



## Sermon Notes—Good Friday

*The Case for the Cross*

Rev. Danny Hyde, Pastor

John 19:18a

---

*“There they crucified him”*

### The Historical Evidence

#### *The Jewish Testimony*

“On the eve of Passover they hung Jeshu the Nazarine...for sorcery...and enticing Israel.”—Talmud

- See David Instone-Brewer, “Jesus of Nazareth’s Trial in the Uncensored Talmud.” *Tyndale Bulletin* 62.2 (November 2011): 269–294. Available online at [www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/Tyndale/staff/Instone-Brewer/prepub/07\\_Instone\\_Brewer.pdf](http://www.tyndale.cam.ac.uk/Tyndale/staff/Instone-Brewer/prepub/07_Instone_Brewer.pdf).

Justin Martyr’s *Dialog with Trypho the Jew*

- Available online at [www.ccel.org/fathers.html](http://www.ccel.org/fathers.html)

#### *The Roman Historians’ Testimony*

“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man; for he was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him. And the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.”—Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, 18.3.3

“Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus.”—Cornelius Tacitus, *Annals*, 15.44

#### *The Philosophers’ Testimony*

“What advantage did the Athenians gain from putting Socrates to death? Famine and plague came upon them as a judgment for their crime. What advantage did the men of Samos gain from burning Pythagoras? In a moment their land was covered with sand. What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise King? It was just after that their kingdom was abolished. God justly avenged these three wise men: the Athenians died of hunger; the Samians were overwhelmed by the sea; the Jews, ruined and driven from their land, live in complete dispersion. But Socrates did not die for good; he lived on in the teaching of Plato. Pythagoras did not die for good; he lived on in the statue of Hera. Nor did the wise King die for good; he lived on in the teaching he had given.”—Mara bar Serapion; cited in F. F. Bruce, *Jesus and Christian Origins Outside the New Testament* (1974; repr., Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982), 31.

Christians worshipped “the man who was crucified in Palestine” (§11) and Christianity was guilty of “denying the Greek gods and [...] worshipping that crucified sophist himself” (§13).—Lucian of Samosata *The Passing of Peregrinus*

- [www.tertullian.org/rpearse/lucian/peregrinus.htm](http://www.tertullian.org/rpearse/lucian/peregrinus.htm)

## The Spiritual Significance

### *What Happened Jesus was in Fulfillment of Ancient Prophecies*

- He was beaten and flogged:  
**...his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind...he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him (52:14; 53:2).**
- Judas betrayed him, his own countrymen delivered him, and his closest friends denied him:  
**He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not (53:3).**
- We read of the Roman method of execution:  
**But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed (53:5).**
- We read of his trial before Pilate and his silence as he prepared to die:  
**He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth (53:7).**
- We read of his being taken down from the cross and buried by Joseph of Arimathea:  
**And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth (53:9).**

### *Jesus' Punishment Was Not for His Sins, but for the Sins of Others*

**Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. (53:4)**

**But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (53:5)**

**...and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (53:6)**

**...who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? (53:8)**

**...by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. (53:11)**

**...he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (53:12)**

### *Jesus Died to Take Away God's Justice from Us and to Bring God's Grace to Us*