

## **Dr. Dave Mathewson, New Testament Theology, Session 23, Jesus' Death/Resurrection Resources from NotebookLM**

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

### **1. Abstract of Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 23, Jesus' Death/Resurrection, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

**Dr. Mathewson's lecture** centers on Jesus' death and resurrection within New Testament theology. **He examines Jesus' death** as inaugurating end-time tribulation and fulfilling Old Testament prophecies, emphasizing substitutionary atonement and propitiation for sins. **The lecture highlights** the resurrection's significance, portraying it as Christ's installation as Messiah, a victory over death, and the dawn of a new creation. **Finally, it emphasizes** the believer's participation in Christ's death and resurrection, signifying an end to the old era dominated by sin and the beginning of a new life in Christ.

**2. 23 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 23 – 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\_Session23.mp**

### 3. Briefing Document: Mathewson, NT Theology, Session 23, Jesus' Death/Resurrection

Okay, here's a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. David L. Mathewson's lecture on Jesus' death and resurrection in New Testament Theology:

#### Briefing Document: NT Theology - Jesus, Death/Resurrection (Session 23)

##### Overview:

This lecture explores the dominant themes and motifs surrounding the New Testament understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection, particularly in light of their fulfillment of the Old Testament. It emphasizes that the resurrection is as important to the Gospel message as the death of Christ.

##### Key Themes & Ideas:

#### 1. Jesus' Death: Multiple Interpretations

- The lecture begins by outlining various interpretations of Jesus' death, drawing from Old Testament parallels. These include:
  - Inauguration of end-time tribulation
  - Israel's exile
  - Victory over the powers of evil
  - A ransom for the people of God
  - Fulfillment of the Old Testament
  - Providing purification for sins
- *"We've looked at Jesus' death as the inauguration of end-time tribulation. We saw Jesus' death as Israel's exile. Jesus' death is the victory over the powers of evil. Jesus' death is a ransom for the people of God. Jesus' death fulfills the Old Testament. Jesus' death is also portrayed as providing purification for sins."*
- Mathewson points to Hebrews 9 and 1 John 1 as examples of Jesus' blood providing cleansing and purification from sin, fulfilling the Old Testament sacrificial system. *"In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness...but if we*

*walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, his son, purifies us or cleanses us from all sin."*

## 1. Substitutionary Atonement

- The lecture posits that the most dominant understanding of Jesus' death is as a substitutionary atonement. This means that Jesus died in the place of believers, bearing their sins and the punishment they deserved. This view is often referred to as Penal Substitutionary Atonement.
- Numerous scriptural references are given to support this view, including:
- Mark 10:45 ("...to give his life a ransom for many")
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 ("God made him, Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us")
- Galatians 3:13 ("Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us")
- 1 Peter 2:24 ("He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross")
- *"But at the heart of it is that Jesus Christ's death is a substitute for the people. Throughout the New Testament, we find a common thread: Jesus bears our sins. Jesus dies in our place."*

## 1. Propitiation

- The lecture addresses the debated concept of propitiation (appeasing God's wrath) in relation to Jesus' death. The Greek word *hilasterion* is discussed, noting that some translations opt for "sacrifice of atonement" to avoid the connotation of appeasing God's wrath.
- Mathewson argues for understanding Jesus' death as propitiation, citing Romans 1:18, which introduces the concept of God's wrath against unrighteousness. He suggests that Jesus' death satisfies God's wrath by taking our sins upon himself.
- He acknowledges the alternative view of *expiation* (wiping away of sins) but ultimately leans toward propitiation.
- He also suggests a connection to the mercy seat in the Old Testament Day of Atonement, seeing Christ as the place where atonement is achieved.
- *"The notion of propitiation suggests appeasing God's wrath, turning away God's wrath, and the idea is that Jesus himself, by his death on the cross, turns away God's wrath, takes upon God's wrath upon himself, presumably because of our*

*sinfulness, because he's bearing our sins on the cross... I probably think we should still understand this in terms of propitiation, that Jesus Christ's death in a sense, then satisfies God's wrath."*

- The lecture also emphasizes Romans 3:25-26, explaining how God's justice is maintained while justifying sinners through Christ's sacrifice. God did not lower his standards, but met them through Jesus. *"God justifies sinners, those who have sinned...How can God do that while still being just, righteous, and holy? Well, he did that not by lowering the standards...but instead, God maintained his righteous, holy, and just standards and requirements, but he met them in the person of Jesus Christ and his atoning death on the cross."*

### 1. Moral Example

- While acknowledging that liberal scholarship has sometimes overemphasized the "moral influence" theory of atonement (Jesus' death primarily as an example of love), Mathewson affirms that Jesus' death *does* serve as a moral example for believers.
- Ephesians 5:1 ("Follow God's example...walk in the way of love just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us") and 1 Peter 2:20-25 ("Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example") are cited as evidence.
- Even in Revelation, Jesus' death provides an example for his followers to remain faithful even to death.
- *"Certainly, one of the things that Jesus Christ's death does, if not the only one of the things it does is provide an example for God's people... Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross is an example of the sacrificial love and forgiveness that God wants to see in his followers."*

### 1. Participation in Christ's Death

- The lecture introduces the concept of believers participating in Christ's death through union with him. This is supported by Romans 6 (baptism into Christ's death) and Colossians 2 (buried with him in baptism).
- Jesus' death brings an end to the "old era" and the dominion of sin and death, and believers experience this death by being joined to Christ.
- This participation is not only "on our behalf," but is an actual sharing in Christ's death.

- *"Christ not only dies on our behalf, but his death becomes ours as well...Jesus Christ's death actually brings to an end the domination of and the rule of this present evil age...the only way to escape the dominion of sin...is for a death to take place. Paul is convinced that death has taken place through Jesus Christ, and therefore, we have experienced that death."*

#### 1. **The Resurrection: Integral to the Gospel**

- The lecture transitions to the resurrection, emphasizing its crucial importance. The resurrection is just as much a part of the gospel and preaching of the early church as the death of Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 15, where Paul states that Christ died, was buried, and rose again, is used to support this point.
- The lecture critiques a limited view of the gospel that focuses solely on Jesus dying for sins and neglects the significance of his resurrection.
- *"As I read the New Testament, I am reminded again of the fact that the resurrection is just as much a part of the gospel and the preaching of the early church as the death of Christ... the resurrection is just as much an important part of the gospel as the death of Christ is and that both of them belong together."*

#### 1. **Old Testament Background for Resurrection**

- The lecture traces the Old Testament roots of the resurrection concept, from the tree of life in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 1-3), to prophetic texts like Isaiah 25 & 26, Ezekiel 37 (valley of dry bones), and Daniel 12:2.
- These passages anticipate a reversal of the effects of the fall, a new creation, and a time when death is swallowed up and God's people are raised to eternal life.
- *"Already in the Old Testament, we at least see a conception of a reversal of the effects of the Fallen Genesis. A return to a new creation. A time when death is swallowed up...A time when God's people will rise."*

## 1. Significance of the Resurrection

- Jesus' resurrection is the installation of Jesus as the Messiah and the victorious, ruling Son of David. Cites Romans 1:3-4 and Ephesians 1:19-23 as evidence. *"The resurrection then is the installation or the entrance of Jesus into his messianic reign and his messianic rule, as in the Son of David."*
- The resurrection is a victory over death and a triumph over evil (Revelation 1:5, 17-18; 1 Corinthians 15). Jesus holds the keys to death and Hades. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. *"I am the living one I was dead and now look I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades."*
- The resurrection vindicates Jesus as the Messiah (Acts 2:24, 32, 36). It shows that he is who he claimed to be. *"God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Messiah through his resurrection."*
- The resurrection inaugurates the new age or new creation (Romans 6; 2 Corinthians 5:17). Believers participate in this new creation by being joined to Christ. *"If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come."*

### Key Scripture References:

- Hebrews 9
- 1 John 1
- Mark 10:45
- 2 Corinthians 5:21
- Galatians 3:13
- 1 Peter 2:24
- Romans 3:21-26
- Ephesians 5:1
- 1 Peter 2:20-25
- Romans 6
- Colossians 2
- 1 Corinthians 15
- Genesis 1-3

- Isaiah 25, 26, 65
- Ezekiel 37
- Daniel 12:2
- Romans 1:3-4
- Ephesians 1:19-23
- Revelation 1
- Acts 2

**Points for Further Discussion/Consideration:**

- The ongoing debate surrounding the interpretation of *hilasterion* and the concept of propitiation.
- The balance between understanding Jesus' death as substitutionary atonement and as a moral example.
- The implications of believers participating in Christ's death for their daily lives.
- The relationship between the resurrection and the defeat of death, both for Christ and for believers.

This briefing document captures the core ideas of Dr. Mathewson's lecture excerpt. It should be helpful for understanding the various ways the New Testament interprets and emphasizes the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## 4. Study Guide: Newman, Synoptic Gospels, Session 23, Jesus' Death/Resurrection

### Jesus' Death and Resurrection in New Testament Theology: A Study Guide

#### I. Key Themes and Concepts:

- **Jesus' Death as Inauguration of End-Time Tribulation:** Jesus' death marks the beginning of the final period of hardship and testing.
- **Jesus' Death as Israel's Exile:** Jesus' death is understood as a continuation of the exile that Israel experienced, but now with a new redemptive purpose.
- **Jesus' Death as Victory over the Powers of Evil (Christus Victor):** Jesus' death defeats the forces of darkness, sin, and death.
- **Jesus' Death as a Ransom:** Jesus' death is the price paid to liberate God's people.
- **Jesus' Death as Fulfillment of the Old Testament:** Jesus' death completes the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament.
- **Jesus' Death as Purification for Sins:** Jesus' blood cleanses people from sin, both individually and collectively.
- **Substitutionary Atonement:** Jesus' death is a substitute for humanity, bearing the sins and punishment that they deserve.
- **Propitiation:** Jesus' death satisfies God's wrath and turns it away from believers.
- **Expiation:** Jesus' death wipes away or removes sins.
- **Jesus' Death as Moral Example:** Jesus' death provides an example of love, sacrifice, and forgiveness for believers to follow.
- **Participation in Christ's Death:** Believers are united with Christ in his death through faith and baptism, ending the dominion of sin in their lives.
- **Jesus' Resurrection as Installation of Messiah:** Jesus' resurrection marks the beginning of his messianic reign and rule as the Son of David.
- **Jesus' Resurrection as Victory over Death:** Jesus' resurrection is a triumph over death and the powers of evil.
- **Jesus' Resurrection as Vindication of Messiah:** Jesus' resurrection vindicates him as God's Messiah.



- **Jesus' Resurrection as Inauguration of New Creation:** Jesus' resurrection initiates the new age and new creation, which believers participate in through union with Christ.

## II. Short Answer Quiz:

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. Explain how Jesus' death is portrayed as a purification for sins, according to Hebrews 9 and 1 John 1.
2. Briefly describe the "Christus Victor" theory of atonement.
3. Explain what is meant by substitutionary atonement.
4. What does it mean that Christ "became a curse for us" according to Galatians 3:13?
5. Explain the concept of "propitiation" in relation to Jesus' death.
6. According to Romans 3:25, how is Jesus' death understood as a sacrifice of atonement?
7. What does it mean to participate in Christ's death, according to Romans 6?
8. How does Jesus' death bring to an end the old era, and how does this impact believers?
9. Why is the resurrection important for the Christian faith?
10. How does Jesus' resurrection vindicate him as the Messiah, according to Acts 2?

## Answer Key:

1. **Purification for Sins:** Hebrews 9 portrays Jesus' blood as cleansing and purifying, fulfilling the Old Testament sacrifices. 1 John 1 states that the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, emphasizing the ongoing purification for believers who walk in the light.
2. **Christus Victor:** The Christus Victor theory suggests that Jesus' death was a victory over the powers of evil. It emphasizes the defeat of demonic forces, sin, and death, rather than focusing solely on satisfying God's wrath.
3. **Substitutionary Atonement:** Substitutionary atonement means that Jesus' death is a substitute for the sins of humanity. He bore our sins, took the punishment we deserved, and died in our place, satisfying the requirements of justice.

4. **Curse for Us:** When Galatians 3:13 states that Christ "became a curse for us," it means that Jesus took upon himself the curse of the law that was meant for those who failed to keep it. By becoming the curse, he redeemed believers from the law's condemnation.
5. **Propitiation:** Propitiation suggests that Jesus' death appeases or satisfies God's wrath. By bearing our sins and enduring God's judgment on the cross, Jesus turns away God's wrath from believers, reconciling them to God.
6. **Sacrifice of Atonement:** In Romans 3:25, Jesus' death is presented as a sacrifice of atonement (or propitiation) through the shedding of his blood. This means that Jesus' death serves as a means of atoning for sins, providing redemption and justification for those who believe.
7. **Participate in Christ's Death:** According to Romans 6, to participate in Christ's death means that, through faith and baptism, believers are united with Christ in his death and burial. This union signifies a break from the dominion of sin, allowing them to walk in newness of life.
8. **End of the Old Era:** Jesus' death brings an end to the old era by breaking the reign and domination of sin and death over believers. By being joined to Christ in his death, believers experience the end of the old era and the inauguration of a new age.
9. **Importance of Resurrection:** The resurrection is important for the Christian faith because it validates Jesus' victory over death and guarantees our future resurrection. Without the resurrection, death would have the final word, undermining the core message of the gospel.
10. **Vindication of Messiah:** In Acts 2, Peter proclaims that God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating him as the Messiah. Despite being crucified by wicked men, God's act of resurrection proves that Jesus is both Lord and Messiah.

### **III. Essay Questions:**

1. Discuss the various ways Jesus' death is portrayed in the New Testament, highlighting the themes of sacrifice, redemption, and reconciliation.
2. Compare and contrast the concepts of substitutionary atonement and propitiation in relation to Jesus' death, and explain their significance for understanding God's justice and love.
3. Explore the concept of participation in Christ's death and resurrection, as described in Romans 6 and other New Testament texts, and discuss its implications for the believer's life.
4. Analyze the significance of Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament, focusing on its role in the installation of Jesus as Messiah, the victory over death, and the inauguration of the new creation.
5. Examine how the New Testament uses the Old Testament to explain and interpret the death and resurrection of Jesus.

#### IV. Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Atonement:** The reconciliation of God and humanity through the death of Jesus Christ.
- **Christus Victor:** A theory of atonement that emphasizes Christ's victory over the powers of evil.
- **Expiation:** The act of removing or wiping away sins.
- **Justification:** God's act of declaring sinners righteous in his sight through faith in Jesus Christ.
- **Messiah:** The anointed one, a term used for Jesus as the promised king and deliverer.
- **Penal Substitution:** The theological concept that Jesus Christ took the penalty for sin upon himself, satisfying God's justice.
- **Propitiation:** The act of appeasing or satisfying God's wrath through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
- **Ransom:** The price paid to redeem or liberate someone.
- **Redemption:** The act of buying back or setting free; in theology, the deliverance of humanity from sin and its consequences through Christ.
- **Resurrection:** The act of being raised from the dead; in Christianity, refers to Jesus' rising from the tomb and the future resurrection of believers.
- **Substitutionary Atonement:** The doctrine that Jesus Christ died as a substitute for sinners, bearing the punishment for their sins.
- **Vindication:** The act of clearing someone of blame or suspicion; in theology, God's affirmation of Jesus as the Messiah through his resurrection.

## **5. FAQs on Newman, Synoptic Gospels, Session 23, Jesus' Death/Resurrection, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

### **Frequently Asked Questions About Jesus' Death and Resurrection**

#### **1. What are some of the dominant themes or motifs associated with Jesus' death in the New Testament?**

The New Testament presents Jesus' death as the inauguration of end-time tribulation, Israel's exile, victory over the powers of evil, a ransom for God's people, fulfillment of the Old Testament, purification for sins, substitutionary atonement, propitiation, and a moral example for believers to follow. Furthermore, believers participate in Jesus' death by being joined to him.

#### **2. How does the book of Hebrews explain the significance of Jesus' death in relation to the Old Testament sacrificial system?**

Hebrews argues that Jesus' death fulfills the Old Testament sacrificial system. The Old Testament required the shedding of blood for purification and forgiveness. Jesus, through his sacrifice, provides a superior cleansing, entering heaven itself and offering a better sacrifice than the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant. Thus, Jesus' death is the ultimate fulfillment of what the Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed.

#### **3. What is substitutionary atonement, and what biblical texts support this view of Jesus' death?**

Substitutionary atonement means Jesus died as a substitute for humanity, bearing the sins and punishment that we deserve. Key texts supporting this include Mark 10:45 (Jesus giving his life as a ransom), 2 Corinthians 5:21 (God making Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us), Galatians 3:13 (Christ redeeming us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us), and 1 Peter 2:24 (Jesus bearing our sins in his body on the cross).

#### **4. What is propitiation, and how does it relate to understanding Jesus' death?**

Propitiation refers to the act of appeasing God's wrath. In the context of Jesus' death, it suggests that Jesus' sacrifice turns away or satisfies God's wrath, which is directed towards sin. Romans 3:25 states God presented Christ as a propitiation or sacrifice of atonement through the shedding of his blood. While some translations use terms like "sacrifice of atonement," the underlying concept is that Jesus takes God's wrath upon himself, averting it from those who believe.

**5. Besides its atoning significance, how is Jesus' death presented as an example for believers?**

Jesus' death serves as a moral example of sacrificial love and forgiveness. Ephesians 5:1 encourages believers to imitate God and walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. 1 Peter 2:21 emphasizes that Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example to follow in his steps. The book of Revelation presents Jesus' death as an example of a faithful witness.

**6. How do believers participate in Jesus' death, and what are the implications of this participation?**

Through faith and baptism, believers are united with Christ, participating in his death. Romans 6 explains that this participation signifies a death to sin and the old era, breaking the dominion of sin and death over our lives. This death to sin allows us to walk in the newness of life, experiencing freedom from the enslavement of sin.

**7. Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ essential to the gospel message?**

The resurrection is an integral part of the gospel, not just an addendum to Jesus' death. It is a necessary correlate, as one cannot exist without the other. Without the resurrection, the Christian faith would crumble because death would still have the final say. It's a guarantee of our future resurrection and the ultimate defeat of death.

**8. What are some of the key significances of Jesus' resurrection in the New Testament?**

The New Testament emphasizes several aspects of Jesus' resurrection. It is the installation of Jesus as the Messiah, the victorious Son of David (Romans 1:4, Ephesians 1:20-23), a victory over death and triumph over evil (Revelation 1:18, 1 Corinthians 15:26), the vindication of Jesus as Messiah (Acts 2:24, 36), and the inauguration of the new creation (Romans 6:4, 2 Corinthians 5:17). Furthermore, believers participate in the new creation by virtue of being joined to Christ.