

The Death and Burial of Jesus

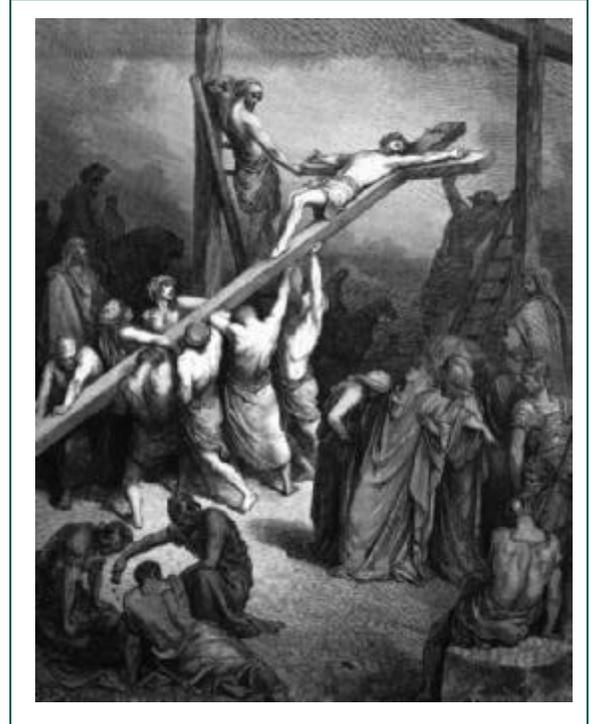
Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42

Why did God have the believers rise from the dead when Jesus died?

If you had been one of those believers, how would you have witnessed to people about what happened to you?

Prayer

I am ready and willing to search the Scriptures today for the truth about my Savior, and to reflect on who I am in His sight. I want to know Jesus first, myself second, and then everyone else as people You have loved so unselfishly. Amen



The Death and Burial of Jesus - A Harmony of the Gospels

And it was about the sixth hour (12:00 noon). Then the sun was darkened. From this hour darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour (3:00 P.M.).

And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani!" Which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You (hast Thou) forsaken Me?"

And when some of those who stood by heard that, they said, "Look! This Man is calling for Elijah."

After this, Jesus, seeing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst."

Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there. Then immediately someone ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, on hyssop, and put it to His mouth and offered it to Him to drink. He and the others said, "Let Him alone! Let us see if Elijah will come to save Him and take Him down."

So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"

And when Jesus had cried out again with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your (Thy) hands I commend My spirit." And having said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit, and breathed His last.



Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth quaked; and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and, coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

Now when the centurion, who stood opposite Jesus, saw what had happened and that He cried out like this, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man." When the centurion, and those with him who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this Man was the Son of God."

And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned. But all His acquaintances and many women also were there, standing at a distance, looking on from afar, watching these things. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. When Jesus was in Galilee, they followed Him and ministered to Him, and they had followed Him from Galilee, ministering to Him. And there were many other women who had accompanied Him from Galilee and came up with Him to Jerusalem.

Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. Then the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who was crucified with Jesus; but when they came to Jesus and

saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

And after these things, when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, behold, there came a rich man from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews. He was a good and just man, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a prominent council member, but he had not consented to their counsel and deed.

This man took courage and went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, that he might take it away. And Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and, summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. And when he found out from the centurion, Pilate gave him permission and commanded the body to be given to Joseph.

Then Joseph bought fine linen and came and took the body of Jesus down. And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took the body of Jesus and wrapped and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to

bury.

Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden, Joseph's own new tomb, that was hewn out of the rock, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore, because of the Jews' Preparation Day—that day was the Preparation, and the Sabbath drew near—because the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after. And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, the mother of Jesus, sitting opposite the grave. They observed the tomb, and where and how His body was laid. And Joseph rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb and went away. And the women returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.' Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how."

So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Recalling Details

1. What happened for three hours?
2. What did Jesus cry out at the ninth hour?
3. What had Jesus been suffering during those hours?
4. What was Jesus given to drink?
5. What were Jesus' final words?
6. What happened when Jesus died?
7. What confession did the centurion make?
8. Why weren't Jesus' legs broken?
9. What did the soldiers do to Jesus?
10. What did Pilate permit Joseph to do?
11. Who helped Joseph bury Jesus?
12. How was the door of the tomb closed?
13. What prophesy of Jesus bothered the chief priests and Pharisees?

Outer Aim

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

Discussion Questions

1. What commandment was Jesus keeping for us by committing the care of His mother to John? How was He keeping that commandment?
2. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished."?
3. What shows us that the leaders of the Jews were still afraid of Jesus after He was dead?
4. Discuss what was dangerous about what Joseph and Nicodemus did.
5. Find and discuss some Bible passages that should help us to confess Christ even when it may be uncomfortable or dangerous to do so.

Inner Aim

God's plan for our redemption required that One Substitute must die for the sins of the world. And we are happy that Jesus died for us.

Passages - Read each passage and tell how it applies to the story.

John 12:32 "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hebrews 9:12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

I Corinthians 15:56-57 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Hymn

How does Hymn #186 apply to this story? In the last verse, how is heaven described?

Prayer

Lord, please help me to appreciate all that You did for me by dying on the cross for all my sins. Fill me with Your Spirit so that I will confess You always. In Your name we pray. Amen.