

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

BIBLE TEXT : **John 19:31-42; Matthew 27:62-66; John 20:1-31.**

LESSON 276 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19) . .

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 19:31-42 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:

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

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

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Death and Burial

1 The Jews obtained an order for the Roman soldiers to hasten the death of Jesus, John 19:31, 32.

2 Jesus was dead already, but one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side, John 19:33-37;

Zechariah 12:10 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.**

3 Joseph and Nicodemus secured the body of Jesus, prepared it for the burial, and placed it in Joseph's own tomb, John 19:38-42;

Matthew 27:60 ⁶⁰ **And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.**

Mark 15:43-46 ⁴³ **Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.**

⁴⁴ **And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling *unto him* the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.**

⁴⁵ **And when he knew *it* of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.**

⁴⁶ **And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.**

Luke 23:50-53 ⁵⁰ **And, behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just:**

⁵¹ **(The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) *he was* of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God.**

⁵² **This *man* went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus.**

⁵³ **And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.**

II The Tomb Watch

1 The words of Jesus were remembered, that He would rise again the third day, Matthew 27:62, 63;

John 2:18-22 ¹⁸ **Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?**

¹⁹ **Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**

²⁰ **Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?**

²¹ **But he spake of the temple of his body.**

²² **When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.**

2 The Pharisees and chief priests feared lest the disciples should come by night and steal Jesus' body, Matthew

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.

Matthew 27:62-66 ⁶² Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

⁶³ Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

⁶⁴ Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

⁶⁵ Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can.

⁶⁶ So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

John 20:1-31 ¹ The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

² Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

³ Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

27:64.

- 3 Pilate appointed a watch, and the entrance stone was sealed against intrusion, Matthew 27:65, 66.

III The Resurrection

- 1 On the third day, before dawn, an angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled the stone away from the door of the sepulchre, John 20:1;

Matthew 28:1-2 ¹ In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first *day* of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

² And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it.

- 2 Jesus Christ arose from the grave to live evermore, **Matthew 28:6** ⁶ He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Mark 16:6 ⁶ And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

Luke 24:5-7 ⁵ And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

⁶ He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

⁷ Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

- 1 **Corinthians 15:4-6** ⁴ And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

⁵ And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:

⁶ After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep.

Revelation 1:8 ⁸ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 1:18 ¹⁸ I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

- 3 Mary Magdalene, early at the sepulchre, ran to tell Peter and John, John 20:1, 2.

- 4 Peter and John ran swiftly to investigate, John 20:3-10; **Luke 24:12** ¹² Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

- 5 Mary remained at the sepulchre and was rewarded by a visit from Jesus, John 20:11-18.

IV Appearances to the Disciples

- 1 The same day at evening, the Lord's Day, Jesus appeared to the disciples to counsel them and gladden their hearts, John 20:19-23;

Mark 16:14-18 ¹⁴ Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

¹⁷ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any

⁴ So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

⁵ And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

⁶ Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

⁸ Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

⁹ For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

¹¹ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre,

¹² And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

¹³ And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

¹⁷ Jesus saith unto her, Touch me

deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

2 Thomas, called Didymus, was not present at Jesus' first appearance and could not believe that Jesus was truly risen, John 20:24, 25.

3 Eight days later, again on the Lord's Day, Jesus appeared the second time, Thomas being present, John 20:26.

4 Jesus removed Thomas' doubts, John 20:27-31.

NOTES:

Sad Hearts

The faithful band of Jesus' followers were up early on the first day of the week following the crucifixion. Theirs was not a joyous company – on the contrary, their hearts were saddened almost to the breaking point. Jesus Christ, their beloved Leader and Master, had been taken from them and had been cruelly crucified; Jesus the One who had performed so many mighty deeds and miracles among them; the One who had taught them how to draw near to God; the One who had told them the beautiful things about Heaven and the terrors of hell; the One whom they trusted to become their earthly king and Messiah. The hopes and aspirations, plans and purposes, of Jesus' followers had been built higher and higher through the years of His ministry, but in one day many of those hopes had been dashed to the ground.

The faithful band had watched with Jesus through the long day as He hung upon the cross. They witnessed the hours of darkness that covered the land during midday. They heard the blessed Son of God pray for the forgiveness of His persecutors; they heard Him promise eternal life to the dying thief who was crucified with Him; and they heard Jesus call out to the Father with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The small company had stayed with their Lord until He yielded up His spotless life; but little did they realize the tremendous importance, to the world of sinners, of the events to which they were witnesses.

Joseph and Nicodemus

Soon after Jesus had yielded up His life, Joseph of Arimathæa came to Pilate begging for the body of Jesus. Pilate was amazed that Jesus could have died so soon, so he sent a messenger to ascertain the truth; then gave Joseph permission to take the body. Nicodemus came to help Joseph, and together they accomplished their mission quickly: taking Jesus down from the cross, wrapping His body in the linen clothes with the spices, and laying Him in Joseph's own new tomb hewn out of the rock in a garden nearby. The disciples who had remained at the cross noted the place of the sepulchre, then went to their homes with hearts weighted down. As the next day was the Sabbath, nothing more could be done until the day following the Sabbath.

The True Passover

All the prophecies of the Scriptures concerning Jesus' death and burial were fulfilled to the very letter. The Jews did not know that on this preparation day of their annual feast they were causing the true Passover to be slain – not the type, not the shadow of things to come, but the true Passover. "For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us" (I Corinthians 5:7). Although Jesus Christ was ordained from the very foundation of the world willingly to give His life as a Sacrifice that sinners might

not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

¹⁹ Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

²² And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

²³ Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you.

²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be

live, God has pronounced a woe upon all who have contributed to His death. The Jews do not stand alone in this condemnation. Every sin committed, whether before the time of Christ or since, is a direct cause of Jesus' death; and the only release from that condemning guilt is for the sin-guilty to flee to the crucified Christ for His atoning Blood and mercy. "When I see the blood, I will pass over you" (Exodus 12:13). The almighty God speaks these words.

The terrible wrath of the Jews against Jesus seemed to know no bounds. Their rage sent the Roman soldiers out to the crosses to break the legs of the crucified, and thus hasten their deaths; but God's explicit command regarding the paschal lamb was, "Neither shall ye break a bone thereof." And again, "They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it." The Spirit of God spoke through the Psalmist, "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken" (Psalm 34:20). The soldiers broke the legs of the two men who were crucified with Jesus, but the power of God stayed their hands from performing the same act upon the body of Jesus. Indeed, it was not necessary to break His legs to hasten His death, for He was dead already. One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, "and forthwith came there out blood and water." This gaping wound has since become an infallible proof to a gainsaying, unbelieving people that Jesus was undeniably dead.

Empty Worship

A feigned regard for the Sabbath caused the Jews to desire the removal of the crucified from the crosses, but was that the only reason? Was it not hard for them to kick against the sharp pricks of their conscience? The Jews had perpetrated the world's greatest crime, and the inner voice accused them of it. They probably reasoned that with the bodies out of sight their conscience might be eased somewhat, and they could give more diligent observance to their religious duties. But wait! God is not mocked! He sees the intents of the heart long before He looks at the works of men's hands. A simulated attitude of worship can never erase the sin of malice and the blood of murder from the heart. The Jews were still hot in their rage against Christ, yet they attempted to please the all-seeing One with letter-perfect observance of the Sabbath. The tragedy is, men have not changed. They are still trying to appease God once a week with outward works, acts, and observances, while their hearts are wicked, vile, and unrepenting.

Schemes of Men

The Jewish rulers were not sure of themselves at all. No doubt many of their number were among those who saw Nicodemus and Joseph roll the great stone to the door of the tomb where they had laid Jesus' body. They well remembered the Lord's teaching when they asked of Him a sign, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). During the mock trial the Jews wrested the meaning of Jesus' words, accusing Him of trying to overthrow their literal Temple; but in their hearts they knew what Jesus meant. Now they came to Pilate saying that Jesus had promised the disciples that He would rise again the third day. They desired that the tomb might be sealed against intrusion, and that a guard of soldiers might keep the disciples from stealing Jesus' body away. Once again we see the truth, "Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee" (Psalm

not faithless, but believing.

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

76:10). The vain attempt of the Jewish rulers to secure themselves was turned by God into a witness against unbelieving hearts of the absolute truth of the resurrection.

Resurrection Power

No outside help was needed the morning that Christ arose. There was no hurried removal of Jesus' body from the tomb, for the beloved Apostle noted the linen clothes lying in an orderly arrangement and the napkin that had been about Jesus' head wrapped together in a place by itself. Jesus' friends had not taken Him away, for no loving friend would have dishonoured the sacred dead by removing the clothing and taking the unclothed body away. Jesus took back the life that He had given for the world. Some time before the dawning of that first day of the week after the crucifixion, the Spirit of Christ returned to His body, and the resurrection of Jesus was accomplished: "Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it" (Acts 2:24). The seal of the powerful Roman government was broken, the soldiers shook and became as dead men, the stone was rolled away from the mouth of the sepulchre. Jesus had come forth triumphant over death, hell, and the grave. "Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (I Corinthians 15:20).

The great and glad news of Jesus' resurrection had not reached the women of the company of disciples as they left their homes early in the morning on their errand of further care for Jesus' body. Their hearts were still burdened with grief as they walked through the dark dawn toward the sepulchre. As they neared the tomb, suddenly they were startled, for the stone – too large for them to move – was already rolled away from the door. They entered the sepulchre, but to their surprise the body of Jesus could not be found. Instead, they saw two men in shining garments, who said to them: "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, saying, The son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again" (Luke 24:5-7).

Telling the Good News

The women believed the true report and returned with gladness and haste to tell the company of disciples, but their words seemed as idle tales to the disciples. Two of their number ran to the sepulchre to see for themselves. One disciple returned to the company believing, while the second returned wondering at that which had come to pass. Considering the many times that Jesus spoke of His death and resurrection, it seems incredible that the disciples should be so slow to believe the fact before them; but that very condition of heart shows the absolute absurdity of the Jews' later charge that the disciples came and stole Jesus away. No anticipation or hallucination on their part invented the story of a resurrected Saviour. The greater part of their number did not believe Jesus had risen until they saw Him living. Thomas said that he could not believe until he saw Jesus and thrust his hand into the wound in Jesus' side. Jesus condescended to Thomas' wish, but at the same time He admonished him, "Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."

Great joy filled the heart of Thomas as he realized that the resurrection report was really true. That same joy can still be experienced by any soul who will reach out to the living Christ in simple faith and obedience to His commands. Jesus said to His disciples, "Because I live, ye shall live also" (John 14:19). All true disciples of Christ claim that promise as their own.

World's Greatest Events

The sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus rank in importance with His incarnation or birth into the world. These events are the greatest since the dawn of creation. Without His incarnation, the death and resurrection of Jesus could never have been possible, of course; but His death and resurrection show the true meaning of Jesus' birth and life. The resurrection gives the Gospel its life, hope, and power. "If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain" (I Corinthians 15:13, 14). But true faith is never in vain. The resurrected Christ has proved to every believing heart that He lives. Prove God for yourself, O heart, who knows not the power of the risen Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did the Jews desire to remove the bodies of the crucified from the crosses?
2. How did the Jews propose to hasten the death of Jesus?
3. Name at least three Scripture passages that were fulfilled during Jesus' death and burial.
4. Who was among the first to visit the sepulchre on the first day of the week?
5. What took place at the sepulchre?
6. What did Peter and John do when they heard the news?
7. How did Jesus reveal Himself to Mary Magdalene?
8. How did Jesus enter the room where the disciples were assembled?
9. What did Thomas say about Jesus' appearance?
10. What did Jesus say to Thomas at His next appearance?