

WHY DID MICHAEL JACKSON DIE?

*A response to the sudden death of music legend Michael Jackson
In June 2009*



Those of us born before the 90's are socked and saddened at the early death of Michael Jackson. We grew up with his music; it evokes thoughts of happy times with friends and family. But once again, we are forced to face the awfulness of death and our own mortality. Why did Michael Jackson die? Read on as we try to make sense of this tragedy.

It seemed terribly wrong to be placing the body of someone we love in the ground never to speak to them until we see them in heaven. People die everyday and all of us will die yet still death shocks us to our very core. It numbs our minds to try and understand that they aren't there anymore.

The reason for this is that there is nothing natural about death. God didn't create people to die; He made them to live forever in a joyous relationship with him. Imagine Adam and Eve as they stood beside the body of their dead son. How could they understand death, never having seen it before? Imagine their utter hopelessness as they realized that never again would they see their son and that the same fate now awaited all of them. All because of their rejection of God.

Maybe we have to be reminded of how appalling death is to appreciate how truly awesome is Jesus victory over sin and death and to live our lives in light of this truth.

Death is a truly dreadful and powerful enemy; it brutally severs us from those we love with devastating results. Death is an unavoidable enemy, despite the fact that we ignore it one day our bodies too will be lowered into the grave. Billion and billions of people have died and are dieing today. How can we comprehend the magnitude of this enemy as it takes more and more of the people we love? Yet Jesus amazingly says to us" I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies." He died and rose from the death so we know he can keep His promise.

So as grapple with the tragic death of Michael Jackson and we are rightly overwhelmed by the awfulness of death we can rejoice that death ultimately will not have the victory and that the great enemy death has been overcome for the followers of Jesus.

As we reflect on our own mortality, we need to be honest with ourselves and God our creator.

Why is it that we are so quick to blame God when things go wrong, yet we totally ignore Him when life is good?

Our response to dish it out to God is proof that deep down we believe He really does

exist. How sad that it takes a tragedy for us to acknowledge Him. And then it's wrongly!

Does Christianity have a response to this untimely death of such a music legend? Or do events like this just discredit God and therefore Christianity because it seems so judgemental and unloving?

The Apostle Paul in the book of Romans tells us that God is the creator of the world and that all that we see around us shouts his existence. It also tells us that we choose to ignore the evidence before us. It also goes on to tell us that God will one day execute judgement to right all the wrongs we commit.

Again, isn't it curious that whenever we see injustice and oppression in the world we are quick to seek justice? Surely, this is another proof that we are made in God's image. For God seeks justice also.

Why does God allow death and evil in the world? Is there an answer? Can we reconcile the fact that if God is a God of love how can He allow so much suffering and evil in the world? The Bible tells us that from beginning to end we are not neutral beings. The reason is rather shocking to us humans and very sobering.

The message of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation is that we cannot understand ourselves or what is happening in this world apart from its message and humbly submitting ourselves to the God of this Bible.

The Message of the Bible is...

God made you and me to be in a loving relationship with Himself

To deny that God exists is foolish in the extreme. The Bible says, "The fool has said in his heart there is no God."

The record of the creation of the world and man as a perfect moral being made for relationship with God fill the early chapters of the Bible. Here we find the basis of true reality. This world was by God and for God. We are the crown of His creation and made to for relationship, first with this God then with each other. This is the basis of true happiness. The truly happy person the Bible says is the one who is in relationship and submission to this creator God.

But we choose to ignore God and rebel against Him

The Bible gives the answer to why there are wars, fighting with families and crime. It also tells us why there are accidents and sickness and death. The answer is that this world is no longer perfect because of our rebellion to this Creator God. Only a fool would be blind to the fact this world is in a terrible mess.

Every one of us is in rebellion to God because of what happened not long after creation. Two historical people; Adam and Eve chose to ignore God and rebelled against His rule over their lives. The result was they chose to ignore God and live independent of Him. How does this affect us? God says in the Bible;

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned Romans 5:12

"The soul that sins shall die" Ezekiel 18:20

God says we are dead - dead to knowing God and Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul in Romans chapter one says we have become idolaters. We worship and serve either ourselves, others, things or all three instead of God. The result is that God says we reap the consequences of our idolatry. The most basic is the sentence of death. But the fruit of the rebellion of Adam & Eve spreads to each person so we all have the sentence of death in us. We will die one day! But also illness, disease, wars, natural disasters, marriage and relationship break downs, plus psychological problems to name a few are come place. This world is out of sink, we are estranged from God. Listen to God's verdict...

" He will render to each one according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality." Romans 2:-11

But God in his love and mercy has done something wonderful.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John :16-17

In Jesus God does two unique things

Jesus proves He is God.

In the Gospels Jesus proves He is God by his power over nature, sin death and disease. We see he calmed storms, healed diseases, forgives sins and rose again from the dead. He needs to be God to be powerful enough to overcome death and sin. Something Michael Jackson and none of us can do on our own.

Jesus is the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

Amazingly Jesus died in my place. He became both our sacrifice and the priest who offers himself as the sacrifice. How amazing. He died the death I deserve; He lived the life I could never live. ***Because Jesus became man and lived and died and rose again of death he alone is making everything new again. This he calls a new creation.*** He now calls you to commit your whole life to Him. By asking Him to be your new King or boss and not living selfishly you can know his love and peace. He adopts you into His family by trusting in His Son Jesus and what He has done in living, dying and overcoming death by rising from the grave. God in the Bible says we are to accept his invitation of forgiveness for our rebellion. Listen to God's amazing promise;

"So that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:21

The Good News is Jesus came to make things right

The Bible also tells us that although we messed up things, God promised to send someone who would make everything right. This person is Jesus Christ God's Son. The reason why God came Himself and took on human flesh was He like us saw the

injustice of our rebellion. The miracle is that rather than punish us He punished His Son on the cross 2000 years ago. Notice the position now of a person who becomes a Christian.

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." The Apostle Paul - Galatians 2:20

Respond now to Jesus and become a new person

God says to each one of us to stop ignoring Him and submit to His loving rule over us. Only He can make you new which He promises

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel : 36:25 -27

Trust Jesus now not yourself. Jesus is calling you now to become a new person. Only by coming into a new relationship with Jesus can you be truly happy and know God as your loving father. Why not surrender your whole life to Jesus Christ? Run into His loving arms and ask for His forgiveness and cleaning from you rebellious life. Ask Him now to make you whole and heal and restore you...

Turn from your idols to serve God. Next be truly sorry for living your life with no reference to God or His Son. You have ignored God as Father and so you must turn away from your independence to live his good way as told us in the Bible. Pray for forgiveness and that God may change you into a new person and then tell us about it so we can help you find a Church that will love you and teach you the Bible.

Do it now, God is calling you...don't put it off!



Pray this simply prayer?

God,
I have lived my life ignoring you and admit I am a rebel against you. God I am so sorry for living independent of you. I am an idolater because I don't worship you above everything else and everyone else. I deserve death and hell when I die but I now believe you can save me from your judgment and hell.

I believe you have rights over me because you made me, but you are also holy and just and therefore must punish my sin. I thank you that you are also loving and merciful and gracious and that you sent your son Jesus Christ to live the life I could never live and die the death I could not die. Thank you that Jesus took your anger for my sins. You punished Him by placing all my sins on Him. Through His death he became a sacrifice so I can enjoy your forgiveness for all my sins, past present and future. Come now and fill me with your Holy Spirit and make me new from the inside out. Thank you Jesus because now you are my Saviour and King and I have eternal life. Amen

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