

Was Jesus Murdered Or Sacrificed?

I. Introduction:

- A. It was prophesied that one would be like a lamb to the slaughter, an offering for sin, and numbered with the transgressors (**Isaiah 53:7-12**).
 - 1. John the Baptizer called Jesus *"the Lamb of God"* (**John 1:29; 1:35-36**).
 - 2. Peter wrote concerning Jesus' death being as a lamb without spot and blemish (**I Peter 1:18-19**).
- B. Yet, the accusation was made that the Jews killed Jesus (**Acts 3:13-15**).
 - 1. This was not denied by the Jews, they wanted his blood upon them and their children (**Matthew 27:15-26**).
 - 2. They were called the betrayers and murderers of Christ (**Acts 7:52**).

II. Body: The Answer - Both (**Acts 2:22-36** and **Hebrews 10:1-22**).

- A. The Jews did murder Jesus (**Acts 5:27-30** and **Acts 10:39**).
 - 1. Jesus was slain at the will of the those in Jerusalem (**Acts 13:26-31**).
 - 2. The fact is, they were unaware of their participation in the prophesied sacrifice of our Savior. They did not realize they were fulfilling God's will, they just thought they were killing Jesus (**Acts 3:17-26**).
 - a. They were ignorant of what they were doing (**Luke 23:34**).
 - b. If all things were understood, Jesus wouldn't have been murdered in the fashion He was (**I Corinthians 2:7-8**).
 - c. That makes Caiaphas' prophesy interesting (**John 11:45-53**).
- B. Jesus was also sacrificed (**I Corinthians 5:7** and **Hebrews 7:19-28**).
 - 1. While He was murdered, He chose that to be the method by which He was sacrificed (**John 10:1-18**).
 - 2. Jesus could have prevented His being murdered (**Matthew 26:53-56**).
 - 3. He avoided being taken before the right time (**Luke 4:29-30**, **John 7:1-10**, **John 7:30**, and **John 11:53-54**).
 - 4. Yet, He humbled Himself in obedience to His Father's will to be sacrificed (**Philippians 2:6-8** and **Hebrews 2:8-9**; cf. **Romans 8:32**).
 - 5. Plainly and clearly, Jesus sacrificed Himself (**Hebrews 9:11-26**).
- C. There are other terms that relate to the death of Christ. Consider a few...
 - 1. The ransom [a redemption price] (**I Timothy 2:5-6**).
 - 2. The atonement [restoration; reconciliation] (**Romans 5:11**).
 - 3. The propitiation [atonement] (**I John 4:10**).
 - 4. An offering (**Ephesians 5:2**).
 - 5. Reconciliation to God (**Colossians 1:20-21** and **Hebrews 2:17**).

III. Conclusion: Be thankful that through the blood of Christ we have the forgiveness of sins (**Colossians 1:12-14**).