreknowledge of God. And then Peter says to the Jews, “You guys had Him nailed to the cross.” How did the Jews do that? They did not nail Him to the cross themselves; rather, they did it through the godless Romans. Why? So that the Gentile world was bound as part of the salvation Christ won through the cross. There had to be this involvement outside of the Jewish people in order for salvation to reach all humanity to the ends of the earth.

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” (Revelation 5:9)

We see that Yeshua purchased for God with His blood men and women from every nation, tribe, tongue, and people. This is what Christ did—salvation reached to all of humanity. It was not limited to the Jewish people. Salvation is from the Jews; but in the process of the cross, that salvation reached beyond the Jewish nation out to all the nations of the world.



## How Great Is the God of Our Salvation!

**B**efore the foundation of the world, God planned for our salvation. And one aspect of this salvation was the requirement of blood; a death had to take place to satisfy every scriptural requirement and fulfill every prophecy. So Yeshua went to the cross to pay the ransom for us. He was the Lamb of God who took away the sins of the world (John 1:29). The cross of Christ was a miracle. It was perfectly executed in order to fulfill every prophecy, every Scripture, and bring about salvation for all the earth. As Gentiles we were strangers to the covenants of promise, had no hope, and were without God in the world (Ephesians 2:12). So today we worship with thankfulness to our Father and Creator for all that He has done. And we enter into a thankfulness to Yeshua Himself for His great gift of atonement. How great is the God of our salvation!

### For Further Study

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*All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).*

# ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel in the land of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God* and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

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**For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: [www.HargraveMinistries.org](http://www.HargraveMinistries.org).**

## ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power, and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish foundations of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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