

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

John 19:1-16

Lesson #63

Who killed Jesus?

03/05/2017

You can tell a lot about a person by looking at *how* they explain their troubles.

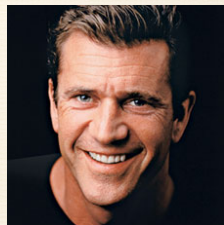
**Mistakes were made
but not by me.**

It's not whether you win or lose but where you place the blame.

1

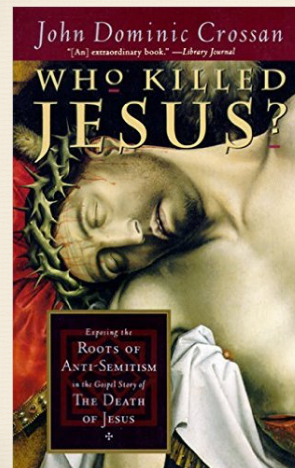


His movie depicting the crucifixion of Jesus was panned by many for linking Jesus' death with the Jewish community of the 1st century.

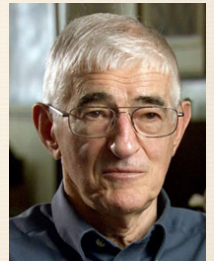


Mel Gibson

2



Crossan's radical reexamination argues that the belief that the Jews killed Jesus is an early Christian myth (directed against rival Jewish groups) that must be eradicated from authentic Christian faith.



John Dominic Crossan
Irish-American
N.T. historian

3

A politically correct view of Jesus

Jesus deserves respect as a Hebrew prophet who taught a high view of ethics.

The Jews are not to be blamed for his crucifixion!

4

According to Matthew, the Jews willingly took the blame for Jesus' crucifixion.

Matthew 27

"²⁴ And when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves."²⁵ And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

- The Jewish nation's rejection of Jesus is a major theme in John's gospel and the whole N.T.

5



Martin Luther

Luther's deeply troubling engagement with the Jewish people is unknown to many Protestants.

6

"What shall we do with...the Jews?..."

"I advise that all their prayer books and Talmudic writings... are to be taken from them."

"I advise that safe-conduct on the highways be abolished completely for the Jews."

"I advise that their rabbis be forbidden to teach on pain of loss of life and limb."

"...set fire to their synagogues or schools and bury and cover with dirt whatever will not burn, so that no man will ever again see a stone or cinder of them."

"...their homes also should be razed and destroyed."

On the Jews and Their Lies

Martin Luther

7



Martin Luther

Luther saw the Jewish people as the enemies of God; in his mind, they were in league with the devil, the Turks, and the 'papists'.

8

Are the Jews "Christ-killers"?

- Jesus was one of thousands of Jews crucified by the Roman government.
- The Gospels (especially John) link Jesus' death to the Jewish leaders of his day.
- In the history of the church, the Jews came to bear the title "Christ-killers" based in part on the apocryphal Gospel of Peter where the Romans were pictured as "friends of Jesus".
- In 1965 the Catholic church officially renounced anti-semitism with respect to Jesus' crucifixion.
- Today this subject is controversial in Jewish Christian relations.

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The Gospel of John Who killed Jesus 19:1-16

Revelation to the world of sinners	Revelation to individuals	Revelation to multitudes	Rejection by the Jewish leaders	Ministry to the disciples	Ministry to the world of sinners
1-2	3-5	6-8	9-12	13-17	18-21
Signs				Sermons	Sacrifice
Public ministry				Private ministry	Final ministry
Galilee & Judea				Jerusalem	
About 3 1/2 years				Only a few days	

10

The Jews had an unmistakable role in the crucifixion of Jesus!

John 19

"5 Jesus therefore came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold, the Man!" 6 When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him."

11

"11 Jesus answered (**Pilate**), "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason **he who delivered Me up to you has the greater sin.**" 12 As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar." 13 When Pilate therefore heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14 Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" 15 **They therefore cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!"** Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." 16 **So he then delivered Him to them to be crucified."** 12

Jesus was killed by the Jews, the Romans, and by God!

Acts 2:23

"this Man, delivered up 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 4

"27 For truly in this city there were gathered together against Thy holy servant Jesus, whom Thou didst anoint, **both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel,** 28 to do whatever Thy hand and Thy purpose predestined to occur."

13

Jesus gave up his own life!

John 10

"14 I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, 15 even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.** . . . 17 For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 **No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.** This commandment I received from My Father."

14

We all have a role in the crucifixion of Jesus!

Isaiah 53:6

"the Lord has caused **the iniquity of us all** to fall on him."

1 John 2:2

"and he himself is **the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.**"

Romans 4:25

"He who was delivered over **because of our transgressions,**"

15

John R.W. Stott



"Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us."

16

Who killed Jesus?

- Both the Jewish leaders and the Roman authorities are linked to Jesus' crucifixion.
- The **Jewish** link is important in light of the broader narrative of Scripture.
- The culpability of Jesus' death rests on all sinners - **Jew, and Gentile alike.** 1 John 2:2
- **God the Father** is instrumental in Jesus' crucifixion as a part of His redemptive plan. Acts 2:23, 4:28, Isa.53:6
- **Jesus** willingly gave up his own life (no one took it from him). John 10:17-18

17

How are Christians to view Jews with respect to the Crucifixion?

- **Anti-Semitism is not taught in the N.T. and has no place in Christian life.** Paul ministered to the Jews FIRST whenever he evangelized.
- **Modern scholars who have absolved the Jewish people from any role in the crucifixion of Jesus may be politically correct but are misguided.**
- **NOTE ALSO:** Evangelical Christians who have viewed the Jewish people as spiritually superior or favored over Gentiles in the Kingdom are also misguided. The New Covenant leaves no room for prejudice or partiality.

18

Anti-Semitism & Jewish favoritism are both wrong!

Galatians 3

“²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise.”

Ephesians 2

“¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one, and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, ¹⁵ by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.”

19

Test yourself

- Do you condemn social (racial, economic, etc.) discrimination and yet unconsciously practice it?
- Do you avoid as friends and negatively stereotype Jews, African Americans, Latinos, Asians, etc.?
- Do you favor Jewish people as “God’s chosen” with the expectation that God will bless you for it?
- Do you tend to view people and issues as black and white (right and wrong) with no gray?
- Do you ever make disrespectful comments about others because of their ethnic background?
- How serious are you about not being conformed to this world as you follow Christ Jesus?

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James 2:1

“¹ My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.”

“⁹ But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.”

21

But does not Scripture promise a blessing for those who bless Israel?

Genesis 12:2

“And I will bless those who bless you (Abraham), and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Galatians 3

“⁷ Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “All the nations will be blessed in you.” ⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.”

22

But does not Scripture promise a blessing for those who bless Israel?

Numbers 24:9

“Blessed is everyone who blesses you (Israel), and cursed is everyone who curses you.”

Romans 9:6

“But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel.”

- **Backing everything that Israel does** may not be a proper way to “love Israel”.

23

But has not God restored Israel to Palestine as promised?

“¹ So it shall be . . . ² and (when) you return to the Lord your God and obey Him with all your heart and soul according to all that I commanded you today, you and your sons.”

Deuteronomy 30

“³ then the Lord your God will restore you from captivity, and have compassion on you, and will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.”

Israel spent most of its history in captivity to Egypt, Assyria, Babylonia, Greece, Rome, etc. (under God's loving discipline).

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Closing thoughts

1. **Rational** discrimination is a sign of maturity, **irrational** discrimination is a sign of bigotry.

Social / ethical segregation and integration are both a key part of spiritual holiness.

2. **Conflict** may not be avoidable but **combat** is.
3. **Tolerance** reflects arrogance, **respect** reflects humility. Relationships grow out of respect.
4. **Segregation + misunderstanding + stereotyping** leads to **demonization** and **discrimination**.
5. **Prejudice + power = discrimination**.
6. **Testing areas:** economic / education, ethnic / racial, political / social, taste / traditions, age / maturity.

Dare to be a witness!

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