



# the Crib, the Cross, the Cave – BUT WHY?

## -a study in the 3 major events of Jesus' life from the Book of Luke-

Leading into Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, we will take a fresh look at the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ from the book of Luke. This "gospel" account is written by the same author of the book of Acts, and both show him to be a highly educated man, who wrote from a Greek background. He tells us why he wrote this gospel in the first 4 verses (1:1-4) and some feel Luke is the fullest, most orderly story of Jesus' life. (Assignment: Read 2 chapters a day)

"**The Cross**" is the topic of many churches this week who will hold special "Good Friday" services. Yet it permeates everything associated with Christian people, churches, and endeavors. The cross is at the center of the gospel story. As Paul once said, "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). All of us are born to ultimately die, hopefully in Christ and with a good legacy to follow. However, Jesus' death was designed in God's eternal plan to benefit everyone eternally who would receive the benefits of what he did through the cross. As he suffered on an "Old Rugged Cross", our minds go to the atrocity of murdering an innocent man and focusing on the torture and the physical suffering he went through. But when we ask "Why?" did he have to die, it boils down to two major concepts that go much deeper than any physical pain.

**Luke 23:1-47**

**BUT WHY?**

*"He is the **atonement sacrifice** for our sins" (NIV)*

*"He is the **propitiation** for our sins" (KJV)*

*"He is the **propitiation** for our sins (the atoning sacrifice that **holds back the wrath of God** that would otherwise be directed at us because of our sinful nature – our worldliness, our lifestyle)." (AMP)*

### 1. GOD ALLOWED DEATH TO HIS SON TO \_\_\_\_\_

- God's nature or character has a dual element – a God of \_\_\_\_\_ and a God of \_\_\_\_\_  
*"...we were by nature deserving of wrath, but because of his great love for us..." Ephesians 2:3-4*
- God is heartbroken over sin and cannot associate with sin – "Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness." 1 John 3:4; Genesis 3:16-24, 6:1-7
- Romans 1:18; Ephesians 5:5-6; Colossians 3:5-6; 2 Peter 3:3-7, 10-13; 1 John 2:1-2 (AMP); Revelation 21:8;  
*"He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." 1 Peter 2:24*
- So, what is the meaning of his prayers to God in the **Garden of Gethsemane**?  
 What is the meaning of his statement on the cross, **"My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"**

### 2. GOD ALLOWED DEATH TO HIS SON TO \_\_\_\_\_

- 1 John 3:4 – the holiness and righteousness of the Creator cannot associate with the unholy and unrighteous
- Something or someone must satisfy the requirements of laws that are broken.
- This is where the cross has tremendous significance to our being saved by grace and not by works!

### 3. HOW DO PEOPLE RESPOND TO THE ONE ON THE CROSS?

- Some people just watch Luke 23:35, 49
- The rulers sneered Luke 23:35
- The soldiers mocked Luke 23:36
- One criminal insulted Luke 23:39
- One criminal defended Luke 23:40-41
- The Centurion praised God Luke 23:47