

A close-up photograph of a woven basket, likely made of straw or reeds, containing a simple cross constructed from thin, light-colored sticks. The basket is filled with straw and other natural materials, creating a textured, rustic appearance. The lighting is warm and focused on the basket, while the background is dark and out of focus.

Why Did It Have To Be Jesus?



Sin Is Humankind's Greatest Problem

- Rom. 5:6-8 - “For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Sin Is Humankind's Greatest Problem

- Rom. 3:10-12 - "As it is written: There is none righteous, no, not one; 11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. 12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."
- John 3:3 - "Jesus answered and said to him, Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Self-Redemption Is Impossible

- Prov. 15:8-9, 26 - “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight. 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves him who follows righteousness... 26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, But the words of the pure are pleasant.”
- Col. 2:12-13 - “Buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses”



Human Generated Redemption Is Impossible

- Rom. 5:7 - “For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.”
- Men may want to save others, and some may even want to sacrifice themselves to do so, but it will be a mockery of salvation

Human Generated Redemption Is Impossible

- Isa. 66:1-3 - “Thus says the LORD: Heaven is My throne, And earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? 2 For all those things My hand has made, And all those things exist, Says the LORD. But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word. 3 He who kills a bull is as if he slays a man; He who sacrifices a lamb, as if he breaks a dog's neck; He who offers a grain offering, as if he offers swine's blood; He who burns incense, as if he blesses an idol. Just as they have chosen their own ways, And their soul delights in their abominations”
- Isa. 64:6 - “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.”
- Those bound by sin cannot release others from it.



God's Intervention

- Eph. 2:4-10 - “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
- It will be all God, and only God, Who intervenes.

God Willed Redemption

- Isa. 1:20 - "But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- Isa. 43:10-13 - "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. 11 I, even I, am the LORD, And besides Me there is no savior. 12 I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And there was no foreign god among you; Therefore you are My witnesses, Says the LORD, that I am God. 13 Indeed before the day was, I am He; And there is no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"
- No force can redeem unless God wills it; no force can hinder redemption if God wills it.

God's Timing

- Eph. 1:3-10 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. 7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him."
- No one could initiate salvation until God willed it; no one could withhold salvation from others when God willed it

God's Redemption Plan Incarnated

- Isa. 9:6-7 - "For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."
- Matt. 1:21-23 - "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins. 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

God's Redemption Plan Unveiled

- Acts 26:14-18 - “And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' 15 "So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 'But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 'I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me”
- God willed that His plan of redemption be revealed, and not even the best temple assassin could stop it

God's Redemption Plan Published

- Mark 16:15-20 - "And He said to them, Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen."
- Once the message was revealed, no force could ever unspeak or re-veil it.



It Had To Be Jesus

- Gal. 3:10-14 - “For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them. 11 But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith. 12 Yet the law is not of faith, but the man who does them shall live by them. 13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree, 14 that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”
- No one else could redeem from the curse of the law



It Had To Be Jesus

- Only God can justify His elect and forgive sins
 - Rom. 8:31-34 - “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

It Had To Be Jesus

- Mark 2:3-12 - “Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven you.’ 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 ‘Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’ 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, ‘Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? 10 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins’ --He said to the paralytic, 11 ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’”



It Had To Be Jesus

- Only Jesus had the qualifications, power, and will to be the sacrifice we needed for our sins
 - Heb. 1:13 - “But to which of the angels has He ever said: Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool?”
 - Heb. 9:14-15 - “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”



It Had To Be Jesus

- Heb. 10:1, 4-5, 12 - “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect... 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.”



It Had To Be Jesus

- 1Peter 1:18-20 - “Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”

A close-up photograph of a woven basket, likely made of straw or reeds, filled with cinnamon sticks and a large cinnamon bun. The basket is positioned on the left side of the frame, and the background is a solid black. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Why did it have to be Jesus?

It could only be Jesus!