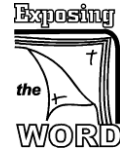




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44- The Crucifixion and Burial... *John 19:16-42*

The cry to crucify has ringed from the lips of the crowds after being whipped into a frenzy by the Jewish leader. Pilate, who half heartedly attempted to release Jesus, has gone along for political reasons. Jesus is sentenced to die on the cross. No appeal to any other court, no delay in carrying out the sentence. The Passover looms in the next days so there must be a rush, not only to judgment, but to carry out the execution. Albert Edersheim in *Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* observed:

In Rome an interval, ordinarily of two days, intervened between a sentence and its execution; but the rule does not seem to have applied to the provinces, if, indeed, in this case the formal rules of Roman procedure were at all observed.

I- Place of the Skull:

Pilate washed his hands of Jesus to try to appease his own conscience for sentencing an innocent man to die. He then turns Jesus over to the soldiers with orders to crucify Him. *Joh 19:16 Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away. 17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*

John does not give us many details of the procession toward Calvary. He calls it the place of the skull and gives the Hebrew name, Golgotha.

The other three synopsis gospels tell us that Jesus had help bearing the cross along the way. *Luke 13:26 And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and*

on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

Remember that Jesus had been severely beaten and had lost a lot of blood and was weakened. In fact many men did not survive the beating that Jesus had already endured. So Simon was compelled, or forced into public service. The implication is that he did not volunteer but was made to do this task.

II- Crucified Among Thieves:

One of the strongest arguments or what we have called verifications in this study, that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah of Israel is the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Him. One of these is found here in *Joh 19:18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.*

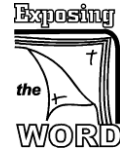
Luke tells us that these were criminals on each side of Jesus. *Luk 23:33 And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left.*

Now notice the Old Testament prophecy found in *Isa 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

This is just one of many numerous prophecies fulfilled that verify the Messiah.

III- The Inscription and Protest:

Jesus now hands on the cross at about 9:00 in the morning. Pilate hangs an inscription over Jesus and shows usual



strength for him by refusing the alter the wording. *Joh 19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin.*

The three languages were the common language of Hebrew for the Jews, Greek which was the language of the culture and Latin which was the official language of the Roman Empire. This may seem insignificant but you can also read into it that in one way it was symbolic of Christ dying for all nations and languages.

The chief priest upon finding out about the inscription goes to Pilate and request he changes it to read that Jesus claimed to be not that He was. *Joh 19:21 Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. 22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.*

The inscription would stand and call out to the others around the cross.

IV- Casting Lots:

John does not give the details of the dialogue of Jesus with the others two being crucified with Him. Luke is the only one who tells us that Jesus tells the thief, *...Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise. Luk 23:43*

The bitterness of the crowd is also omitted by John. They wagged their heads and mocked Jesus as He hung suspended between heaven and earth, between earth and hell, between man and God, bridging the gap.

John records for us an event that had

been prophesied that again verified the Messiah. Remember John's purpose was not to tell all the details but to give those germane to giving rise to faith in Christ.

The prophecy is found in *Psa 22:18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.*

Now notice with me *Joh 19:23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. 24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.*

There were normally four soldiers who took the clothing of the condemned as payment for their deed. The inner garment of Jesus would have been destroyed if they had cut it apart so they gambled to see who would get it again verifying Messiah.

V- The Women at the Cross:

Next John records for us the women that were at the cross. For the most part the disciples are noticeable absent, except for John. The concern of Jesus for His mother's care is recorded only in John.

Joh 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! 27 Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.

One can only imagine the grief and heart break this was causing Mary and the other



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women. Most people say that Joseph was not living when these events take place by his absence.

VI- It is Finished:

There are a total of seven last sayings that Jesus uttered upon the cross. We piece these together by looking at all four gospels. We see from Matthew, Mark and Luke that darkness hung over the earth while Jesus hung on the cross.

Some may ask was Jesus conscience of the fulfillment of the verifying prophecies. We certainly see that He was. Notice **Joh 19:28** *After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.*

Psa 22:15 says, *My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.*

Joh 19:29 *Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.*

We see this OT foretelling in **Psa 69:21** *They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*

The cry that perhaps the most striking from the lips of Jesus is recorded in **Joh 19:30** *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

We might asks what was finished. There are many things that finished here. One was the suffering for the sins of mankind, the plan of God for redemption of men, the completion of the prophecies, the mockery and many others.

Now let us not miss this important point that is stated here. No one took His life He gave it up. He simply bowed His head and died. Sure the cross would have killed Him

in a few hours but we will see in a moment that they were amazed that He was already dead. He surrendered His life, no man took it.

Luke tells us along with it is finished Jesus stated the words of **Psa 31:5** *Into thine hand I commit my spirit...*

VII- No Broken Bones but a Pierced Side:

One of the titles Jesus held was the Lamb of God. Remember the lamb had to be without spot or blemish, no broken legs or blind eyes. (see **Ex 12:46**)

The rush of the Passover was pressing upon the events on the cross. Therefore in order to speed the deaths the soldiers were instructed to break the legs so they could not push up to breath.

Joh 19:31 *The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. 32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:*

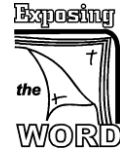
Jesus had died before this was needed as we discussed previously. Still there were other prophetic verification that keep taking place. Notice now what the soldier did instead of breaking His legs. **Joh 19:34** *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. 35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. 36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. 37 And*



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again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

This gave the scared of the piercing that will be used in the future when Israel looks upon its Messiah.

We see this in two places. First is *Zec 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

Now notice with me *Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*

VIII- The Burial:

The Jewish custom was to bury someone on the day they died. They would prepare the body, not for perseveration but for decay. The Scriptures had foretold of Messiah being buried with the rich. This is sharply contrasted with the fact that Jesus became poor that we might be made rich.

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

And that He did not even have a place to lay His head and had to borrow a tomb. *Isa*

53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Now let us see that Joseph and Nicodemus request the body of Jesus and bury it in Joseph's tomb.

Joh 19:38 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. 39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. 40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. 42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

It is not without major significance that Jesus was killed on the very day and time that the Paschal or Passover Lamb was being slain. Beloved He is verified as Messiah time and time again.

Have you put your faith and the eternal fate of your soul in His hands?