

## Question & Answer Did Jesus Die Two Deaths?

**QUESTION:** “In a Bible study group, the leader said that Jesus died two deaths, and he supported it with his belief system. He could not show us any proof in the word of God, although it did sound logical. How can a leader argue a point when there is no Scriptural proof to support it?”

**ANSWER:** There are a few danger signals here right away, and that is that he “supported it with his BELIEF SYSTEM” and that he did not have any Scriptures to prove his point. **We must ALWAYS let God’s word, the Bible, teach us the truth, rather than building a “belief system” according to what some false teachers have made up.** This is how ALL the cults and false religions have begun, and they continue by twisting Scripture to fit their already-held beliefs. The Bible warns us time and time again about false teachers and those who will bring heresies into the church. **I’m assuming that this person you mentioned meant that Jesus died a physical death and then a spiritual death, as that false teaching has been going around in some circles for a few years.** Let’s look at some of the Scriptures that teach us that Jesus only died ONCE on the cross.

Jesus died a physical death on the cross, and He did not die spiritually, either on the cross or afterwards, when He went into Hades for the three days before His resurrection. First of all, our human spirits are made in the image of God, which means every human being will live on eternally and never die spiritually. The only question is whether a person lives on for eternity in heaven or hell.

So, Jesus as a genuine human being could not have had His spirit die, and certainly as the eternal Second Person of the Trinity, God the Son, could not have His spirit die. Jesus was conscious the whole time He was being crucified on the cross, and we know this from the many words He said from the cross. **At the end, He said, “It is finished” and He gave up His spirit into the hands of God the Father, but that does not mean His spirit died.** We know from several Scriptures that Jesus went into Hades, which would be Abraham’s Bosom, the place of the righteous dead. He told the thief on the cross, “Today, you shall be with Me in Paradise.” Jesus was there in PARADISE, a place of comfort, not a place of suffering and torment, for the three days until His body was resurrected. On the third day, His spirit, which had been alive all this time in Paradise, joined His body (which had been dead and in the grave for three days) in that resurrection from the dead.

•**Luke 23:39-43** “And one of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, ‘Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!’ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, ‘Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong.’ And he was saying to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!’ And Jesus said to him, **‘Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.’**”

•**John 19:28-30** “After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, **He said, “IT IS FINISHED!”** And bowing His head, **He GAVE up His SPIRIT.**

•**Luke 23:46** “And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, ‘Father into Your hands I commit My spirit.’ And having said this, He breathed His last.”

•**Matthew 27:50** “Jesus, when He had cried out again with a loud voice, yielded up His spirit.”

**Definition: "IT IS FINISHED!"** – The Greek word is "Tetelestai" which means literally, PAID IN FULL. It is the same word that would be used when someone paid a bill or paid off a debt of any kind - **paid in full**. Just before Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" He cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" This cry was a fulfillment of Psalm 22, and what it means is that Christ at that moment was experiencing the abandonment and despair that resulted from **the outpouring of God's wrath on Him as our sin-bearer**. Jesus had become sin for the whole world, and God cannot look on sin! **Jesus PAID our SIN DEBT** as He hung and suffered on that cross, and God's wrath was poured out on Him instead of on us. **When it was finished, He said "Paid in full!"** **Since our sin debt was PAID IN FULL, Jesus did NOT need to go into hell to suffer and die spiritually to pay anymore for our sins - it was already done and completed on the cross.**

• **Matthew 27:45-46** "Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour, there was darkness over all the land. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" That is, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"

• **I Peter 2:24-25** "Who **Himself bore our sins in His own BODY** on the tree (cross), that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes (wounds) you were healed."

**Definition: "He GAVE up His SPIRIT"** – No one took His life from Him, Jesus GAVE it up willingly. But the interesting thing is that **He could actually WILL Himself to die** at any certain point in the crucifixion process. He did not have to wait until His spirit was FORCED to leave His body because of the horrendous damage done to His physical body. **He had the power to give up His spirit** and leave His physical body whenever He wanted, and that was as soon as the penalty for our sins had been paid. II Corinthians 5:21 says, "For He (the Father) made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us." **So, after Jesus had taken upon Himself the sins of the whole world, He deliberately let His spirit leave His body**, and by doing that, He died before the crucifixion had a chance to "kill" Him.

• **John 10:17-18** "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power/authority to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

• **II Corinthians 5:21** "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

In First Peter, we get an interesting glimpse into what Jesus did when He was in Hades in His spirit, before the resurrection. It does NOT say that He had to suffer any more pain for our sins, but rather that **He went to DECLARE His VICTORY over sin and death** to the evil spirits that were in the part of Hades that was where the unrighteous, non-believers, and also some demons, were being held until the Judgment Day.

• **I Peter 3:18-20** "For **Christ also SUFFERED once for SINS, the JUST for the UNJUST**, that He might bring us to God, **being put to death in the flesh** but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also **He went and preached to the spirits in prison**, who formerly were disobedient, when once the LONGSUFFERING of GOD waited in the DAYS of NOAH, while the ARK was being PREPARED, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were SAVED through WATER."

**Definition: "Being put to DEATH in the FLESH but made ALIVE by the SPIRIT"** – Jesus suffered and died on the cross in His human, physical body ("the flesh"), but His spirit, His eternal existence as the Son of God, never died. **His physical BODY was resurrected on the third day by the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT.**

• **Romans 8:11** "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you,

He who raised Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

**Definition: “He went and PREACHED to the SPIRITS in PRISON”** – Don’t get all confused and think that Jesus is here giving people a chance to be saved after death. These “spirits in prison” who have been around since the time of Noah, are **demon spirits, and NOT the spirits of human beings. Jesus went into the “Abyss” where these demons are bound in chains, awaiting the final judgment, to DECLARE and SHOW that He was triumphant over them and all of Satan’s hordes (NOT to preach about salvation).** What did these demons do that was so bad that God has them chained up in the Abyss? According to Genesis 6:1-4, they were probably fallen angels (demons) that had sexual relations with human women, creating a half-breed race of men who were exceedingly evil. These demons and the half-demon-half-men they created were responsible for hardening the hearts of all humanity, so that no one believed Noah’s preaching for over a hundred years when he warned about the coming flood and destruction of the earth.

•**Genesis 6:1-4** “Now it came about, when men began to multiply on the face of the land, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God (angels) saw that the daughters of men were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves, whomever they chose. Then the Lord said, ‘My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless, his days shall be one hundred and twenty years. The Nephilim (GIANTS) were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men, and they bore children to them.”

For more information of Hades and Jesus’ death on the cross, see our papers titled “Christ’s Agony and Ecstasy - Death on the Cross” and “Q&A - What did Jesus mean by ,’Today you will be with Me in Paradise?’”