

THE MEANING OF THE CRUCIFIXION

MARK 15:16-39

JIM HINTON



For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (NLT)

JESUS RECEIVED WHAT I DESERVED – SO THAT I COULD RECEIVE WHAT HE DESERVED

I. THE BRUTAL TREATMENT OF JESUS LEADING UP TO THE CRUCIFIXION—MK. 15:16-20

The beatings

- By the people at his trial (Mt. 26:67-68; Mk. 14:65a; Jn. 18:22-23)
- By the Temple guards (Mk. 14:65b; Lk. 22:63-65)
- By the Roman soldiers (Mt 27:27-31; Mk. 15:16)
- The scourging (Mt. 27:26; Mk. 15:15; Jn. 19:1)

Roman scourging was called the ‘halfway death’ because it was suppose to stop just this side of death

Jim Bishop in The Day Christ Died

The Roman legionnaire steps forward with the flagrum (or flagellum) in his hand. This is a short whip consisting of several heavy leather thongs with two small balls of lead attached near the ends of each...The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across Jesus’ shoulders, back and legs. At first the heavy thongs cut through the skin only. Then as the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels underlying the muscles. The small balls of lead first produce large deep bruises which are broken by subsequent blows. Finally the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When it is determined by the Centurion in charge that the prisoner is near death, the beating is finally stopped.

C. Truman Davis in The Passion of Christ from a Medical Point of View

II. WHAT DOES THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST MEAN? - MARK 15:21-39

1 God loves me (v.21-24)

Give beer to those who are perishing, wine to those who are in anguish...

Proverbs 31:6 (NIV)

Did Jesus really die? The physical trauma of the crucifixion was beyond survival.

Apparently to make doubly sure of death the legionnaire drove his lance through the fifth interspace between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart. The 34th verse of the 19th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John: "And immediately there came out blood and water." Thus there was an escape of watery fluid from the sac surrounding the heart. We therefore have rather conclusive post-mortem evidence that Our Lord died, not the usual crucifixion death by suffocation, but of heart failure due to shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium.

C. Truman Davis, MD

2 Jesus is Lord (v.25-26)

And Pilate posted a sign over him that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, so that many people could read it. Then the leading priests objected and said to Pilate, "Change it from 'The King of the Jews' to 'He said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate replied, "No, what I have written, I have written."

John 19:19-22 (NLT)

His eyes are flames of fire. On his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him, but only he knows what it is. He wears clothes dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven, wearing pure, white linen, follow him on white horses. A sharp sword comes out of his mouth to defeat the nations. He will rule them with an iron scepter and tread the winepress of the fierce anger of God Almighty. On his clothes and his thigh he has a name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.

Revelation 19:12-16 (GWT)

3 Jesus died in my place (v.27-28)

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

One of the criminals on a cross began to shout insults at Jesus: "Aren't you the Christ? Then save yourself and us." But the other criminal stopped him and said, "You should fear God! You are getting the same punishment he is. We are punished justly, getting what we deserve for what we did. But this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:39-43 (NCV)

4 Jesus fulfilled His mission (v.29-38)

So much of God's story focuses on this moment in time. His prophets saw it hundreds of years before it happened. Here are just a few examples:

- Psalm 22:16—The Messiah's enemies would surround and pierce his hands and feet
- Psalm 22:18—People would gamble for his clothing
- Isaiah 53:12—He was numbered with the transgressors
- Psalm 109:25—His enemies would shake their heads and say cruel things
- Amos 8:9—There would be darkness in the middle of the day