

***Bishop Dwayne C. Debnam, Pastor***

***Bible Study***

**April 2, 2025**

**Topic: Did Jesus Really Have to Die?**

**Matthew 16:21-25 (AMP)**

21 From that time on Jesus began to show His disciples [clearly] that He must go to Jerusalem and endure many things at the hands of the elders and the chief priests and scribes (Sanhedrin, Jewish High Court), and be killed, and be raised [from death to life] on the third day. 22 Peter took Him aside [to speak to Him privately] and began to reprimand Him, saying, “May God forbid it! This will never happen to You.” 23 But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on things of God, but on things of man.”

**Did Jesus Have to Die?**

The question at the heart of Christian theology is whether Jesus' death was necessary for God's will to be fulfilled. If God is sovereign and omnipotent, could He not have chosen another way to redeem the world?

**Isaiah 53:2-5**

- Jesus' suffering was foretold in prophecy.

- He was despised, rejected, and bore our griefs.

- He was pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities.

- His wounds bring us peace and healing.

**Why Was Jesus' Death Necessary?**

The answer is a resounding YES!

- **Redemption**: Jesus' death was the price for setting humanity free from the bondage of sin.

- **Endurance**: Jesus demonstrated how to endure hardship, especially when it benefits others.

- **Purpose**: Jesus embraced His divine purpose, teaching that fulfilling God’s plan often requires sacrifice.

- **Sacrifice**: True discipleship involves self-denial and taking up one's cross (Matthew 16:24).

**The Power of the Blood**

- Without Jesus' death, there is no atonement for sin.

- In the Old Testament, atonement required animal sacrifices (Leviticus 16, 17:11).

- Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice, fulfilling prophecy and providing a final atonement (Hebrews 10:10-14).

**Conclusion:** Jesus had to die to fulfill God’s plan of salvation. His death brought redemption, healing, and reconciliation between God and humanity. Through His sacrifice, believers are empowered to stay on course and live according to God's purpose.

**Scripture References:**

- Matthew 16:21-25

- Isaiah 53:2-5

- Leviticus 16; 17:11

- Hebrews 10:10-14