

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE LIFE OF JESUS

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PART 18: THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

THE MOCKING

Once Jesus had been scourged with some 100 lashes by the Roman soldiers, they led him to a hall in the palace where the garrison gathered to mock Jesus. The Son of God's physical body was in shock after such a severe beating and would have been nauseated from the loss of blood.

The Roman soldiers had zero compassion for Jesus and decided to have some fun at His expense by putting a scarlet/purple robe on Him. Most likely it had previously been used on scourged prisoners who were ready for crucifixion and would have been covered in blood. **Matthew 27:27-31; Mark 15:16-20**

THE SLOW WALK TO GOLGOTHA

The Romans forced the condemned to carry the crossbeam in order to further torment the person. According to historical records of Roman crucifixion practices in Jerusalem, the upright poles of the cross were kept at the execution place and the condemned person carried the crossbeam that was fastened to the pole. The two parts of the cross consisted of solid wood; it is estimated that the vertical portion of the cross would have weighed 210-230lbs and the crossbeam would have weighed in at 70 to 90lbs.

The King James Bible calls what Jesus carried a cross but my personal belief is that it was a crossbeam. There is no way Jesus would have been able to lift 300lbs. after receiving a beating from the Sanhedrin and being flogged twice by the Romans.

The four Gospels do not record that Jesus stumbled under the weight of the beam. Three of them bear record that the Roman soldiers ordered Simon from Cyrene to carry the crossbeam to Golgotha. Cyrene was a province in Egypt that is today called Libya.

More than likely the Roman soldiers initially forced Jesus to carry the crossbeam and got Simon to carry it when Jesus' body gave out. It was a slow walk to Golgotha once Simon picked up the cross beam since Jesus would have been exhausted from the beatings and blood loss. **Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26; John 19:16-17**

There were two other condemned prisoners who were also taken to Golgotha to be crucified. **Luke 23:32**

ENCOUNTERING A CROWD

The Roman custom in Jerusalem was to parade the condemned prisoners through the most populated streets in the city in order to instill fear in the Jewish population that whoever rebelled against Rome would be punished in like manner.

All the followers of Jesus knew He had been arrested and condemned to die on a cross. The crowd must have been subdued since they believed He was the Messiah, but at the same time Jesus had been beaten and was on His way to Golgotha. Even the apostles



were resigned to the fact that Jesus was not the Messiah. Regardless, Jesus took the opportunity to speak, particularly to the women who were crying for Him. **Luke 23:27-31**

CRUCIFIXION

Golgotha, which means “Place of the Skull,” was the official execution site for crucifixion. The Romans had installed the vertical part of the crosses permanently into the ground, with a small ledge about 2 feet above the ground that was used to fasten the feet with two large nails.

Once the condemned prisoner arrived with his crossbeam, he was forced to take off his clothes since the Romans always crucified their victims in the nude to further humiliate them.

The crossbeam was put on the ground and a number of soldiers would sit on the condemned and stretch his arms wide as two large iron nails were driven into the hands and fastened to the crossbeam. Once this was done, soldiers would lift up the cross beam with the man and fasten it to the vertical pole. When the crossbeam was secured, his feet would be placed on the ledge and then two large iron nails would be driven in through each foot and fastened to the ledge.

There was no way a person could free himself from the four nails that held him to the cross. The condemned was about two feet above the ground and they experienced a slow excruciating death over the next three days.

Once the person had been nailed to the cross, he would have to support his body with his legs or hang by his arms. Over time the muscles in the legs would begin to spasm with pain, and in order to get relief, he would have to painfully use his arms to hold himself up. After some time, the arm and chest muscles would also begin to spasm and the only relief was to put pressure on the feet again.

Death came about as a result of the way the man was crucified, not the puncture wounds caused by the nails. The condemned died from asphyxiation when the muscles used for breathing weakened over time and he wasn't able to breathe any longer.

THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

It was customary for the soldiers to offer the condemned drugged vinegar wine so that he might more easily endure the cross. The purpose of the drink was to dull the senses but Jesus didn't want any. **Matthew 27:34; Mark 15:23**

Jesus was forcefully stripped of His clothing and flung to the ground while soldiers stretched His arms on the crossbeam and secured his hands with nails. The Roman soldiers were not gentle, they did not care about the wounds on Jesus' body as they simply wanted to get the job done and treated the Son of God like an animal that is being slaughtered. **Matthew 27-35; Mark 15:24; John 19:23-24**

Jesus did not angrily lash out at the soldiers as they added to His pain but chose to forgive them. **Luke 23:33-34**

Here is a prophecy concerning the crucifixion event. **Psalms 22:17-18**

Pilate must have been present when Jesus was crucified because he ordered a sign to be put on the top of the cross. **Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38**

This greatly offended the Jewish leadership and they told Pilate to revise the wording. Pilate did not cave this time and stated the sign would stay as it was. **John 19:19-22**

MORE MOCKING

Caiaphas, the priests, scribes, and others were not done with Jesus. Their wish had finally been fulfilled as their hated enemy was nailed to a cross. That wasn't enough for these sadistic scoundrels as they wanted to mock Jesus a final time while He hung helpless on the cross. **Matthew 27:39-43; Mark 15:29-32**

FINAL EVENTS

The Roman government wanted people at the execution place in order to instill fear in them and make them compliant with Roman law. More than likely there were scores of upright poles at the site since many rebellious Jews had been crucified. There were two other Jews on either side of Jesus. They were probably some five feet between the crosses that were only about two feet above the ground. This made it easy for people to walk up to the crosses and mock the condemned. When one of the thieves hanging on the cross began to mock Jesus, the other rebuked him and asked Jesus to remember him when the Son of God came into His kingdom. The thief that defended Jesus was saved by his confession of faith that day. **Luke 23:39-43**

It was prophesied that the Messiah would be counted as a criminal. **Isaiah 53:12**

Jesus' mother walked up close to the cross with two other women and the apostle John. Jesus knew that his mother would have a hard time making a living since there were few jobs for women outside domestic service and directed His mother to His best friend. John accepted the assignment to take care of Mary. **John 19:25-27**

The time had arrived for God the Father to deal with the sins of the human race, and in order to do that, total darkness fell on the land even though it was only noon. The darkness lasted until 3:00 PM. **Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44**

Jesus had previously stated that no human being could kill Him since He planned to lay down His life and take it up again. **John 10:17-18**

That is exactly the way it happened when Jesus was on the cross and the atonement was completed. Jesus left His body on the cross and went to Paradise. **Matthew 27:46-50; Mark 15:34-37; Luke 23:46-49; John 19:28-30**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?