

CRUCIFIXION BY THE NUMBERS

I. ONCE

A. **1st Peter 3:18**

What Jesus did at the cross, He did only once because it was all sufficient.

B. **Hebrews 7:20-28**

Christ's single sacrifice is sufficient because, unlike the priests of the Old Testament, His priesthood is forever since He lives forever, having conquered death in His body.

C. **Hebrews 9:11-15**

He only needed to die once because His blood is far superior to that of bulls and goats as sacrificed under the Old Testament.

D. **Hebrews 9:23-10:10**

The primary weakness of the Old Testament was that sins were brought to remembrance every year when sacrifices were offered, but Christ's sacrifice, being once for all, accomplishes what animal blood could not and forgives and forgets sins.

II. TWO THIEVES

A. **Mark 15:27-28; Isaiah 53:12**

In accordance with prophecy, Christ was put to death between two thieves.

B. **2nd Corinthians 5:21**

He knew no sin, but suffered for it on our behalf.

III. THREE CROSSES

A. **Matthew 27:39-44**

On one cross, a criminal died in sin. His cross represents the majority of mankind.

B. **Luke 23:39-43**

On another cross, a sinner was forgiven and died to sin. Although his salvation cannot be imitated today, his repentance and desire for salvation sets a worthy example.

C. [John 10:17-18](#); [Luke 24:44-47](#)

On the most important cross, Jesus died willingly to save sinful man.

IV. FOUR SOLDIERS

A. [John 19:23-24](#)

The soldiers who crucified Christ were four in number, made evident by the effort to equally divide His belongings.

B. [1st Timothy 6:7](#)

When He died, Christ was left with absolutely nothing of His own, materially speaking.

C. [Psalm 22:16-18](#)

This fact fulfilled ancient prophecy that this would occur, thus offering proof that Christ is the Son of God.

D. [Matthew 27:36](#)

At His birth, Jesus was watched over by adoring shepherds, wise men from the east, and the angels of heaven, but at His death, He was watched over by four soldiers who simply waited for Him to die.

E. [Matthew 27:54](#); [Luke 23:47](#)

One of the four, a centurion, glorified Him when He died.

V. FIVE PIERCINGS

A. [Zechariah 12:10](#); [John 19:31-37](#)

Christ took a spear to the side in fulfillment of ancient prophecy which foretold that He would be pierced.

B. [Luke 24:36-40](#); [John 20:24-29](#)

Both His hands and both His feet were also pierced. These wounds later served as evidence of His resurrection. We are blessed to believe it without seeing these wounds ourselves.

VI. SIX HOURS

A. Mark 15:25, 33

From the time He was crucified until the time He died, Jesus hung on the cross six hours. Six hours may seem insignificant when we think of flying from California to Hawaii in less time, but six hours is a long time to die. He suffered thus on our behalf.

VII. SEVEN STATEMENTS

A. Luke 23:34; Ephesians 4:32

In death, Jesus desired the forgiveness of His killers. His example teaches us to be forgiving, as well.

B. Luke 23:43; Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus assured a penitent man that he would be remembered by Him after death, but many will not.

C. John 19:25-27; 1st Timothy 5:8

In death, the Lord's concern was for the comfort and care of His family. While living, responsible people should make plans to provide for their own, as well.

D. Matthew 27:46; Psalm 22:1, 22-24

Christ desperately wanted the Father's attention, and He had it.

E. John 19:28; Acts 6:1

Jesus proved that it is right to admit our needs and ask for help. We should not hesitate to let others know when we need their help.

F. John 19:30; 4:34; Luke 14:28-30

Jesus claimed to have finished His father's business, which had always been His goal. Likewise, we should set out to finish what work God has given us.

G. Luke 23:46; 1st Peter 2:21-23; 4:19

Finally, Jesus committed His spirit to God. He set an example for us in so doing.