

The Forgiveness of God, Part 3

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In this study we have noted that Jesus prayed, “Suffer these people to crucify me, and don’t interfere, or prohibit this or stop this from happening for what they are doing they do so in ignorance.” We will see that their ignorance is willful or the choice of their own will.

Tragedy occurs when we have knowledge that is factual revealed to us and then we refuse to believe it or to make the necessary changes in our lives. For example, we know that electricity kills when it is abused, yet people do careless things that have caused immediate death to themselves or others. In probing their ignorance we must ask honestly, but of what were they ignorant? Biblically we see that they were not ignorant of who Jesus was while living in their midst. They knew He was the Son of God, not only because He Himself declared it vocally (Jn. 8:58; 10:30), but He showed it also by the miracles that He was doing.

John 5:18-19, “Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.” NKJV

These people had the Old Testament Scriptures which prophesized that God was sending His one and only Son into the world. Peter mentions this fact in his first epistle.

1 Peter 1:10-12, “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things which angels desire to look into.” NKJV

God’s Scripture declared He would be born in Bethlehem of Judea (Micah 5:2). The Scriptures were filled with hundreds of proclamations of the prophets of old as to the details of Christ being born into this world as God and taking on the veil of human flesh in order to be the one and only savior who could pay the price in full for all our sin as well as the sin of Adam. These people were absolutely without excuse in not recognizing Jesus as the fulfillment of all those Scriptures.

In the records in the New Testament, on occasion, Jesus challenged them to charge Him of any sin they could find in Him. They did not because they could not. Also the Old Testament prophets spelled out with dogmatism and clarity that when Jesus would be in the midst of people He would fulfill with His miracles the things that only the Son of God could do. They saw Him miraculously feed the 5,000 men besides the woman and children on one occasion and again feeding the 4,000 in a similar way. He made the blind to see, the deaf to hear, He touched a leper (something no one would ever do for fear of catching that dreaded disease). He healed incurable diseases and he raised dead people to life again.

Jesus Christ is the only one who in all time declares, “I am the resurrection and the life, and he that believeth in Me shall never die, but shall live again.” He cast out demons who confessed who He was. He walked on water and stilled violent storms with the words of His mouth. And at the time of His death, no person really took His

life away from Him. He had promised in John's gospel that no one would take His life from Him, but that he had the power to lay His life down and the power to take it up again which He did (Jn. 10:18). Only of the Lord Jesus can it be said that death did not claim Him, but rather, He laid claim on death when He declared, "it is finished". Then with a loud voice of victory He cried aloud, "Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit" and when He said this He gave up the ghost, His physical life (Lk. 23:46). In John 14:6, He declared, "I am the way, the truth and the Life, NO MAN COMETH UNTO THE FATHER BUT BY ME." The Roman court through Pilate declared that he found no fault in Jesus worthy of death, but out of fear of the Jews' power to have him replaced by appealing to Caesar, Pilate ordered Jesus' death. Then Pilate stood and had the following words in Greek, Latin and Hebrew, placed on His cross, "Jesus, THE KING OF THE JEWS." Dear friend, I do hope that with all of the evidence that Scripture and history has provided that you do not act in willful ignorance of Jesus, by personally rejecting Him as your own savior, Lord and God.