Death on the Cross

Ten Arguments From the Bible
Hadhrat Maulana Abulata Jallandhari
About the Author

Hazrat Maulana Abulata Jallandhari, the author of this booklet, was born on 14th April, 1904 at Kariha, District Jallundhar in the Indian State of Punjab. In fulfilment of the wishes of his father, he studied in the theological college of Qadian and dedicated his life for the cause of Islam.

He started working as a regular missionary in 1927 and was posted in Palestine from 1931 to 1936 where he started publishing a magazine “Al-Bushra” in Arabic, which continues to be published up to this day. He also founded the Undu magazine “Al-Furqan” and was its editor for 26 years till his death.

In his lifetime he successfully debated on behalf of Islam and Ahmadiyyat with scholars of various religions. He also served as Principal of Theological Colleges at Qadian and Rabwah, as secretary in various administrative departments and in important organisational posts of Ahmadiyya Community. In recognition of such outstanding contributions to Ahmadiyyat, he was conferred the title of “Khalid-e-Ahmadiyyat” by Hazrat Musleh Maoud during Jalsa Salana at Rabwah in 1956.

He was a distinguished member of the team that accompanied Hazrat Khalifatul Masih III to the National Assembly of Pakistan in 1974.

His glorious life and activities came to an end on 30th May 1977. He was buried in Bahisthi Maqbara, Rabwah.

Hadhrat Maulana Abulata Jallandhari
1904-1977
Death on the Cross

This is a short presentation based on references from Bible

These references shed light on the circumstances surrounding the event of crucifixion

The arguments are taken directly from Bible to indicate that Jesus (may peace be upon him) did not die on the cross
I - Jonah's Sign
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And when the people were gathered thick together, he began to say, This is an evil generation: they seek a sign; and there shall no sign be given it, but the sign of Jonas the prophet. For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation.

Luke 11:29, 30

Now what is the resemblance between the two signs of Jonah and Jesus?

It is nothing but going alive into the belly of the fish and the heart of the earth (tomb) and coming out alive.
Jesus promised to show only one sign to the generation

Matthew 12:39, 40

But he answered and said unto them, An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus's reference to the sign of Jonah simply means that he would not die on the cross.
Jonah prayed to God for deliverance while in the belly of the fish. The Lord heard his prayer and Jonah came out alive.
Both Jonah and Jesus cried by reason of their respective afflictions and prayed to their Lord for deliverance. The prayers of both were heard.

Then Jonah prayed unto the LORD his God out of the fish's belly, And said, I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou hearestest my voice.

Jonah 2: 1-2
I - Jonah's Sign

Two Questions

If Jesus did not enter the heart of the earth (sepulchre) alive, and come out alive, where is the resemblance of the two signs?

Jesus promised to show only one sign to the generation of his time, but even if that sign was not proven to be true, is there anything to prove his truthfulness?
Jesus's reference to the sign of Jonah simply means that he would not die on the cross.
II - Pilate's Wife Sees a Dream
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The lady's dream was true and opportune. It implies that Christ was to be saved from a cursed death on the Cross.

Matthew 27:19

When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

God wanted to protect Jesus against his enemies, hence the dream of the Roman governor's wife which influenced his judgement.
III - The Roman Governor's Sympathetic Attitude
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Said unto them, Ye have brought this man unto me, as one that perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse him

Luke 23:14

From the reference given above, it is evident that the Governor regards Jesus as innocent of all the charges brought against him by the Jews.
III - The Roman Governor's Sympathetic Attitude

And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.

John 19:12

Pilate tried his utmost to release Jesus but when the Jews threatened to report him to Caesar he yielded and handed Jesus over to them.
III - The Roman Governor's Sympathetic Attitude

Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

John 18:38-40

However, secretly Pilate took measures to see that Jesus would be saved.
IV - Pilate's Scheme to Save Christ
Pilate, the Governor, convinced of the innocence of Jesus Christ, wished to save Jesus's life. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. John 19:39

As a responsible official of the Roman Empire he could not openly help Jesus, but masterminded a scheme to save Jesus from death on the cross. He was helped by Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable councillor and disciple of Jesus Christ who had already had a sepulchre hewn out in a rock garden nearby. A learned Jew named Nicodemus also appeared to be involved in the plan.
It was clever of Pilate to choose Friday afternoon as the time for Jesus's crucifixion. So that Jesus could not remain on the cross after sunset, as the following day being Sabbath. Pilate selected Joseph and Nicodemus as the most trusted friends to help with his plans. After a short period on the cross Jesus was handed over to Joseph, bones not broken. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to help Jesus regain consciousness. Jesus was shown to have died in official records to pacify the Jews and the Imperial government in Rome.
IV - Pilate's Scheme to Save Christ

So that his prophecy might come true that as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale's belly so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.
V - Duration of Crucifixion
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The actual duration of time that Jesus remained on the cross was not more than three to four hours

And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Mark 15:33, 34
V - Duration of Crucifixion

The period of time for which Jesus remained on the Cross was not long enough to cause his death on the Cross

- Criminals generally took several days to die a lingering death on the cross, the minimum time of death on the cross ranged between 24 and 28 hours, sometimes it became necessary to break the legs of the criminals so that death may be hastened.

The New Testament tells us that Jesus remained on the cross for a few hours only

- Jesus Christ who was in the prime of his youth (33 years) and enjoyed excellent health, could not be expected to have died within so short a time.
- Especially as his legs were not broken as was done in the case of the two robbers crucified with him on the same day.
V - Duration of Crucifixion

And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Surely Jesus would not be expected to die an accursed death as a true messenger of God!
VI - Coming Out of Blood and Water
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The soldiers did not break the legs of Jesus for they took him for a dead man while actually he was in a state of coma, he was declared be a 'dead' man.

Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

John 19: 32-34

But one of the soldiers "pierced his side and forthwith there came out blood and water", which is a sign of life.

There is much food for thought here for those who care to ponder over it.
VII - No Eye-Witness of Crucifixion
Three writers of the Gospels state that there was darkness over all the land from the sixth to the ninth hour and that there was an earthquake and a storm.

The Jews, if, at all, there were any on the spot, must have run away at the sight of the rising storm and the shaking of the earth must have frightened them to turn on their heels and hasten to their homes.

As to the disciples they had already fled from the scene of the crucifixion.
To be brief, there was no one present on the scene who could definitively say that he saw Jesus 'giving up the ghost'.

**Mark 14:50**

And they all forsook him, and fled

**Mark 14:71**

But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak
VIII - Jesus's Mission to the Lost Sheep of Israel
Jesus's mission was to preach to all the twelve tribes of Israel. At that time, only two of these tribes were in Palestine while the other ten were found scattered in and around India.

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Jesus cannot be said to have been successful in his mission if he did not address and preach to the ten lost sheep of Israel.

John 10:16

Luke 19:10
And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

Luke 4:43

The truth of the matter is that Jesus Christ, after his escape from the cross, did migrate to the East in search of the lost sheep.
Jesus's Mission to the Lost Sheep of Israel

Matthew 15:24

But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Jesus found his lost sheep in Persia, Afghanistan and Kashmir, he preached to them thus completing his mission.

Jesus died a natural death and was buried in Srinagar, Kashmir.
IX - Jesus's Victory Over His Enemies
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Now what does Jesus's victory consist of? Is it death on the cross or escape and completion of his ministry?

John 16:32,33

Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.
IX - Jesus's Victory Over His Enemies

If he died on the cross then the Jews were successful because their very aim was to prove that Jesus was false in calling himself the Messiah. They had in their support the Biblical statement

Deut. 21:23

His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.
We believe that Jesus was taken down from the cross alive (in a state of coma of course), he entered the tomb alive; thus defeating his enemy's evil plans. Jesus says:

For as Jonas was a sign unto the Ninevites, so shall also the Son of man be to this generation

Luke 11:30
IX - Jesus's Victory Over His Enemies

In other words Jesus said to the Jews that God Almighty would save him from the clutches of death in the same way as Jonah has been saved from the belly of the whale.

The similarity between the two events only occurs if Jesus was alive when he entered the tomb and comes out alive.
X - His Prayer Was Heard
From the study of the Bible we learn that God listens to the prayers of his apostles and saves them from trials and tribulations. Says the New Testament:

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

James 5:16-18
X - His Prayer Was Heard

Being a righteous prophet he was not afraid of mere death: he was certainly afraid of dying on the cross as such a death could be interpreted to mean a cursed death which was the very negation of his prophetic mission.

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me

*John 11:41, 42*
From the quotations given here it is clear that Jesus was terribly afraid of being put to the cross, so he fervently prayed that the bitter cup be taken away from him.

And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Mark 14:36

Jesus passionately and fervently prayed to God that he might be saved the accursed death on the Cross.
In case he died on the Cross, the mission of his whole life would come to naught and wrongdoers could challenge his claim to prophethood.

Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared

Hebrews 5:7
X - His Prayer Was Heard

The earnest prayer of Jesus was heard.

He escaped death by crucifixion.

He escaped the tomb alive.

He travelled East.

Where he preached to the lost sheep of the Israelites.

He was accepted by his people and honoured.
The idea that Jesus Christ died as a result of crucifixion cannot be justified from the Biblical point of view.