

b. Swoon? > Another ANCIENT, Often DEBUNKED THEORY

SWOON Theory > Jesus BADLY WOUNDED and in Cool of Grave HEALED
Spread by Muslims TODAY > Jesus Died OLD MAN > Buried Kashmire

Now what does Jesus' victory consist of; in his death on the cross or in his escape from the cross?...We believe that he was taken down from the cross alive (in a state of swoon of course) and he entered the heart of the earth alive, then he can rightly be said to have overcome his enemies and frustrated all their evil designs.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

ROMANS knew how to KILL VICTIMS > CROSS had 100% SUCCESS Rate

v. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

JEWS like All Cultures > Knew Someone DEAD & Ready for BURIAL

2. Terrible

a. Process

Cross Beam > Carried by Victim > Made to Lie Down and NAILED to It
Vertical, Upright Beam > Already FASTENED in the GROUND

Cross Beam w/ VICTIM > Hoisted onto Upright > Fastened to Upright Post
Victim's FEET then TIED, or NAILED to Upright > Sometimes SEAT Made
SEAT > NOT for COMFORT but to PROLONG AGONY of the SUFFERING

The normal Roman practice was to leave crucified men and women on the cross until they died – and this could take days – and then leave their rotting bodies hanging there to be devoured by vultures. D.A. Carson

v. 31 Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

Breaking Legs NOT KINDNESS for VICTIM > CONCERN for NATION

...anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. *You must not desecrate the land the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance.* Deuteronomy 21.22-23

CURSE of VICTIM on TREE DEFILES Land > DOUBLY BAD on Sabbath

b. Pain

1) Physical Suffering > Beyond DESCRIPTION or IMAGINATION

Invented by PERSIANS, developed by CARTHAGINIANS, perfected by ROME

‘the most wretched of deaths’

Josephus

‘a most cruel and terrible penalty...incapable of description by any word, for there is none fit to describe it’

Cicero

NAILED to Cross, SUSPENDED in Air > BREATH Pushing Self Up & Down

Some HUNG FOR DAYS before FINALLY DYING

SMASHING Legs of Sufferer led to IMMEDIATE SUFFICATION

It is probably the most cruel method of execution ever practiced, for it deliberately delayed death until maximum torture had been inflicted. John Stott

2) Relational Suffering > He Suffered AT THE HANDS of OTHERS

ABUSED > Savior whose Body was Violated > God of the Abused

In Christ crucified is the true theology and knowledge of God...as long as a man does not know Christ he does not know the true God, the God hidden in sufferings.

Martin Luther

GOD who ENTERS INTO OUR SUFFERING > CARRIES our SORROWS

I discovered that the Lord Jesus Christ could indeed empathize with my situation. On the cross for those agonizing horrible hours, waiting for death, he was immobilized, helpless, paralyzed. Jesus did know what it was like not to be able to move – not to be able to scratch your nose, shift your weight, wipe your eyes. He was paralyzed on the cross – Christ knew exactly how I felt!

Joni Eareckson Tada – quad for 50 years!

3) Emotional Suffering > Given CROWN of THORNS to EVOKE PITY

Beyond PITIFUL to a RIDICULOUS APPEARANCE

Tattered Robe / Broken Figure / Weird, Spiky Headdress > Hanging from Cross
 More like a clown than a King. G.R. Beasley-Murray

NO ONE has Looked LESS KINGLY > No APPARENT Evidence to CLAIM
 Nothing PENETRATES our SELF-ESTEEM than MOCKING LAUGHTER
 RINGING in His Ears > MOCKING Soldiers to the RIDICULE of the Crowd
 Act of SAVAGE, SENSELESS Violence > SPEAR thrust into JESUS SIDE

‘Tis mystery all! The immortal dies; Who can explore his strange design?
 Charles Wesley

3. Triumphant

If ANY could DETAIL BLOOD & GORE of Cross it is JOHN > Was There!
 ONLY Man with those FAITHFUL WOMEN at the FOOT of CROSS
Tragedy Not EMPHASIS > Writes as Church of RISEN LORD is GROWING

John Not CITE LOW POINT of Cross > ‘My God why have FORSAKEN Me?
 John’s EMPHASIS on TRIUMPH of the CRUCIFIED > FULFILLMENT
 I, when I am *lifted up from the earth*, will draw all men to myself. John 12.32
 John > LIFTING UP > Cross, Resurrection, Ascension, Enthronement of JESUS

a. Scriptures > EVEN in SUFFERING > Jesus aware of GOD’S PURPOSES

v. 28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

Deliverance Planned in Eternity / PROMISED in History / FULFILLED Now

Even in SUFFERING Jesus is CONSCIOUS of FATHER’S PLAN

THIRSTY > Offered LIVING WATER to Samaritan Woman > Now HE Thirsts

I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched... They put gall in my food
 and gave me vinegar for my thirst. Psalm 69.3,21

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. *My soul thirsts for God*, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

Psalm 42.1-2

v. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the Passover... Do not break any of the bones." Exodus 12.43,47

NOT that Soldiers TRIED to COMPLY w/ Scripture > God ORCHESTRATED
Cross is VERY HEART of the Christian Faith > Whole Bible PREPARATION
Garden of Eden > Son of Woman will CRUSH the HEAD of the SERPENT

vs. 36,37 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. Psalm 34.19-20

v. 41 a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid
Executed in SLUMS – Buried in the POSH Section of CITY!

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death... Isaiah 53.9

c. Shout

v. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "*It is finished.*" With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

‘It is FINISHED’ > English Suggests DEFEAT >> lit. It is ACCOMPLISHED!
// SAME Idea as FULFILLMENT // Fulfilled Scripture > Finished His SERVICE
My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to *finish his work* John 4.34

The cross is a pulpit from which Jesus preached the love of God to the world.
Augustine

Greek Word > TETELESTAI > Wide Usage in EVERYDAY LIFE

SERVANT > Reporting back to MASTER – tetelestai – COMPLETED Job

PRIEST > Examined ANIMAL for Sacrifice – tetelestai – FAULTLESS

ARTIST – Finished Picture or WRITER a Manuscript – tetelestai – DONE!

MERCHANT – Completes BUSINESS Transaction – tetelestai – PAID in FULL

DEATH was ATONEMENT – PAYMENT for SIN – NOT Just EXAMPLE

NOT Mystical Power or Moral Example

In the strange mercy of God the cup of his righteous wrath is given into the hands, not of his enemies, but of his beloved Son. And he will drink it, down to the dregs until the moment comes when ‘I thirst’ gives place to ‘it is finished’

Leslie Newbigin

The Crucified One is the true king, the kingliest king of all; because it is he who is stretched on the cross, he turns an obscene instrument of torture into a throne of glory and reigns from the tree.

F.F. Bruce

No one takes it (my life) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.

John 10.18

4. Transforming

Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, *he now showed them the full extent of his love.*

John 13.1

a. Water > Recurrent THEME in the JOHN’S GOSPEL

Ch 2 > Water into Wine / Ch 3 > Nicodemus: Born of Water and Spirit

Ch 4 > Living Water – Never thirst Again

Ch 5 > Healing at the Pool of Water in Bethesda

Ch 6 > Jesus WALKS on the WATER

Ch 7 > Water Poured out on Temple Courts: Feast of TABERNACLES

Jesus: "*If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.*"
By this he meant the Spirit... John 7.37-39

v. 34 One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

BLOOD > Symbol of FORGIVENESS // WATER > Symbol of NEW LIFE

The water had to be mingled with Jesus' blood before the Spirit could give his testimony.
 Raymond Brown

b. Witness > SECRET DISCIPLES become BOLD WITNESSES

RESONSE of FAITH > Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

vs. 38,39 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.

TWO MEN > May have been KNOWN as SUPPORTERS of Jesus
 NOT INVITED to SECRET NIGHT TRIAL to CONDEMN JESUS

...a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night... 'You are Israel's teacher' John 3.1,2,10

Nicodemus, who had gone to Jesus earlier and who was one of their own number, asked, "Does our law condemn anyone without first hearing him to find out what he is doing?" John 7.50

He DID and BECAME CONVINCED that AT LEAST THIS Prophet DID!

At the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue
 John 12.42

It seems evident that Joseph and Nicodemus carefully planned their activities at Calvary. They certainly could not secure a tomb at the last minute, nor would they be able to purchase 75 pounds (34 kilos) of costly spices so quickly during the Passover when many merchants would not be doing business. No sooner had Jesus died when Joseph went to Pilate and received permission to take the body. Nicodemus stayed at the cross to make sure nothing happened to the Lord's body. The two men might even have been waiting in the new tomb, with the spices and the wrappings, ready for the moment when the Savior would lay down his life.

Warren Wiersbe

DEATH > Ends SECRET DISCIPLESHIP of Joseph & Nic > Join His Suffering

RIGHT at CROSS > Spirit-filled NEW HUMANITY is FORMING

TOUCHING the DEAD BODY of JESUS > DEFILED Joseph and Nicodemus

COULD NOT Participate in the PASSOVER FEAST

NO PROBLEM > Christ, their PASSOVER LAMB > Had BEEN SLAIN

This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

1 John 5.4-8

* * * * *

John 19.28-42

²⁸Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. ³¹Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced." ³⁸Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.