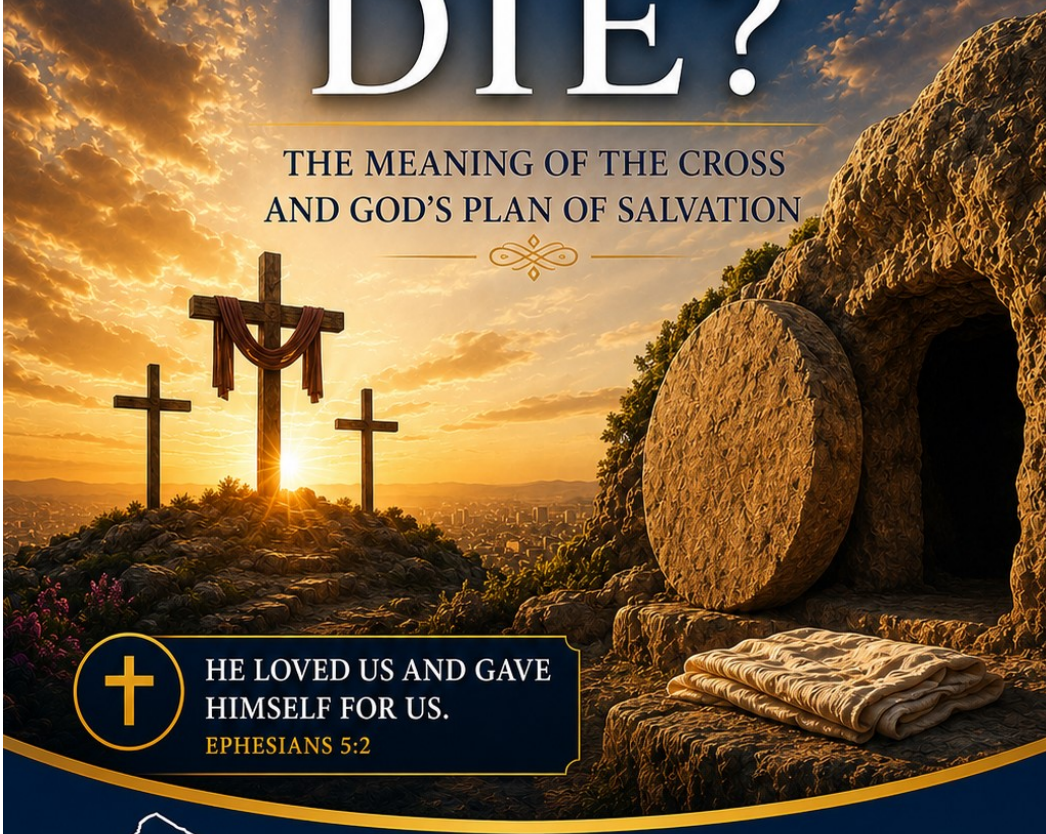
DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

BOOKLET 9

WHY DID JESUS DIE?

THE MEANING OF THE CROSS AND GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION



HE LOVED US AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR US.
EPHESIANS 5:2

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WELCOME TO THE

DISCOVERING HOPE SERIES

Real Questions. Biblical Answers. Lasting Hope.

Life raises questions that are not always easy to answer.

Why am I here?, Does God really exist? , Can I trust the Bible?, Why does God allow suffering?, Can my life really change? Is there hope when I feel trapped, broken, or uncertain about the future?

The **Discovering Hope Series** was created to help people explore questions like these through the truth of God's Word.

You need not be a Bible scholar or have all the answers.

And you do not need to have everything in your life figured out before you begin.

Each booklet focuses on a different question, struggle, or biblical truth and is designed to help you discover what the Bible actually says.

As you read, take your time.

Consider the Scriptures for yourself.

Ask questions, Pray.

And most importantly, allow God to speak to your heart through His Word.

The Bible is more than a book of religious teachings. It reveals a God who loves us, seeks us, and desires to transform our lives.

Whatever brought you to this booklet, we hope it becomes one more step in your journey toward discovering the hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ.

There is hope. There are answers.

And God may be closer than you think.

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WHY DID JESUS DIE?

Introduction

The cross is the most recognized symbol in the world.
It appears on churches, jewelry, books, and monuments.
Yet many people do not fully understand what happened there.
Why was Jesus crucified?
Why did He suffer?
Why did He die?
Was He merely the victim of a political conspiracy?
Was His death an unfortunate tragedy?
Or was something much greater taking place?
The Bible teaches that the death of Jesus Christ was not an accident.
It was God's plan to save humanity.

1. GOD CREATED HUMANITY FOR RELATIONSHIP

From the beginning, God desired a relationship with mankind.

Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in his own image..."
Human beings were created to know God, love God, and walk with God.
That was God's original purpose.

2. SIN BROKE THAT RELATIONSHIP

The Bible teaches that sin entered the world through human rebellion.

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Sin is more than breaking rules.
Sin is rebellion against God's authority.
Sin separates people from God.
Every person has sinned.
No one is exempt.

3. SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

Many people ask:
"Why can't God simply overlook sin?"
The answer is found in God's nature.
God is loving.
But God is also holy and just.

Romans 6:23

"For the wages of sin is death..."

Sin carries consequences.
Just as a judge cannot ignore crime without violating justice, God cannot ignore sin without violating His own righteous nature.

4. THE OLD TESTAMENT POINTED TO A SACRIFICE

Throughout the Old Testament, sacrifices were offered for sin.
Animals were placed upon altars.
Blood was shed.

These sacrifices taught an important lesson:
Sin is serious.
Hebrews 9:22

"Without shedding of blood is no remission."
Yet animal sacrifices could never permanently remove sin.
They pointed forward to something greater.
They pointed to Jesus.

5. JESUS BECAME OUR SACRIFICE

Jesus came for a specific purpose.
Matthew 20:28

"The Son of man came... to give his life a ransom for many."
Jesus lived a sinless life.
He committed no sin.
Yet He willingly took our place.
The innocent died for the guilty.
The righteous died for the unrighteous.
Isaiah 53:5

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities..."
The cross was not merely something done to Jesus.
It was something Jesus willingly endured for us.

6. THE CROSS REVEALS BOTH GOD'S JUSTICE AND GOD'S LOVE

At the cross we see two truths meeting together.
God's justice.
God's love.
God's justice demanded that sin be judged.

God's love desired that sinners be saved.
The cross satisfied both.

Romans 5:8

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

The cross is the greatest demonstration of God's love in human history.

7. JESUS PAID A DEBT WE COULD NOT PAY

Imagine owing a debt so large you could never repay it.
Then someone else pays it in full.
That is what Jesus did.

Colossians 2:14

"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us..."

The penalty we deserved was placed upon Him.
The forgiveness we could never earn is offered through Him.

8. THE RESURRECTION PROVES THE SACRIFICE WAS ACCEPTED

If Jesus had remained in the grave, there would be no proof His sacrifice was accepted.
But He rose again.

Romans 4:25

"Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification."

The resurrection is God's declaration that the price has been paid.
Sin was defeated.

Death was defeated.
The grave was defeated.

9. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?
Jesus did not die merely to create a religion.
He died to save people.
John 3:16
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..."
Because of His sacrifice:
• Sins can be forgiven
• Lives can be changed
• Hope can be restored
• Eternal life can be received
The cross is personal.
Jesus died for you.

Conclusion
Why did Jesus die?
Because sin separated humanity from God.
Because justice required a payment.
Because love provided one.
1 Peter 3:18
"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God..."
The cross was not a tragedy.
It was a rescue mission.
And it remains the greatest expression of God's love the world has ever known.