

John 19:31-42

What nature of Christ died? His human nature died (1 Peter 3:18). His divine nature cannot die as God cannot die. If the divine nature of Christ dies, then everything ceases to exist because in Him we live and move and exist (Acts 17:28).

Verses 31-37

- Romans would often leave victims of crucifixion on the cross until they died which could take days in some cases.
- The Jews were drawing from Deuteronomy 21:22-23 as they ask Pilate to speed up the deaths of Christ and the two criminals. The irony is that as they are bringing false charges against Jesus and killing the innocent Son of God, they are worried about defiling themselves for the Passover and the Sabbath.
 - Deuteronomy 21:22-23 "If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is ^[s]accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance.
- To speed up death the soldiers would hit the legs of the victims with an iron club or mallet. This would not only increase the pain and torment, but it would stop the victim from being able to push up through his legs for breathing which would lead to asphyxiation.
- The soldiers break the legs of the two criminals, but when they come to Jesus, He has already given up His spirit and they do not break His legs.
- His legs were not broken as no bone of the Passover lamb was to be broken as we see in Exodus 12:46 and Numbers 9:12. Jesus is the true Passover Lamb so none of His bones were broken.
 - Exodus 12:46 It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it.
 - Numbers 9:12 They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break a bone of it; according to all the statute of the Passover they shall observe it.
 - Psalm 34:20 He keeps all his bones, Not one of them is broken.
 - 1 Corinthians 5:7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are *in fact* unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.
- When the soldier pierces Jesus' side, blood and water came out which confirms His death and shows His human nature.
- This wound in His side also points us back to the garden of Eden and to the first Adam (Genesis 2:21-25).
 - Adam was to have a bride and to make his bride (Eve) he was put into a sleep. Sleep in the Bible often is used to indicate death (1 Thess 4:13-14). After Adam had been put into a deep sleep to be wounded to create his bride, he awoke. Adam would bear the scar of the wounding that was required to bring about his bride.
 - Following the first Adam's awakening and now with his bride, the scripture states in Genesis 2:23-24.
 - Genesis 2:23-24 The Lord God [t]fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. ²³The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man.²⁴ For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.
 - Christ, the Last Adam was put to sleep (died on the cross) as He was wounded to purchase His bride (the Church-Acts 20:28).
 - Isaiah 53:5 But He was ^[a]pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our ^[b]well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

- He suffered and was pierced in his hand, feet, and in His side. After He had accomplished all that was needed to purchase His bride, He awoke (His resurrection). He bears the scars of His wounding that was necessary to bring about His bride.
 - **John 20:27** Then He *said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.”
- Paul links Adam and Eve with Christ and His bride (the church).
 - **Ephesians 5:22:33** Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church ^[a] in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she ^[b] respects her husband.
- Verse 37 is quoting from **Zechariah 12:10**.
 - **Zechariah 12:10** “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, ^[a] the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

Jesus is the Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7) and the Last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45). His legs were not broken on the cross as He is the true Passover Lamb and His blood applied is what allows rescues from death. His side was pierced on the cross as Christ, the Last Adam would suffer wounds to bring to Him His bride. As Jesus arose (resurrection) from His deep sleep (death), He will forever bear the marks of wounding that brought about His bride. The first Adam’s sin and disobedience resulted in him, and his bride being kicked out of paradise. However, the Last Adam’s sinlessness, obedience, and taking upon Himself the sins of His bride results in Him welcoming His bride into paradise!

Verses 38-39

- Joseph of Arimathea was a member of the Sanhedrin and was awaiting the kingdom of God (**Mark 15:43**) but was a secret disciple of Jesus for fear of the Jews. His asking Pilate was a bold move as this would associate Him with the one they had just killed. He was a rich man (**Matthew 27:57**). Him being a rich man would be important to fulfill the prophecy that Isaiah had spoken about the burial of Jesus. Pilate grants Joseph of Arimathea permission to take Jesus’ body for burial. He along with Nicodemus who had come to Christ at night (**John 3**) joined Joseph with a mixture of myrrh and aloes to care for the body of Christ. They did not embalm the dead so they would anoint the body with myrrh, aloes, spices and then wrap the body in linens to aid in reducing the smell of the decomposition of the flesh. Since timing was running out to bury Jesus as the Sabbath was approaching to where no work was to be done, they laid the body of Jesus in a garden tomb nearby. It was the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea who had a tomb cut out of a rock (**Mark 15:46**) where no one had laid. Joseph was a rich man and Jesus would be buried in a rich man’s tomb to fulfill scripture.

Jesus' life can be divided into two categories: humiliation and exaltation.

His humiliation began at the incarnation when He became flesh (**John 1:14**) and continued to His death on the cross.

- **Phil 2:5-9** Have this attitude [e] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be [u] grasped, ⁷ but [e] emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death [u] on a cross.

His exaltation began in His burial: *There were a few options for the victim's body after crucifixion.*

- 1.) The body would be left on the cross for days for the vultures and birds to eat the flesh.
- 2.) If someone had a relative that would claim the criminal, they could take the body and dispose of the body how they saw fit.
- 3.) The body would be thrown into the burning garbage heap outside the city which was known as Gehenna. Gehenna was a garbage heap where the garbage, waste, and bodies of criminals would be continuously burning and where the worms would seem as if they were never dying because the waste, carcasses, and trash to feed on was continuous. Gehenna was the place used to symbolize and be a symbol of eternal damnation in hell by Christ.
- **1 Corinthians 15:3-4** For I delivered to you [u] as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
- **Acts 2:23-36** this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of [e] godless men and put *Him* to death. ²⁴ [u] But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the [e] agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held [u] in its power. ²⁵ For David says of Him, 'I saw the Lord always in my presence; For He is at my right hand, so that I will not be shaken. ²⁶ 'Therefore my heart was glad and my tongue exulted; Moreover my flesh also will live in hope; ²⁷ Because You will not abandon my soul to Hades, Nor [e] allow Your [u] Holy One to [e] undergo decay. ²⁸ 'You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of gladness with Your presence.'²⁹ "[u] Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is [u] with us to this day. ³⁰ And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God had sworn to him with an oath to seat *one* [u] of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of [k] the Christ, that He was neither abandoned to Hades, nor did His flesh [u] suffer decay. ³² This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore having been exalted [u] to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ For it was not David who ascended into [u] heaven, but he himself says: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.'" ³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and [e] Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified."
- **Isaiah 53:7-9** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the [k] living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*? ⁹ **His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death,** Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

*Someone who had died on a cross would not have been buried in a rich man's tomb but would rather have had a relative come and take their body, have their lifeless body eaten by birds, or thrown into the garbage heap to burn and be eaten by worms. When Jesus declared "it is finished" He meant that all that the Father had sent Him to accomplish was complete. It also meant that His humiliation was finished, and it was now time for His exaltation to begin which would begin in His burial. The spices and the anointing of His body would not be needed as His body would not see decay (**Acts 2:22-36**). His body was placed in the tomb, but it was impossible for death to hold Him (**Acts 2:24**). As He had promised His disciples earlier: "A little while, and you will no longer see Me; an again a little while, and you will see me (**John 16:16**).*