

The Mystery of Easter

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The crucifixion was planned before the foundation of the world. God knew that man was going to need a redeemer, before He even created him. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost planned the crucifixion before the world began.

Jesus was not crucified against His will. Jesus loved us so much that He was not only willing to die, but planned it in every detail.

1 Peter 1:18-21 (page 1135)

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with **the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.**

Revelation 13:8 (page 1159)

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of ***the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

Christ was raised by every member of the Trinity. God the Father raised His Son from the dead.

Acts 2:31-32 (page 1016)

He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. **This Jesus hath God raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses.

The Holy Ghost raised Jesus from the dead.

Romans 8:11 (page 1056)

But if the **Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead** shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Jesus raised Himself from the dead

John 10:17-18 (page 999)

Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life, that I might take it again.** No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. **I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.** This commandment have I received of my Father.

The crucifixion was not a secret. It was prophesied. It is found in many places in the Old Testament. Here is the famous passage in Isaiah.

Isaiah 53:5-12 (page 691)

Jesus' time in the tomb was prophesied.

Psalm 16:10 (page 547)

For **thou wilt not leave my soul in hell;** neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Even His resurrection was no secret.

Hosea 6:1-2 (page 842)

Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he

revive us: **in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight.**

Even Satan's ultimate destiny of being cast out of heaven and then sent to hell was no secret.

Isaiah 14:12-15 (page 660)

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. **Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.**

Even though he knew the prophecies, Satan was so eager to make sure Jesus was crucified that he actually entered into Judas to do it!

John 13:26-27 (page 1004)

Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the

son of Simon. **And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.**

But one thing about it was a mystery. The wonderful things that are ours because Jesus laid down His life to save us were hidden from Satan and the powers of evil in the world!

1 Corinthians 2:6-8 (page 1065)

Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: **But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.**

What Satan did not know is that because of the crucifixion, when he and his angels are cast out heaven, we, as part of The Church, the Body of Christ are going to take our place in heaven reigning with Christ for eternity!! How great is

that? Many Bible verses confirm our ultimate destiny, in heaven with Christ!

2 Timothy 2:12-13 (page 1115)

If we suffer, **we shall also reign with him**: if we deny him, he also will deny us: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 (page 1080)

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, **we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with **our house which is from heaven**:

Ephesians 1:3 (page 1092)

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Ephesians 2:6 (page 1093)

And hath raised us up together, and **made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus**:

That was a mystery!

Ephesians 3:1-7 (page 1093)

For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that **by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;** (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ** by the gospel: Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

Did you ever wonder why Jesus said nothing about being the Messiah at His trial? He needed to fulfill the prophecy about the crucifixion, and He needed Satan to do it. Jesus knew that He could make everyone believe that He was the King of the Jews just by saying His name! He didn't do it because it would have stopped the crucifixion!

Matthew 27:11-12 (page 923)

And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, **Art thou the King of the Jews?** And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, **he answered nothing.**

We find God's name in Exodus.

Exodus 3:13-14 (page 58)

And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And **God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.**

When Jesus said His name to the soldiers who were coming to arrest Him, everyone was blown to the ground! He could have easily escaped had He wanted to. The same would have happened at His trial.

John 18:3-6 (page 1008)

Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, **I am he.** And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. **As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.**

When Peter pulled a sword to try to defend Jesus, Jesus told Him that He could call 12 legions of angels to defend Him, but the crucifixion had to be fulfilled.

Matthew 26:52-54 (page 922)

Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. **Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?**

After Jesus' resurrection, the Jewish leadership actually paid the soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb to say that they had fallen asleep on duty! That way they would try to make people believe that the disciples had removed Jesus' body from the tomb and the Resurrection had been a fake. Matthew says that many Jews still believe it!

Matthew 28:11-15 (page 925)

Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave large money unto the soldiers, Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept. And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you. So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.