

A landscape of mountains at dawn or dusk. The sky is filled with soft, blue and white clouds, with a hint of orange and pink near the horizon. The mountains are silhouetted against the sky, and a layer of white fog or mist is visible at the base of the hills. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

**WHAT IS
SO AMAZING
ABOUT GRACE?**

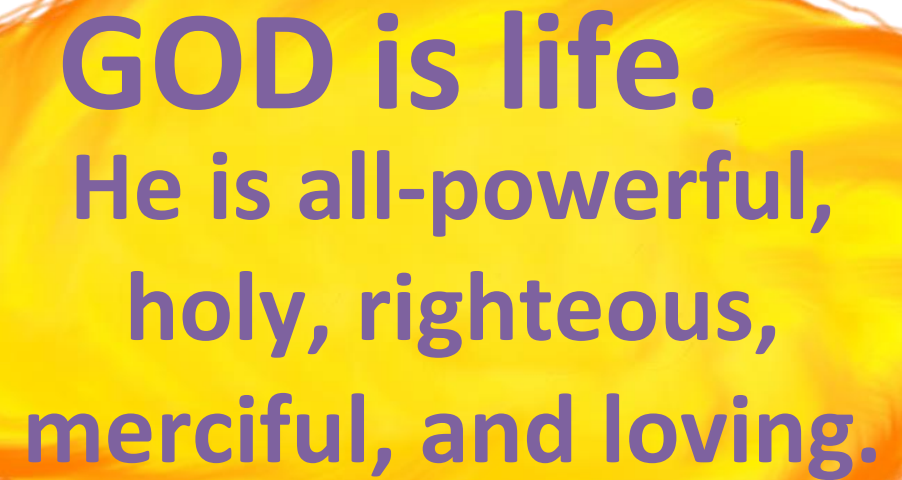
Every
problem in
this world is a
relationship
problem.



Forgiveness:
to suffer all the consequences of a
person's action,
and release the person from
punishment,
without retaliation,
bitterness, or anger.

**How does God forgive us when we sin against Him?
Let's start from the beginning.**

***“In the beginning
there was God.”
(Genesis 1:1a).***



GOD is life.
He is all-powerful,
holy, righteous,
merciful, and loving.

God is life. He is the creator and sustainer of all life. Apart from God there is no life.

God is all-powerful. He can do all things.

God is holy. He is separate from all things that are not pure, good, and just.

God is righteous. He only does what is right and He will by no means let the guilty go unpunished.

God is merciful and loving. He abundantly forgives all who trust Him.

The Lord God breathed His Spirit into humanity, and we became a living soul made in His image (Genesis 1:27, 2:7).

The soul is our life force. It includes the mind, will, and emotions.



Acceptance
Significance
Security

Spirit

God

Every soul is created in the image of God. And every soul is created to live in relationship with God and one another.

God created humanity spiritually connected to Him. His acceptance, security, wisdom, knowledge, and life flow through this connection.

Because God is life and He is holy,
sin cannot stay in His presence.

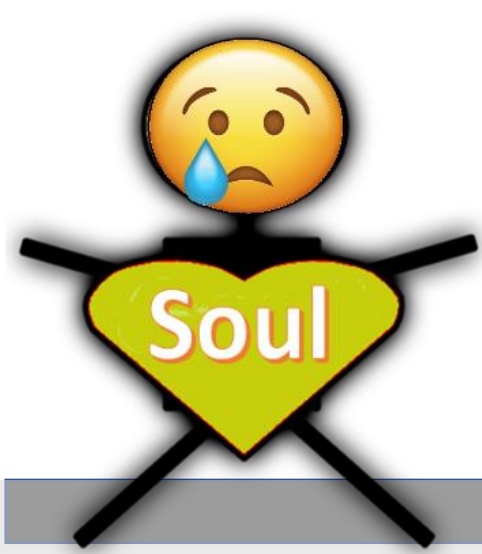
As a result, it is written:

“The wages of sin is death”
(Romans 6:23a).



What is a wage?

A wage is a consequence. It is something
you earn after you do something.



SIN IS NOT LOVING GOD:

- 1) not putting God first;
- 2) misusing the name of God;
- 3) worshiping idols; and
- 4) Not taking a time of rest in God.

SIN IS NOT LOVING OTHERS:

- 1) dishonoring parents;
- 2) murder, hatred, uncontrolled anger, and unwholesome talk;
- 3) adultery, all sexual immorality, lust, and coarse joking;
- 4) stealing and cheating;
- 5) testifying falsely and lying; and
- 6) coveting.

“The wages of sin” (Romans 6:23a).



What is sin?

(cf. Exodus 20:1-14;
Mark 12:30-32;
Matthew 5:21-22, 28;
Galatians 5:19-21;
Ephesians 4:29, 5:1-6;
Hebrew 10:24-25)

“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a).

The law of God exposes our extreme sinfulness.

“As it is written: ‘None is righteous, no, not one’” (Romans 3:10).



***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”
(Romans 3:23).***



S



“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23a).

What is death?

Death is separation from God, the source of life.

“It’s your sins that have cut you off from God” (Isaiah 59:2).

I

“The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20).

Death is spiritual separation from God (Isaiah 59:2), followed by physical separation (Luke 9:60), and finally permanent separation from God in the lake of fire (Revelation 21:8).

N

Can anyone avoid death?



**"The wages of sin is death,
but the free gift of God is
eternal life in Christ Jesus
our Lord" (Romans 6:23).**



What is the "free gift
of God?"

A free gift is the
opposite of a wage.
We cannot earn it and
we do not deserve it.



The free gift is an unmerited
and undeserved favor—grace!

- It is eternal life.
- It is reconciliation with God.
- It is the forgiveness of sins.

**“THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH, BUT...”
(Romans 6:23).**

But God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies to prove His free gift of amazing grace and forgiveness.

PROPHECY



Prophecies are God’s revelations to humanity concerning future events.

“These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31; cf. Luke 24:44-49).

The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would be the Ruler, and He would come through the seed of Adam and Eve, Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, King David and be born of a virgin, named Mary, in the town of Bethlehem (cf. Genesis; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2, written in 1,500, 700, and 600 B.C., respectively).



God gave us the exact people through whom Christ would come—1,500 years in writing before it happened! *“All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: ‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child’”* (Matthew 1:18-25; cf. Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-18).

The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would be the great, merciful, gracious Teacher, and He would have a miraculous ministry of healing with all who come to Him (cf. Isaiah 30:18-21, 52:13-53:1-12, written in 700 B.C.).

Jesus taught:

"I am the way, the truth, and the life," as well as *"I and the Father are one,"* meaning oneness in divine nature and essence (cf. John 14:6, 10:30).



Why did Jesus have to be one with God?

He healed every sickness and every disease:

Jesus healed a paralyzed man by proclaiming, *"Your sins are forgiven."* Notably, ***"Only God can forgive sins"*** (Luke 5:20-21; cf. Matthew 9:35; Isaiah 43:25).

The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would be the Prince, and He would remove sin about 483 years after King Artaxerxes' put forth a directive for the Jewish people to rebuild Jerusalem's walls (cf. Daniel 9:24-27; Ezra 7:11-16, written in 650 and 457 B.C., respectively).

God, through the prophet Daniel, told us the time that Jesus Christ would come and die for the sins of whosoever would believe in Him (John 3:16, 15:20; cf. Matthew 24:6-8, 15, 30; Mark 1:15, 13:14; Romans 6:10; 1 Corinthians 10:11, Galatians 4:4; 1 Peter 1:5).

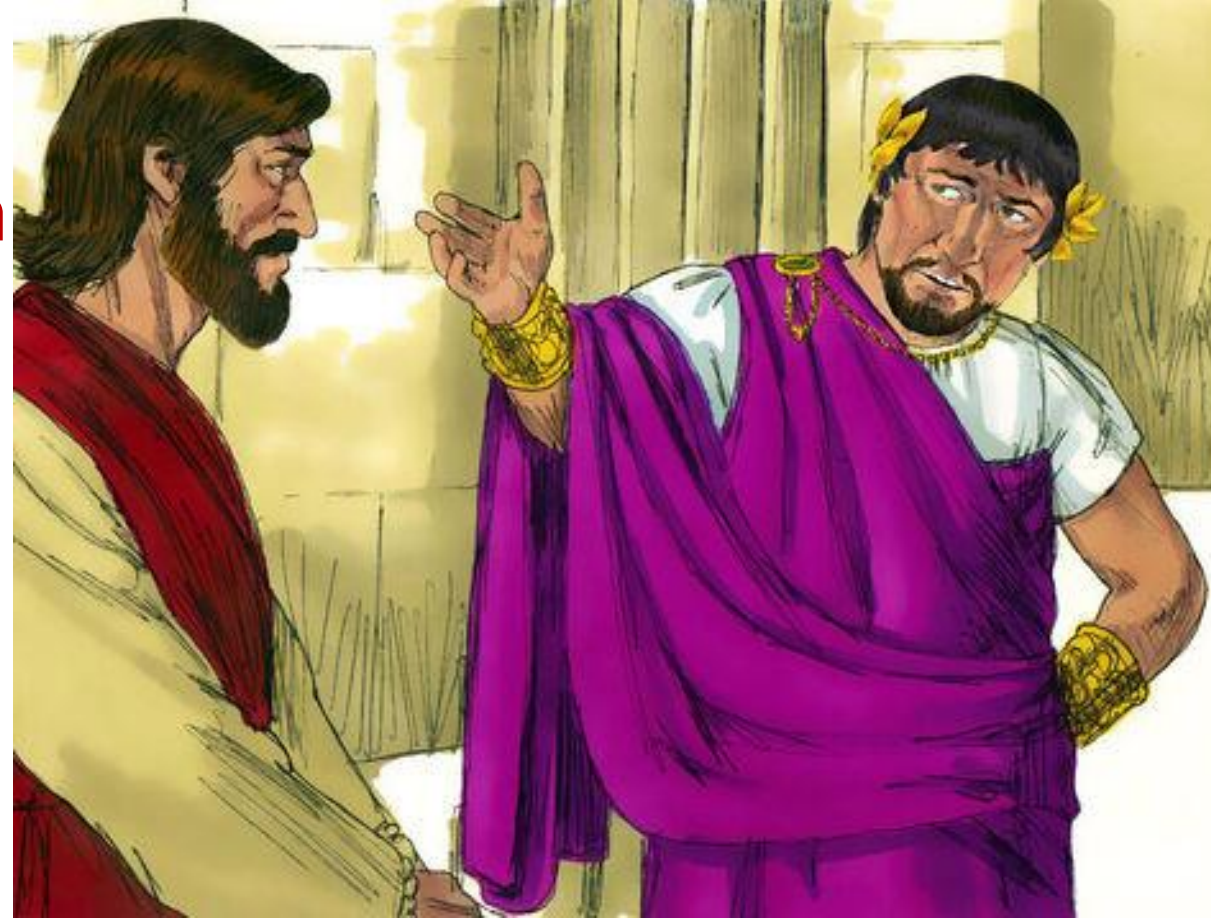


The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would live a sin-free, perfect life, and He would be hated without cause (cf. Isaiah 49:7; Psalm 69:4, written in 700 and 1,000 B.C., respectively).

Jesus lived a sin-free life. When Jesus appeared before Governor Pilate, he could not find wrongdoing in Him (John 19:4).

“Jesus appeared in order to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin” (1 John 3:5).

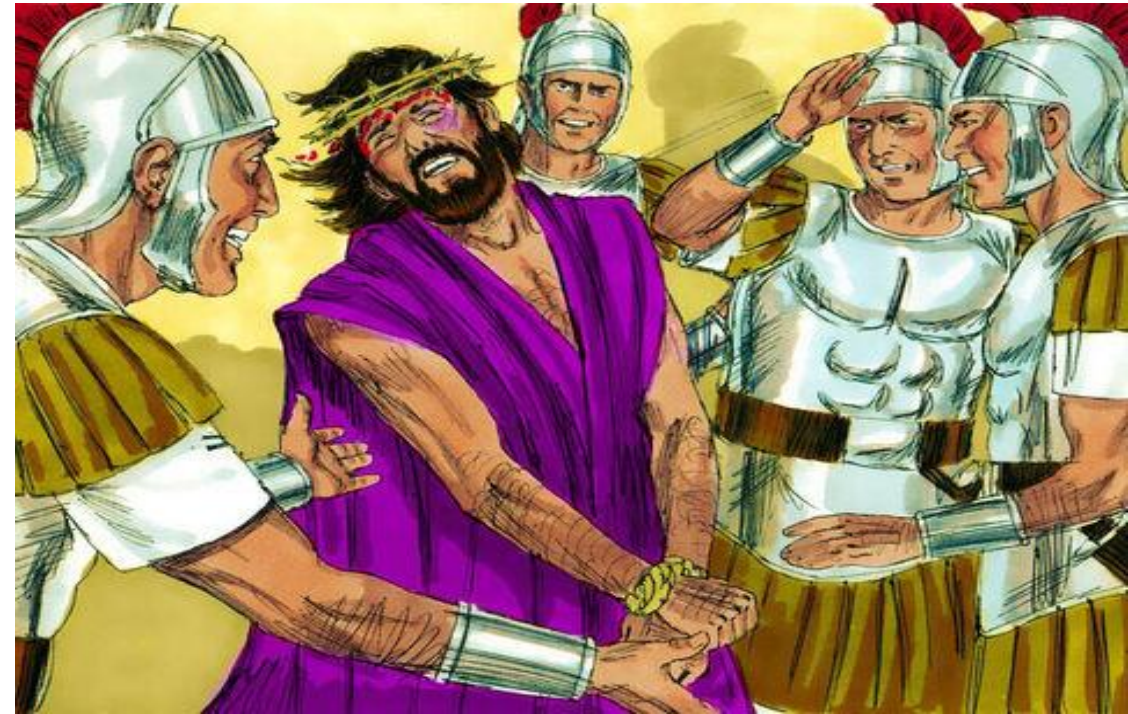


The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would be spit upon and mocked (cf. Isaiah 50:6; Psalm 22:7-8, written in 700 and 1,000 B.C., respectively).

During Jesus' trial, *"they spit in His face and struck Him, and some slapped Him"* (Matthew 26:67). His love for us took on the whole shame of our sin (cf. Philippians 2:6-10).

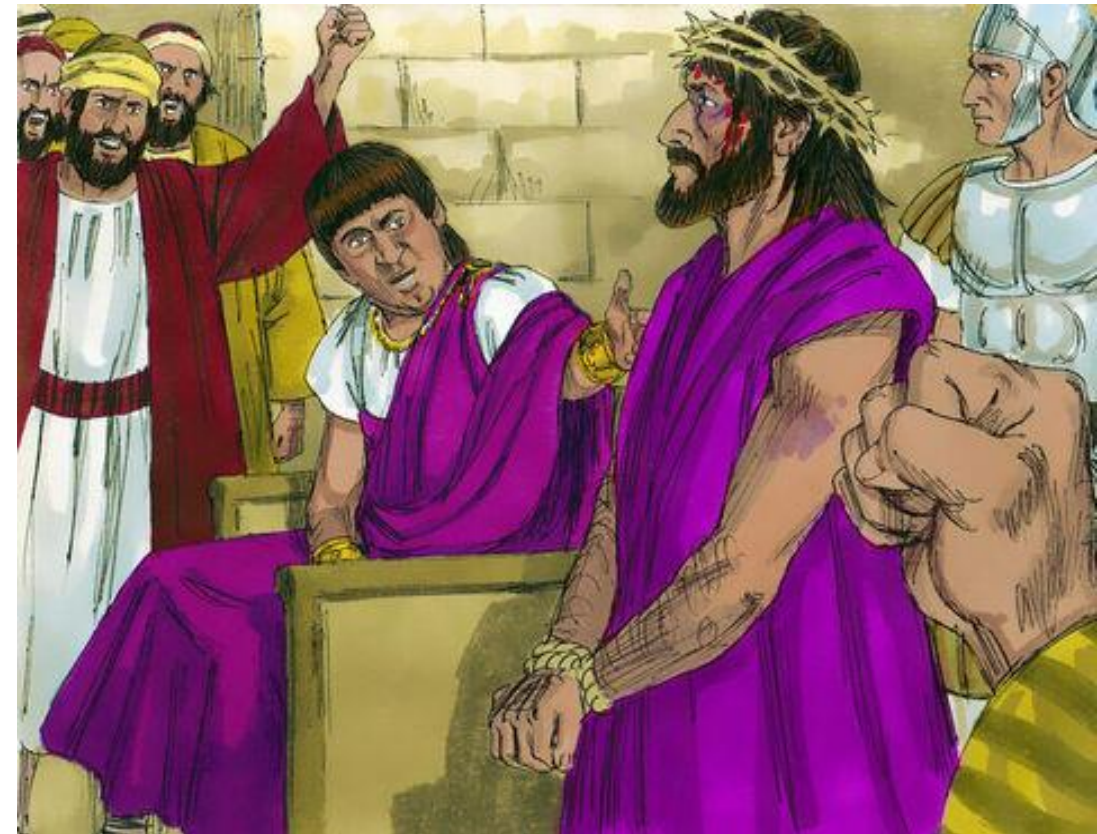
"Jesus, our High Priest, is able to understand our weaknesses. He was tempted in every way that we are, but He did not sin" (Hebrews 4:15, NCV; cf. John 4:1-38, 9:1-40, Luke 7:36-50, 15:1-32).



The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would be the Suffering Servant. He would be falsely accused but would remain silent among the accusers (Isaiah 53:7-8, written in 700 B.C.).

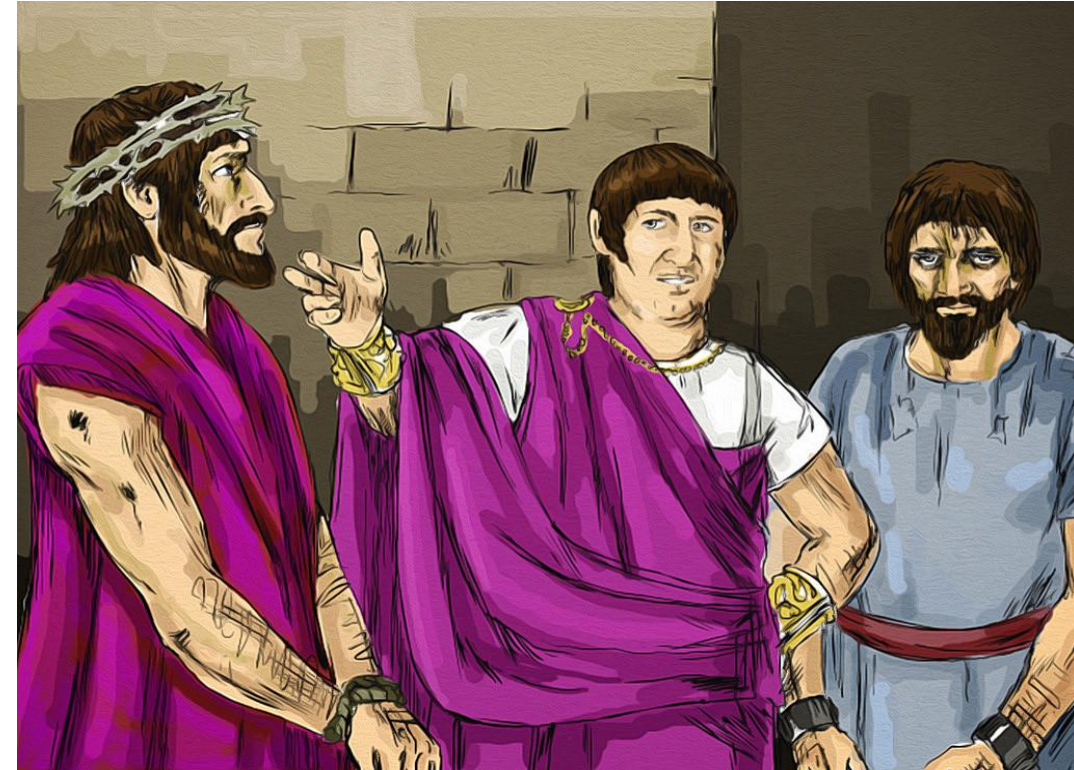
No sane, rational servant could remain silent when accused of lying! Everyone would have wanted to yell, "I did not do it." Yet, during the trial, Jesus remained silent. And His silence led to His foretold death (Matthew 26:63-68; John 19:9-16).



The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would be rejected, and when the time came for the Christ to die, His garments would be drenched in His own blood, and He would be rejected like a stranger by His own people (cf. Psalm 63:3; 69:8, written in 1,000 B.C.).

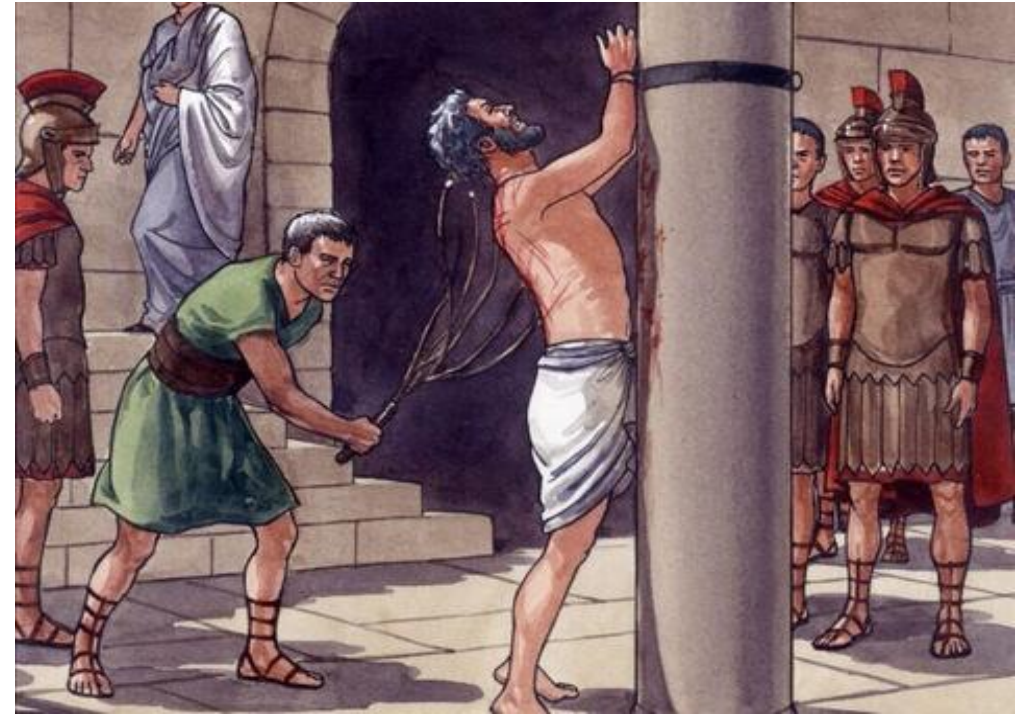
When given a choice, the nation from which Jesus originated decided to free the hardened criminal Barabbas. The Governor then had Jesus disgracefully flogged before His crucifixion (Matthew 27:24-26; John 19:1).



The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would be mistreated, and He would be scorned, despised, and mocked. He would be beaten, and men would wag their heads. He would have His back beaten, as well as His whole body (cf. Psalm 22:7-8, Isaiah 50:6, written in 1,000 and 700 B.C. respectively).

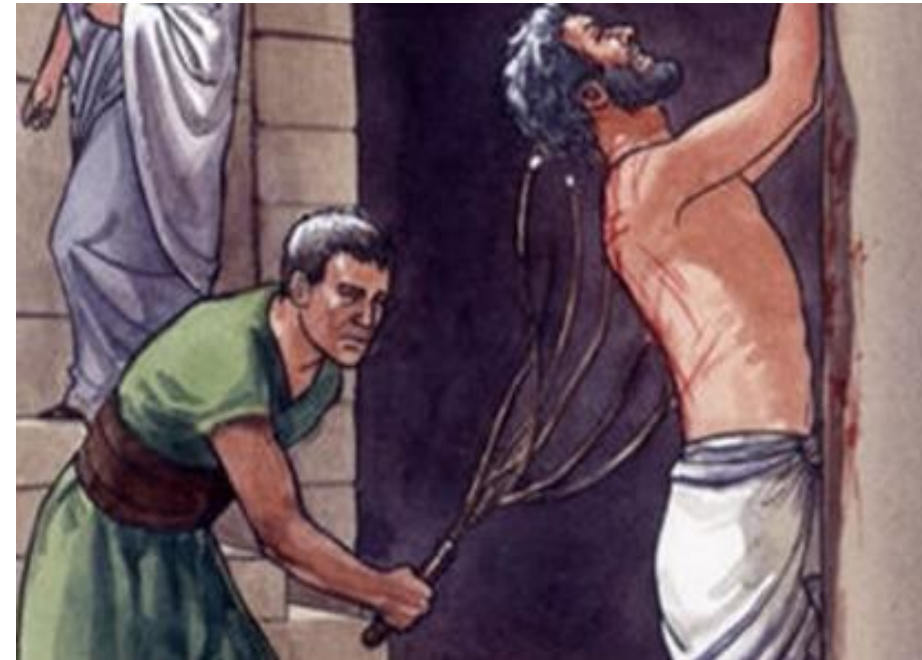
Jesus was beaten thirty-nine times with a whip of leather cord. The cords had sheep bones and iron balls tied in them to cut deep within the muscles.



The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

Why did Jesus have to die to forgive us?

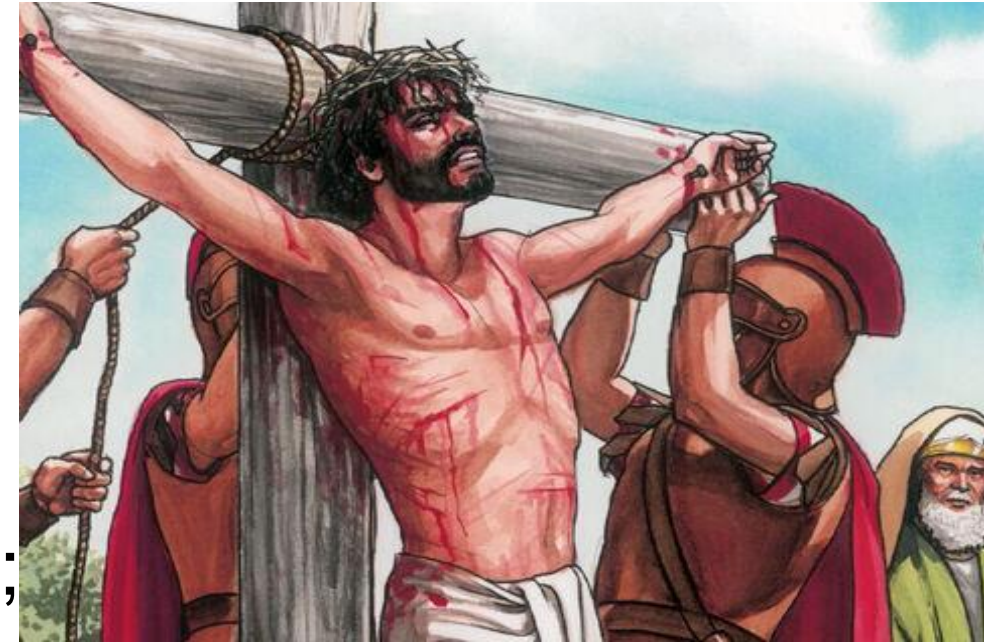
- God is life and sin separates us from His life sustaining presence.
- To pay the debt owed for our sin, God the Son willingly shed His blood and offered His life as a sacrifice (John 10:18).
- Why? *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood”* (Leviticus 17:11).
- *“Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins”* (Hebrews 9:22).
- *“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).



The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ's hands and feet would be pierced (Psalm 22:16, written in 1,000 B.C.).

On a ridge called Golgotha, just outside Jerusalem's walls on Mount Moriah, the Roman soldiers laid Jesus on the cross and drove elongated nails into His hands and feet as prophesied (cf. Mark 15:22-32;



John 19:17-23). Interestingly, the Persians had not invented crucifixion until 500 years after King David had written this Psalm!

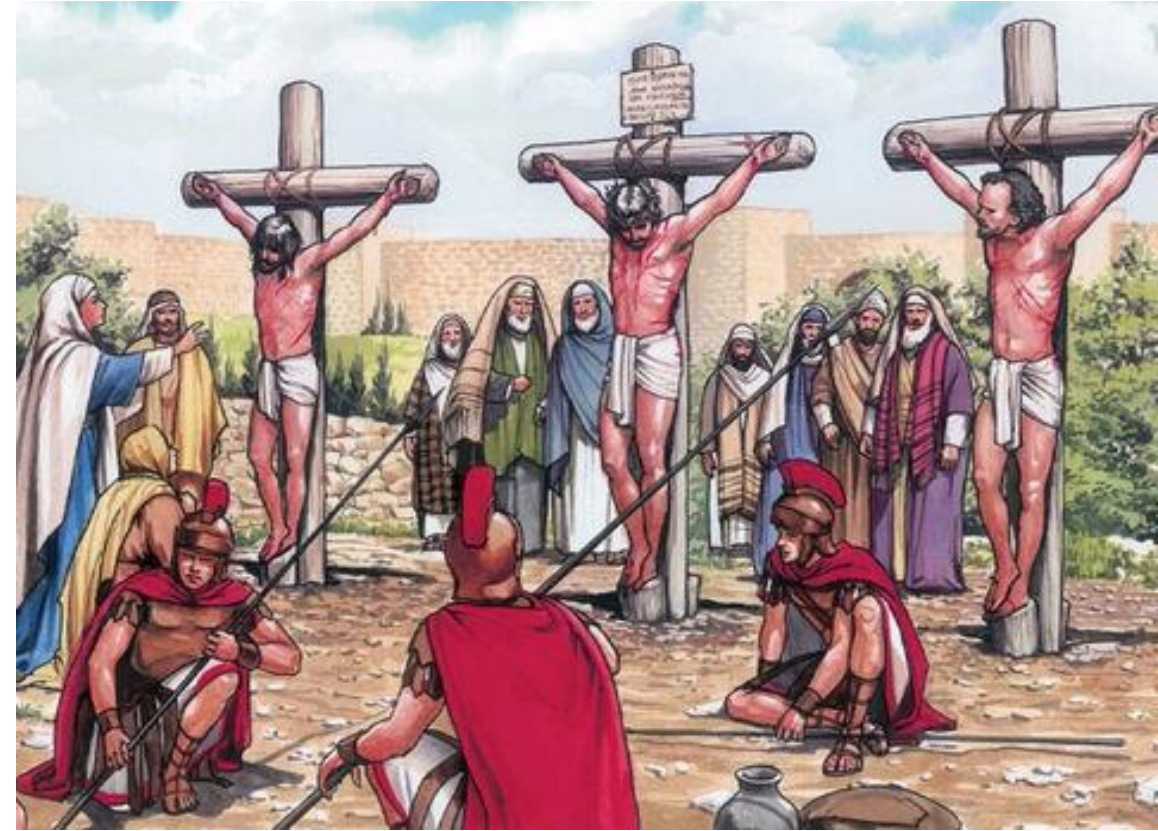
Jesus substituted His life for ours: *“Jesus bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds, you have been healed”* (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24).

The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ would be put to death as a criminal; He would die with criminals; and He would be given a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:3-4, 9, written in 700 B.C.).

They crucified Jesus between two robbers. *"The death he died he died to sin, once for all"* (Romans 6:10; cf. Mark 15:27).

After Jesus had died, a rich man belonging to an elite Jewish group, named Joseph of Arimathea, went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.



The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

When Pilate learned that Jesus was dead, he granted the corpse to Joseph. And Joseph took Jesus down, wrapped him in linen, and laid him in an expensive tomb that he had cut out of the rock for himself. Then, Joseph rolled the stone against the entrance of the tomb (cf. Mark 15:43-45; Matthew 27:57-60).

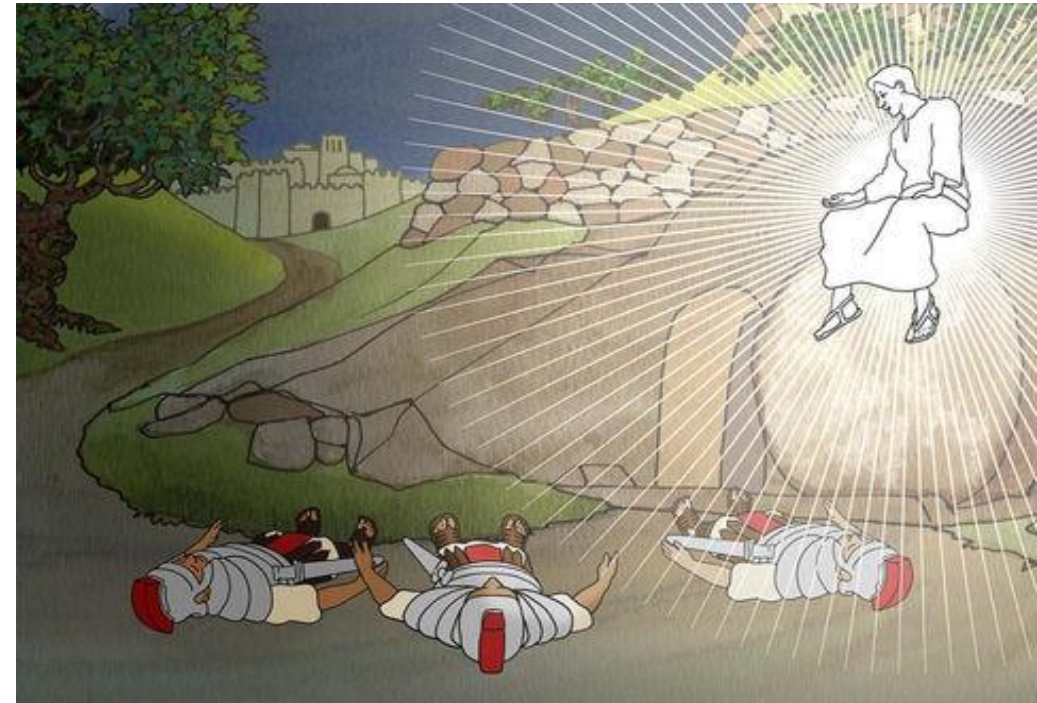


The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ's body would not decay, and, on the third day, He would rise from the grave, putting an end to death (cf. Psalm 16:10; 110:1, written in 1,000 B.C.).

Jesus conquered death! On the third day, there was a severe earthquake for an angel of the Lord came from heaven and rolled back the boulder that sealed the tomb so that everyone could see it was empty (cf. Matthew 28:2; Luke 24:2-8).

Jesus had risen from the dead. He made several personal appearances over 40 days, and then He appeared to over 500 people at one time. (cf. Matthew 28:1-20; Luke 24:1-48; John 20:1-29; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

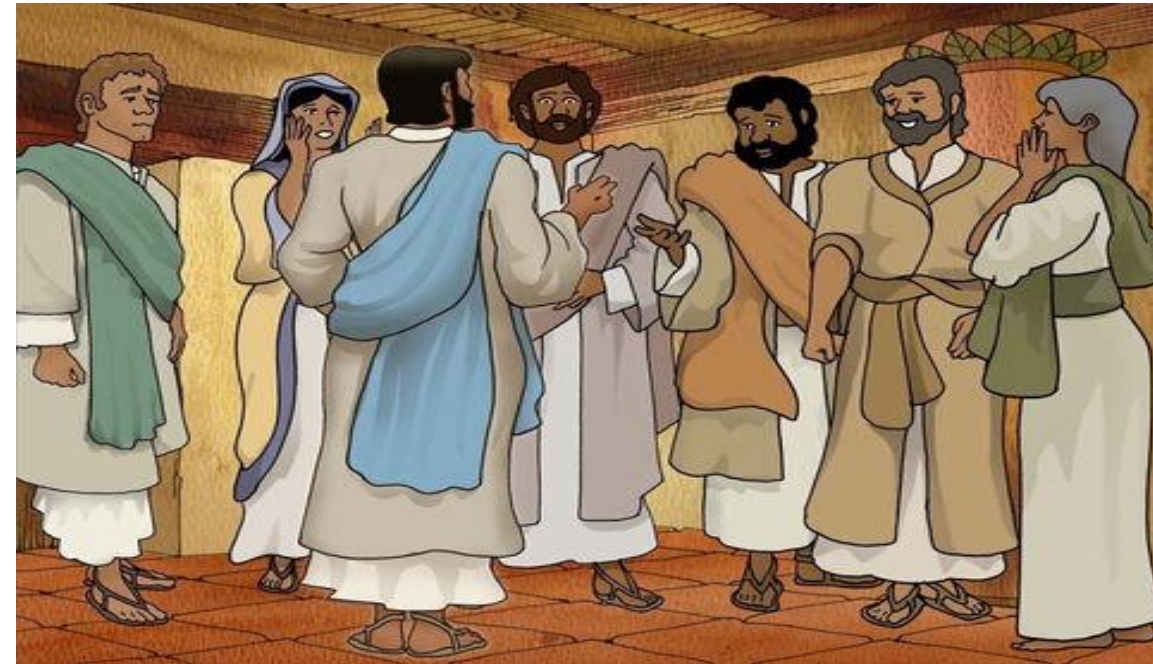


The wages of sin is death, but God reaches out to humanity with over 300 prophecies (cf. Romans 6:23).

The Christ is the “Son of Man,” who would come to rule the world (Daniel 7:13-14, written in 650 B.C.).

Jesus referred to Himself as the “Son of Man” many times and talked much about trials, tribulations, and a great tribulation period. These things will separate the believers from the non-believers when He returns to earth to fully establish His Kingdom

(cf. Matthew 24:3-28-44; John 3:13-18, 5:25-29; 14:1-3; Acts 1:6-11; 1 Corinthians 15:51-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:11; Revelation 1:7-9, 16:15).



FORGIVENESS...

Forgiveness: to suffer all the consequences of a person's action...

Forgiveness is God's amazing "free gift" of mercy, love, and grace that forgives our past, present, and future sins.

His grace is greater than our sin, brokenness, and shame!

PAID IN FULL

IDOLATRY

LYING,
GREED,
LUST,

JEALOUSY,
DRUNKENNESS,

STEALING,
ADULTERY

PORN,
MURDER,

HATE,

SELFISHNESS,
CRUDENESS,

RACISM,
DISHONOR,
SLANDER,

UNBELIEF...

GOD'S NAME IN VAIN

REASONING...

"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life" (Romans 6:23a).

The severity of our sin, which results in death, is made clear by the law. God mercifully paid the price—suffered the consequences—to release believers from punishment.

PAID IN FULL

IDOLATRY

LYING,
GREED,
LUST,

GOD'S NAME IN VAIN

FORGIVENESS...

REASONING...

2) and release the person from punishment...

JEALOUSY,
DRUNKENNESS,
STEALING,
ADULTERY

God said, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life **in Christ Jesus**" (Romans 6:23a).

PORN,
MURDER,
HATE,

Only the person against whom we have sinned can forgive us. We sinned against God and His law. Jesus is one with God, the Father. Forgiveness is found "in Him" alone.

Forgiveness in Christ Jesus is God's amazing love, mercy, and grace to us. It is life-changing!

SELFISHNESS,
CRUDENESS,
RACISM,
DISHONOR,
SLANDER,
UNBELIEF...

FORGIVENESS...

3) without anger,
bitterness, or retaliation

Jesus rose from the grave,
conquering the
consequences of sin.
“God has removed our sins
as far as the east is from the
west” (Psalm 103:12). We
want Him to be “our Lord.”

PAID IN FULL

IDOLATRY

LYING,
GREED,
LUST,

JEALOUSY,
DRUNKENNESS,
STEALING,
ADULTERY

PORN,
MURDER,
HATE,

SELFISHNESS,
CRUDENESS,
RACISM,
DISHONOR,
SLANDER,
UNBELIEF...

GOD'S NAME IN VAIN

REASONING...

God said, “The wages
of sin is death, but the
free gift of God is eternal
life in Christ Jesus, **our
Lord**” (Romans 6:23).

Jesus becomes “our Lord”
the moment we accept His
loving, merciful, and
gracious authority over our
lives.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

When people first heard the Good News of God's amazing love, mercy, and grace, they believed, and *"they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?'"*

"And Peter said to them, 'Repent (see your sins the way God sees them, hate your sins for the death they bring, and start forsaking them) and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 2:37-38; cf. Psalm 51:1-19).



Baptism is our public initiation, identification, and incorporation into Christ Jesus.

“Ananias said, ‘The God of our ancestors chose you long ago to know his plan, to see the Righteous One, and to hear words from Him. Now, why wait any longer? Get up, be baptized, and wash your sins away, trusting in Him to save you’” (Acts 22:14, 16, NCV).



BELIEVERS ARE TO LIVE FOR JESUS AND HIS RETURN.

The free gift of God is coming in fullness!

“So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him” (Hebrews 9:28).

There are approximately 1,845 different biblical references to the return of Christ!

Will you be living by God’s amazing grace through faith?




(See 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.)

WHAT IF I SIN AFTER ACCEPTING JESUS AS MY LORD AND SAVIOR?

Judicially, by God's grace through faith, we have been forgiven of past, present, and future sin (cf. Hebrews 8:12; Ephesians 2:13; John 3:16-18, 20:31; Isaiah 55:7).

Relationally, we constantly acknowledge and repent of our sins as God's children because they grieve our heavenly Father and cause us to feel great shame. We ask God to forgive us as we forgive those who have sinned against us (cf. Matthew 6:9-14).



If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

God's great forgiveness empowers believers to love and forgive others.

THE CROSS OVER TO FORGIVENESS

Admit your sins to Jesus, the High Priest. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. And God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 3:23, 5:8; cf. Psalm 51:1-19).

Believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 10:9).

Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

Decide to be baptized into Christ (Romans 6:1-4). Contact your local church.

KNOW

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13).

For, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1, 6:10, 6:23).

God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

Copyright © 2000 Tommy Bitner

“What’s So Amazing About Grace” MAY BE NOT BE COPIED OR EMAILED TO ANYONE WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scriptures Quotations marked “GNB” or “GNT” are from the Good News Bible © 1994 published by the Bible Societies/HarperCollins Publishers Ltd UK, Good News Bible © American Bible Society 1966, 1971, 1976, 1992. Used with permission.

Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188.



Contact: Tommy@EquipTheNations.org