

"WHO KILLED JESUS?"

INTRODUCTION:

- A. "The Passion of the Christ", produced by Mel Gibson in 2004, is a movie depicting the crucifixion of Christ
 1. The title refers to "The sufferings of Jesus in the period following the Last Supper and including the crucifixion, as related in the New Testament" (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition, 2000)
 2. It caused quite a lot of controversy over the involvement of the Jews in the crucifixion
 3. Some modern Jews were up in arms because they said the movie was anti-Semitic and sought to place the blame for the death of Jesus on the Jews
- B. "Anti-Semitism" is defined as "hatred or hostility toward the Jews, or discrimination against the Jews"
- C. Christians must not hate or discriminate against anyone
- D. In this study we want to look at who was/is responsible for the death of Jesus

DISCUSSION:

I. THE ROMANS WERE RESPONSIBLE

- A. The Jews had no authority under Roman rule to put anyone to death John 18:28-31
- B. Pilate, the Roman governor, gave the orders for Christ to be crucified John 19:16-18
- C. Roman soldiers carried out crucifixion Matt 27:26-31

II. THE JEWS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR JESUS' DEATH

- A. Jesus showed: Jews carried greater guilt Jhn 19:10-15
 1. Those who delivered Jesus to Romans bore the greater responsibility
 2. Indeed, the Jews who pressured Pilate, accepted responsibility for their actions Matt 27:22-25
- B. Peter and Paul laid blame for Jesus' death on the Jews Acts 2:36; 1Thess 2:14-15
- C. Note what Jesus said to the Jews Matt 23:32-36

III. GOD ALLOWED JESUS TO BE KILLED

- A. It was according to the Father's purpose
 1. Peter's sermon on Pentecost Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28
 2. Jesus was delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God
 3. Jews and Romans were instruments in carrying out God's will, though they did not know it
- B. Thus, in a sense God the Father was responsible for Jesus' death

IV. JESUS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN DEATH

- A. Jesus had power to deliver Himself, yet He died of His own will for sins of world. John 10:11-18 (I think I read that the movie depicts Jesus crawling up to and onto the cross) I didn't see it and have no desire to
- B. Jesus came into the world to minister and to give His life for a ransom Matt 20:28
- C. He became obedient to death, even the death of the cross Phil 2:8

V. YOU AND I ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR JESUS' DEATH

- A. Bruised because of our iniquities. Isa 53:5,8b,10a,11b,12b
 1. Bore our sins in his own body on the tree 1Pet 2:24
 2. As animals were sacrificed under Law, He sacrificed Himself to atone for our sins Heb 9:25-28
 3. So, any person who has ever sinned is responsible for death of Christ and all have sinned Rom 3:23
 - a. We must make personal application here and accept our own blame in this matter. It was because of our sins that Jesus died on the cross
 - c. Because of our sins, we are worthy of death, but Jesus died in our place
 4. If we do not accept personal responsibility, the death of Christ brings no benefit to us
 5. See comments from Paul Harvey's review of the movie: "The Passion" and other comments
- B. Forgiveness to all sinners is now possible through the death of Christ Heb 10:10-14
- C. Because of Jesus' death, we die to sin Rom 6:4-12
- D. Those who do not willingly obey the Lord, are considering His death an unholy or common thing Heb 10:26-29 They do not appreciate what was done for them.
- E. Unfaithful crucify Jesus all over again Heb 6:4-6

CONCLUSION:

- A. So, who killed Jesus?
 1. The Romans crucified Him. The Jews demanded that He die. God sent His Son to die for us. Jesus willingly died to redeem us from our sins.
 2. All of us, because we are sinners, bear responsibility for Jesus' death
- B. What is your reaction to Jesus death?
 1. Are you willing to accept your responsibility in the matter?
 2. Or, will you just blame it on others?
 3. Why not receive the benefits of Jesus' death by humbly surrendering yourself to God?

(By David J. Riggs - revised by JLH)