

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord?

Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47;

Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42

Hebrews 12:2-3

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

The Final 3 Hours on the Cross **(12:00 pm - 3:00 pm)**

**“Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour”
(Matthew 27:45)**

“When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour.” (Mark 15:33)

“It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour” (Luke 23:44)



During These 3
Hours

Christ will
speak 4
more times,
and again,
we gain
much
insight from
the words
that he
chooses so
carefully to
speak.

4. A Cry of Horror

- Matthew 27:46 –

“About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’”

This is a direct quote from what Psalm?

One Commentator writes:

“These words mark the climax of the suffering of Christ for a lost world. Here He drank to the dregs the cup of sorrow, grief, and pain on our behalf. In these hours when the sun refused to shine upon suffering deity, Jesus found fitting expression to His feeling of desolation in the words of the Psalmist...Jesus had to pay the price alone and tasted death – spiritual death...Spiritual death is broken communion. Jesus had a taste of such a broken communion, the first and last He ever experienced – in those desolate hours when darkness lay upon the earth and upon His soul.”

G. Campbell Morgan,

The Crises of Christ

“The logical, irresistible, irrevocable issue of sin is to be God-forsaken. Sin in its genesis was rebellion against God. Sin in its harvest is to be God-abandoned. Man sinned when he dethroned God and enthroned himself. He reaps the utter harvest of his sin when he has lost God altogether. That is the issue of all sin...Now listen solemnly, and from that Cross hear the cry, ‘My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?’

That is hell. No other human being has ever been God-forsaken in this life. Man by his own act alienated himself from God, but God never left him...What explanation can there be of this cry from the lips of Jesus? None other is needed than that declared by His herald three years before... ‘Behold, the lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!’ He has taken hold upon sin. He has made it His own...On that Cross He was made sin, and therein He passed to the uttermost limit of sin’s outworking. He was God-forsaken. He knew no sin. He was made sin. He was forsaken of God.”

5. A Cry of Torment

- John 19:28 –

“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, ‘I am thirsty.’”

How Does This “fulfill the Scripture?”

“to fulfill the Scripture”

- **Psalm 22:15** – “My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death.”
- **Psalm 69:21** – “They also gave me gall or my food And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”
- **Now Look at John 19:29**

Remember Earlier?

- **Matthew 27:34 –**

“they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink.”

Why Didn't He Drink It?

David Mathis, “The Wine Jesus Drank”

“So the first wine was designed to dull Jesus’ pain, to keep him from having to endure the cross with full consciousness. This wine He refused. And the second (sour) wine was given to keep him ‘conscious for as long as possible,’ and thus have the effect of prolonging His pain. This is the wine Jesus drank. Other criminals would have taken the first (to ease their torment) and passed on the second (so as not to prolong their horrific pain). But Jesus would take no shortcuts on the way to our redemption.”

6. A Cry of Victory

- John 19:30a –

“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’”

J. Dwight Pentecost

“The word translated ‘It is finished’ (*tetelestai*) was used in Greek commercial life. The term signified the completion of a transaction by the full payment of a price or the discharge of a debt by a completed payment. All sin incurs a debt which the sinner owes to God. The debt must be discharged before that sinner can be accepted by God...Christ's death paid for the total sin of the human race. Having made that payment, Christ could say ‘It is finished,’ or ‘The debt has been paid in full.’”



Martin Luther

“In this word, ‘It is finished!’, will I comfort myself. I am forced to confess that all my finishing of the will of God is imperfect, piecemeal work, while yet the law urges on me that not so much as one tittle of it must remain unaccomplished. Christ is the end of the law. What it requires, Christ has performed.”

7. A Cry of Commitment

- **Luke 23:46a –**

“And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.’”

Pentecost once again:

“[Jesus] bowed his head and gave up the spirit (John 19:30). In doing so Christ offered a final prayer: ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit’ (Luke 23:46). This was in keeping with Christ’s own statement, ‘I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father’ (John 10:17,18). Christ did not die because life slowly ebbed from His veins. His life was not taken from Him. Christ died because by an act of His will He dismissed His soul from His body. Christ was sovereign over His death as He was sovereign over His resurrection (John 10:17,18).”

The Death of the God-Man

- **Matthew 27:50** – “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.”
- **Mark 15:37** – “And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed His last.”
- **Luke 23:46b** – “Having said this, He breathed His last.”
- **John 19:30b** – “And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”

Physical Phenomena at His Death

1. The veil separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies was rent in two (Matthew 27:51a) –

“And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom”

Alfred Edersheim,
The Life and Time of Jesus the Messiah

“The Veils before the Most Holy Place were 40 cubits (60 feet) long and 20 cubits (30 feet) wide, of the thickness of the palm of the hand, and wrought in 72 squares, which were joined together; and these Veils were so heavy, that, in the exaggerated language of the time, it needed 300 priests to manipulate each. If the Veil was at all such as is described in the Talmud, it could not have been rent in twain by a mere earthquake of the fall of the lintel...”

“This veil, which was the thickness of a palm breadth, was sixty feet long and thirty broad, and separated the Holy and Most Holy Places. Various attempts have been made to explain this strange phenomenon on naturalistic grounds, such as the earthquake, or as Jerome’s comment on the Gospel according to the Hebrews, by the fall of the huge lintel of the Temple broken by the earthquake. But this veil was of such tough fabric and so woven that it could not have been rent in twain by an earthquake of the falling of a lintel. Matthew connects the phenomenon directly with the death of Jesus, calling attention to the fact that it was rent ‘from top to bottom’ by God’s hand, throwing open thus the Most Holy Place to all men. Previously only the High Priest entered the Most Holy Place, and that once a year on the day of the Atonement, to offer on behalf of himself and the people. Early evangelical tradition held to this supernatural interpretation which is confirmed for us by the Hebrew epistle. This significant portent was doubtless the explanation for the fact that a great number of priests became Christians in early apostolic times. The way is open now for all men to come boldly to the throne of grace through the atoning death.”

Physical Phenomena at His Death

2. There was a great earthquake
(Matthew 27:51b) –

**“and the earth shook and
the rocks were split.”**

Physical Phenomena at His Death

3. Graves in and around Jerusalem were opened (Matthew 27:52-53) –

“The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.”

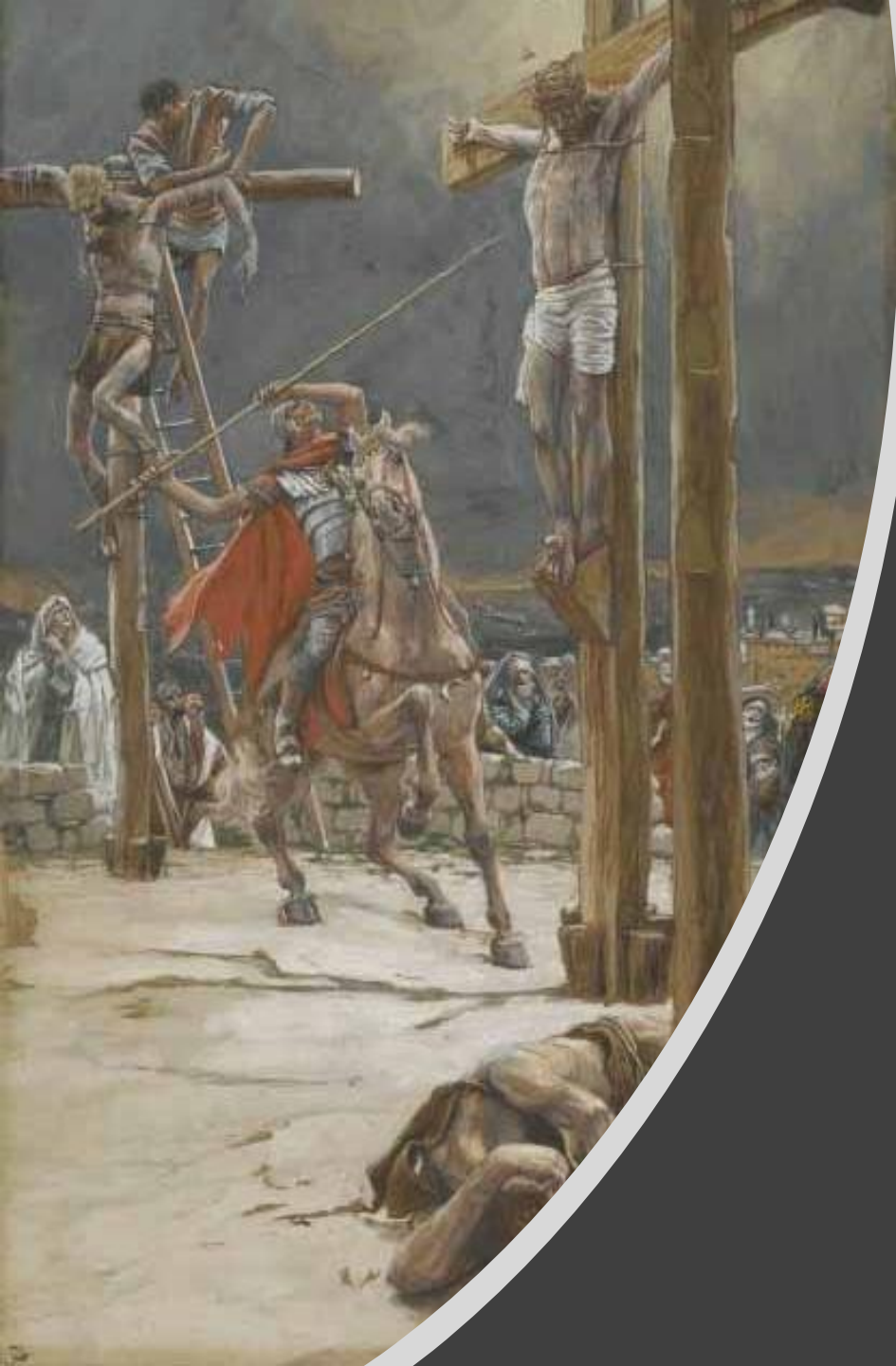


**One More
Thing:
Matthew
27:54**

“Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, ‘Truly this was the Son of God!’”

Remember John 12:32?

**“And I, if I am
lifted up from the
earth, will draw all
men to Myself.”**



Turn to
John
19:31-37

2 Measures to Hasten Death

1. The Roman soldiers came to break the legs of the victims to hasten death; when they did so they discovered that Jesus was already dead **(John 19:33)**.
2. The soldiers pierced the side of the Savior **(John 19:34)**.

In Response to Critical Theories

This is clear and ungainsayable proof that Jesus was dead; the oft-revived idea that Jesus only “swooned” on the cross, and was later revived by the cool air of the tomb simply will not stand up against the record.

Zechariah 12:10 (ca. 520 B.C.)

10 I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Remember John 2:19?

**Jesus answered
them, “Destroy this
temple, and in three
days I will raise it
up.”**

**Jesus crossed this valley
just last night in John 18:1**



John
19:38-42

The Burial of Jesus



Two Courageous Sanhedrinists

- Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea come forward to identify with Jesus and to claim His body for burial (Mark 15:42-47; John 19:41,42).
- The tomb where Jesus was placed was in a garden nearby; the tomb had never been occupied before (John 19:41,42).

Had These Men Not Intervened

Jesus' body doubtless would have been buried in a common sepulcher because of the ignominious death He suffered; such a burial would have been in violation of the prophecies of the Old Testament:

Isaiah 53:9a – “His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death”

Luke 23:55-56

55 Now the women who had come with Him out of Galilee followed, and saw the tomb and how His body was laid. **56** Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And on the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

The Gospels Are Explicit

- That certain believing women marked carefully exactly where the tomb was, intending to return after the Sabbath to finish preparing the body for burial; the preparation had been hasty and partial because the Sabbath was approaching.
- By Jewish law, the body could be dressed for three days; the day of death was day #1; by sundown on the third day after that the tomb had to be permanently sealed, (because the corpse would begin to smell horribly.)

The Timeline

- Jesus was buried sometime before sundown on Friday; His body lay in the tomb all of Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath), and He resurrected sometime before sunrise on Sunday.
- Throughout the time that the body of Jesus lay in the sepulcher, the women maintained a vigil during those hours when such was appropriate.

Matthew 27:62-66

62 Now on the next day, the day after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, **63** and said, “Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I am to rise again.’ **64** Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.” **65** Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how.” **66** And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

The Next Morning

- The chief priests and Pharisees went to Pilate to demand that the tomb of Jesus be sealed lest “His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”
- Pilate complied, and thus was the theory that Jesus’ body was stolen rendered untenable by His enemies.

Jesus Had Promised

**That He would rise from
the dead “on the third
day” (Matthew 16:21).**

**This creates an
interesting irony...**

The Irony...

Though Jesus' disciples had never been willing to hear His promise to rise on the third day, and thus did not anticipate that event, Jesus' enemies had certainly heard that claim; it is for that very reason they demanded that Pilate place an official seal on the tomb and provide armed guards, so that Jesus' disciples could not come and steal the body.



Next Week: | **He Is Risen!**

