

## Was Jesus Really Dead?

Skeptics claim that at the crucifixion, when Jesus was taken down from the cross, that He really wasn't dead. Some skeptics will say, if He did die, then He didn't rise from the dead. Skeptics will always be around. But let us examine the question: Could Jesus have survived crucifixion?

The record of the Bible records, before He was crucified He was brutally beaten with a whip designed to inflict maximum damage. The whip was made of leather thongs, with pieces of bone and lead on the ends to rip the skin, exposing the muscles and organs. It is said of soldiers assigned to this duty, that sometimes they would continue the whipping until "the backside was laid bare from shoulders to thighs." Also, "Some victims died from it." Others "went into deep shock from massive blood loss."

At this point, the victim's arms were then stretched over the crossbeam for six-inch spikes to be driven through the wrists into the wood (Roman Crucifixion). When the crossbar was attached to the vertical stake, the feet were nailed to it. Dr. Cornish said, "The weight of the body pulling against the spikes stretched the arms, dislocated the shoulders, and prevented breathing. The victim had to pull up with his nailed hands and push up on nailed feet to relax the lungs enough to breathe. The victim eventually grew too exhausted to continue and died of asphyxiation."

Dr. Cornish went on to say that this "is exactly what medical science expects when a person dies under these conditions. Severe shock accelerated the heart rate leading to heart failure, depositing fluid in the membrane around the heart and lungs. So Jesus was probably already dead when the soldier speared Him in the side, piercing His rib cage, lung, and heart. If He was still alive, the spear thrust would have killed Him."

Sometimes the Romans wanted to speed up death, so they broke the legs of their victim's ending the victim's efforts to breathe. But Jesus had died by the time the soldiers came to break His legs, so they didn't need to break His legs. These were professional executioners who knew when a person was dead or only looked dead. We can be sure that Jesus was dead.

Scripture: King James Version: John 19:1-3; 28-37

Jerry W. Arnold  
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