

The TRUTH about the CROSS – Controversial to say the least!

1. jewelry / decoration
 2. religious symbol / graven image
 3. reminder of self denial
 4. offense to the world, because sin must be punished / atoned for
 5. a Roman symbol of death brought by a horrible, gruesome torture
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Define it - a structure, object, or mark formed by two lines that cross each other.

2 often capitalized : the structure **on which Jesus Christ was crucified** used as a symbol of Christianity.

Crucifix –

A crucifix (from Latin *cruci fixus* meaning "(one) fixed to a cross") is an image of Jesus on the cross, as distinct from a bare cross. ... The crucifix is a principal symbol for Roman Catholics.

Why do Protestants not use crucifix?

Catholics view Jesus as being on the cross

Protestants view Jesus as having risen from the dead, because that work was finished

"You were bought with a price..."

without the shedding of blood...

The cross is an offense

Take up your cross

I am crucified with Christ

On a hill far away, stood an old rugged...

The TRUTH is... the world doesn't like what the cross stands for.

Jesus didn't

1. talk politics, or come to destroy human government
2. pat us humans on the back and say good job, keep up the good work (thumbs up, five stars)
3. come to congratulate religious leaders for obeying all the rules
4. appease the entitled, offended generation of his own culture
5. enable or make excuses for sinners and dismiss personal responsibility

JESUS DID...

1. confront self righteous church people
2. raise the bar from actions to the intent of the heart
3. engage in conflict with sin and evil
4. give up his friends, his family, his will, his rights, his body, his personal ambition,

WE MUST CONCLUDE...

no one is good enough, nor ever will be – that is so offensive to people

WE MUST CONCLUDE...

our life, our friends, our will, our career, our accomplishments, our title, must be put to death!

WE MUST CONCLUDE...

That sin, self promotion, self importance and pride must be crucified, not lulled to sleep, excused and coddled.

Elements of the Crucifixion story include:

1. Golgotha – now a modern garbage dump, a part of Calvary, Mt Moriah, where Abraham offered up Isaac and God gave up His son.
2. Via Dolorosa - The way of suffering is a processional route in the Old City of Jerusalem. It represents the path that Jesus would have taken, forced by the Roman soldiers to carry his cross for about a 45-60 minute walk.
3. INRI – means “King of the Jews” labeled, titled in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek by the Romans as an insult to show what they do to Rival Kings.
4. 6 to 12 hours of torture – included whipping, beating, spitting, humiliating, exhaustion, exsanguination, suffocation.

The Holy Sponge? 2 different drink offerings...

Posca – drink that romans gave to the poverty class to stay hydrated.

1. vinegar Mixed with gall, 2. Anesthesia ? Luke 23:36 - -39 insulting him.

And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar.

(Luke 23:36)

The xylospongium or tersorium, also known as sponge on a stick, was a hygienic utensil used by ancient Romans to wipe in a latrine. It was shared by people using it in public. This became a breeding ground for bacteria, causing the spread of disease. It was a kind of toilet brush.

John 19:28,29,

Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus'

Exod 12:21 Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. 22 Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe...he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down... 'It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, who passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt and spared our homes.

What kind of offering are you giving to God?

Will you drink from the cup of Gods wrath?

or has Christ drank from that cup for you?

In some secular, recreations of the crucifixion they are insulting even blasphemous images on TV and the web include:

1. a Gay Jesus on the cross kissing his disciple in an LGBTQ pride parade
2. the 50th anniversary of Jesus Christ superstar had almost 10 million viewers in a rock opera stage play. it was written by an agnostic that portrays Jesus as a less than savior average kind of unfulfilled confused superstar popular guy. Judas of course, tries to keep Jesus on track, but Jesus ends up sad and gave up on his vision unless he is more noticed and rewarded for being a martyr.
3. "Family guy" portrays Jesus in many episodes trying to be funny but is blatantly sacrilegious and disgusting.

Medical Account of the Crucifixion

Hanging, electrocution, gas chamber: these punishments are feared. They all happen today, and we shudder as we think of the horror and pain. But these ordeals pale into insignificance compared with the bitter fate of a crucifixion.

Crucifixion was a form of execution refined by the Romans to a precise art. It was carefully conceived to produce a slow death with maximum pain. It was a public spectacle intended to deter other would-be criminals. It was a death to be feared.

The Beating

- It was in this condition that Jesus faced the first physical abuse: punches and slaps to the face and head while blindfolded. Unable to anticipate the blows, Jesus was badly bruised, his mouth and eyes severely injured. The psychological effects of the false trials at night came after the beating so Jesus faced them bruised, dehydrated, exhausted, possibly in shock.

Flogging

In the previous 12 hours Jesus had suffered emotional trauma, rejection by his closest friends, a cruel beating, and a sleepless night during which he had to walk miles between unjust hearings. A man to be flogged was stripped of his clothes and his hands tied to a post above his head. He was then whipped across the shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs and legs, the soldier standing behind and to one side of the victim. The whip used – the flagellum – was designed to make this a devastating punishment, bringing the victim close to death: several short heavy leather thongs, with two small balls of lead or iron attached near the end of each. Pieces of sheep's bone were often included. The heavy leather thongs produce first superficial cuts, then deeper damage to underlying tissues. Bleeding becomes severe when not only capillaries and veins are cut, but also arteries in the underlying muscles. He was certainly at the point of collapse when he was cut down from the flogging-post.

The mocking

Jesus was allowed no time to recover before facing his next ordeal. Made to stand, he was dressed in a robe by jeering soldiers, crowned with a twisted band of 5 inch thorny twigs, and to complete the parody, given a wooden staff as a king's scepter. "Next, they spat on Jesus and struck him on the head with the wooden staff." The long thorns were driven into the sensitive scalp tissue producing profuse bleeding, but even more terrible was the re-opening of the wounds on Jesus' back when the robe was torn off again.

The crucifixion

The wooden cross used by the Romans was too heavy to be carried by one man. Instead the victim to be crucified was made to bear the detached crossbar across his shoulders, carrying it outside the city walls to the place of execution. (The heavy upright portion of the cross was permanently in position here.) Jesus was unable to carry his load – a beam weighing around 75 to 125 pounds He collapsed under the burden, and an onlooker was ordered to take it for him.

Jesus refused to drink the wine and myrrh offered him before the nails were driven in. Thrown down on his back with arms outstretched along the crossbar, nails were driven through Jesus' wrists into the wood. These iron spikes, about 6 inches long and 3/8 inch thick, cut the large sensorimotor median nerve, causing excruciating pain in both arms. Carefully placed between bones and ligaments, they were able to bear the full weight of the crucified man.

In preparation for the nailing of the feet, Jesus was lifted up and the crossbar fixed to the upright post. Then with legs bent at the knee, a nail was driven through each ankle into the cross . Again there was severe nerve damage and the pain caused was intense. It is important to note, however, that neither the wounds to

the wrists or feet caused substantial bleeding, since no major arteries were ruptured. The executioner took care to ensure this, so that death would be slower and the suffering longer.

Now nailed to his cross, the real horror of crucifixion began. When the wrists were nailed to the crossbar, the elbows were intentionally left in a bent position so that the crucified man would hang with his arms above his head, the weight being taken on the nails in the wrists. Obviously this was unbearably painful, but it had another effect: It is very difficult to exhale in this position. In order to breathe out, and then take in fresh air, it was necessary to push the body up on the nailed feet. When the pain from the feet became unbearable, the victim would again slump down to hang by the arms.

This tortured activity became more and more difficult as Jesus' back was scraped against the upright post, as muscle cramps set in because of the inadequate respiration, and as exhaustion grew more severe. Jesus suffered in this manner for several hours before, with a final cry, he died.

Cause of death

Many factors contributed to Jesus' death. A combination of shock and suffocation killed most victims of crucifixion

The spear wound

Jesus was already dead as the executioners broke the legs of the criminals crucified alongside (in order to speed their deaths). Instead, we read that a soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear. Where on his side? The word chosen by John suggests the ribs, and if the soldier intended to make Jesus' death certain, a wound to the heart was the obvious choice. From the wound came a flow of "blood and water." This is consistent with the spear blow to the heart (especially from the right side, the traditional site of the wound). Rupturing the pericardium

(the sac surrounding the heart) released a flow of watery serum, followed by blood as the heart was pierced.

Conclusion

The detailed accounts given in the gospels combined with the historical evidence on crucifixion bring us to a firm conclusion: modern medical knowledge supports the claim of the scriptures that Jesus died on the cross. Luke was a physician, he wrote one of those gospel accounts.