

THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

BIBLE TEXT : Matthew 27:27-56

LESSON 64 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Matthew 27:27-56

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band *of soldiers*.

²⁸ And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

²⁹ And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

³⁰ And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

³¹ And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*.

³² And as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name: him they compelled to bear his cross.

³³ And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

³⁴ They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted *thereof*, he would not drink.

³⁵ And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

³⁶ And sitting down they watched him there;

³⁷ And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁸ Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

³⁹ And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

⁴⁰ And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest *it* in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

⁴¹ Likewise also the chief priests mocking *him*, with the scribes and elders, said,

⁴² He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we

BIBLE REFERENCES:

NOTES:

The Procession to Calvary

Jesus was condemned to death by crucifixion, the most cruel and shameful manner of death His enemies could think of. He had done nothing worthy of death; but because the Jews were jealous of Him, they took this means of removing Him from their midst.

The world has never seen another such procession as wended its way out of the city to Mount Calvary. The Son of God, despised by men, went out "bearing his cross." He was followed by a mob of men who hated, mocked, and beat Him. There were also some, mostly women, who followed Him in mourning. They wept because of the shameful treatment that was being accorded the Lord; and when He saw them, Jesus told them not to weep over Him, but to consider the terrible suffering that was going to come upon the Israelites because of this grievous crime.

Jesus was worn out because of all that He had suffered, and fell under the weight of the cross. If you had been there, would you not have wanted to help Him bear the cross? No one came to lend Him aid, so Simon, a man from another country, who was passing by, was forced to carry the cross up the hill. May we bear His Cross gladly!

When the mob reached the top of the hill, Jesus was laid upon the cross, and nails were driven through His hands and feet; then the cross was lifted for everyone to see Christ's humiliation. Two thieves were crucified at the same time, fulfilling the Scripture: "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death" (Isaiah 53:9).

Scriptures Fulfilled

It is an inspiration to see how perfectly Christ fulfilled the prophecies that had been made about Him. We shall list a few. A disciple betrayed Him: "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me" (Psalm 41:9). He was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, and the money was returned and used as a burying ground for the poor: "So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. . . . And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD" (Zechariah 11:12, 13). Jesus was beaten with the lash and abused: "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting" (Isaiah 50:6). He did not answer His accusers nor try **to** defend Himself: "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7). Nails were driven through His hands and feet: "They pierced my hands and my feet" (Psalm 22:16). The Jews, His own people, crucified Him: "And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends" (Zechariah 13:6). Even the vinegar He was given to drink while on the cross had been predicted: "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink" (Psalm 69:21). There are many other such prophecies; and if the scribes

will believe him.

⁴³ He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

⁴⁴ The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

⁴⁷ Some of them that stood there, when they heard *that*, said, This *man* calleth for Elias.

⁴⁸ And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled *it* with vinegar, and put *it* on a reed, and gave him to drink.

⁴⁹ The rest said, Let be, let us see whether Elias will come to save him.

⁵⁰ Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

⁵¹ And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

⁵² And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,

⁵³ And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.

⁵⁴ Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

⁵⁵ And many women were there beholding afar off, which followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him:

⁵⁶ Among which was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's children.

and Pharisees had wanted to believe on Jesus, they would have known that He was the Messiah, for He said, "Search the scriptures; . . . they are they which testify of me" (John 5:39).

Convulsions of Nature

Jesus was nailed to the cross at nine o'clock in the morning, and at noon darkness came upon the earth. From noon until three in the afternoon it was very dark. People who passed and saw the sign on the cross, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS," laughed at Him and taunted Him with the words, "He saved others; himself he cannot save." *Jesus* had the power to save Himself, but He would not have fulfilled redemption's plan if He had come down from the cross. Jesus was the Son of God, and for that reason He stayed on the cross to pay the price to redeem us to God. He alone could pay that price.

At three o'clock, the time of the evening sacrifice, there was an earthquake, and great rocks were broken. All nature became agitated as its Creator hung between Heaven and earth, suffering cruel death at the hands of wicked men. Then people began to realize that Jesus was more than a man, but it was too late to take Him down. He had already breathed His last. In that final hour He suffered His greatest agony.

The Father turned His face because He could not look upon the sins of the world the Son was bearing there. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

The Veil Rent

At the moment Christ died, the veil of the Temple was rent from the top to the bottom. This veil is said to have been woven an inch thick, and could never have been torn except by supernatural hands. The veil was hung at the entrance into the Holy of Holies, an inner room that only the High Priest could enter, and he only once a year, on the day of Atonement. He must bear the blood of a lamb sacrificed for the sins of the people. When the veil of the Temple was rent, the way was opened for everyone to enter into the Holiest of All, to make their petitions directly to God instead of having a priest pray for them. When Christ died He became our High Priest, bearing His own Blood before God for our sins. When we pray to the Father, we pray in Jesus' name, and ask that the Blood He shed be applied to our hearts. Thus we gain redemption, salvation from our sins, through the Blood of Jesus.

QUESTIONS

- 1 Where was Jesus crucified? With whom?
- 2 Who bore the cross up the mountain?
- 3 What happened between noon and three o'clock?
- 4 What time did Jesus die, and what else happened at the same hour?
- 5 How must we pray to the Father for salvation?