

19:31-42 The Death and Burial of Christ
Series: Who is Jesus, the Christ?
Reading – **John 19:31-42** 15th January 2017

Today we want to look at the death and burial of Christ. It is easy to just pass over this section. There was so much that happened leading up to the cross, and then on the cross, that we don't take the time to stop and look at what we see here. It seems so anticlimactic after watching the crucifixion. We have the big signs, the denials of Peter, the cry from the Jews with the curse, the darkness, the earthquake, the veil in the temple, the sayings of Christ, and the salvation of the thief. Yet Christ fulfills prophecies at every point from His supernatural death to the resurrection. Just because it isn't as obviously spectacular, doesn't make it any less important. God is at work to fulfill every word He has spoken. It will be done. Join us as we look at Christ's death and burial.

- God at Work. 2 Kinds: Miracles (break the laws of nature (physical laws)) & Providence. Each is God choosing to work. Each is special. God can be trusted.
 - **Romans 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.” (NKJV)
 - Do we truly believe the “all things?” The good is for the glory of God, so don't expect it to always be easy, and this is a promise for those who are His, identified as “the called according to His purpose.”
 - This is one of the greatest promises of Scripture, in my heart. It is the basis for our trust and peace. God has control of everything and He has just made a promise that will keep us in perfect peace and help us to trust.
 - **Isaiah 26:3** “You will keep *him* in perfect peace, *Whose* mind is stayed on *You*, Because he trusts in *You*.” (NKJV)
 - On the cross we saw so many miracles that it overshadows the burial. The picture is also divided up in the Gospels so it isn't as easy to see. Let's look at some of the providential things that God ordained and prophesied to happen.
 - **3 Days and Nights: Matthew 12:38-40** ³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, Teacher, we want to see a sign from You. ³⁹ But He answered and said to them, An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ **For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**” (NKJV)
 - Some want to say that Christ was crucified on Thursday, so that it is a full 3 days and nights.
 - “Day of Preparation” saying like our “game day”. **Matthew 27:62, Luke 23:54**
 - **Mark 15:42** ⁴² Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,” (NKJV)
 - **John 19:31** ³¹ Therefore, because it was the Preparation *Day*, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.” (NKJV)
 - Disciples on the Road to Emmaus: **Luke 24:18-21** ¹⁸ Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days? ¹⁹ And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. ²¹ "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.” (NKJV)
 - **Pierced**

- **Zechariah 12:10** “¹⁰ And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” (NKJV)
- **John 19:33-35** “³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.” (NKJV)
 - Under extreme stress and pressure the heart can rupture.
 - Fills the area around the heart with blood.
 - Settles with the blood down, the limp / water in blood on top. (time to settle) He didn’t die from the spear, but was already dead.
 - The sign, for Thomas and for all of Israel will be that they can see the one that was pierced for them. (Thomas is a first fruit.)
- Not a bone broken and died of a broken heart.
 - **Psalms 69:20-21** “²⁰ Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked *for someone* to take pity, but *there was* none; And for comforters, but I found none. ²¹ They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” (NKJV)
 - **Psalms 34:20** “He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.” (NKJV)
 - **Psalms 69:9** “Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.” (NKJV)
 - **Luke 24:44** “Then He said to them, These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.” (NKJV)
 - **Isaiah 53:9** “And they made His grave with the wicked-- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.” (NKJV)
 - The grave was an open garbage pit. Burning and scavengers. That was the place of the poor and the wicked. They had a place prepared for the three men that were crucified, but Jesus wasn’t going to be with them. (How would we know that He was raised again if it was an open pit, burned...)
 - Hewed out of stone. (Not cheap, in a garden, near Jerusalem... About 40 to 100 feet.)
 - **John 19:41** “Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.” (NKJV)
 - **Mark 15:46** “Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.” (NKJV)
 - The Pharisees, Pilate, and the Roman soldiers are now going to become unwilling witnesses.
 - They will seal and guard the tomb to give unwilling verification to the resurrection of Christ.
 - **John 19:38-39** “³⁸ After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave *him* permission. So he came and took the body of Jesus. ³⁹ And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds.” (NKJV)
 - **Mark 15:44-45** “⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.” (NKJV)
 - Joseph of Arimathea:
 - **Mathew 27:57** “Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.” (NKJV)

- **Mark 15:43** “Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.” (NKJV) (Sanhedrin)
- **Luke 23:50-51** “⁵⁰ Now behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man.⁵¹ He had not consented to their decision and deed. He was from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God.” (NKJV)
- **John 19:38** “Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews,” (NKJV)
 - He had been a disciple and had chosen to stand. Now out in the open.
- **John 19:39-40** “³⁹ And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. ⁴⁰ Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.” (NKJV)
 - Joseph gets the body and the tomb. Nicodemus gets the spices and linen.
 - 100 Jewish pounds = 72 British pounds.
 - Centurion, soldiers at the cross, John, Women and Joseph and Nicodemus who verify Jesus is dead.
 - Because of the tomb, we now get more soldiers, a guard, Pilate, the leaders of the Jews by their silence...
 - **John 3:1** “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.” (NKJV)
 - **John 3:10-11** “¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to him, Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things? ¹¹ Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.” (NKJV)
 - **John 3:14-15** “¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” (NKJV)
 - **John 7:50-52** “⁵⁰ Nicodemus (he who came to Jesus by night, being one of them) said to them, ⁵¹ Does our law judge a man before it hears him and knows what he is doing? ⁵² They answered and said to him, Are you also from Galilee? Search and look, for no prophet has arisen out of Galilee.” (NKJV) (The Pharisees had sent men to take Jesus, but they said no one ever spoke like this.)

The question for us is have we met this Christ? Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were ready to give up their lives for Christ. They had seen the fulfillment of His words, they knew this was the Christ. They were ready to be counted. They had counted the cost and were following Him.

Prayer “Now May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.” (**2Co 13:14 NKJ**) **In Jesus Name**

Sing the Doxology.... Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise Him all creature, here below..., Praise Him above you heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen