

The Death and Burial of Jesus

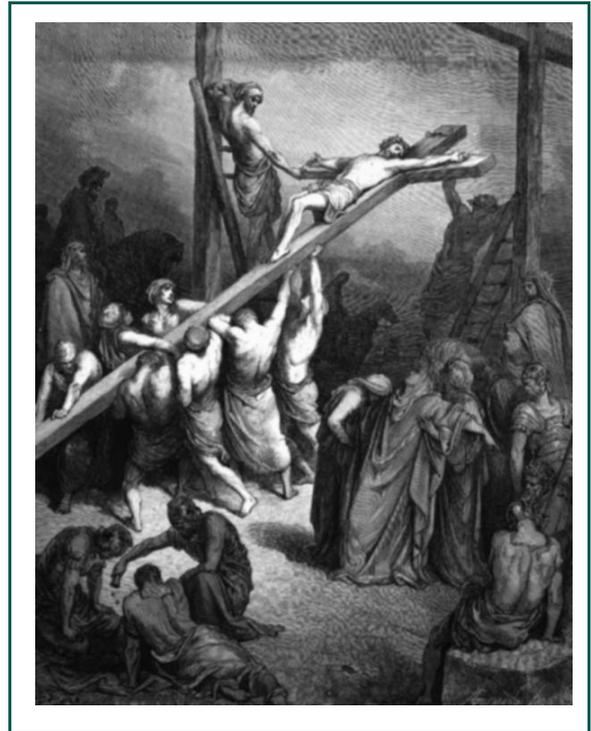
Matthew 27:45-66; Mark 15:33-47; Luke 23:44-56; John 19:28-42

What suffering is Jesus going through in this picture?

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 Joseph, 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.

What the Story Tells Us

1. Now from the _____ until the _____ there was _____ over all the land.
2. Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "My God, _____, why have _____?"
3. At the time of Jesus' death the veil of the _____ was _____ in two from _____ to _____ and the _____ were opened and many bodies of the saints were _____.
4. The centurion said, "Truly this was _____".
5. When they saw that Jesus was already dead, they did not _____ His _____. Instead a soldier _____ His _____ with a _____.
6. _____ of _____ offered his new tomb for Jesus' body.
7. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses observed where _____

Outer Aim

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried.

What God Tells Us - Mark each as (T)rue or (F)alse

1. _____ The Roman soldiers fulfilled Old Testament prophecies when they broke Jesus legs and pierced His side.
2. _____ The Holy Spirit filled many believing women to confess Jesus by being near Him at the time of His death.
3. _____ Joseph and Nicodemus were confessing their faith in Jesus when they buried Him.
4. _____ Joseph and Nicodemus placed themselves in no danger by asking for Jesus' body and then burying it.

5. ____ It is always easy to confess our faith in Jesus in our world today.
6. ____ We should confess our faith in Jesus only when it is safe 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 got the job done for us.

Passages

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

John 10:17 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again.

II Timothy 1:10 "Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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

Hymn

Find a hymn that talks about why we as Christians should not be afraid to die.

What part of the hymn do you especially like, and why? Explain.

Your Turn

Discuss some situations where it may not be easy to confess Jesus as our Savior.

Discuss ways to overcome our fears in confessing Jesus at all times.

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.