

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG90 – The Crucifixion Of Christ – Part 1

I recorded a podcast for Holocaust Remembrance Day recently, and I want to continue following up on this idea of anti-Semitism. I believe that it is a monster that is beginning to show its head again in our day and age – in our society, on our college campuses, and in many places – and I believe it needs to be dealt with and come against, with everything that we have in us as Christians, to speak up and to work to see this eliminated. So I want to do another podcast; and I encourage you, if you are listening to this but have not heard the first podcast that I brought, *Roots Of Anti-Semitism*, I think you should turn this one off and go listen to that one as a part one, almost, of what we are going to talk about. But I do want to try to deal with something that is very, very much the root of anti-Semitism as it exists in the Church.

We know that in church history and doctrines, there is great deal of anti-Semitism. It has been that way from the very beginning. Most of it leads back to one core belief, and that is that the Jews crucified Yeshua, or Jesus. It also is based in the fact that they have never believed – both of which are, I think, deceptions in the way that they are presented, in the way that they are used. I used in that podcast the idea of the Rapture doctrine that we have so prevalent today within the Church, and how that is filled with anti-Semitism as its root belief, that when the Church is raptured out, then the Jews are left here to suffer and die in the great tribulation; all of which is punishment or discipline for having crucified Yeshua, Jesus, or for not believing in Him. And again, these are absolutely based on falsehood and lies. I want to really go after this idea of who killed Jesus, because that seems to be kind of the war cry of this anti-Semitism within the Church that has existed for so long. This was the fundamental reason to have pogroms and to persecute and to kill and to try to convert, and all of these things, the Jewish people. It goes back to they, you know, killed Jesus, or they killed God. I mean, there are many ways that it has been put down through church history. And so one of the things I want to do is just hit it head on, because there needs to be, really, a looking at this idea that the Jews killed Yeshua. It is an inaccuracy, and so the only way I know to look at it is to look at the Scriptures, and try to look at them just on their face of what they are saying really transpired surrounding Yeshua and surrounding the cross. When I do that personally, I find that there are six parties that are culpable in the crucifixion of Yeshua, Jesus. And so I want to go over these. I will begin in a summary manner, and then try to go in and fill more detail into it.

The first person that is culpable in the death and crucifixion of Yeshua, or Jesus, is God the Father. The cross was the predestined plan of God to bring salvation and deliverance to all of mankind. So God sacrificed His Son to bring salvation to the world. Very simply stated, very summarized, without going into Scripture or detail, that is the truth. It was God's plan that Christ go to the cross. It was God's plan that He suffer, and it was God's plan that He die on that cross, with the purpose of bringing salvation by fulfilling the eternal plan of God in going to that cross. So if you want to blame someone, you can blame God. See, this whole idea that you have got to attach blame and responsibility to the cross, and the death of Jesus on the cross, number one, is just a wrong way of thinking on its face; but it is all part and parcel of the way this deception has been brought into the Church to look at it. So what I am trying to do is just look at it very clearly in Scripture, to say this was the Father's idea. This was the Father's plan and

purpose. And it was going to be fulfilled, because it was the will of the Father that He come into this earth, and that He go to the cross, and that He suffer, and that He die. In that process, He brings about our salvation. It is a very mystical process. That is why it is interesting and important to look at these different players, these ones who are culpable for the death of Yeshua on the cross, because each one is fulfilling a very unique and specific place in this eternal plan of God, that had to be executed perfectly in order for His death on the cross to bring about salvation.

Remember the fact that there were thousands of people at the time of Jesus that died on crosses; thousands of Jews died on crosses. None of those brought salvation. It was only when **He** went to the cross, as the very careful, specific, detailed fulfillment of the will and the eternal plan of God, that salvation was released and manifest for mankind. We have got to remember that. This was God's plan. It was God who required blood for the forgiveness and atonement – not man, God requires that. You cannot take out of the equation the requirement of blood to cover the sin of mankind and to bring forgiveness and propitiation for sin, because it is Him exchanging Himself and suffering for our sin and paying our price.

The second person who you could say is responsible for the death of Yeshua, Jesus, is Himself. I know maybe that sounds strange, but it is the truth. He went to the cross willingly. He chose to do the will of God, and the will of God was for Him to hang on that cross. The will of God was for Him to suffer for our sins, and He chose to do the will of God. No one took His life; by His own admission He says that. He says He laid His life down. No one took His life from Him. **No one** took His life from Him. The Jews didn't take His life from Him. He laid His life down. And when you say, "Oh, the Jews killed Jesus," you are removing the very accomplishment of Christ in His obedience – laying His life down on the cross, giving it to God as the sacrifice for you, and for your sins. So if you are going to blame someone, you need to blame Yeshua. You need to blame Jesus for His death on the cross, because He laid His life down. Nobody could take His life, it was impossible. Nobody could have taken His life. He laid it down.

Number three, the third person or entity that we see that was involved in the death of Yeshua was satan. When we read the story, we understand that demonic forces influenced what the humans were doing surrounding the crucifixion of Yeshua. We see this down through history. This is a very important element of the crucifixion and the death of Christ, because from the very beginning, in the book of Genesis, satan influenced human sin; satan influenced human activity and decision and disobedience. And so we have to see that same influence being played out at the time of the cross, in order for it to come under judgment. We see that humans were definitely involved – I don't think they were nearly as involved as God; I don't think they were nearly as involved as Yeshua, as Christ was Himself; and they were not nearly as involved as satan was in everything that transpired. They were more manipulated, as Eve and Adam were manipulated into disobedience in the Garden. So we are humans, manipulated by this influence. Now that does not remove from them their culpability as individual players in it; but, you do not have a real picture of what happened if you do not see the influence, the demonic forces and influence, that were involved surrounding this time of the crucifixion. So therefore, through his involvement, satan brings his own judgment. This had to have happened. And it says of the demonic aspect, that "had they known, they would not have slain the Lord of glory." Satan may have a 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 did not understand that through what he did surrounding Christ and the cross, he brought about his own judgment. And that was all part and parcel of God's grand plan of what had to transpire during this time of the cross. It had to happen that satan's judgment was brought. Because not only did Christ come to the earth to bring about salvation – He came to earth

for this purpose – but it also says that He came to destroy the works of the devil. Both of these things, both of these purposes of Christ, had to be accomplished on the cross for the cross to bring about the salvation that we talk about. So Satan manipulated. We know that he entered the very heart of Judas to betray Him; we know that he was influencing everything else that was transpiring surrounding the humans involved; and so by virtue of that, he did not understand that he was bringing, finally, his own judgment.

Number four, we have the children of Israel. The children of Israel are very important. It had to be that Messiah was crucified, and it had to be at the hands of the Jewish people, because only they have the covenants that must be fulfilled in the plan of God for salvation to be accomplished. And where the children of Israel are concerned, we realize that at the cross, there had to be a fulfillment, a final fulfillment, of Passover. The Passover of the Jewish nation had to be fulfilled in the sacrificing of a lamb. Therefore, the lamb had to be prophetically accomplished by the Jewish people through the covenants coming down all the way from Abraham. At the time of the crucifixion, we see the Israelites proclaiming this prophetically, in my understanding, when they said, "His blood be on us and on our children"; declaring the fact that the blood of Christ at the cross would cover the Jewish people and all generations of the Jewish people, as it would, coming down the line, for the Gentiles. So we see that it had to come with an involvement to fulfill the prophecies over the Jewish people.

Number five, one very important key player was the High Priest. The High Priest had to be involved in the crucifixion. There was no one else who could make the Atonement sacrifice, and the death of Christ had to fulfill the Day of Atonement. We know that the Passover was the blood covering over the children of Israel, but it was at the Atonement that forgiveness came; the washing, the removal of sin, was through Atonement, not through Passover. But Passover had to be fulfilled, as did Atonement. These things had to transpire because they **are** the mystery of our salvation. They **are** the way in which salvation comes through the great plan of God. And therefore, the High Priest had to be involved in it. The High Priest had to be the one that chose the lamb to be sacrificed, and he had to be the one who accomplished or sent to sacrifice that lamb. We also know that it was declared by the High Priest at the time of the cross that He was blameless and that He was to die – "One man was to die for all." So these are all activities that we see were to be fulfilled by the High Priest, and were, when we study the cross, absolutely fulfilled by the High Priest in his role during the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

Now there is a sixth element, a sixth people who were culpable in the death of Christ on the cross, and that is the Romans. The Romans were very much a part of how all of this transpired; and we know that the Romans were, and also represented, the Gentile world. It really is amazing – when you get in and read the story of the crucifixion, and you compare it to the prophecies about the crucifixion of Christ that was to take place – how involved the Gentile world was. And of course, we know that this was important, because Christ did not die just to bring salvation to Israel and the Jewish nation; He died to bring salvation to the world. Therefore, not only did the children of Israel and the Jewish people have to be involved and play their part in the accomplishment of the plan of God, but the Gentiles also had to play a part. And so we see that it was the Romans who crucified Him. The Jewish people did not nail Jesus to the cross. The Romans nailed Yeshua to the cross, and in doing so, they fulfilled the Scriptures. They fulfilled many Scriptures. And as I said, it is amazing, when you look. They were the ones who wove the crown of thorns, it wasn't the Jewish people. They were the ones that beat Him to the place where He was almost dead before He could get to the cross. That was the Gentile world that did that, that wasn't the Jewish people. So we see that the Gentile world, represented by the Romans, was very much

culpable for the death of Yeshua, of Jesus, on the cross; and by their involvement and their fulfilling of the prophecies, they brought salvation through that cross to the Gentile world.

So we see that there were many aspects. The cross is such a mystical reality, it is amazing to get in and study. And I encourage you, read the story; but read the prophecies. Read the Hebrew Scriptures about the Messiah and what had to take place. Read the Psalms, where it talks about the things; it is very clear about many aspects of what transpired. When you compare all of the prophecies, when you compare the Psalms and everything that is said about the cross, you realize that this was one of the most amazing events. We know it was the key event in all of human history – the key event in all of human history – the most important event. And we know that it was a plan, a detailed plan of God, in order to bring about salvation for humankind, for all of the world. It says of Christ that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” God gave Him to the world. And He was doing it to bring salvation and forgiveness and reconciliation with all of humankind, not just with the covenant people of Israel. So every aspect of this great plan of God – and we know God is very detailed: look at the Tabernacle that is the reflection of these sacrifices that were made; look at the detail in which things were done – all of these details, in one way or another, had to be fulfilled through the crucifixion of Christ. Christ came into the world to die for the sins of all mankind. And so I don't know where this drive comes from to try to affix blame for His death. It doesn't make sense, when you stop and think about it. Why would you say, “Oh, the Jews killed Jesus, and therefore they must die. They must be persecuted. They must be rejected. They must suffer in the great tribulation.” Whatever the doctrines are that promote this anti-Semitic thinking, it is ridiculous on its face. Just stop, please, and think about the reality of the wonder of the cross, the wonder of the plan of God, the miraculous detail at which God planned this before the foundations of the world to see salvation brought to all of mankind. And Christ came into the world for the purpose of fulfilling this.

Now we know that one aspect of salvation, without question, was the requirement of blood. There had to be a death that transpired and took place. And I don't know of any Christian doctrine that does not believe in the necessity of the fact that Christ had to come and go to the cross, and that by virtue of going to the cross, He won salvation. He went to that cross instead of me, instead of you going, instead of each individual that has ever been born, that ever will be born. He went to that cross for us – past, present, and future – and He had to die. We all accept that in Christianity, there was a necessity of death. So why all of a sudden is this strange, demonic thought process of going, “Well, but who killed Him? What? You know, somebody's got to pay.” No, He paid. He went to the cross to pay the price for our sins, for all sins, and He did pay that price. And because He did, we are all free from our sins as we believe in Him, and believe in the wonder of what transpired. One of the most mystical realities that there is, is the cross, Yeshua on the cross. He did the most mystical thing that could be done in being our replacement and dying in our place, so that we could receive forgiveness and be washed. Can we please, please, Church, get out of this mentality, this lie, that there has to be blame affixed. But that is why I am doing this. If we are going to blame, let's look at where the blame lies. The blame lies with all of these who were involved. And all of these were involved because each was playing their part in a miracle that would take place which we call salvation.

We know that Christ came into the world to die for the sins of mankind – all sin, past, present, future. His death had to satisfy every Scriptural requirement, and it had to fulfill every prophecy, in order to bring that salvation into the world. Salvation was released to all of humanity when Yeshua proclaimed, “Father, forgive them.” He said it, and when He said it, it was done. Everything about the cross for Christ was a choice. He chose to lay His life down. He chose to go to the cross. He chose to suffer. He chose to

stay on that cross when He was nailed there by those Roman soldiers. And He stayed there as they jeered at Him and said, "Come down off of the cross." We know that it was His choice to stay, and to suffer, in order to win our salvation. He had that choice. He could have held all the parties guilty – everybody that was involved, and all of mankind. We also remember that He came not just to die for our sins, but also, "the Son of God was manifest in order to destroy the works of the devil," according to 1 John 3:8. Therefore, the death of Christ had to bring judgment upon satan, as it was stated in Genesis 3:15, that the seed of the woman would finally bruise the head of satan; his head would be crushed by the Son of God, who won the victory for us. So He came to win our salvation. He came to bring judgment on satan himself, and on every demonic influence that comes against mankind. And we need to believe that and understand it, and we need to recognize there is no blame left. He said, "Father, forgive them." And to the humans, He said, "For they know not what they do" – because they were being influenced by the demonic forces, just as humankind has been influenced by demonic forces since the Garden of Eden. The cross of Christ was a miracle. It was perfectly executed in order to fulfill every prophecy, every Scripture, to fulfill the requirement of God to bring about salvation for all of the earth. And it was effective.

And so today, we enter into a worship and a thankfulness to the Father. We enter into a thankfulness to Yeshua Himself, who gave Himself for our atonement. We cast out every confusion and lie that says there is a blame that must be placed on the Jewish people, or on anybody else. It is interesting to me that there is such a blame, a drive to blame the Jewish people, but not the Romans; when in fact, as I said, they caused more of the suffering and pain and actual crucifixion of Christ than anybody. See, this is demonic, from the very beginning. It is satan's desire to destroy them for what they did in bringing about, through their part, salvation to all the world. So Lord, we are thankful for Your people. We are thankful for Your covenants. We are thankful for all that You have done. We ask that You bless the Jewish people. We ask that You bless the Gentile world at this time. Lord, bring us into this purity of salvation that You have provided for us through Your plan from the very foundations of the world. Lord, rid us, in the Church, of every root of anti-Semitism, of every hatred of the Jewish people, of every lie that makes them the focal point and the brunt of the lies of satan.

Lord, we ask that You forgive us for any participation. We ask that you forgive the Church for its doctrines that foment anger, hatred, and anti-Semitism. Deliver us, Lord, in these days. Let us understand the wonder of Your cross, all who were involved with it to fulfill Your Word, and to therefore bring about salvation to all of mankind.

Amen.