

LESSON 32: JOHN 19:31-42
JUNE 19, 2019

OVERVIEW

- . Signs at Jesus' death – John 19:31-37
- . Jesus' burial – John 19:38-42

SIGNS AT JESUS' DEATH – JOHN 19:31-37

- . The torn curtain – Matthew 27:51
 - . The sign itself
 - . The temple was divided in to three sections
 - . Inner court contained the great altar of burnt offering and the basin used for ceremonial washing of the priests
 - . The Holy Place contained the seven-branched golden candlestick, the table of consecrated bread and the altar of incense
 - . The altar was placed immediately before the curtain which formed the wall between the Holy place and the Most Holy Place
 - . The Most Holy Place was the most sacred place in temple which housed the Ark of the Covenant
 - . Only the High Priest could enter and only once a year on the Day of Atonement
 - . The High Priest entered with the blood of the slain lamb to make atonement for the sins of the entire nation
 - . The curtain was sixty feet long and twenty feet high and as thick as the palm of your hand
 - . It took three hundred priests to lift it in to place
 - . The tearing of the curtain took place when Jesus died, which would have been during the time of the evening service
 - . Many were there to witness this incredible act
 - . The spiritual significance of the torn curtain
 - . The curtain was a symbol of the barrier between God and humanity, created by sin
 - . God used this symbol to teach people to realize His majesty and holiness
 - . With Christ's death, He became the sacrificial Lamb which represented the perfect atonement
 - . The torn curtain signified the end of God's former order of Jewish sacrifices and ceremonies

- . The barrier between man and God was removed
 - . Now, through Christ, man had a way back in to God's grace
 - . In Christ we enter the very presence of God
- . The earthquake – Matthew 27:51
 - . Earthquakes in scripture are often connected with God's judgment
 - . Isaiah 29:6, Haggai 2:6, Zechariah 14:5, Matthew 24:7
 - . They warn mankind of the coming judgment when God will destroy the world order as we now know it
 - . The earthquake resulted in graves being opened and raised bodies of Old Testament saints appearing on earth
- . The raising of Old Testament saints – Matthew 27:52-53
 - . The raising of these saints is enshrouded in mystery
 - . We do not know which saints were raised or why
 - . We do know they physically appeared to many in Jerusalem
 - . Matthew states that the tombs were opened but the saints did not come forth until after Jesus' resurrection
 - . It is possible that Matthew himself may have met some of the saints
 - . They were chosen to represent the resurrected saints of all ages and died again, as did Lazarus
- . The Centurion's comment – Matthew 27:54, Mark 15:39, Luke 23:47
 - . The seasoned Centurion, who had witnessed many crucifixions, had never witnessed such patience endurance, such noble dignity, such kindness and assurance of triumph
 - . His awe and uneasiness only deepened when, instead of hearing a dying man's struggle, heard a shout of victory – "It is finished"
 - . Finally, when the earth shook and rocks split, the Centurion was filled with fear and reverence
- . The pierced side – John 19:31-37
 - . The significant signs described by this passage are not recorded in the Synoptic Gospels – John records them because of their spiritual significance
 - . These events were signs of a detailed fulfillment of prophecy
 - . According to Roman procedure, it was customary to leave the victims to die slowly, sometimes taking up to two days
 - . After death, the Romans didn't bury them but simply threw the bodies on the ground for the vultures to find
 - . Jewish law states that the dead should be taken down and buried by sunset
 - . In Jewish society, sunset represented the end of one day and beginning of next
 - . The next day was the Sabbath, a Jewish Holy Day, when burials couldn't take place
 - . In order to speed up the dying, the soldiers would break the legs

- . This would break down any remaining support for the body causing the weight of the body to suffocate the person
- . Because Jesus was dead, they didn't have to break his legs, thus fulfilling scripture – Exodus 12:46
- . The soldiers piercing of His side – John 19:34
 - . This piercing was the fulfillment of scripture – Zechariah 12:10
- . One of the unusual circumstances of this event was that blood actually flowed out of the body
 - . in the ordinary course of nature, shortly after the body is dead, the blood ceases to flow
- . The blood and water flowing out together has rich spiritual significance
 - . In scripture God declares that blood represents the life of a creature
 - . It is also blood that makes atonement for sins
 - . The blood represents the cleansing and of God's forgiveness of sin
 - . Jesus stated that the water He would give would give new life
 - . "Whoever believes in me . . . streams of living water will flow up from within
 - . So together, the water and the blood speak to the two aspects of conversion – blood represents cleansing and forgiveness of sin and water speaks to new life

IESUS' BURIAL – JOHN 19:38-42

- . The end of an era
 - . The burial represents this brief time between two covenants
 - . Jesus' death and the tearing of the curtain represents the end of the Old covenant
 - . The new covenant, built on the belief of the resurrected Christ was about to begin
- . God's protection of His Son's body
 - . Joseph of Arimathea, a well respected Jew and a member of the Sanhedrin approached Pilate, asking for permission to take and bury the body
 - . Joseph was a wealthy man who owned an unused tomb
 - . Nicodemus, another member of the Sanhedrin and well respected accompanied Joseph to the body
 - . Nicodemus provided rich linens and expensive spices
 - . After they removed the body, a small procession carried the body to Joseph's tomb, located in a wealthy cemetery
- . The Jews, wanted to take no chances of someone stealing the body asked Pilate to position a guard at the entrance to the tomb

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2019: JOHN 20:1-29