

**WHY GOOD FRIDAY?
WHY THREE CROSSES?
APRIL 2, 2021**

INTRODUCTION: ISAIAH 52:14

Why call it Good Friday? It was the darkest day in human history. The innocent Savior of the world was betrayed, arrested, falsely accused, judged, beaten, publicly shamed and crucified. It's a day we mourn because we know our sin was the cause of it all. As terrible as the day was, we know it was necessary for our redemption and had to happen before we could have a resurrection. Satan had a destructive plan for man's eternal damnation, but God had a constructive plan for man's eternal salvation. On the cross, both plans are represented. The first Adam brought death, but the last Adam through death brought life

HIS VISAGE – ISAIAH 52:14 – TRANSLATIONS

EXB – Many people were shocked (astonished; appalled) when they saw Him. His appearance was so damaged (disfigured; marred) He did not look like a man; His form was so changed they could barely tell He was human.

NOG – Many will be shocked by Him. His appearance will be so disfigured that He won't look like any other man. His looks will be so disfigured that He will hardly look like a man.

NCV – Many people were shocked when they saw Him. His appearance was so damaged He did not look like a man; His form was so changed they could barely tell He was human.

NIRV – Many people were shocked when they saw Him. He was so scarred that He no longer looked like a person. His body was so twisted that He did not look like a human being anymore. Something happened to Jesus during His crucifixion that didn't happen to any other crucified human being. Why Good Friday? Because the sacrifice of Christ was the goodness of God in manifestation. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:21** Someone had to pay the price for sin and free us from its penalty.

WHY THREE CROSSES? – LUKE 23:33

Another fulfilled prophecy. **ISAIAH 53:12** The three crosses are no accident. All three have significance.

1. Cross of Christ – Redemption. **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8**
 - A. The cross of Christ speaks of humility, obedience and self-sacrifice.
 - B. **GALATIANS 3:13-14** It speaks of redemption, liberation, and substitution (for us).
 - C. **ROMANS 5:8, JOHN 15:13, ZEPHANIAH 3:17 (AMPC)** It speaks of love.
2. Cross of the unrepentant sinner – rebellion: **LUKE 23:39**
 - A. He was a hardened criminal reaping what he sowed for his life decisions. Crucifixion was used for the most serious criminals: treason, terrorism, insurrection, murder and others.
 - B. His cross represents a fallen world that wants salvation without judgment. Either he had to be judged or Christ. He mocked Christ and died in his sins.
 - C. The world wants life without boundaries. This is anarchy. The truth is God has the right to govern His creation.
3. The cross of the repentant sinner – repentance. **LUKE 23:40-43**
 - A. He was no different than the first criminal. He was being executed for the crimes he committed and decisions he made.
 - B. Rather than mock Jesus, he accepted the salvation He provided. He called out to Him and Jesus saved Him. Both had the same need, and same Savior, but chose differently.