

Dr. Dave Mathewson, New Testament Theology, Session 22, Jesus' Death Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 22, Jesus' Death, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Mathewson's lecture explores the significance of Jesus Christ's death within New Testament theology. It emphasizes that Christ's death represents the culmination of God's redemptive plan that began in Genesis. **The lecture will examine the Gospels, Acts, Pauline letters, and Revelation,** highlighting the dominant themes related to Christ's death. **These themes include the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and sacrificial systems,** Jesus' death as a ransom for humanity, the inauguration of end-time tribulation, and the victory over evil powers. **Dr. Mathewson notes the pervasiveness of references to Jesus' death in the New Testament** and the challenge of capturing all its nuances, focusing on what he deems the most crucial and clear articulations.

2. 17 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 22 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → NT Introduction → NT Theology).



**Mathewson_NTThe
ology_Session22.mp**

3. Briefing Document: Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 22, Jesus' Death

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. Mathewson's lecture on "Jesus' Death, Part 1," focusing on its significance in New Testament Theology.

Briefing Document: Dr. David L. Mathewson on the Significance of Jesus' Death in New Testament Theology (Part 1)

Overall Theme: Jesus Christ's death is the climax of God's redemptive activity, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies and achieving salvation for humanity. The lecture aims to explore the significance of Jesus' death as emphasized by the New Testament authors, recognizing the vastness and complexity of the topic.

Methodology: The lecture will proceed canonically through the Gospels and Acts and then thematically through the Pauline literature, other New Testament texts, and Revelation, focusing on dominant motifs related to Jesus' death.

Key Ideas and Themes:

1. Climax of God's Redemptive Activity:

- "Jesus Christ is the climax of God's redemptive activity in the world."
- All of God's purposes for redemption find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ.
- Focus will be on death and resurrection of Jesus as indicative of Christ's accomplishment.

1. Emphasis on Jesus' Death in the Gospels:

- The Gospels all conclude with lengthy accounts of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection, indicating its significance.
- "The Gospels have often been described, especially Mark's Gospel, as a crucifixion narrative with an extended introduction."
- The Gospels also include Jesus' own anticipations of his death (e.g., Matthew 16:21, Mark 8:31, Mark 10:45).
- While the Gospels are narrative and don't explicitly unpack the theological significance in detail, they make it clear that Jesus' intention was to go to the cross.

1. Hints at Significance within the Gospels:

- Matthew 1:21: Jesus will save his people from their sins. This hints at the purpose of Jesus' coming.
- Matthew 27:51: The tearing of the temple curtain signifies that access to God and forgiveness of sins is now available through Jesus' death, not solely through the temple system. "Access to God and forgiveness of sins is no longer tied to the temple and its sacrificial system... but now... will come through the death of Jesus Christ."
- Mark 10:45: Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for many, connecting to the servant songs of Isaiah 53. "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."
- John 3:16: God's love motivated him to give his son for the world. "For God so loved the world that he gave his Son."
- John 13:1: Jesus' love for his disciples is the motivating factor for going to the cross.
- Emphasis on Jesus' sinlessness and innocence in the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion.
- Jesus' death as a fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrificial system, including John's "Lamb of God" language.

1. Significance of Jesus' Death in Acts:

- The speeches and sermons in Acts emphasize what Jesus' death accomplishes.
- Acts 3:18-19: Peter connects Jesus' suffering and death with the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy and the wiping away of sins. "This is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer... Repent then... so that your sins may be wiped away."
- Acts 5:30: The reference to Jesus being "hanged on a tree" alludes to Deuteronomy 21:23, suggesting Jesus took the curse upon himself. "Anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse."
- Acts 20:28: The church was purchased with God's own blood, referring to Christ's death securing salvation for his people. "Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."

1. Dominant Themes/Motifs in Paul's Letters and Other New Testament Texts:

- **Fulfillment of Old Testament Scripture:** Jesus' death is consistently seen as fulfilling Old Testament prophecy.
- Acts 3:18: Jesus suffered according to what the prophets foretold.
- 1 Corinthians 15:3-4: Christ died for our sins *according to the scriptures*. "Christ died for our sins according to the scripture... He was buried and raised on the third day according to the scriptures."
- John 19:36: The fact that Jesus' legs were not broken fulfills Exodus 12:46 (Passover lamb). "These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken.'"
- 1 Corinthians 5:7: Christ is our Passover lamb, sacrificed for us. "Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed."
- Ephesians 5:2: Christ gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
- Hebrews emphasizes Jesus' death as the ultimate fulfillment of the Day of Atonement, with the author comparing the Old Covenant system sacrifices with Jesus Christ's sacrifice. Hebrews 9:11-14 "But he entered the most holy place once for all by his own blood, thus attaining eternal redemption."
- The death of Jesus Christ also inaugurates the new covenant promise from Jeremiah 31.
- **Ransom:** Jesus' death is a price paid to free people.
- Mark 10:45: Jesus came to give his life as a ransom for many.
- 1 Peter 1:18-19: We are redeemed with the precious blood of Christ. "You were redeemed... with the precious blood of Christ."
- Revelation 1:5: Jesus freed us from our sins by his blood. "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood."
- Revelation 5:9: Jesus purchased people for God with his blood. "You were slain, and with your blood, you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nations."
- **Inauguration of End-Time Tribulation:** Jesus' death marks the beginning of the suffering and persecution of God's people, as predicted in Daniel.

- **Israel's Exile:** Jesus' death can be viewed as taking upon himself Israel's exile, being forsaken by God on the cross (Matthew 27:46).
- **Victory Over the Powers of Evil (Christus Victor):** Jesus' death is a victory over the powers of evil.
- Colossians 2:15: Jesus disarmed the powers and authorities, triumphing over them by the cross. "Having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."
- Ephesians 2:1-10 alludes to deliverance from the dominion of evil.
- Revelation 12 describes Satan's defeat through the blood of the Lamb. "They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb."

Underlying Assumption:

- All these discussions assume the presence of sin that must be dealt with, per Genesis 3 and Matthew 1:21.

Next Steps:

- The next session will wrap up the discussion of the significance of Christ's death and move on to the resurrection.

4. Study Guide: Newman, Synoptic Gospels, Session 22, Jesus' Death

Jesus' Death in New Testament Theology: A Study Guide

Quiz (Short Answer)

1. What is the significance of the lengthy accounts of Jesus' death in all four Gospels, especially in comparison to other aspects of His life?
2. How does Matthew 1:21 foreshadow the purpose of Jesus' coming to earth?
3. Explain the symbolic importance of the temple curtain tearing in two at the moment of Jesus' death as recorded in Matthew 27:51.
4. How does Peter connect the death of Jesus with the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy in Acts 3:18-19?
5. Explain the potential significance of the phrase "hanging him on a tree" in Acts 5:30 in relation to Deuteronomy 21:23.
6. In what way does Paul's description of the Gospel in 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 emphasize the importance of Jesus' death?
7. How does John 19:36 connect Jesus' death to the Passover observance in Exodus 12:46?
8. Explain how Hebrews 9:11-14 uses Old Testament sacrificial language to describe the significance of Jesus' death.
9. According to the New Testament, in what sense is Jesus' death considered a "ransom" for many?
10. How does Colossians 2:15 portray Jesus' death as a victory over the powers of evil?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The lengthy accounts signify the immense importance of Jesus' death in God's redemptive plan. The disproportionate time and space devoted to it highlight that Jesus' suffering and death are the climax of His earthly ministry.
2. Matthew 1:21, where Joseph is told to name the baby Jesus because He will save His people from their sins, foreshadows that Jesus' primary purpose in coming is

to deliver people from their sins. This sets the stage for understanding His death as a means of salvation.

3. The tearing of the temple curtain symbolizes that access to God and forgiveness of sins is no longer restricted to the temple and its sacrificial system. Instead, access and forgiveness are now available through Jesus Christ's death.
4. Peter connects the death of Jesus to the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy by stating that God fulfilled what He had foretold through the prophets, saying that the Messiah would suffer. He also links this suffering and death to the wiping away of sins.
5. The phrase "hanging him on a tree" may allude to Deuteronomy 21:23, where one who is hung on a tree is considered cursed by God. This suggests that Jesus took the curse upon Himself, providing salvation and forgiveness for others.
6. Paul emphasizes that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. He was buried and raised on the third day according to the scriptures. This signifies the scriptures themselves anticipate the death of Christ.
7. John 19:36 connects Jesus' death to the Passover observance by noting that Jesus' legs were not broken, fulfilling the instruction in Exodus 12:46 that none of the Passover lamb's bones should be broken. This draws a parallel between Jesus and the Passover lamb.
8. Hebrews 9:11-14 uses Old Testament sacrificial language to show how Jesus' death surpasses the Old Covenant system. It argues that Christ, as a high priest, entered the Most Holy Place by His own blood, thus attaining eternal redemption.
9. In the New Testament, Jesus' death is considered a ransom in that it represents a price paid to free people from sin and its consequences. It is portrayed as redeeming or purchasing people, liberating them from the bondage of sin.
10. Colossians 2:15 portrays Jesus' death as a triumph over the powers of evil by stating that God disarmed the powers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. This emphasizes that Jesus' death brought about the defeat of evil forces.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the significance of Jesus' death as the fulfillment of Old Testament Scripture, providing examples from the Gospels, Acts, and Paul's letters.
2. Explore the concept of Jesus' death as a ransom, examining the different interpretations of this metaphor and its implications for understanding salvation.
3. Analyze the portrayal of Jesus' death as a victory over the powers of evil, considering the various ways in which this theme is presented in the New Testament.
4. Evaluate the claim that Jesus' death inaugurates the end-time tribulation, drawing upon evidence from the Gospels, Revelation, and other relevant texts.
5. Discuss the theme of Jesus' death as a representation of Israel's exile, analyzing the theological implications of this interpretation and its connection to other New Testament themes.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Redemption:** The act of buying back or freeing someone from captivity or bondage. In Christian theology, it refers to Christ's act of saving humanity from sin and its consequences through his death.
- **Ransom:** The price paid to secure the release of a captive. In the New Testament, Jesus' death is often described as a ransom paid to redeem humanity from sin.
- **Sacrifice:** The offering of something to God as an act of worship or atonement. In the context of Jesus' death, it refers to his offering of himself as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity.
- **Atonement:** The act of making amends for sin or wrongdoing. Jesus' death is understood as an act of atonement that reconciles humanity to God.
- **Propitiation:** Appeasing or satisfying God's wrath or anger. Some interpretations of Jesus' death emphasize its role in propitiating God's wrath against sin.
- **Exile:** The state of being banished or expelled from one's native land. In the context of Jesus' death, it refers to his suffering and separation from God's presence on the cross.
- **Passover Lamb:** In the Old Testament, the lamb sacrificed during the Passover festival to commemorate the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt. In the New Testament, Jesus is seen as the true Passover Lamb, whose sacrifice brings about salvation.
- **Day of Atonement:** An annual Jewish holy day when the high priest would offer sacrifices to atone for the sins of the people. The author of Hebrews sees Jesus' death as the ultimate fulfillment of the Day of Atonement.
- **Metonymy:** A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated. The use of "blood" to refer to Jesus' death is an example of metonymy.
- **Christus Victor:** A theological view of Jesus' death that emphasizes his victory over the powers of evil.

5. FAQs on Newman, Synoptic Gospels, Session 22, Jesus' Death, Biblealearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided text:

FAQ: The Significance of Jesus' Death in the New Testament

- **Question 1: What is the overarching significance of Jesus Christ in New Testament Theology?**
- **Answer:** Jesus Christ represents the climax of God's redemptive activity in the world. All of God's purposes for redemption and for His people, starting from Genesis, find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ. He is the pinnacle of God's historical and redemptive actions.
- **Question 2: How do the Gospels portray Jesus' death, and what hints do they provide about its significance?**
- **Answer:** The Gospels culminate in lengthy accounts of Jesus' death and resurrection, emphasizing their importance. While they don't always explicitly detail the theological significance, they show Jesus anticipating his death. Hints include the name "Jesus" signifying saving people from sins (Matthew 1:21), the temple curtain tearing signifying access to God (Matthew 27:51), Jesus giving his life as a ransom (Mark 10:45), and God's love as the motivation (John 3:16).
- **Question 3: How does the Book of Acts expand upon the significance of Jesus' death?**
- **Answer:** Acts emphasizes Jesus' death as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Acts 3:18), connecting it to the wiping away of sins. It also alludes to Deuteronomy 21:23 by portraying Jesus as cursed by hanging on a tree, taking the curse upon himself. Furthermore, Acts 20:28 suggests that God purchased the church with his own blood, referring to Christ's death.

- **Question 4: What is meant by the phrase "Jesus' death as the fulfillment of Old Testament Scripture?"**
- **Answer:** Jesus' death is seen as fulfilling prophecies and types found in the Old Testament. This includes the suffering servant of Isaiah 53, the Passover lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7, John 19:36), and the sacrificial system. Specific details, like not breaking Jesus' bones, are even linked to Old Testament instructions like Exodus 12:46 concerning the Passover lamb.
- **Question 5: What does it mean to say that Jesus' death is a ransom?**
- **Answer:** Jesus' death is presented as the price paid to free people from sin and its consequences (Mark 10:45, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Revelation 5:9). This "ransom" language signifies a purchase or redemption. However, the New Testament does not specify *to whom* this price was paid, and it's unnecessary to push the metaphor too far.
- **Question 6: In what way does Jesus' death inaugurate end-time tribulation?**
- **Answer:** Building on the prophecy in the book of Daniel, it is argued that Jesus' suffering and death mark the beginning of the eschatological tribulation for God's people (Revelation). Jesus' death becomes a model for how believers overcome through their own suffering, even unto death.
- **Question 7: How can Jesus' death be seen as related to Israel's exile?**
- **Answer:** Jesus embodies and recapitulates the history of Israel. His suffering and death can be seen as the ultimate exile, where Jesus experiences being forsaken by God (Matthew 27:46), bearing the consequences of Israel's sins and alienation from God.
- **Question 8: How is Jesus' death portrayed as a victory over the powers of evil?**
- **Answer:** Jesus' death is often viewed as a triumph over Satan and the forces of darkness (Colossians 2:15). Through his death, Jesus disarms these powers, delivers believers from their dominion, and ultimately defeats them (Ephesians 2, Revelation 12).