

Death on the Cross

Ten Arguments From the Bible

Hadhrat Maulana Abulata Jallandhari



About the Author

Hazrat Maulana Abulata Jallandhari, the author of this booklet, was born on 14th April, 1904 at Kariha, District Jallundhar in the Indian State of Punjab. In fulfilment of the wishes of his father, he studied in the theological college of Qadian and dedicated his life for the cause of Islam.

He started working as a regular missionary in 1927 and was posted in Palestine from 1931 to 1936 where he started publishing a magazine "Al-Bushra" in Arabic, which continues to be published up to this day. He also founded the Urdu magazine "Al-Furqan" and was its editor for 26 years till his death.

In his lifetime he successfully debated on behalf of Islam and Ahmadiyyat with scholars of various religions. He also served as Principal of Theological Colleges at Qadian and Rabwah, as secretary in various administrative departments and in important organisational posts of Ahmadiyya Community. In recognition of such outstanding contributions to Ahmadiyyat, he was conferred the title of "Khalid-e-Ahmadiyyat" by Hazrat Musleh Maoud during Jalsa Salana at Rabwah in 1956.

He was a distinguished member of the team that accompanied Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III to the National Assembly of Pakistan in 1974.

His glorious life and activities came to an end on 30th May 1977. He was buried in Bahisthi Maqbara, Rabwah.



Hadhrat Maulana Abulata Jallandhari
1904-1977

Death on the Cross

This is a short presentation based on references from Bible

These references shed light on the circumstances surrounding the event of crucifixion

The arguments are taken directly from Bible to indicate that Jesus (may peace be upon him) did not die on the cross

I - Jonah's Sign





I - Jonah's Sign

Now what is the resemblance between the two signs of Jonah and Jesus?

And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation

Luke 11: 29, 30

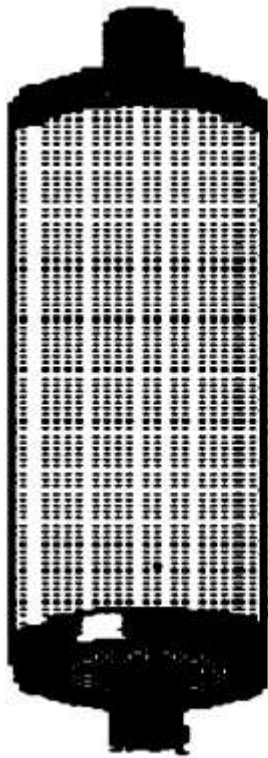
It is nothing but going **alive** into the belly of the fish and the heart of the earth (tomb) and coming out **alive**



I - Jonah's Sign

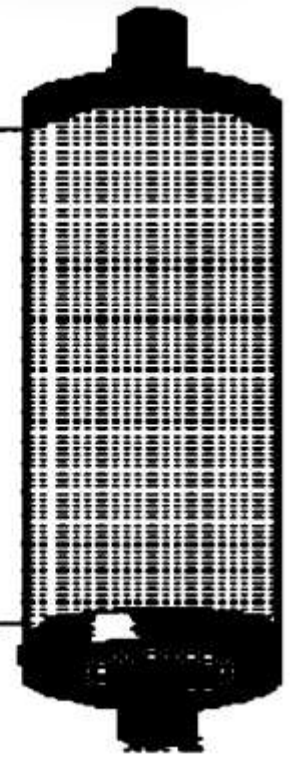


- Jesus promised to show only one sign to the generation



But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth

Matthew 12: 39, 40



Jesus's reference to the sign of Jonah simply means that he would not die on the cross



I - Jonah's Sign



Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights

Jonah 1:17

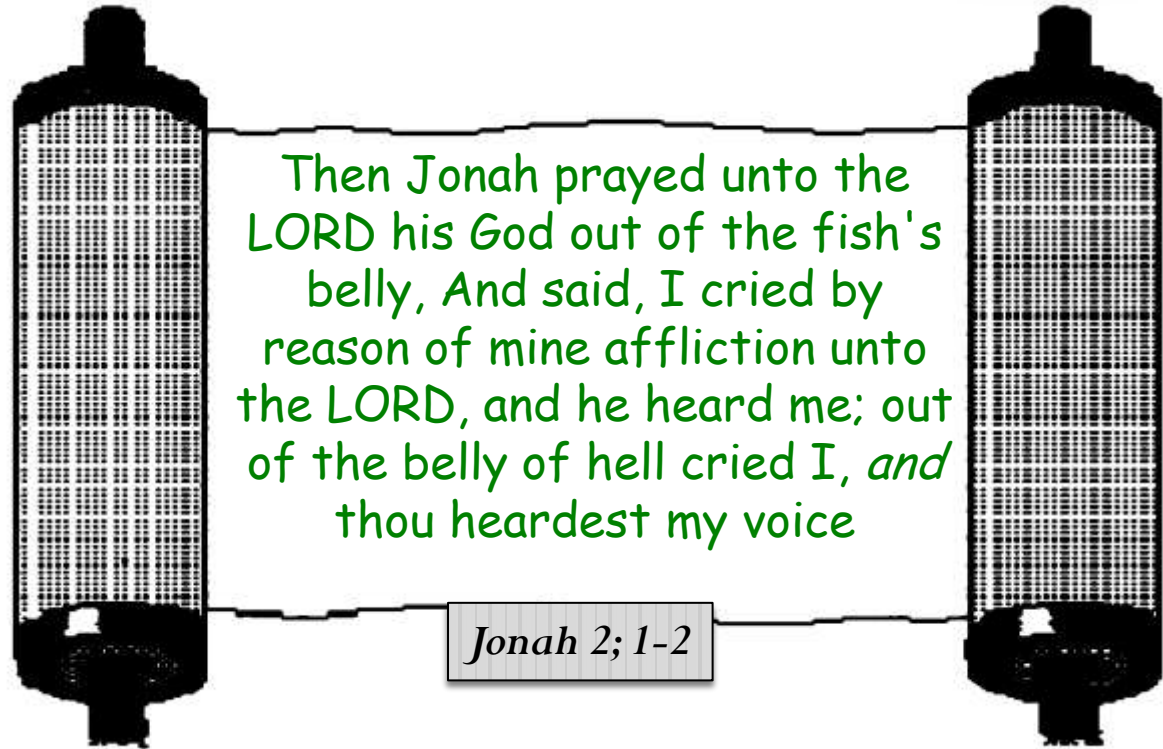
Jonah prayed to God for deliverance while in the belly of the fish. The Lord heard his prayer and Jonah came out alive



I - Jonah's Sign



Both Jonah and Jesus cried by reason of their respective afflictions and prayed to their Lord for deliverance. The prayers of both were heard



Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice

Jonah 2; 1-2



I - Jonah's Sign



Two Questions

If Jesus did not enter the heart of the earth (sepulchre) alive, and come out alive, where is the resemblance of the two signs?

Jesus promised to show only one sign to the generation of his time, but even if that sign was not proven to be true, is there anything to prove his truthfulness?

I - Jonah's Sign



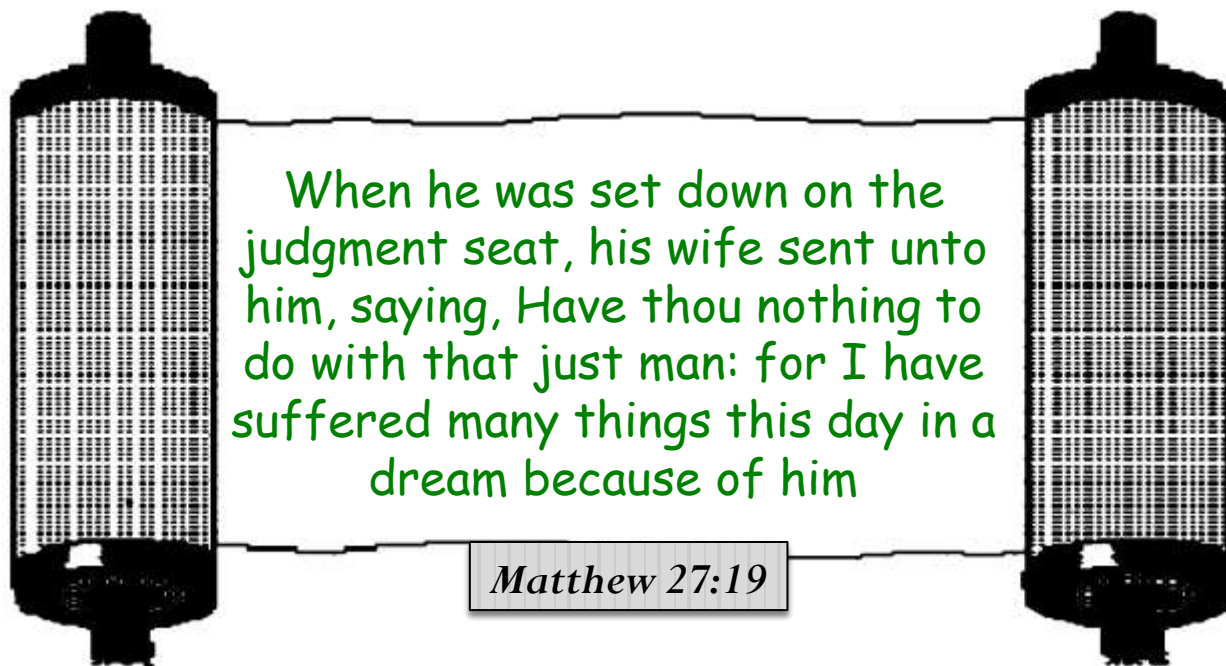
Jesus's reference to the sign of Jonah simply means that he would not die on the cross

II - Pilate's Wife Sees a Dream



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The lady's dream was true and opportune. It implies that Christ was to be saved from a cursed death on the Cross

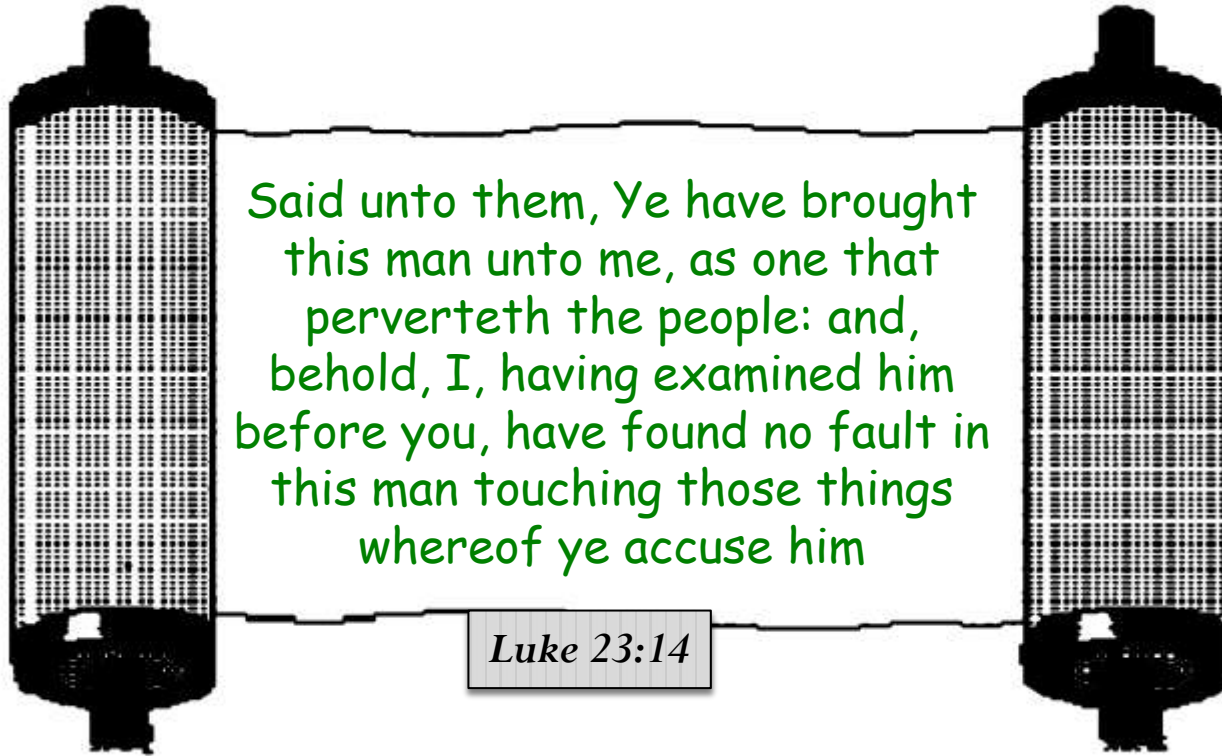


God wanted to protect Jesus against his enemies, hence the dream of the Roman governor's wife which influenced his judgement

III - The Roman Governor's Sympathetic Attitude

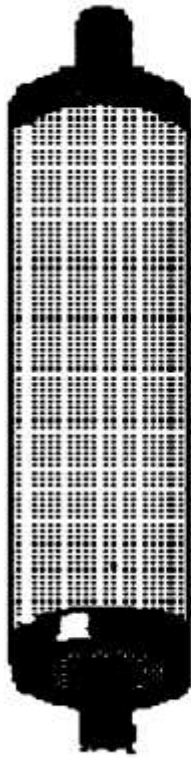


III - The Roman Governor's Sympathetic Attitude



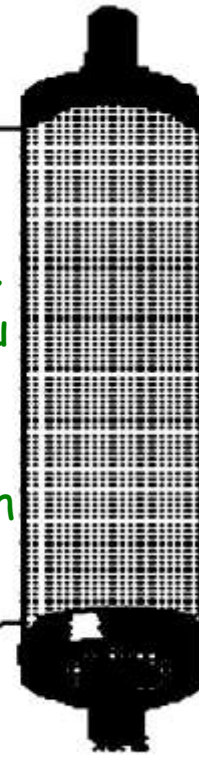
From the reference given above, it is evident that the Governor regards Jesus as innocent of all the charges brought against him by the Jews

III - The Roman Governor's Sympathetic Attitude



And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

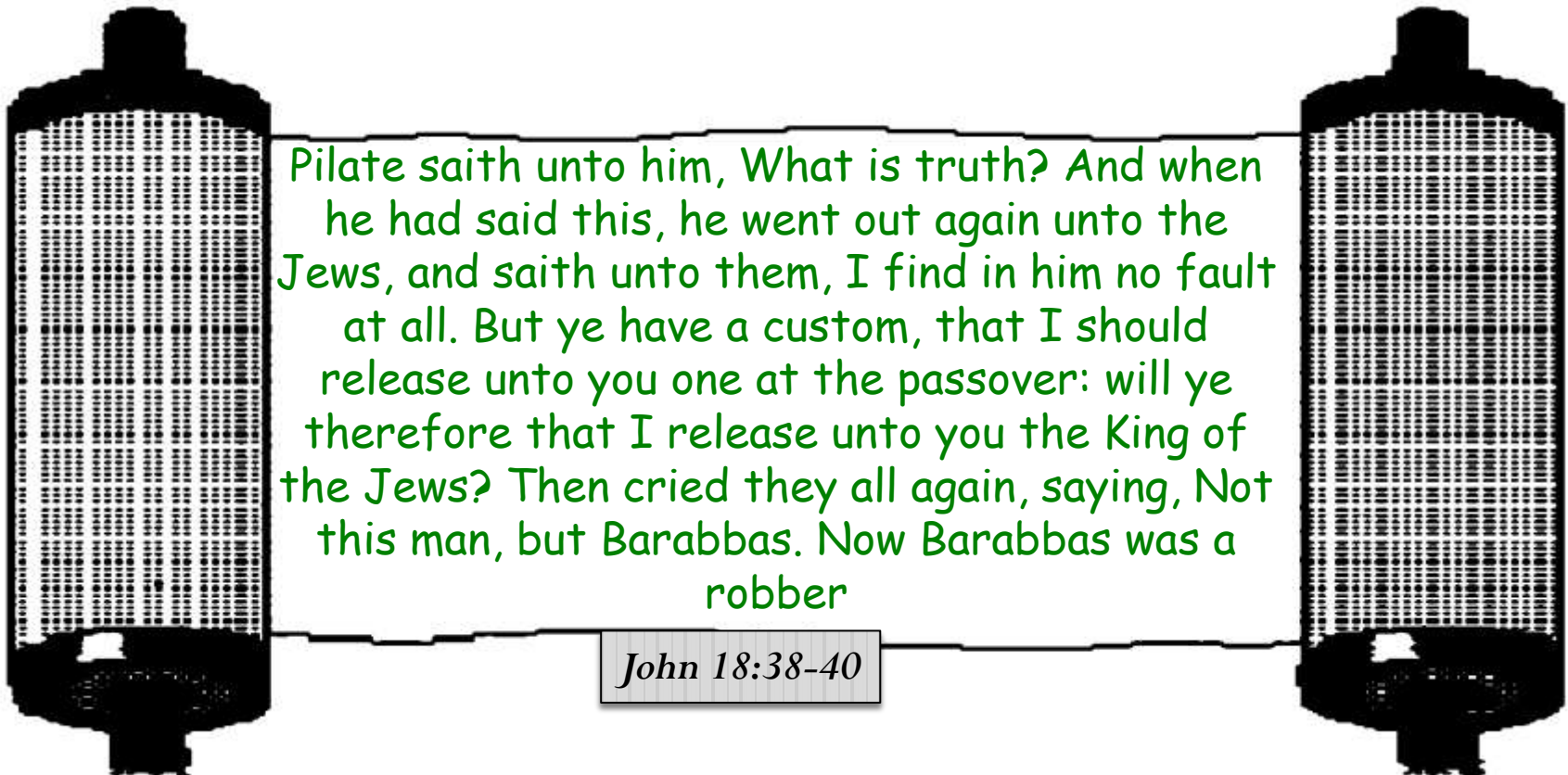
John 19:12



Pilate tried his utmost to release Jesus but when the Jews threatened to report him to Caesar he yielded and handed Jesus over to them

III - The Roman Governor's Sympathetic Attitude

However, secretly Pilate took measures to see that Jesus would be saved



Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber

John 18:38-40

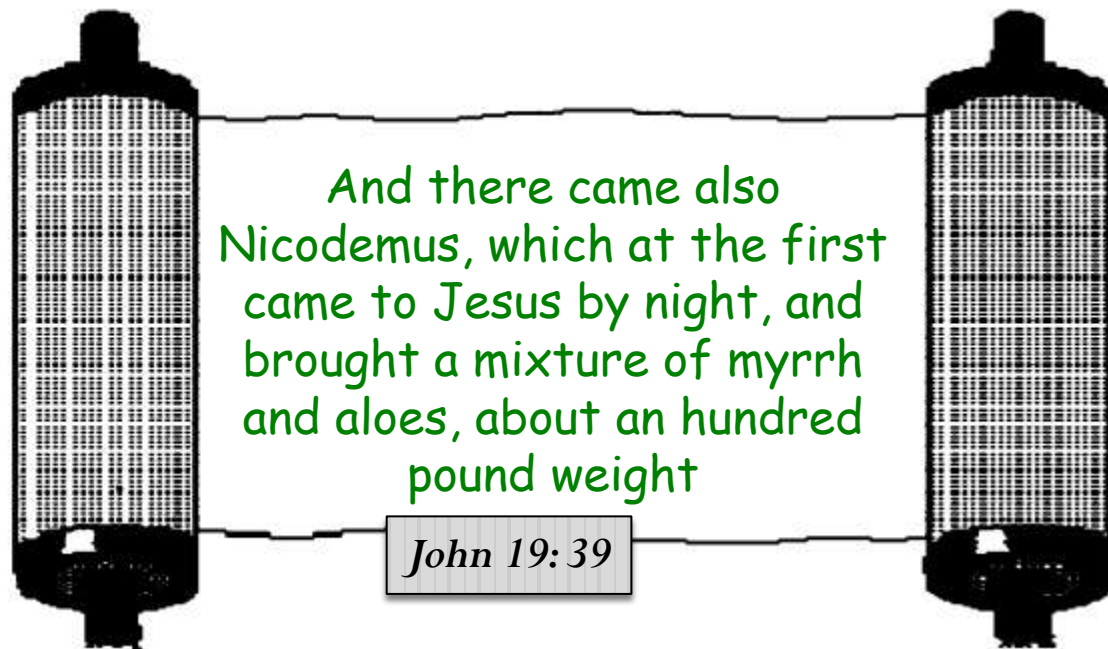
IV - Pilate's Scheme to Save Christ



IV - Pilate's Scheme to Save Christ

Pilate, the Governor, convinced of the innocence of Jesus Christ, wished to save Jesus's life

As a responsible official of the Roman Empire he could not openly help Jesus, but masterminded a scheme to save Jesus from death on the cross



And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight

John 19: 39

He was helped by Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable councillor and disciple of Jesus Christ who had already had a sepulchre hewn out in a rock garden nearby. A learned Jew named Nicodemus also appeared to be involved in the plan

IV - Pilate's Scheme to Save Christ



It was clever of Pilate to choose Friday afternoon as the time for Jesus's crucifixion



So that Jesus could not remain on the cross after sunset, as the following day being Sabbath



Pilate selected Joseph and Nicodemus as the most trusted friends to help with his plans



After a short period on the cross Jesus was handed over to Joseph, bones not broken



Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to help Jesus regain consciousness



Jesus was shown to have died in official records to pacify the Jews and the Imperial government in Rome



IV - Pilate's Scheme to Save Christ



So that his prophecy might come true that as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth



V - Duration of Crucifixion



V - Duration of Crucifixion



And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Mark 15:33, 34

The actual duration of time that Jesus remained on the cross was not more than three to four hours

V - Duration of Crucifixion



The period of time for which Jesus remained on the Cross was not long enough to cause his death on the Cross

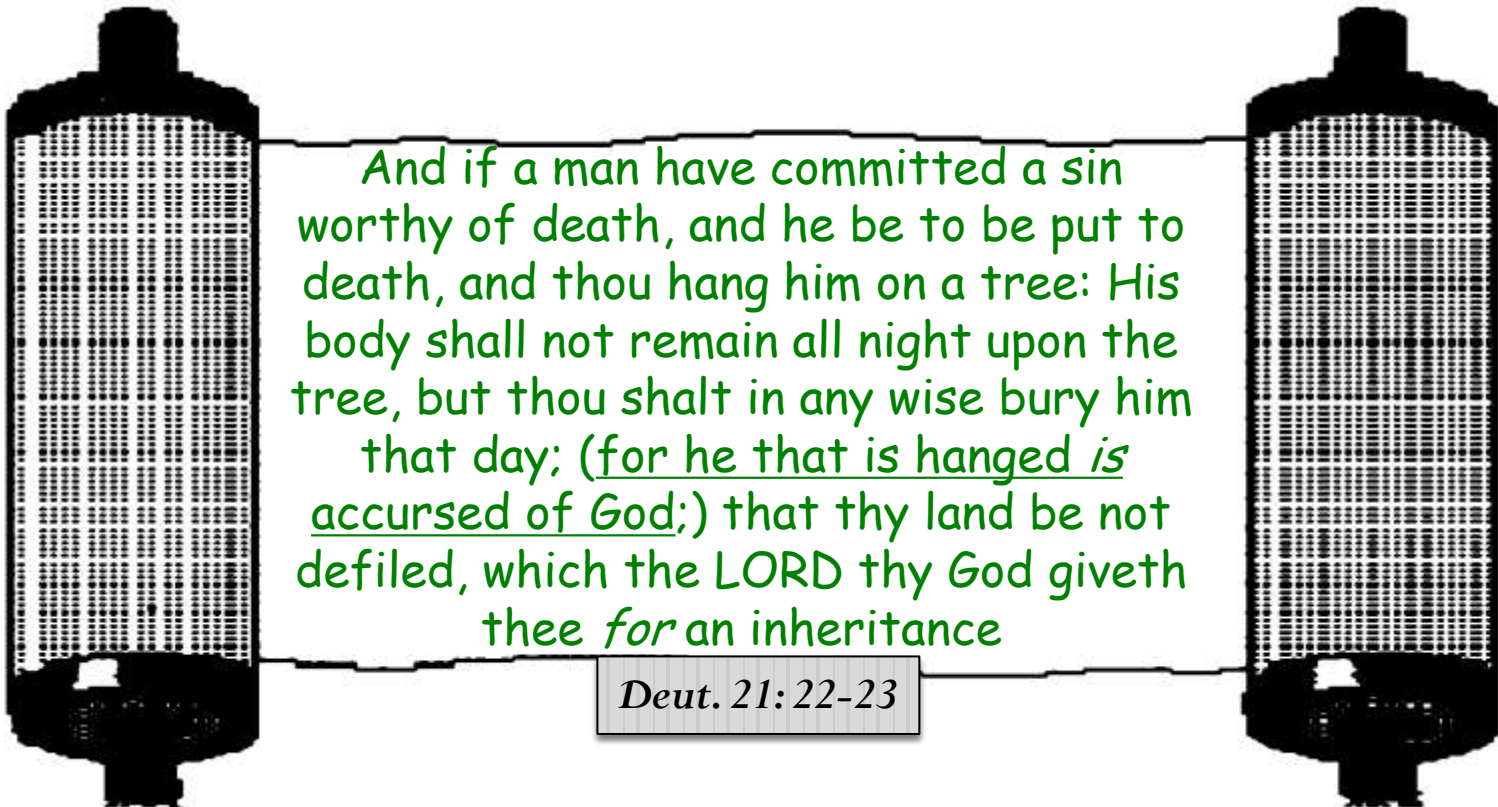
- Criminals generally took several days to die a lingering death on the cross, the minimum time of death on the cross ranged between 24 and 28 hours, sometimes it became necessary to break the legs of the criminals so that death may be hastened



The New Testament tells us that Jesus remained on the cross for a few hours only

- Jesus Christ who was in the prime of his youth (33 years) and enjoyed excellent health, could not be expected to have died within so short a time.
- Especially as his legs were not broken as was done in the case of the two robbers crucified with him on the same day

V - Duration of Crucifixion



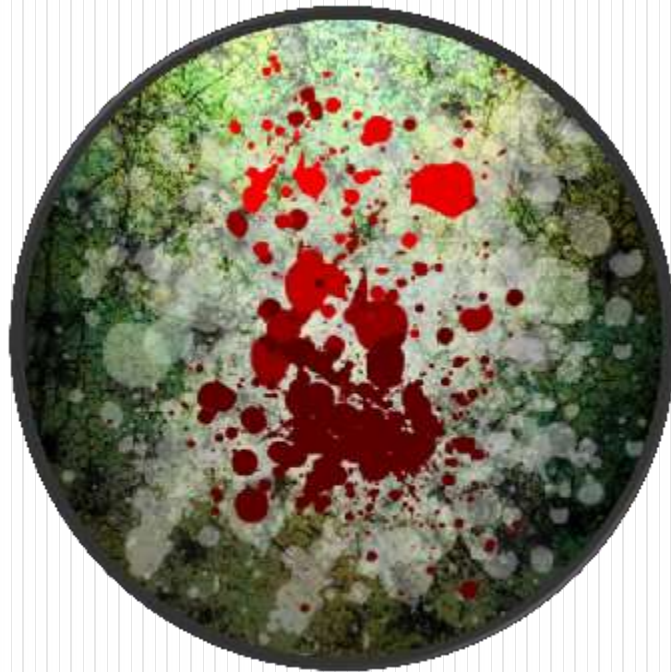
And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee *for an inheritance*

Deut. 21:22-23



Surely Jesus would not be expected to die an accursed death as a true messenger of God!

VI - Coming Out of Blood and Water

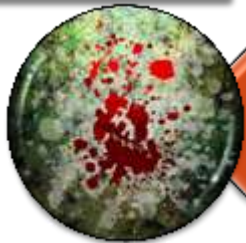


VI - Coming Out of Blood and Water

The soldiers did not break the legs of Jesus for they took him for a dead man while actually he was in a state of coma, he was declared be a 'dead' man

Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water

John 19: 32-34



But one of the soldiers "pierced his side and forthwith there came out blood and water", which is a sign of life

There is much food for thought here for those who care to ponder over it

VII - No Eye-Witness of Crucifixion



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Three writers of the Gospels state that there was darkness over all the land from the sixth to the ninth hour and that there was an earthquake and a storm

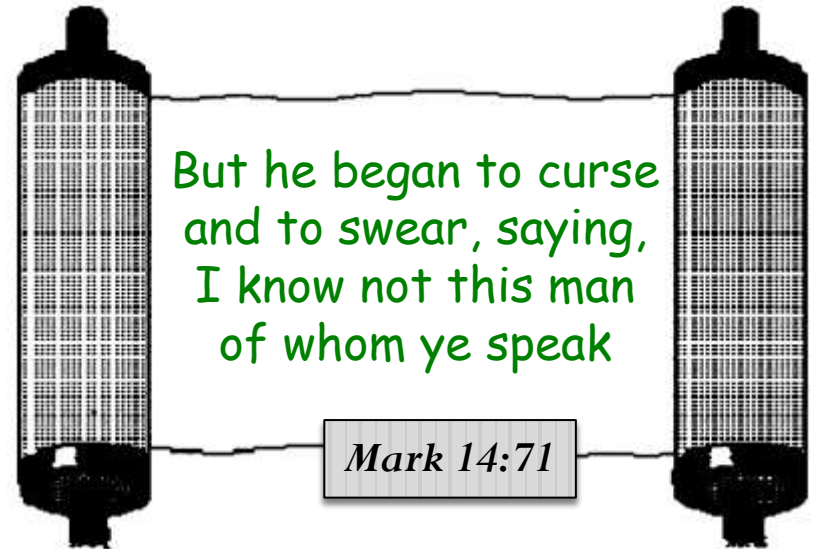


The Jews, if, at all, there were any on the spot, must have run away at the sight of the rising storm and the shaking of the earth must have frightened them to turn on their heels and hasten to their homes



As to the disciples they had already fled from the scene of the crucifixion

VII - No Eye-Witness of Crucifixion



To be brief, there was no one present on the scene who could definitively say that he saw Jesus 'giving up the ghost'.

VIII - Jesus's Mission to the Lost Sheep of Israel



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Jesus's mission was to preach to all the twelve tribes of Israel. At that time, only two of these tribes were in Palestine while the other ten were found scattered in and around India

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost

Luke 19:10

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd

John 10:16

Jesus cannot be said to have been successful in his mission if he did not address and preach to the ten lost sheep of Israel

VIII - Jesus's Mission to the Lost Sheep of Israel

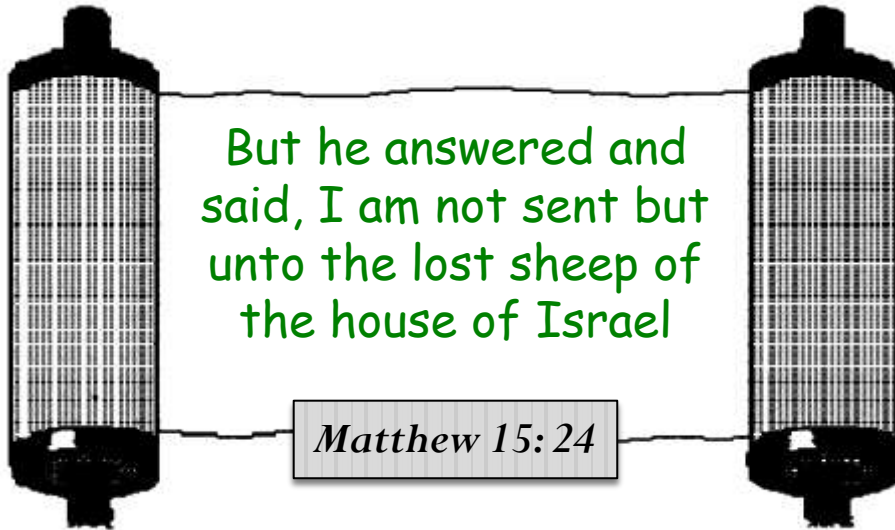


And he said unto them,
I must preach the
kingdom of God to
other cities also: for
therefore am I sent

Luke 4:43

The truth of the matter is that Jesus Christ, after his escape from the cross, did migrate to the East in search of the lost sheep

VIII - Jesus's Mission to the Lost Sheep of Israel

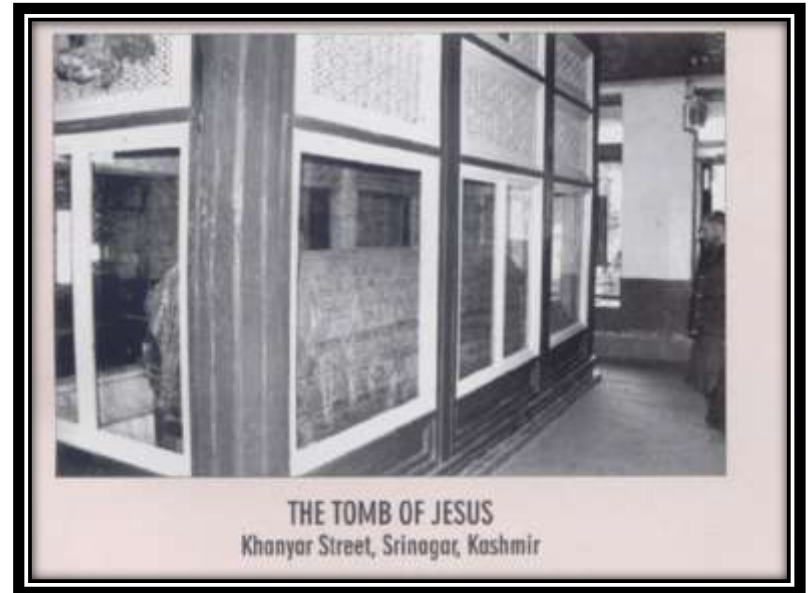


But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel

Matthew 15:24

Jesus found his lost sheep in Persia, Afghanistan and Kashmir, he preached to them thus completing his mission

Jesus died a natural death and was buried in Srinagar, Kashmir



THE TOMB OF JESUS
Khanyar Street, Srinagar, Kashmir

IX - Jesus's Victory Over His Enemies



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Now what does
Jesus's victory
consist of ?

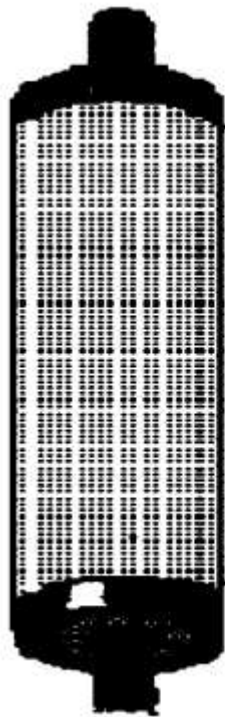
Is it death on
the cross or
escape and
completion of
his ministry ?

Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now
come, that ye shall be scattered,
every man to his own, and shall leave
me alone: and yet I am not alone,
because the Father is with me.
These things I have spoken unto
you, that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have
tribulation: but be of good cheer; I
have overcome the world

John 16:32,33

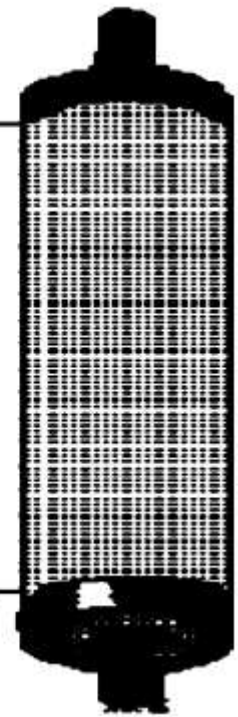
IX - Jesus's Victory Over His Enemies

If he died on the cross then the Jews were successful because their very aim was to prove that Jesus was false in calling himself the Messiah. They had in their support the Biblical statement



His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Deut. 21:23



IX - Jesus's Victory Over His Enemies



We believe that Jesus was taken down from the cross alive (in a state of coma of course), he entered the tomb alive; thus defeating his enemy's evil plans. Jesus says :

For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation

Luke 11:30



IX - Jesus's Victory Over His Enemies

In other words Jesus said to the Jews that God Almighty would save him from the clutches of death in the same way as Jonah has been saved from the belly of the whale



The similarity between the two events only occurs if Jesus was **alive** when he entered the tomb and comes out **alive**

X - His Prayer Was Heard



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From the study of the Bible we learn that God listens to the prayers of his apostles and saves them from trials and tribulations. Says the New Testament:

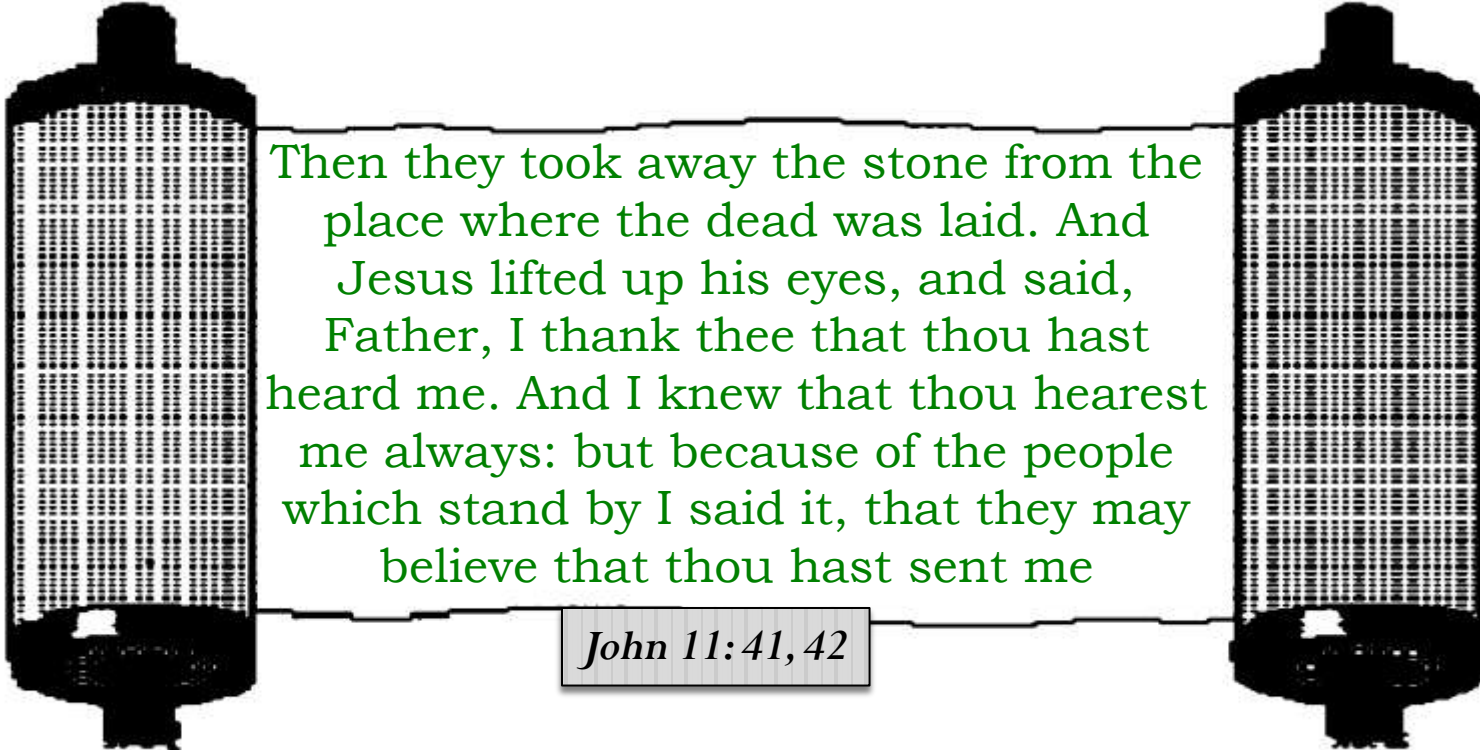
Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit

James 5: 16-18

X - His Prayer Was Heard



Being a righteous prophet he was not afraid of mere death: he was certainly afraid of dying on the cross as such a death could be interpreted to mean a cursed death which was the very negation of his prophetic mission.



Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me

John 11:41,42

X - His Prayer Was Heard



From the quotations given here it is clear that Jesus was terribly afraid of being put to the cross, so he fervently prayed that the bitter cup be taken away from him

And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt

Mark 14:36



Jesus passionately and fervently prayed to God that he might be saved the accursed death on the Cross

X - His Prayer Was Heard



Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared

Hebrews 5:7

In case he died on the Cross, the mission of his whole life would come to naught and wrongdoers could challenge his claim to prophethood

X - His Prayer Was Heard



The earnest prayer of Jesus was heard



He escaped death by crucifixion



He escaped the tomb alive



He travelled East



Where he preached to the lost sheep of the Israelites



He was accepted by his people and honoured

Conclusion



**The idea that Jesus Christ died as a result of
crucifixion cannot be justified from the
Biblical point of view**