5. WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

In Old Testament times, the people of Israel followed a system of sacrifices in order to pay the debt for their sins. God's laws determined what types of sacrifices were required in order to atone for different sins. Most living sacrifices were to be perfect animals without blemish.

In the New Testament, Jesus, the Lamb of God, takes away the sins of the world by living a perfect life without sin. John 3:17 says, "God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." This made him the ultimate sacrifice - once and for all satisfying the demands God's justice required.

In the sacrifice of Jesus' crucifixion we are shown the depths of God's love for us and the lengths taken to save us from our sins. And in Jesus' resurrection we see God's triumph over death, pointing toward the promise of eternal life in God's presence.