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## Christ's Orchestrated Crucifixion

*Gospel of John, Part LXV*

John 19:16b-42

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### I. The Willing Sacrifice

- A. The Son of Man Must be Lifted Up (3:14-17)
- B. The Good Shepherd Lays Down His Life for His Sheep (10:11-18)
- C. The Grain of Wheat Must Die (12:23-24)
- D. Bearing His Cross (19:17 cf. 19:30; Gen 22:2, 6, 13-14)

### II. God's Eternal Purpose (Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; 1 Pet 1:18-20; Rev 13:8)

Though Pilate believed that he had the power to crucify Jesus or let Him go, Pilate was completely subject to the Lord of Glory. God was in control, not Pilate. It was this truth that later animated the courage of our fathers and mothers.

*"For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word..."*

Peter describes our salvation in these words: "...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He was indeed \_\_\_\_\_ before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you..." (1 Pet 1:18-20 cf. Rev 13:8).

### III. That the Scripture Might Be Fulfilled

- A. Introduction (1 Pet 1:10-11; 2 Pet 1:19-21)

Jesus offered Himself on the Cross because this was God's \_\_\_\_\_ plan. Jesus' crucifixion was not a freak or tragic accident; it was no random chance. The Father orchestrated the willing sacrifice of His Son to reveal the magnitude of His love and the incorruptibility of His justice.

- B. The Forsaken Messiah (Ps 22:1-21)

John twice draws our attention to Psalm 22 (24, 28), the Psalm that Jesus quoted on the cross. It anticipates the suffering of God's Messiah:

*I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsberd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. (22:14-18)*

#### C. The Passover Sacrifice (Ex 12:46; Num 9:12; Ps 34:20)

So why must the Messiah suffer? To answer this question, John draws our attention to the piercing of Jesus' side. Though the soldiers broke the legs of the other men, they found that Jesus was already dead and "*did not break His legs*" (33). This, John tells us, was to fulfill the Scripture, "*Not one of His bones shall be broken*" (36).

John's quotation directs us to the sacrificial rites. These gave various regulations for the care of sacrificial animals. Of one sacrifice it was required that the bones of the animal not be broken – the \_\_\_\_\_ Lamb. The Lord declared to Moses in Exodus 12:46, "*In one house [the Passover lamb] shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.*" So why must Jesus suffer? He suffers as the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sin of the world.

#### D. The Pierced Shepherd (Zech 12:10; 13:7-9)

So how ought we to respond to Jesus' crucifixion? To answer this question, John quotes from the prophet Zechariah who prophesied of the grace that God would pour out upon His covenant people.

*"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."*

Salvation would come by looking in faith to the pierced One, to the One who was pierced for the sins of His people – and Jesus was that One. In Jesus, God's eternal purpose has come to fruition.

### IV. That You May Believe

Notice, therefore, that John emphasizes that the sacrifice of Jesus fulfills God's eternal purpose and plan. God has orchestrated these events. John wants this to get deep into our bones so that we will (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ for forgiveness, (2) magnify the greatness of God's love and justice and (3) \_\_\_\_\_ testify of God's truth.

*"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:1-3).*

### V. Conclusion