



## Week 6 - 2024

### Jesus, Our Atonement - His Life & Death

The second part of the Apostle's Creed summarizes core beliefs about Jesus Christ. Let's explore these intriguing phrases!

**As the Gospel spread from Ancient Israel to the cities of the Roman Empire, questions about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection developed among those who had not seen or heard Jesus in person. How does the Creed address these issues?**

**\* Discuss with your group -**

- How would you describe an influential teacher from high school to your group (who have never met this person)? How would you summarize the most important things you learned from them?
- What would have been the most important things believers would share about Jesus' life and message to those who never met Him?

**Watch Video #6, then read and discuss, phrase by phrase...**

**"He suffered under Pontius Pilate..."**

- This locates Jesus as a real, historical person in Judaea. Pilate was the Roman Governor of the region, with authority to issue the death penalty for treason against Roman interests.

**"...was crucified, died, and was buried;"**

- Some questioned whether Jesus was actually human, or perhaps just a spirit being, or if he just fainted on the cross to later be revived. This line confirms his actual, physical death and burial.
- John the Apostle confirms this in **John 19:31-35**

**"He descended to hell."**

- An intriguing phrase! What happened between Jesus' death and resurrection? The Early Church called this the Harrowing of Hell. Although not a detailed exploration, here are the key Bible passages:
- Jesus descended to Sheol / Hades (**read Ephesians 4:7-10**), and led a group of "captives" out of Hades with Him when He rose.
- These "captives" were people of faith who had died before Jesus' Atonement, but kept safe by God in a section of Hades called Abraham's Bosom - Jesus refers to it in **Luke 16:19-31**.
  - NOTE: this is NOT the Catholic concept of Purgatory - Abraham's Bosom no longer exists after Jesus' resurrection!
- In Hades, Jesus proclaimed His victory over evil to those people and fallen angels who had rejected God's authority (**1 Peter 3:18-20**).
- By this victory, Jesus holds the keys of death & Hades (**Revelation 1:18**).

**"The third day He rose again from the dead"**

- Again, this was a real and physical resurrection! Remember the confession of **Romans 10:9-13!**
- John highlights that this happened in a **garden** - symbolic of the Resurrection as a New Creation after God's "rest" on the sixth day: **John 19:41-20:1** (Jesus = New Adam, Mary = New Eve)

**Read The Apostle's Creed together: What stands out to you this week?**

**EN-CORE**  
JOURNEY  
SCRIPTURE • BELIEFS • PRACTICES

### The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(\* not Roman Catholic, but all believers everywhere!)

### Jesus, Our Hope

- What are some new ways you understand Jesus from this study of the Creed? Pray together for new revelation!