



# Calvary of Albuquerque

## The Cross on the Billboard of Eternity - John 19:23-24

From the series: Believe:879

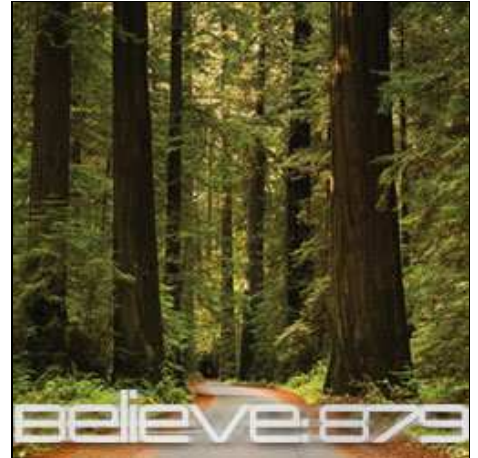
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### MESSAGE SUMMARY

Did you know that the cross of Christ was *always* God's plan from the very beginning? It wasn't a reaction to mankind's rejection of His Son, nor was it an accommodation to a Roman and Jewish miscarriage of justice. It was according to "the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God" (Acts 2:23). Today we will take a journey back and connect the dots of God's unfolding plan of the cross throughout the ages.

### OUTLINE

- I. Jesus Predicted the Cross
- II. Jesus' Forerunner Predicted the Cross
- III. Visitors at His Birth Predicted the Cross
- IV. The Prophets Predicted the Cross
- V. The Godhead Predicted the Cross



### Try This:

1. In light of the plan of the cross throughout the ages, now carefully read Ephesians 1:4. Use this as a springboard to thank God for His love for you that long preceded your very existence.
2. This week rethink the definition of "the gospel." Use 1 Corinthians 15:1-10 as your seedbed for meditation. Ask God to help you to not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ because of its power to save (see Romans 1:16).

### DETAILED NOTES

- I. Introduction
  - A. God's billboard: the cross
    1. Throughout time
    2. On the lips of prophets and preachers
    3. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
  - B. The cross was not an unexpected event
    1. God anticipated it throughout history
    2. Psalm 22
    3. "No other religion has at its heart the humiliation of its God."—Unknown
      - a. No other religion has anticipated the humiliation of its God
      - b. No other religion has made that humiliation its focal point
  - C. Soldiers divided Jesus' garments
    1. Roman custom and law
    2. Before the crucifixion, the prisoner was stripped naked
    3. Garments became the property of the soldiers
    4. Four soldiers: *quaternion*
    5. Five pieces of clothing
      - a. Outer robe

- b. Tunic
  - c. Belt
  - d. Sandals
  - e. Turban
6. Each soldier got 1 piece, cast lots for the tunic
  7. Soldiers were hardened men
    - a. Fought wars
    - b. Quelled riots
    - c. Killed many
    - d. Crucify and gamble for victim's clothing at the foot of the cross
- D. Human hatred, human revulsion, divine anticipation
1. When David wrote Psalm 22, crucifixion had not been invented
  2. Vivid details
    - a. Exhaustion
    - b. Physical torment
    - c. Unusual position of the body
    - d. Raging thirst
    - e. Nails through hands and feet
  3. Only known in the mind of God, revealed to David

## II. Jesus Predicted the Cross

- A. Lived knowing exactly when and how He would die
- B. Jesus predicted His death in the gospels
  1. Matthew: six times
  2. Mark: three times
  3. Luke
  4. John
  5. "When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven....From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, 'Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!' But He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men'" (Matthew 16:13-23).
  6. "Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, 'The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up.' And they were exceedingly sorrowful" (Matthew 17:22).
- C. His hour
  1. "Therefore they sought to take Him; but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come" (John 7:30).
  2. "Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded" (John 13:1-5).
  3. "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You," (John 17:1).
  4. "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour?' But for this purpose I came to this hour" (John 12:27).
- D. Jesus regarded any suggestion to move Him away from the focus of the cross as satanic
- E. Jesus had heard the suggestion before: wilderness temptation
  1. Shown the kingdoms of the world in their glory
  2. "And he said to Him, 'All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me'" (Matthew 4:9).
  3. Tempted to not go the way of the cross
    - a. Not suffer
    - b. Not shed blood
  4. "Away with you, Satan!" (Matthew 4:10).
  5. Even the devil knew how important the cross was

## III. Jesus' Forerunner (John the Baptizer) Predicted the Cross



F. The reason for Jesus' birth was His death

V. The Prophets Predicted the Cross

A. About 330 prophecies regarding the Messiah

1. Birth
2. Tribe
3. Home
4. What He would do
5. Details of His death

B. Jewish daily prayer: "I believe in the coming of the Messiah, and though He may tarry, still I await Him every day."

1. A conquering Messiah
2. Not a suffering Savior

C. "But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, 'What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad? Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, 'Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?' And He said to them, 'What things?' So they said to Him, 'The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.' Then He said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ' Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself" (Luke 24:16-27).

1. Abraham and Isaac (See Genesis 22)
2. Moses lifted up the Serpent in the wilderness (see Numbers 21 and John 3:14)
3. Isaiah 52-53: the suffering Servant
4. Psalm 22
  - a. Opens and closes with words of Jesus on the cross
  - b. Soldiers gambling for His clothing; anticipated by God

VI. The Godhead Predicted the Cross

A. Revelation 13

1. About the antichrist who will come and be worshipped
2. From before creation: "It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:7-8).
3. Before Jesus left heaven, the triune Godhead agreed on the cross

B. "But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world," (1 Peter 1:19-20).

C. C. H. Spurgeon summed up the Christian faith in four words: "He died for me!"

D. "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love," (Ephesians 1:4)

**Publications referenced:** *Pilgrim's Progress*, by John Bunyan; *The Passion of the Christ* (2004) Mel Gibson

**Cross References:** Genesis 22; Numbers 21; Psalm 22; Isaiah 52-53; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 1:21; Matthew 3:7-15; Matthew 3:16; Matthew 4:9; Matthew 4:10; Matthew 16:13-23; Matthew 17:22; Luke 2:11; Luke 24:16-27; John 1:29; John 3:14; John 3:16; John 7:30; John 12:27; John 13:1-5; John 17:1; Acts 2:23; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:19-20; Revelation 13:7-8