

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Twelve

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (2)

Scripture reading: Matt. 27:45-66; John 19:28-42

Burden to Impart:

The Lord Jesus' greatest suffering was not the physical pain or the shame inflicted upon Him by man. A much greater suffering was the pain caused by God's judgment upon Him as He willingly suffered for the sins of the entire world and was forsaken by God, with Whom He had enjoyed eternal oneness and communion. Because of His obedience to God and His love to man, and in order to fulfill God's eternal purpose, the Lord Jesus was willing to pay any price and endure any suffering in order for man to be forgiven and redeemed so that he might receive the divine life.

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Facts to Teach:

1. During the first three hours on the cross the Lord Jesus' sufferings were physical (in His body) and psychological (in His soul). He suffered the pain of the crucifixion in His hands and feet. Also, His head had a crown of thorns and His back had been scourged. His face had been beaten and slapped, His beard plucked, and His mouth was parched and dry (Psa. 22:15). He suffered in His soul from the people's mocking and scorn. He was so humiliated that He felt as low as a worm (Psa. 22:6-8). In addition to all of this, He suffered the shame of having His clothes taken away from Him.
2. The worst suffering, however, was during the sixth through the ninth hours, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 P.M. in the afternoon. During these three hours He suffered an agony in His spirit that we as human beings will never be able to understand.
 - a. At noon the bright sun became darkened and darkness came over all the land.. This was a great sign that something was happening in the universe that was of universal and eternal significance. Everyone at that time had to see that sign; the sun, the very source of man's light and life, temporarily became darkened and hid its face from the awesome sight that was taking place on the hill of Calvary as Jesus, the Author of life (Acts 3:15), was being killed.
 - b. At the ninth hour (3:00 P.M.) Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46). Jesus, who had never known one moment of separation from His God and Father for all eternity, was separated from and forsaken by God [economically, not essentially] during those three hours. God had to forsake His beloved Son at that time because as the Lamb of God He had become the sin offering for the whole world. All the sins and iniquities of the whole world (1 John 2:2; Isa. 53:6) were laid upon Him and He, the Holy One who knew no sin, was made sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21).
 - c. After bearing all of God's righteous judgment for the sins of the whole world, Jesus accomplished eternal redemption for us. Having fulfilled His Father's will He cried out in a loud voice, "It is finished!" and gave up His spirit (John 19:30). Actually, men did not kill Him. Because He had finished redemption's work, He gave up His own life (John 10:17-18).

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Lesson Twelve (continued)

3. It was already evening and the Sabbath was approaching, so the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs of Jesus and the two criminals broken. (They did this to cause a speedy death which occurred once the legs were broken and could not support the person's weight.) However, when the soldiers came to Jesus they did not need to break His legs because, to their surprise, He had already died. Anyway, to be absolutely positive that Jesus was dead, and out of brutal cruelty, one of the soldiers thrust his spear into Jesus' side. Immediately blood and water came out (John 19:31-34).
4. After Jesus died, two disciples who loved Him very much (Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus) came to Pilate and asked him for the body of Jesus. They wanted to bury Him in an honorable way, and indeed they did. Though He was born in a poor manger, He was not buried in a poor way. He was buried in a special grave that Joseph had prepared for himself at great cost. He was buried in a great rock that had been hollowed out with much difficulty. They carefully wrapped His precious body in a clean linen cloth and put fragrant spices around it. Finally, an extremely large stone was rolled in front of the cave (Mark 16:4) and they went away.
5. Although His disciples apparently did not remember, the wicked Pharisees remembered that Jesus had said, "After three days I will arise." Because they were afraid that Jesus' disciples would come and steal away His body and tell everyone that He had risen from the dead, the Pharisees begged Pilate for guards to watch the grave until the third day. Pilate granted their wish, so they were given at least two guards (Matt. 28:4) to seal His grave and keep watch over it for the remainder of the three days.

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Songs for Lesson Twelve

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Hymns, #986.

C F C
Christ has a full redemption made:

F C G⁷
What a wonderful Savior!

C F C
We are redeemed! The price is paid:

F C G⁷ C
What a wonderful Savior!

G⁷ C
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Savior!

F C G⁷ C
What a wonderful Savior is Jesus, my Lord!

I praise Him for the cleansing blood,

What a wonderful Savior!

That reconciled my soul to God,

What a wonderful Savior!

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(Story for Lesson 12)

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS (2)

Memory verse: For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.
John 3:16

In eternity past God looked down on the earth below and His heart was filled with loneliness and grief. He saw His people, that is you and I, so far away and lost in a world of woe under the rule of the dreadful serpent, Satan. It was then that God planned His great salvation for all the world.

In last week's lesson we saw how the forces of darkness rose up to kill the Lord Jesus; the only One who could defeat all the powers of Death. He allowed them to nail Him to a cruel cross, to suffer and to die. Now, in this lesson we will see the deepest agony that the Lord suffered and the overwhelming Love of God that was clearly shown.

During the first three hours the Lord was on the cross He suffered the pain and torture inflicted on Him by the religious leaders and the mobs; yet He prayed to the Father to forgive them. The soldiers made sport, removing every stitch of His covering, while vile and wicked men taunted Him. His head hung low as the most grievous crown of thorns pressed deeply into His brow. Yet, every word from His mouth was full of kindness, forgiveness and mercy. This dreadful scene shows us how great is Satan's hatred of God. This seemed to be Satan's hour of triumph against the Son of God, the Light of the World. But God's plans and counsels cannot be confounded. They are steadfast and sure.

"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour" (Matt. 27:45). During the last three hours the Lord spent on the cross God's righteous wrath against sin was even fiercer than Satan's torments. His punishment of the sin of all the world was so heavy that no human being could ever have lived through it. Only the Prince of Life could bear this violent storm. Only our Lord Jesus, Son of God and Son of Man, could take upon Himself this burning chastisement. He could have called ten thousand angels to deliver Him but His great love for each of us kept Him on the cross.

In the Old Testament there are windows in the word for us; glimpses into the life and death of the Lord Jesus, which He shared with King David and the prophet Isaiah. Specially in the psalms of David. In Psalm 22, we see a cry of anguish, tied in with the cross, "My God, my God. Why hast Thou forsaken me? Why art Thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? ... I cry...but Thou hearest not...Our fathers trusted in Thee and were not confounded. But I am a worm

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and no man; a reproach and despised of the people. Recorded also are: "All my bones are out of joint...My tongue cleaveth to my jaws...the wicked have inclosed me. They pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones". (So thin He was!)

Breathing on the cross has to be accomplished by the pumping of the legs. Hence, when the soldiers broke the legs of the other two victims, death quickly followed. Our Lord's legs were not broken. He fought and suffered until He could call out, as the Mighty Conqueror, "It is finished!" And He gave up His spirit to His Father God. (Never to be separated again!)

Finished! That most painful Sacrifice which was accomplished in complete obedience to His Father-God. The Door to Eternal Life was now open wide. All of our sin had been removed and the Fountain of Life, the Living water, was now available to drink from by all those who thirst after God.

After the crucifixion, a man named Joseph took Jesus' body down from the cross. He carefully laid Jesus in a grave that was cut out of a large ____ .

To discover the missing word, fill in the areas that contain a dot .

