

- (2) To come while 2nd Temple stood (Hag 2:3-9)
- (3) To come after 69th sabbath cycle (Dan 9:25-26)

HIS DEATH:

If Jesus is who he claims to be, why on earth would he let himself be killed? And why in the very gruesome way that he did die, by being hung on a cross?

Jesus came to die, not for anything that he had done wrong, but as a substitute to pay for our wrongdoing. He actually brought to reality what was only pictured in the animal sacrifices of the Bible and other ancient religions. Just as the Jews were required to bring a perfect lamb to be put to death for their sins, so Jesus died after living a perfect human life.

CONCLUSIONS

There are really only three alternatives concerning who Jesus was:

- (1) He was a madman, who deluded himself into thinking that he was God, sinless, and able to forgive the sins of others.
- (2) He was one of the world's greatest deceivers, who knew that he was not God, sinless, or able to forgive the sins of others, but for some reason wished others to think he was.
- (3) He really is who he claimed to be, God, sinless, able to forgive the sins of others, and he came to offer himself as the sin payment for all who will entrust themselves to him.

There is commonly a fourth suggested alternative, but it is not possible, as Jesus did not leave this option open:

- (4) Jesus was a good, noble teacher, who was misunderstood by his opponents and followers.

You may wish to select the 4th option, but to do so you will have to reject all the historical information we have about Jesus, both within and outside the Bible, both Christian, Jewish and Pagan. How will that stand up one day when you face God to answer for what you have done with your life?

Choices (1) and (2) cannot account for the fact that Jesus fulfilled OT prophecy, some of which was far beyond the capabilities of any human to fulfill. Likewise, Jesus' teachings and actions do not fit those of a deceiver or madman (Jn 10:19-21).

What are you going to do with Jesus? That is the great question you will have to settle, a question with consequences which will last forever.