

Jesus' death on the cross is the ultimate proof of God's love. He came to earth to pay the ultimate price for our sins.

Romans 5:8 But God commends his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

But why did Jesus have to come to earth as a man and die a humiliating and painful death?

Hebrews chapter 2 gives eight reasons:

1. To fulfil God's purpose for man (v5 – 9a) to have dominion over every living thing (Gen. 1:28, Ps. 8:7-8).
 - a) Due to sin, God's plan and purpose delayed but not changed.
 - b) It did not happen in Eden, or at Christ's 1st Advent (Heb. 2:8b).
 - c) It will happen at Christ's 2nd Advent (Rev. 20:6).
2. To taste death for all (v9b)
 - a) Wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), spiritual death, separation of soul from God.
 - b) Jesus substituted His life for the life of the unbelieving sinner.
 - c) In order to be a substitute, it was necessary for Him to be identified with man. He had to come to earth in human form.
3. To bring many sons to glory (v10 – 13)
 - a) Christ, the sinless Son of God, fulfilled this purpose through His suffering on the cross
 - b) He added humanity to His deity and suffered on our behalf
 - c) This was God's victory. (2Cor. 5:19) Christ reconciled the world to Himself
 - d) It was God's will for us to have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (Heb. 10:10)
4. To destroy the devil (v14)
 - a) Jesus' death brought divine judgement on Satan, sentencing him to be bound for 1,000 years (Rev 20:2, 3) and finally consigning him to an eternity of torment in the lake of fire (Rev 20:10).
5. To deliver those in bondage (v15)
 - a) Rom. 8:1
 - b) Jn. 5:24
 - c) Jn. 10:28 "they shall never perish". Original Greek for the word 'never'. This is a Greek double-negative, **ou me**. Meaning not ever, ever, ever, followed by the Greek word **aion**, meaning eternally, forever, without end. Salvation is assured for all who believe.
 - d) 1Cor. 15:55 - 57

6. To become a priest for mankind (v16 – 17a)
 - a) Priest forever (Heb. 7:25)
 - b) Priest mediates (intercedes) between man and God. Jesus is interceding for all believers
7. To make reconciliation for our sins (v17b)
 - a) Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (1Jn. 2:2). He appeased God by shedding His own blood for the sins of the whole world.
 - b) He paid the penalty – death – in full. Through His selfless act and shed blood, we have been reconciled to God.
8. To provide help for those who are tested (v18)
 - a) Jesus was tempted (tested) by Satan. He was sinless and the temptation came from without.
 - b) We are sinners, our temptation comes from within – our sin nature.
 - c) Jesus, whilst not having a fallen sin-nature, lived in a corruptible body and was therefore subject to the same sufferings we are and can therefore help us in our temptations (testing)

Knowing Christ as Saviour requires us to obey Him and continually submit to His will, not our own.

Through the shed blood of Christ on the Cross, our sins have been forgiven and we can come into the presence of a Holy God. What's more, for those who are truly born again, there is a blessed assurance and promise of eternal life that cannot be snatched away (Jn. 10:28)