

What if Jesus Had Not Died on the Cross? (Conclusion)

Last week we asked the above question and gave six reasons why it did not happen because Jesus died on the cross. The Gospel of Christ would not exist, no baptism for the remission of sin, the blood of Christ to wash away our sins would not be available, no necessity for the Lord's death with the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week, Jesus' church would not exist, and Jesus would be a liar or mistaken about His mission here on earth. We now want to look at six more things we can say would not happen if Jesus did not die on the cross.

The Holy Spirit would not be given to the Apostles. "When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1-4) This is the first time we read of the Apostles having the Holy Spirit. Before Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit was in the future tense. "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4-5) Obviously they had not received the Holy Spirit until Acts 2. We can also affirm; Jesus said the Holy Spirit would not come before His ascension into heaven. "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." (John 16:7) Therefore the order of events would be the death of Jesus, His burial, His resurrection, His ascension into heaven, the disciples going to

Jerusalem, and then on the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit coming upon the 12 Apostles. It was at that time they would receive “all truth’ and speak by inspiration. “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” (John 16:13)

The Law of Moses would still be in effect if Jesus did not die on the cross. It was only by His death that the law was removed. “And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” (Colossians 2:13-14) “Handwriting of requirements” is refers to the Law given to Moses on Mount Sinai. On the day of Jesus’ death, the veil of the temple was torn into, from top to bottom, see Matthew 27.51. Jesus spoke of the “Law and Prophets” being fulfilled, Matthew 5.17. By fulfilled, Jesus is referring to the perfect observance of the Law and its fulfillment in man’s redemption. Paul said the Law was a tutor or school master to bring us to Christ. It laid the foundation of our salvation in Jesus. Without His death on the cross the Levitical Priesthood, animal sacrifices, dietary requirements, Sabbath Day observance, and more would still be in effect.

We, Gentiles, would be excluded from a Covenant relationship with God. Jews had three great Covenants; the first God made with Abraham. The Law of Moses was never intended for all mankind but only for the lineage of Abraham. “Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought

near by the blood of Christ.” (Ephesians 2:11-13) Those afar off refers to us Gentiles. They were excluded from the commonwealth of Israel and without hope. It is through the death of Jesus that the Law of Moses is taken away so both Jews and Gentiles can be reconciled into one body, the body of Christ.

Without the death of Jesus on the cross, many Old Testament prophecies could not be fulfilled. The list is literally too long for this article but we can go over a few of them. His manner of death in Psalm 22, was only fulfilled when He was nailed to the cross and the soldiers divided His garments and cast lots for His outer garment. The establishment of a New Covenant as promised in Jeremiah 31:31-32 would not be fulfilled, see Hebrews 10:16-19. Daniel 2:44 prophecies of the Kingdom of God being established during the Roman Empire would not be complete.

God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. God promised a land, a great nation, and through His seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed. Canaan was the land of promise. A great nation was fulfilled when Israel came out of Egypt. But the last promise of blessings to all nations was Jesus dying for all mankind.

If Jesus did not die on the cross, Satan was not defeated. Genesis 3:14-15 God spoke of the “seed of woman” who would crush or bruise the head of Satan. It happened when Jesus died and arose from the grave. The power of Satan is death but Jesus overcame the grave and death. “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” (Hebrews 2:14)

Mankind is richly blessed by Jesus’ death. – Dennis Tucker