

# THE SWOON THEORY

## Was Jesus REALLY dead?

## Did he fake his death?

### AFTER THE LAST SUPPER:

Prayed all night anticipating the coming events of the next day. He knew the pain that was coming and was under great psychological stress. The gospels state that he began to “sweat blood”.

**Why would they write that?** Because that is what they saw! They are recording things exactly as they saw it happen, even if they had no explanation, even if it was embarrassing for Christianity, even if it went against the culture....

**What does medical science tell us now?** Hematidrosis is a very rare condition when severe anxiety/stress actually causes the release of a chemical that breaks down the capillaries in the sweat glands causing a small amount of bleeding into these glands. The sweat then comes out tinged with blood. This condition then causes the skin to become very fragile and sensitive.

### JESUS IS TAKEN AND FLOGGED:

**What is a flogging?** Consisted of 39 lashes, but frequently a lot more than that depending on the mood of the soldier applying the blows.

**What was used?** A whip of braided leather thongs with metal balls and sharp bones woven into it.

**What does a flogging do to a human body?** The whip would strike the flesh and the metal balls would cause deep bruises and contusions. After a few blows, the skin would break open. Meanwhile the bones would cut the flesh and peel it back.

The back would be so shredded that part of the spine would be exposed and the injuries would have gone all the way from the shoulders down the back, the buttocks, and the back of the legs.

The third century historian, Eusebius, described a flogging saying “the sufferer’s veins were laid bare, and the very muscles, sinews, and bowels of the victim were open to exposure.”

**Did people even survive floggings?** Many would die before they were even crucified. If not die, they would be in hypovolemic shock from all of the blood loss:

- The heart races to try to pump blood that isn’t there anymore
- The blood pressure drops, causing collapse
- The kidneys stop producing urine to maintain what volume is left
- The person thirsts relentlessly as the body craves fluids to replace the lost blood volume

### JESUS IS MARCHED TO THE CROSS:

### **Why did Jesus collapse and a soldier order someone from the crowd to carry the horizontal beam?**

Jesus was in hypovolemic shock. Jesus was in critical condition and hadn't even made it to the cross yet!!!!

#### **JESUS IS PREPARED FOR CRUCIFIXION:**

- Jesus is laid down, and his hands nailed in the outstretched position to the horizontal beam
- The crossbar, called the patibulum, was separate from the vertical beam at this point. The vertical beam would have already been permanently set in the ground.
- Five to Seven inch spikes tapered to a sharp point were driven through the wrists about an inch or so below his left and right palms. If driven through his palms, the nails would have ripped up through his hands and he would have fell off the cross.
- The nail would go through the median nerve, crushing and severing it, causing such severe pain that hitting your elbow or "funny bone" with a hammer would have been a walk in the park.

#### **JESUS IS LIFTED UP ON THE CROSS:**

- Jesus is hoisted up as the cross bar he was nailed to was attached to the vertical stake
- Nails were driven through his feet, crushing and severing the same type of nerves as his wrists.
- His arms would immediately been stretched about six inches in length, dislocating both shoulders

#### **JESUS HANGS ON THE CROSS:**

**What really happened as Jesus hung on the cross?** He would slowly die by asphyxiation

- The stresses on the muscles and diaphragm put the chest into the inhaled position.
- In order to exhale, Jesus would have to push up on his feet so the tension on the muscles would be eased for a moment to be able to exhale.
- Every time he did this, his laid open back would scrape the coarse wood of the cross, and the nail would tear through his foot more, locking up his tarsal bones.
- This process would continue on and on until complete exhaustion would take over.
- Jesus would eventually not be able to breathe anymore

#### **What physically killed Jesus?**

- As breathing slows, Jesus would go into respiratory acidosis. The carbon dioxide in the blood is dissolved as carbonic acid causing the acidity of the blood to increase.
- This leads to an irregular, erratic heartbeat, where Jesus would have known he was at the moment of his death.
- Jesus died of cardiac arrest

#### **The soldiers confirm Jesus' death:**

- A Roman soldier spears Jesus through his rib cage and into his heart
- As the spear was pulled out, John noted that "water and blood" came out.

- The results of hypovolemic shock is that fluid would collect around the heart (pericardial effusion) and the lungs (pleural effusion). The clear fluid and large amount of blood matches medically what would have happened.

### **COMMON SENSE QUESTIONS FOR SKEPTICS?**

**\*Please remember the condition Jesus was in we just went over\***

1. How did he escape from the 100+ pounds of linens he was wrapped in?
2. How did he roll the huge rock away?
3. How did he get past 16 Roman soldiers standing guard?
4. How could he have even walked after nails had crushed his feet and nerves?
5. How could he have strolled down the road to Emmaus?
6. How could he have used his arms with them both being pulled from their joints?
7. How could he even be conscious at this point with such massive wounds and a spear chest to his chest/heart?

**HOW COULD A PERSON IN THAT KIND OF PATHETIC CONDITION INSPIRE HIS DISCIPLES AND ALL THOSE THAT SAW HIM TO LEAVE THEIR LIVES, SUFFER TREMENDOUSLY, AND LOSE THEIR LIFE, GOING OUT AND PROCLAIMING THAT HE'S THE LORD OF LIFE WHO HAD TRIUMPHED OVER THE GRAVE, ALL THE WHILE KNOWING IT REALLY DIDN'T HAPPEN?**

They wouldn't...unless they truly saw the resurrected Christ. We can ask how a human could submit to something like this willingly, and the answer is they couldn't. Only Jesus could redeem us and that is why he came.