

Behind The Scenes @ the Crucifixion

Introduction: In the making of the movie, "The Passion of the Christ" we are allowed to see the tragic human events of the crucifixion of Christ. However, what really happened the day Jesus was crucified? Romans 3:21-25 shows us God's eternal view of the Cross.

***Note:** Things are not as they seem!! More was happening there than meets the eye!
The Bible sees the cross from five eternal perspectives:

1. Grace= grace saw man's need and met that need. Romans 3: 23-25; John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8 Romans 5:8

Who killed Jesus? God's grace put him on the cross. Romans 3:24 says "*justified freely by His grace...*"

Man or human governments were not in control of the death of Christ. He (Jesus) was a "Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" Jesus said in John 10: "*No man takes my life from me, I freely give it.*" The "I freely give it" is God's grace, a free gift.

2. Redemption= freed from slavery by the payment of ransom Romans 3:24; Eph 1:7; Col.1:13, 14; 1st Peter 1:18, 19

The idea of Redemption comes from the world of slavery. Slaves are redeemed from slavery by the purchase (ransom) price being paid. Satan "owned" the human race; Christ by his death paid the ransom to set us free. The day Christ died there was a war going on to free the slaves!

3. Atonement= making peace thru sacrifice. Romans 3:25= NIV translates it "atonement." Atonement means "at one-meant". . Repeatedly the Old Testament shows that God is righteous & hates sin; requiring blood atonement. John the Baptist said of Jesus, "Behold the Lamb which God has provided, to take away the world's sin." Atonement makes reconciliation possible.

3. Propitiation= is to remove the guilt by the sacrifice. Isaiah 53, Romans 3:24, 26; Hebrews 9:22 says, "*Without the shedding of Blood there is no redemption.*" The word picture here is the Temple with its blood sacrifice for sin. Christ's shed blood (not spilled, which implies accident) is a sacrifice for the sins of the world. The life is in the blood, and the pure (sinless) blood of Jesus is sacrificed for our sins. Blood is the atonement for Guilt and the removal of Guilt.

4. Justification= Romans 3:24, 25; Romans 5:1, & 9 Declared not Guilty

This word picture is from a Roman court room. God is the judge, we are the accused, and we have been found guilty. But because of Jesus sacrifice, the issue of guilt is settled "out of court" and on the cross. The righteous Judge of the universe now can look upon us "*just as if I'd never sinned.*" The Judge, the judged, the justifier, & the justified!

5. Reconciliation= accepted into the Family Romans 3:25, Romans 5:11, 2 Cor. 5:19

This word picture comes from family life. It is illustrated in Luke 15 when the Father welcomes home the wayward son. God the Father sent His son to the cross so we could be accepted back into relationship in His family. We are "adopted" in Christ Romans 8:14-16

All the above=substitution truths! How Christ thru His death has made substitution for us to provide forgiveness for what I've done and to make a home for me in Heaven when I die.