SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

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Jesus Knew He Was Going to the Cross

David Sproule

Was the cross a surprise to Jesus? Did He know that was coming? Some have suggested that the cross was "Satan's plan" and was "not in God's plan" or part of "God's will." They suggest that God had "an altar" in mind but "crucifixion" was Satan's idea. Does Scripture support that conclusion?

First, there is the reality that Jesus was crucified by man, no question. God did not kill His Son. But, consider all of the realities surrounding the death of Jesus that were part of God's redemptive plan and understanding. Jesus was betrayed by a "friend" (Psa. 41:9) for "30 pieces of silver" (Zech. 11:12). He was "hated without a cause" (Psa. 69:4), and He gave His "back" to be struck and was spit upon (Isa. 50:6). He was "rejected" by His own, "stricken," "oppressed," "afflicted," "wounded," "bruised" ("pierced," ESV), and "chastised" with "stripes" (Isa. 53:3-7). Yet, "He opened not His mouth" (Isa. 53:7). God knew that all of this was going to happen. It was a part of the redemptive plan. So, how was the cross not part of God's redemptive plan if all of this was?

Second, consider the prophecies made in the Old Testament surrounding His death. He was associated with "the wicked" and "the transgressors" in His death (Isa. 53:9, 12). Psalm 22 is full of prophetic detail about Him being "forsaken" by His God (22:1), mocked by those who "shoot out the lip" and

"shake the head" (22:7-8), having people "divide" His garments and "cast lots" for them (22:18). Prophecies indicate that He would be given "gall" and "vinegar to drink" (Psa. 69:21). In all of this, "not one" of His bones was "broken" (Psa. 34:20). All of this was prophesied as part of God's redemptive plan. Are we to believe the cross was not in view?

Third, consider the very explicit prophecies made in the Old Testament and by Jesus Himself regarding the cross. Psalm 22:16 states, "They pierced My hands and My feet." What does that mean if it is not crucifixion? Zechariah 12:10 also prophesied of Jesus, "whom they pierced." When "God" (i.e., "Jehovah," Matt. 3:3) came to this earth (John 1:1, 14; Matt. 1:23), He said that He would "be lifted up" (John 3:14; cf. Num. 21:9). By saying that He would "be lifted up," John states that Jesus was "signifying by what death He would die" (12:32-33; 18:31-32). Jesus not only knew that they would "mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him" (Mark 10:34), but He knew for certain that they would "crucify" Him (Matt. 20:19). It was in the eternal plan!

Jesus was "foreordained before the foundation of the world" (1 Pet. 1:19-20), as part of "the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23), to be "slain" (Rev. 13:8) for our sins! God did not kill Jesus, anymore than He spit upon Him. But it was all purposed by God (and thus, permitted) to redeem us from the power of the devil! Jesus knew!

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Mary Bolen, Luther & Jo Merritt
Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Epperson, Sue Harris
Fredie Stewart, Cindy Kidder,
Lisa Dukes, Betty Mosely,
Teriyaki Anderson,
James Morris, Troyce Taylor,
Pearl Johnson, Paula Wadley,
Judy Ellis, Jerry Crabb,
Karen Chance
Gaylon & Betty Cooper,
Sammy & Shirley Puckett,
Jerry Butcher

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Glenn Lovell,
Beverly Martindale,
Diane Hubbard, Kyle Bess
Brandi Rogers, Corey Allen
Kenton Lancaster, Archie Hardy,
Ruby Malone, Melissa Henson
Caraline Rogers, Justin Puckett,
Jane Washington, Joyce Pack

Today's Sermons

AM - The Necessity of the Cross
Isaiah 53

PM - FHU Student Series
Parker Cotts

Happenings

South Jackson

October 25-28
Gospel Meeting with
Bruce Hatcher

October 31
Ladies Retreat
Pinson Mounds
See bulletin board for
more information

Cards to Send

Lisa Dukes
36 Brookfield Drive
Oakfield, TN 38362

Shirley Puckett
144 Shadow Creek Lane
Medina, TN 38355

Weekly Record

Bible Class	37/19
AM Worship	71/164
PM Worship	46/108
Wed Bible Study	53/8
Contribution	3528
Budget	3600

Those Privileged to Serve

Oct 11 - AM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages
Read Scripture:
Jeff Bliss
Opening Prayer:
Paul Hatcher
Sermon: Ray Pack
Closing Prayer: Joe Venable
Communion: Greg Long
Contribution:
Ronald Clouse

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Mike Wages
Sermon: Parker Cotts
Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher
Communion: Greg Long

Oct 14 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Opening Prayer:
Greg Long
Devo - Mike Wages

Oct 18 - AM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher
Read Scripture:
Costel Ghimpu
Opening Prayer:
Joe Venable
Sermon: Mike Wages
Closing Prayer: Van McConnell
Communion: Jeff Dove
Contribution:
Jef Bliss

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Mike Wages
Opening Prayer:
Paul Hatcher
Sermon: Singing Night
Closing Prayer: Ronald Clouse
Communion: Greg Long

Oct 21 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Mike Wages
Opening Prayer:
Ray Pack
Devo - Jerry Butcher

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rpack119@gmail.com
(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Gospel of Christ - WBBJ	4:30 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM