Who Was Responsible For Killing Jesus?

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday December 2nd, 2018

Text: I Jn. 2:2; 4:10; Rom. 5:8

### Intro

1. No one likes to be blamed for a tragedy.
	1. Mt. 26:22: When Jesus said one of the 12 would betray Him, they began saying, “Lord, is it I?” (NKJV)
	2. Judas, whose heart was evil and had already decided to betray Him, said, “Rabbi, is it I?” (Mt. 26:25, 47-49: The Betrayer’s Kiss)
	3. Lk. 22:23: The apostles began discussing “among themselves” who would betray Jesus.
2. “I’m The One” (1963) by Ray Overholt (1924-2008):
	1. Overholt was a “singing cowboy” in the 1940’s to 1950’s.
	2. In 1958 he wrote “Ten Thousand Angels” before he was a Christian, but converted shortly after hearing it sung for the first time. (Sold over 1 million copies by 1970)
	3. He focused his musical career on writing gospel songs.
	4. He died in 2008 at age 84!
3. Judas was responsible for betraying Him, but who was responsible for killing Jesus?
	1. Stanza 1 of “I’m The One” (1963) refers to His betrayal:
		1. I was not in the garden when He knelt to God and prayed, I did not kiss Him on the cheek when Jesus was betrayed; I could not do a single thing to hurt God's only Son, But every time I sin on earth I feel that I'm the one.
4. Mel Gibson’s 2004 “The Passion” had an “Easter-Egg” (“hidden message, inside-joke”) in the movie: A close-up of a Roman soldier’s hand hammering in the first nail was actually Mel Gibson’s hand (the director), in his way of saying he was responsible for the death of Jesus because of his sins! (<http://www.passion-movie.com/english/faq2.asp>)
5. Who was responsible for the death of Jesus?

#### The Jews Were Responsible for Killing Jesus

* 1. Stanza 2 refers to His trial…
		1. I was not at the trial when the crowd jeered at His name, I did not make Him bear a cross or walk a road of shame; I could not do a single thing to hurt God's only Son, But every time I sin on earth I feel that I'm the one.
	2. Jn. 19:10-15: Jesus said the Jews had the “greater sin” for delivering Him up to the Romans in the first place (Jn. 19:10-11)
		1. For bringing Him to the Romans the Jews bore greater guilt (responsibility).
		2. Even Pilate knew they delivered Him up out of envy – Mk. 15:10
	3. The Jews there accepted the responsibility! They said, “His blood shall be on us and on our children!” (Mt. 27:22-25)
	4. Jesus said to the Jews, “upon you may fall the guilt of all the righteous blood shed on earth” (Mt. 23:35) – Mt. 23:32-36
		1. Peter blamed the Jews for the death of Christ – Acts 2:22-23, 36
		2. Steven blamed the Jews for the death of Christ – Acts 7:52-53
		3. Paul blamed the Jews for the death of Christ – I Thess. 2:14-15
	5. The Jews carried the guilt of the blood of Christ!

#### The Romans Were Responsible for Killing Jesus

* 1. Stanza 3 refers to His crucifixion
		1. I was not on the hillside when He gave His life that day, I did not nail His precious hands or take His robe away; I could not do a single thing to hurt God's only Son, But every time I sin on earth I feel that I'm the one.
	2. Jn. 18:28-31: The Jews had no authority under Roman rule to put anyone to death.
	3. It was the Roman governor that gave the order and Roman soldiers that carried it out.
		1. Pilate, the Roman governor (Prefect), had the authority and gave the order to first scourge Jesus (Mk. 15:15), then crucify Jesus (Jn. 19:15-18), a man he knew to be innocent! (Jn. 19:4, 6)
		2. Roman soldiers carried out the actual crucifixion – Mt. 27:26-31; Jn. 19:23
	4. The apostles blamed the Romans (Gentiles) – Acts 2:22-23 (“godless men”); 4:27-28
	5. The Romans (especially Pilate) carried the guilt of the blood of Christ!

#### God Was Responsible, Allowing Jesus to Be Killed

* 1. The death (sacrifice) of Jesus was according to God’s eternal purpose
		1. Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28
		2. Jesus acknowledged it was the Father’s will – Mt. 26:38-39; Jn. 18:37
	2. Jesus was delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God
		1. The Jews and Romans were God’s instruments in carrying out His will to save all mankind, though they didn’t know it – Jn. 19:10-11
	3. Thus, in that sense, God the Father was responsible for the death of Christ!

#### Jesus Himself Was Responsible for His Own Death

* 1. Jn. 10:11-18: Jesus had the power and authority to lay down His life and take it up again.
	2. Mt. 26:53: Jesus had the power to deliver Himself, but it was His will to die (Jn. 10:18).
		1. “He could have called 10,000 angels!” (“Ten Thousand Angels” by Ray Overholt) – 12 Legions of angels (Legion = 6,000 men)
	3. Jesus came to give His life “a ransom for many” (Mt. 20:28; Jn. 1:29; I Pet. 1:19: The Lamb of God who takes away sin!).
		1. He came to do the will of the Father and was obedient to the point of death, setting an example for us – Phil. 2:5-8
	4. Thus, in a sense, God the Son was responsible for His own death!

#### “I’m the One” – You and I Are Responsible for Killing Jesus

* 1. The Chorus reminds us that even though we weren’t there, the suffering and death that Jesus experienced was for our sins:
		1. I'm the one who shouted “crucify,” I'm the one who made His cross so high, I'm the one who stood and watched Him die; What have I done? I'm the one.
	2. Is. 53:5, 8, 10-12: He suffered and was beaten and bruised because of our iniquities.
		1. He bore our sins in His own body on the cross of Calvary (I Pet. 2:24)
		2. Heb. 9:25-28: As animals were sacrificed under the Old Law (Heb. 10:4), Jesus sacrificed Himself to atone for our sins once for all time! (Heb. 10:10)
	3. Thus, in that sense, any person who has ever sinned *(Rom. 3:23)* is responsible for the death of Christ!
		1. We must make personal application – my sin made His death a necessity!
		2. We must accept our own blame in His death!
		3. It was for our sins He died – we were guilty of death but He paid the price!

(I Jn. 2:2; 4:10: “Propitiation” for sins – He took away the wrath of God – an appeasement for sin! – Rom. 5:9)

* 1. This hymn reminds us that though we couldn’t do a single thing to hurt Jesus, every time we sin we’re “the one” that put Him to death!
	2. Rom. 5:8: Christ died for us – we are to die to sin *(Rom. 6:4-12).*
		1. We have forgiveness of our sins through His blood – *Eph. 1:7*
		2. Those who become unfaithful crucify Jesus all over again – *Heb. 6:4-6*
	3. You and I carry the guilt of the blood of Christ!

## Conclusion

1. Who was responsible for killing Jesus?
	1. The Jews demanded His death!
	2. The Romans crucified Him!
	3. God sent His Son to die!
	4. Jesus willingly (lovingly) died to redeem the sins of the world!
	5. All of us, because we sin, bear responsibility for the death of Christ!
2. The test is our reaction:
	1. Are we willing to accept our responsibility? Obey His word for forgiveness? (Acts 2:38)
		1. Jews obeyed the gospel – *Acts 2:37-41*
		2. Romans obeyed the gospel – *Acts 16:12, 15, 29-34; Phil. 4:22*
		3. Gentiles obeyed the gospel – *Acts 11:1, 18; 13:48-49*
	2. Or, will we blame it on others? Never accepting His sacrifice to our benefit? (Acts 7:57; 13:46)
		1. Whether Jew or Gentile there is only condemnation waiting for the one that does not obey the gospel! *(II Thess. 1:7-9)*
3. Let us never consider the blood of Christ as common or vain, for without the shedding of His blood there would be no forgiveness of sins! (Heb. 9:22)
4. No, we weren’t there when Jesus was nailed to the cross, but when it comes to the reason that He was crucified, “I’m the One!”
5. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
6. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
7. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/hymnoftheday/conversations/messages/1453>

[http://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/gospelsoundcheck/2008/09/country-gospel-music-artist-an.html#](http://www.beliefnet.com/columnists/gospelsoundcheck/2008/09/country-gospel-music-artist-an.html)

**I’M THE ONE (1963)**

By Ray Overholt (1924-2008)

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” (Is. 53:6)

A hymn which points to Jesus as the one on whom the Lord has laid the iniquity of us all, including each individual, is “I'm The One.” Both the text was written and the tune was composed by Ray Overholt (1924-2008). Overholt was a gospel songwriter and singer born on July 24, 1924 at Dutton in Kent County, MI, who is best known for his song “Ten Thousand Angels,” which was published by Lillenas Publishing in 1958, and was written before Overholt became a Christian. He later said he didn’t know “12 Legions” of angels was a lot more than 10,000 (approx. 72,000) at the time he wrote it! “I’m the One” was first published in 1963 by Singspiration, Inc.

Well-known first in the Michigan area, Overholt was one of the area’s first singing cowboys, entertaining kids each weekday morning with his TV show, “Ray’s Roundup” (1948-1952). Overholt would play his guitar and sing, while his sidekick Shorty would spin some tall tales.

Overholt was active in gospel “hillbilly” music for years before he wrote one of his signature songs, “Ten Thousand Angels,” which changed his life.

His music has been recorded by at least 100 artists, including Kate Smith, Loretta Lynn and Janie Fricke. But in 1958, Overholt hung up his cowboy hat when a conversion to Christianity redirected his life and mission. He converted the same year he wrote “Ten Thousand Angels” and shortly after hearing it sung.

Since that time, Overholt composed award-winning gospel music that he performed with his wife, Millie, for years.

His most successful songs include “Ten Thousand Angels,” which sold 1 million copies by the 1970s, and “Hallelujah Square,” nominated for three Gospel Music Association Dove Awards in consecutive years. He was a member of the Michigan Gospel Music Association's Hall of Fame and was inducted into Michigan Country Music Hall of Fame.

Overholt, known for being Grand Rapids' (MI) first TV singing cowboy, died Sunday Sept. 14, 2008 at 84 years old as he was getting into the van for a Grand Rapids concert.

His hymn, “I’m The One,” mentions several things that Jesus experienced as God laid our iniquity on Him which we did not see but caused by our sin! It is a reminder of the price for our sin and the role we each played in the “Suffering Servant” being sent as an offering for sin!