



# Why Die?

by Marie Armenia

Dear Jesus,

*I'm wondering if you might answer some questions I have? It's Easter again, with its chocolate bunnies, egg hunts, and buying new clothes to go to church. Basically, it's the church part of the holiday that perplexes me. More specifically, the "Jesus-died-on-the-cross-for-you" sermon they seem to preach every year.*

*I hear people saying you're the Son of God. It would seem to me that if the actual Son of the actual God in Heaven came to earth, He would do something about the sorry state of the planet. I can't understand a religion that is founded on a founder who died on a cross. Why die, Jesus? Wasn't living a better option? I hate to be a bother, but I'd really like to understand.*

*Sincerely,  
Average Joe*

Dear Joe,  
Your questions don't bother me a bit. As a matter of fact, I welcome them. And I welcome you. I myself have put the desire to search for truth in you. Why? Because it will lead you to Me.<sup>1</sup> I am the Truth.<sup>2</sup> When you search for Truth, I'll be the only light at the end of that tunnel. And when you get to the end of your search for Truth, you'll find something you've been wanting even more than truth—you'll find love. Real love.

The truth is that I am the love you're seeking. I've watched you try to find it in other people, in accomplishments, and in possessions, only to be disappointed time after time.

Nothing about you is hidden from me. I was right there as you were being formed in your mother's womb.<sup>3</sup> I said, "I've got such great plans for his life."<sup>4</sup> And I still do. I love you. I love you. I love you.

The reason I mention my love for you is that it is at the heart of the answers you seek from me. You can't comprehend my actions because you cannot comprehend my love. It's because you are focusing on what is seen with your eyes. What is seen is temporary, what is unseen is eternal.<sup>5</sup>

You ask me "Wasn't living a better option?" My answer is "Yes, of course it was." A better option for me, not you. I had lots of options, you had

none. You were born into a dying race, without hope or a future. The reason? A deadly spiritual disease that was inherited from your father Adam. It's called sin. Sin is the reason for every war, sickness, hatred, fear, murder and death. Sin is killing every descendant of Adam, which means every single human being.

No father wants to watch his child die, and God is no exception. But what to do? The payment for sinning has been set by God Himself—the soul that sins will die. On the other hand, it's not God's will that anyone should perish.<sup>6</sup>

So God decided to send me, His Only Son, as the way to replace everlasting death with everlasting life.<sup>7</sup> I became a sort of second Adam.<sup>8</sup> But this time, the second Adam lived a perfect sinless life. That's good news for me, but what about you, Joe? What good did it do you that I lived a perfect life? You still were imperfect, and still required to pay for your sinfulness with your own eternal death.

Since the only reason for death is sin, and since I didn't have any sin, I wasn't required to die. You however, had no choice. Every day of your life brings you closer to the end of it. I willingly chose death, but it was your death I was dying, not my own. And the only explanation is love. I love you too much to see you die and be lost from me forever. Just as the first Adam's sin brought death to his descendants—my sinless life brings life to all who are born spiri-

tually through me.<sup>9</sup>

But here's the really good news about the story. It wasn't just that I died as your substitute. Dying was just the means to an end. The real point of dying, and the answer to your "Why die?" question is that since I died in your place, I was resurrected in your place too. Because I live, you will live also.<sup>10</sup> My resurrection is now your resurrection—if you want it.<sup>11</sup> The truth is that dying did not mess up my plan to save the earth, it was my plan to save the earth.

And I, "the actual Son of the actual God in Heaven" am going to make all things new.<sup>12</sup> My plan for your future is to make you new, give you a new life on a new earth that will never pass away. A place where sin will never enter and tears will not be known. This may sound too good to be true, but it is. In closing, I'm happy I got to tell you that I am the way for you to live forever. All you have to do is ask your heavenly Father to place your sin on my cross, and He will. And when He does, you will be just like a person who has never sinned. It isn't difficult to live forever, is it? So here's my question to you, Joe:

"Why die?"

Love, *Jesus*

BIBLICAL REFERENCES: <sup>1</sup> Jeremiah 29:13. <sup>2</sup> John 14:6. <sup>3</sup> Psalm 139:13-16. <sup>4</sup> Ephesians 2:10. <sup>5</sup> 2 Corinthians 4:18. <sup>6</sup> 2 Peter 3:9. <sup>7</sup> John 3:16. <sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:22-45. <sup>9</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:22-45. <sup>10</sup> John 14:19. <sup>11</sup> John 11:25. <sup>12</sup> Revelation 21:5.

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