

The Death Burial & Resurrection

(as told by all four Gospels)

1- AFTER THE LAST SUPPER, JESUS TOOK HIS DISCIPLES TO GETHSEMANE (Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 14:32-42, Luke 22:39-46, John 18:1):

“Then Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and He said to them, ‘Sit here while I go over there and pray.’ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James and John) along with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with Me.’

***Luke 22:39** continues: “He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down, and with His face to the ground He prayed, ‘Abba, Father, everything is possible for You, if You are willing, take this cup from Me; yet not My will, by Yours be done.’*

*Then He returned to His disciples and found them sleeping (they have been up all night). ‘Could you men not keep watch with Me for one hour?’ He asked Peter. ‘Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. **The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.**’*

*He went away a **second time** and fell on His face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may Your will be done.’*

When He came back, He again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to Him.

*So, He left them a **third time**, and being in anguish, **He prayed the same thing more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.** And an angel from Heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him.*

**SEE MY STUDY ON “HOW TO GET A PRAYER ANSWERED”
ALSO SEE “WHO DOES GOD LISTEN TO?”
AND “JESUS TOLD US HOW TO PRAY”**

Then He returned to the disciples and said to them, ‘Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners! Rise, let us go! Here comes My betrayer!’”

2- JUDAS BETRAYS HIM (Matthew 26:47-56, Mark 14:43-52, Luke 22:47-53, John 18:2-13):

“While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. Judas knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with His disciples. So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees and elders of the people. They were carrying torches, lanterns, swords and clubs.

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, ‘Who is it you want?’

‘Jesus of Nazareth,’ they replied.

'I am He,' Jesus said. (And Judas, the traitor, was standing there with them). When Jesus said, 'I am He,' they drew back and fell to the ground. (Remember, it's dark, and even the demons were afraid of Jesus).

Again, He asked them, 'Who is it you want?' And they said, 'Jesus of Nazareth.' 'I told you that I am He,' Jesus answered. 'If you are looking for Me, then let these men go.' This happened so that the words He had spoken would be fulfilled: 'I have not lost one of those you gave Me.' (John 6:39).

Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him.' So going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and approached Jesus to kiss Him, but Jesus asked him, 'Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss? Friend, do what you came for.' And Judas kissed Him."

It is interesting to note that when Jesus asked if Judas was going to betray Him with a kiss, the word is "*pilesō*" (**ordinary kiss**), which is still the way you would greet someone in the Middle East today (**kissing them on both cheeks**). However, when the Bible says, "*And Judas kissed Him;*" the word used is "*katefilesen*," which translates: "*to kiss affectionately more than once.*" This is where "*the kiss of death*" comes from. And, now you know why *Luke 22:3* says Judas was led by the Devil (**perhaps, in a way, it was Satan kissing Jesus**). *John 12:6* says Judas was a thief; and in *John 17:12*, Jesus said Judas was "*lost*," and called him "*a child of Hell*."

SEE MY STUDY ON "HELL" AND "DEMONS"

"Then the men stepped forward to seize Jesus and arrest Him. When Jesus' followers saw what was going to happen, they said, 'Lord, should we strike with our swords?' And Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus).

But Jesus commanded Peter, 'Put your sword away! Shall I not drink the cup the Father has given Me? No more of this! And He touched the man's ear and healed him (I wonder what Malchus told the high priest when he got back with Jesus?). Put your sword back in its place, for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. Do you think I cannot call on My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?'

Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple guard, and the elders who had come for Him, 'Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come with swords and clubs? Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on Me. But this is your hour --- when darkness reigns.'

Then all the disciples deserted Him and fled. (One young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.)"

Since **Mark (not an Apostle) is the only one to record this fact**, and most believe he traditionally **got his information from Peter**; most

believe **Peter told Mark about the instance to keep John (the youngest one there --- who said nothing about this in his version) humble.**

Remember, Peter was very jealous of John (who sat in the place of honor where Peter should have sat at the Last Supper).

John records some of this jealousy in his own version in *John 21:15-22*, after Jesus' resurrection, when Jesus reprimands Peter for denying Him three times, and then tells Peter to take the lead as the new Shepherd (who will have the chance to redeem himself when it is his turn to die):

"Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved (John) was following them. (This is the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the Supper and had asked, 'Lord, who is going to betray you?') When Peter saw him (John), he asked, 'Lord, what about him?'

Jesus answered, 'If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?'" **John was the only Apostle to die an old age!**

3- JESUS GOES BEFORE ANNAS EARLY FRIDAY MORNING BEFORE THE SUN ROSE (*Matthew 26:57, Mark 14:53, Luke 22:54, John 18:12-24*):

*"Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested Jesus. They bound Him and **brought Him first to Annas (the true High Priest, as far as the Jews were concerned)**, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the High Priest that year (appointed by the Roman government). **Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be better if one man died for the people.**"*

Annas was believed to have been behind the selling of sacrificial animals in the temple area (The Court of the Gentiles). Because every animal sacrificed had to be *"without spot or blemish,"* Annas was responsible for *"inspectors"* who would inspect each sacrifice (rejecting unworthy animals). The only animals they seemed to find *"worthy"* were their own animals which they just happened to be selling right there in the temple area for an inflated price (an animal worth 4p outside the temple area, would sell for about 75p inside the temple area). **Jesus had earlier put a stop to this extortion twice (once at the beginning of His ministry --- *John 2:13-16*, and once at the end --- *Mark 11:15-18*). So, as you can imagine, Annas is about to get his vengeance!**

SEE MY STUDY ON "WHY DID THEY KILL JESUS," POINT #6

*"Annas questioned Jesus about His disciples and His teachings. 'I have spoken openly to the world,' Jesus replied. 'I always taught in the synagogues or at the Temple, where all the Jews came together. I said nothing in secret. **Why question Me?** Ask those who heard Me. Surely they know what I said.'*

When Jesus had said this, one of the officials nearby struck Him in the face. 'Is that any way to answer the High Priest?' he demanded.

‘If I said something wrong,’ Jesus replied, ‘speak up about it. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit Me?’ Then Annas sent Him, still bound, to Caiaphas, the High Priest (appointed by the Roman government).”

The reason Jesus asks Annas why he was questioning Him, was because He knew that an essential regulation of the Jewish Law was that a prisoner must not be asked questions to incriminate himself. The High Priest was to examine the witnesses, not the prisoner! Jesus now knows that this is a mock trial.

4- PETER’S DENIAL (Matthew 26:58,69-75; Mark 14:54,66-72; Luke 22:54-62; John 18:15-18, 25-27):

*“Meanwhile, Peter followed at a distance with **another disciple**. Because this disciple was known to the High Priest, he went in with Jesus into the High Priest’s Courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple who was known to the High Priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there, and brought Peter in.*

‘Surely you are not another of this man’s disciples?’ the girl at the door asked Peter.

He replied, ‘I am not!’ (FIRST DENIAL).”

The **“other disciple”** was probably **Nicodemus**, since he was a secret Christian, that visited Jesus by night (according to the Apostle John in **John 3**); yet, he was still a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin (which would have given him easy access into the High Priest’s Courtyard).

*“It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made in the middle of the courtyard, to keep warm. Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, ‘**This man was with Him (Jesus)!**’*

But Peter denied it. ‘Girl, I don’t know Him,’ he said. (SECOND DENIAL)

About an hour later, one of the High Priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, ‘Didn’t I see you with Him in the olive grove?’

Another asserted, ‘Certainly this fellow was with Him, for he is a Galilean.’

Peter replied, ‘Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!’ He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, ‘I don’t know this man you’re talking about!’ (THIRD DENIAL) Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the words the Lord had spoken to him: ‘Before the rooster crows today, you will disown Me three times.’ And he went outside and wept bitterly.”

**SEE MY STUDY ON “CONFESSION WILL SAVE YOU!”
ALSO SEE “CAN CUSSING KEEP YOU OUT OF HEAVEN?”**

5- JESUS GOES BEFORE CAIAPHAS AND THE SANHEDRIN (Matthew 26:59-68, Mark 14:55-65, Luke 22:66-71, John 18:24):

“At daybreak (Friday morning) the Council of the elders of the people, both the chief priests and the teachers of the Law, met together (Sanhedrin), and Jesus was led before them.”

The Sanhedrin could only meet in the daylight hours. The Court of 71 members sat in a semi-circle, and facing the semi-circle was the accused, dressed in mourning clothes. Behind the accused sat rows of disciples of rabbis. All charges were to be supported by two witnesses, and each member was to give his own personal judgment, beginning with the youngest, and ending with the oldest.

For acquittal, a majority of one (36) was all that was needed. For condemnation, a majority of two (37). The death sentence could never be carried out on the day in which it was given, so the Council could sleep on it, in case it changed its mind (obviously, since they end up crucifying Him on this same day, they didn't keep many of their own rules).

“The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put Him to death.

*Many testified falsely against Him, but their statements did not agree. Finally two came forward and declared, ‘This fellow said, ‘**I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days.**’ (Ironically, Jesus was referring to His own body).”*

REMEMBER I Corinthians 3:16,17: *“Don't you know that you yourselves are God's Temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's Temple, God will destroy him; for God's Temple is sacred, and you are that Temple.”* **When they destroyed Jesus' body, they themselves destroyed God's Temple!**

“Then Caiaphas stood up and said to Jesus, ‘Are you going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against You?’ But Jesus remained silent.

The High Priest said to Him, ‘I charge you under oath by the Living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God (THIS IS THE “GOOD CONFESSION” THAT PAUL TOLD TIMOTHY ABOUT IN I TIMOTHY 6:12).

‘Yes, it is as you say,’ Jesus replied. ‘But I say to all of you: in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of Heaven.’

Then the High Priest tore his clothes and said, ‘He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need more witnesses? Look, now you have heard blasphemy. What do you think?’

‘He is worthy of death,’ they answered.

Then some began to spit at Him; they blind-folded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said, ‘Prophecy! Who hit you?’ And the guard took Him and beat Him.”

Punishment for blasphemy was stoning to death according to *Leviticus 24:16*; and the ones accusing him had to throw the first stones according to *Deuteronomy 17:7*. The Jews, however, were not allowed to carry out the death sentence, so they had to somehow get the Roman government to agree that Jesus was guilty of the death sentence.

6- JUDAS HANGS HIMSELF (*Matthew 27:3-10*):

“When Judas, who betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, He was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. ‘I have sinned,’ he said, ‘for I have betrayed innocent blood.’

‘What is that to us?’ they replied. ‘That’s your responsibility.’

*So Judas threw the money into the Temple and left. **Then he went away and hanged himself.**”*

The word “**remorse**” is the Greek word, “*metamelomai*,” which means to “*change emotions*.” This is not the word “*metanoeo*,” which means to “*change one’s will*.” **Judas did not repent, and try to amend his life (as Peter later did), he just felt bad for what he did. Remember, *John 17:12*, quotes Jesus as saying Judas was “*lost*” and was a “*child of Hell*.”**

SEE MY STUDY ON “YOU MUST REPENT”

ALSO: “YES, YOU CAN FALL FROM GRACE!”

Will suicide send you to Hell? *I Corinthians 3:16,17*: “*Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s Temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s Temple, God will destroy him; for God’s Temple is sacred, and you are that Temple.*”

What about when Jesus said in ***John 15:13***: “*No one has greater love, than when he lays down his life for a friend.*”? So, if I jump on the grenade to save my fellow soldiers --- I go to Hell?

Is *I Corinthians* talking about **physical** destruction of God’s Temple (like taking your own life), or **spiritual** destruction (like making your body an unfit place for the Holy Spirit to dwell)?

SEE MY STUDY ON “THE UNFORGIVABLE SIN”

*“The chief priests picked up the coins and said, ‘It is against the Law to put this into the treasury, since it is **blood money**.’ (And you don’t want to break the Law after you’ve paid someone to have someone else murdered!) So they decided to use the money to buy a potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: ‘They took thirty silver coins, the price set on Him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.’ (***Jeremiah 32:6-9***)”*

7- JESUS GOES BEFORE PILATE (Matthew 27:1,2,11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38):

*“Early in the morning (Friday), all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. They bound Him, led Him away, and **handed Him over to Pilate**, the governor. **But to avoid ceremonial uncleanness, the Jews did not enter the palace; they wanted to eat the Passover.**”*

The Scribal Law --- not God’s Law --- said: *“the dwelling places of Gentiles are unclean.”* The Jews, therefore, would not go in, for it would make them all **“unclean”** (as would accepting *“blood money”* and putting it into the God’s Temple treasury); and thereby, they would no longer be **worthy, or holy enough**, to celebrate the **sacred** week of Passover, as they **worshipped God, asking Him for forgiveness.**

However, the Jews were not concerned that torturing, and murdering God’s own Son during this sacred week of **PASSOVER**, might make them a little dirty in the eyes of God! I WONDER WHAT KIND OF JUDGMENT GOD **PASSED OVER THEM?** DO YOU THINK GOD FORGAVE ALL OF THEM?

SEE MY STUDY ON: “ANGER IS NOT ALWAYS A SIN & WE DON’T HAVE TO FORGIVE EVERYBODY”

“So Pilate came out to them, and asked, ‘What charges are you bringing against this man?’

*And they began to accuse Him, saying, ‘(1)We have found this man subverting our Nation. (2) He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar (according to **Matthew 22:15-21**: NO, HE DID NOT!), and (3)He claims to be Christ, a king’ (treason).*

So Pilate asked Jesus, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’

‘Yes, it is as you say,’ Jesus replied.

Then Pilate announced to the people, ‘I find no basis for a charge against this man.’

But, they insisted, ‘He stirs up the people all over Judea by His teaching. If He were not a criminal, we would not have handed Him over to you.’

Pilate answered, ‘Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own Law.’

‘But we have no right to execute anyone,’ the Jews objected. This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death He was going to die would be fulfilled (Jews stoned --- Romans crucified).

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked Him, ‘Are you the King of the Jews?’

‘Is that your own idea,’ Jesus asked, ‘or did others talk to you about Me?’

‘Do you think I am a Jew?’ Pilate replied. ‘It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?’

Jesus said, ‘My Kingdom is not of this world. If it were, My servants would fight to prevent My arrest by the Jews. But now My Kingdom is from another place.’

‘You are a king, then!’ said Pilate.

Jesus answered, 'You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the Truth. Everyone on the side of Truth listens to Me.'

'What Truth?' Pilate asked. With this he went out again to the Jews and said, 'I find no basis for a charge against Him.'

When Pilate learned that Jesus was a Galilean, he sent Him to Herod (for he was under Herod's jurisdiction), who was also in Jerusalem at that time (for the Passover)."

8- JESUS GOES BEFORE HEROD (Luke 23:6-12):

"When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see Him. From what he had heard about Him, he hoped to see Him perform some miracle. He plied Him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the Law were standing there, vehemently accusing Him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked Him. Dressing Him in an elegant robe, they sent Him back to Pilate. That day Herod and Pilate became friends --- before this they had been enemies."

9- JESUS IS SENT BACK TO PILATE AGAIN (Matthew 27:15-30, Mark 15:6-15, Luke 23:13-24, John 18:39-19:16):

"Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, 'You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined Him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against Him. Neither has Herod, for he sent Him back to us; as you can see, He has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish Him and then release Him.'

Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas (who was a murderer). So, the crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did, and let them choose.

So, when the crowd had gathered. Pilate asked them, 'Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Christ?' For he knew it was out of envy that they handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: 'Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, because I have suffered a great deal today in a dream on account of Him.'

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas, and to have Jesus executed; and with one voice they cried out, 'Away with this Man! Release Barabbas to us!'

Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting, 'Crucify Him! Crucify Him!'

For the THIRD TIME he spoke to them: 'Why? What crime has this Man committed? I have found in Him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have Him punished and then release Him.'

But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that He be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided to grant their demand. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for (Barabbas), and surrendered Jesus to their will. Pilate then took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. 'I am innocent of this Man's blood,' he said. 'It is your responsibility!'

Then the people answered, 'Let His blood then be on us and our children!'

Pope Benedict XVI said in his new book, "*Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week*," which came out in March, 2011; **THAT ACCORDING TO HIS NEW INTERPRETATION OF THE BIBLE, THE JEWS ARE NOT TO BLAME FOR CRUCIFYING AND KILLING JESUS!** The Pope said that the infamous passage from Matthew's Gospel in which "*the Jews*" demand the execution of Jesus and shout to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate, "*Let his blood be on us and our children*," does not represent "a curse, but rather redemption, salvation." Then the pope goes on to say, "It was not poured out against anyone. It is poured out for many, for all."

WHY NOT READ IT FOR YOURSELF IN MATTHEW 27:11-26. DOES IT SOUND LIKE A CURSE OR SALVATION TO YOU? POPE PETER (as the Roman Catholics call him) said it was the JEWS WHO CRUCIFIED JESUS! **SO, WHICH POPE WILL YOU BELIEVE NOW? On the Day of Pentecost** (just after Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection, Peter said the following to the JEWS in attendance (Acts 2:36): "*Let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, WHOM YOU CRUCIFIED, both Lord and Christ!*"

Remember Jesus' words in Matthew 7:2: "*For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you!*"

Pilate tried more than five times to release Jesus and not sentence Him to death:

(1) **John 18:31:** "*Pilate said, 'Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own Law'.*" (2) **Luke 23:2:** He sent Him to Herod (who backed Pilate, declaring Jesus to be innocent). (3) **Matthew 27:15:** He made them choose between Jesus and a notorious murderer named Barabbas. (4) **John 19:4** tells us that after he had Him flogged, he once again tried to free Him. (5) And then, in **John 19:12**, when they finally told Him they wanted Him crucified, because He claimed to be the Son of God, Pilate became afraid, and kept trying to free Him.

10- JESUS IS MOCKED, THEN FLOGGED (Matthew 27:30, Mark 15:16-20, John 19:1-3):

"Then Pilate had Jesus flogged, and handed Him over to be crucified. The governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him, and then wove

a crown of thorns and set it on His head. They put a staff in His right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. 'Hail, King of the Jew!' they shouted. They spit on Him, and took the staff and struck Him on the head again and again (remember, the crown of thorns is still on His head). After they had mocked Him, they took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him."

A flogging or scourging took place as the victim was tied in a bending posture to a short post, or stretched on a frame. The scourge was made of three to nine leather thongs, weighted with sharp pieces of bone or lead. **The victim received 13 stripes on the bare breast, and 13 stripes on each shoulder (totaling 39 --- if they went over the limit of 40, they had to take the victims place!).** The **crown of thorns** would be made to small for the head, and would be jammed down around His head with a flat board (also, remember, they struck this crown again and again with the staff they gave Him, driving these thorns into His skull). **By the end, Jesus would have been a mass of ripped flesh and blood!**

"Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, 'Look, I am bringing Him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against Him' (FOURTH TIME HE TRIED). When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, 'Here is the Man!'

As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw Him, they shouted, 'Crucify! Crucify!'

But Pilate answered, 'You take Him and crucify Him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against Him.'

The Jews insisted, 'We have a Law, and according to that Law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God.'

When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. 'Where do you come from?' he asked Jesus. But Jesus gave him no answer. 'Do you refuse to speak to me?' Pilate said, 'Don't you realize I have the power either to free you or to crucify you?'

Jesus answered, 'You have no power over Me that was not given to you from above.'

SEE MY STUDY ON "WHY DO CHRISTIANS SUFFER?"

'Therefore the one who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.'

NEVER FORGET ROMANS 12:18,19: *"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, My friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge, I will repay,' says the Lord."*

"From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free (MORE THAN FIVE TIMES), but the Jews kept shouting, 'If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.'

*When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge's seat at a place known as The Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). **It was the Day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour (6 AM).***"

Passover began when the sun went down on our Thursday night. However, when the sun went down on our Thursday night, it was the beginning of Friday for the Jews. So, this was now 6 hours into the first day of Passover (Friday). **Friday would have been the Day of Preparation of Passover Week, because no work could be done on the next day, Saturday (the Holy Sabbath).** THEY HAD TO HURRY AND KILL JESUS ON FRIDAY, SO THEY WOULD HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GO HOME AND PREPARE TO WORSHIP HIS FATHER (GOD), BEFORE THE HOLY SABBATH DAY (SATURDAY)!

"Here is your king," Pilate said to the Jews.

But they shouted, "Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!"

"Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked.

"We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered (I Samuel 12:12 and Judges 8:23 tell us the Jews were to have no King but God!).

Finally Pilate handed Him over to them to be crucified."

The final blow for Pilate was when the Jews told him that if he let Jesus go, he would not be a friend of Caesar; because anyone who claimed to be a king, opposed Caesar and would be looked upon as an act of treason.

Any providence (including the Jews) could report a governor to Rome for misgovernment; and, if proven, could result in prison or death for that governor. Pilate had already had three such complaints made against him: (1) The Roman headquarters in Judea was not in Jerusalem, but in Caesarea. (2) His Roman troops carried little busts of the Emperor which were officially gods, and the Jewish Law forbade "graven images." So, the Jews requested them to be removed when marching through Jerusalem. Previous governors did so, but Pilate refused. The Jews persisted for six days, and finally Pilate met them in an open square, surrounded by his troops, and informed them that unless they quit complaining, they would all be put to death. The Jews then all laid on the ground and invited them to execute all of them! Pilate revoked his order (and I'm sure he was remembering all that right about now). (3) Pilate brought the city a new water supply, and financed it with money stolen from the Temple treasury (Luke 13:1-4); and murdered several resistors (Galileans). IF HE LOST CONTROL OF THE JEWS, THEN CAESAR WOULD FIND SOMEONE TO TAKE HIS PLACE!

11- JESUS IS LED AWAY AND CRUCIFIED (Matthew 27:31-56, Mark 15:20-37, Luke 23:26-46, John 19:16-30):

*“So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. **Carrying His own cross, He went out to the Place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).**”*

When a man was condemned to be crucified, he was taken from the Judgment Hall and set in the middle of a hollow square of four Roman soldiers. His own cross was then placed on his shoulders and he was marched to the execution spot by the longest route possible. A soldier with a placard marched in front of him telling the people what crime he was being punished for, as a warning.

*“As they led Him, they **seized Simon from Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.**”*

Obviously, Jesus could not carry the weight of the cross any longer. Remember, He has been up all night, and has been beaten, scourged, and beaten again and again all night long. He has also lost a lot of blood!

Most believe **Simon was a black man** from the leading city of Libya, west of Egypt in northern Africa. There were several Jewish Christian converts from here according to **Acts 6:9. He was father of famous Christians such as Alexander (Acts 19:33), and Rufus (Romans 16:13).**

“A large number of people followed Him, including women who mourned and wailed for Him. Jesus turned and said to them, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say, ‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore and the breasts that have never nursed! Then, they will say to the mountains: ‘Fall on us;’ and the hills: ‘Cover us’ (Hosea 10:8). For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?’

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Him to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull (which in Latin is Calvaria --- hence --- Calvary), they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, He refused to drink it.

When Golgotha or Calvary was reached, the criminals had to be impaled on the cross they were carrying. The nails had to be driven through the hands, but commonly the feet were only bound to the cross. They nailed Jesus’ feet as well. At this moment, in order to deaden the pain, the criminals were offered a drink of drugged wine, prepared by a group of wealthy women of Jerusalem, as an act of mercy (**first Hospice?**).

*“So they crucified Him, along with the criminals --- one on His right, the other on His left.” Jesus said (1) **‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing’.**”*

**SEE MY STUDY ON “ANGER IS NOT ALWAYS A SIN &
“WE DON’T HAVE TO FORGIVE EVERYBODY”**

The victims were **stripped to only a loin cloth** to wear. Because the victim’s **hands were nailed** to the cross, they were **also tied** to keep the hands from ripping free from the cross. A projecting piece of wood called a **“saddle” (which was located between the victim’s legs) supported the weight of the body**; which, because of its location, was an extremely painful aggravation to the crotch. The most painful part of the crucifixion, was when **the cross (with the victim now nailed to it) was dropped** into a deep hole. Once erected, the victim’s feet would only be a few feet from the ground. The body hung in such a way as to put a **bind on the chest**, making it very difficult to breathe. In order to get a breath, pressure had to be applied to the feet in order to straighten up the chest and relieve the pressure on the groin, and hands. Of course, this position could not be held very long; and, when the legs gave out, only pain and shortness of breath awaited. **IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT JESUS WAS ONE OF THE ONLY ONES TO BE NAILED IN THE FEET AS WELL (LUKE 24:39).**

Mark 15:25 tells us **Jesus was crucified the third hour (9AM, Friday).**

“Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross (above the head --- which is why Jesus’ cross was a lower case “t” and not a capital “T”). It read, ‘Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.’ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, ‘Do not write ‘King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.’

Pilate answered, ‘What I have written, I have written.’

When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took His clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

‘Let’s not tear it,’ they said to one another. ‘Let’s decide by lot who will get it.’ This happened that the Scriptures might be fulfilled which said, ‘They divided My garments among themselves and cast lots for My clothing.’ (Psalm 22:18) So this is what the soldiers did.”

Every Jew had 5 articles of clothing: (1) the inner tunic, (2) the outer robe, (3) the girdle, (4) the sandals, (5) the turban. They divided them equally among the four who led Jesus to the cross; but instead of tearing the inner tunic four ways, they cast lots for it.

“The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, ‘He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ of God, the Chosen One.’

The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, ‘If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.’

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at Him: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself, and us!'

But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this Man has done nothing wrong.'

Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom.'

Jesus answered him, (2) 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in Paradise.'

Not in Hell, but Paradise. **Acts 2:27-32** says Jesus went to Hades or the unseen abode of the dead, or the grave --- **to the Paradise side of Hades** -- as He told them in His **Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man in Luke 16:22**. Paul also saw Paradise in Heaven, according to **II Corinthians 12:2,3**.

**SEE MY STUDY ON "WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DIE?"
ALSO: "WHAT 3 THINGS TESTIFY YOU'RE GOING TO
HEAVEN?" "WHAT WILL HEAVEN BE LIKE?" AND "THE
THREE HELLS OF THE BIBLE"**

*"Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved (John) standing nearby, **He said to His mother, (3) 'Here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'** From that time on, this disciple (John) took her into his home."*

Where are her real sons? **Matthew 13:55** says she had four other sons besides Jesus, but **John 7:5** indicates they were in on this murder.

*"**From the sixth hour (12 noon), until the ninth hour (3 PM), darkness came all over the land. About the ninth hour (3 PM) Jesus cried out in a loud voice, (4) 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' --- which means, 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?' (Psalm 22:1 prophesied He would say these exact words).**"*

Mark 15:25,34 tells us Jesus was **crucified on the third hour (9 AM), and He died on the ninth hour (3 PM, Friday)**. He has been hanging on the cross for six hours!

"When some of those standing there heard this, they said, 'He is calling for Elijah.'

*Later, knowing that all was now completed, and, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, **Jesus said (5) 'I am thirsty.'** A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips.*

*Then Jesus called out **with a loud voice, (6) 'Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.'** When He had said this, **He breathed His last, saying (7) 'It is finished!'** With that, He bowed His head and gave up His life.*

At that moment the curtain of the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom!

The veil or curtain separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. No one could enter except the High Priest, on the Day of Atonement. It was where The Spirit of God dwelled. But now that Jesus was sacrificed for our sins once and for all, **He became our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14); the only Mediator between God and man (I Timothy 2:5). We can only get to God now through Jesus Christ (John 14:6-9); no other name can save us (Acts 4:10-12); and our bodies became the Temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 3:16,17), as promised later on the Day of Pentecost to the first 3,000 people to become Christians (Acts 2:38).**

“The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. they came out of the tombs, (and after Jesus’ resurrection they went into the Holy City and appeared to many people).

When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, ‘Surely He was the Son of God!’

*Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for His needs. Among them were **Mary Magdalene** (Jesus cast out 7 demons from her according to **Mark 16:9**), **Mary the mother of James and Joseph** (probably Jesus’ earthly mother, according to **Matthew 13:55** --- even though Simeon and Judas are not mentioned --- probably because, according to **James 7:1**, they were not yet Christians), **Salome, the mother of Zebedee’s sons** (James & John, according to **Matthew 10:2-4**); and then **Luke 24:10** tells us **Joanna was also one of the women who stayed to “take care of His needs.”***

*“Now it was **the Day of Preparation and the next day (Saturday) would be a special Sabbath (because it fell during the week of Passover).**”*

All work had to be done before the sun went down on Friday (usually around 6 PM), which would begin the Sabbath Day or Saturday for the Jews.

*“Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath (a Holy Day), **they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other (with no leg support, the chest would cave in and they would die quickly of suffocation). But when they came to Jesus and found that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it (John) has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may have faith. These things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: ‘Not one of His bones will be broken.’ (Exodus 12:46, Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20) and another Scripture says, ‘They will look on the One they have pierced.’ (Zechariah 12:10).**”*

According to Roman law, the victims of crucifixion were simply left to die on the cross. He might hang for days in the heat of the sun and the cold of the night, tortured by thirst and by gnats and flies crawling and biting in the wounds of his torn flesh. Often men died raving mad. Nor did the Romans bury the bodies. They simply took them down and let the vultures, crows and dogs feed on them.

The Jewish Law was different. It laid down: "If a man has committed a crime punishable by death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree; his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but you shall bury him the same day." (Deuteronomy 21:22,23) At Jesus' death it was even more important that the body be taken down before nightfall --- the Sabbath (Saturday) began as soon as the sun went down; and no work could be done on the Sabbath!

12- THE BURIAL OF JESUS (*Matthew 27:59-66, Mark 15:46-47, Luke 23:53, John 19:39-42*):

*"Now there was a man named **Joseph**, a member of the Council (Sanhedrin), a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action (**Mark 14:64** says they all voted to kill Him, so Joseph either abstained, or didn't show up for the trial. He was a secret Christian, according to **John 19:38**). He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the Kingdom of God. He was accompanied by **Nicodemus** (also a member of the Sanhedrin), the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night (**John 3**). Going up to Pilate, they asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to them. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds (**II Chronicles 16:14** says it was used for royal burials). Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in a clean linen cloth (burial shroud, or Shroud of Turin mentioned in **Matthew 27:59**), with strips of linen (which would hold the burial cloth tightly to the body like a mummy). This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid (according to **Matthew 27:59,60**, it belonged to Joseph). Because it was the Jewish Day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there."*

The Day of Preparation was Friday, and no work was to be done on Saturday (the Sabbath). So, Jesus died about 3 PM, Friday afternoon, and they had until sundown (about 6 PM) --- when it would become Saturday for the Jews --- to get His body in the tomb.

*"**They then rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb that was cut out of the rock, and went away.** Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (probably Jesus' earthly mother) were sitting there across from the tomb. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how the body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the **commandment**" (not to work on the Sabbath was one of the 10 Commandments according to **Exodus 20:8**).*

13- A ROMAN GUARD IS PLACED AT THE TOMB (Matthew 27:62-66):

“The next day (Saturday, or the Sabbath), the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate (How is it that these religious leaders are doing this work on the Sabbath Day --- and with an unclean Gentile!). ‘Sir,’ they said, ‘we remember that while He was still alive, that imposter said, ‘After three days, I will rise again.’ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day (Sunday). Otherwise, His disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that He has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first.’

‘Take a guard,’ Pilate answered. ‘Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how.’ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.”

Most believe the “**guard**” would have been the same four men that were in charge of His execution. The “**seal**” would have been a wax impression of the Roman government that would overlap the stone and the tomb wall. To remove the stone would be to break the seal. If the seal was broken, the guards on duty would die!

14- THE RESURRECTION (Matthew 28:1-20, Mark 16:1-20, Luke 24:1-53, John 20:1-21:6):

“After the Sabbath (or Saturday --- which makes this day Sunday), there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from Heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men (fainted).

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James (Jesus’ earthly mother --- remember, James later becomes an Apostle, and the leader of the first Church, according to Acts 21:17,18; Galatians 1:19 and 2:9), and Salome (James and John’s mother) brought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body.”

Where did they get the money to get the spices used to anoint a dead body? Mary used up all her extra spice when she anointed Jesus’ feet with it after Jesus had raised her brother Lazarus from the dead (John 12:3). But what about the spice Mary (Jesus’ mother) had? Remember in Matthew 2:11, when the wise men brought Jesus gold, incense and myrrh? What’s myrrh? IT WAS USED TO ANOINT A DEAD BODY!

“Very early on the first day of the week (Sunday), just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, ‘Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?’

But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, and when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly, two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their

*fright, the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? **He is not here; He has risen!** Remember how He told you, while He was still with you in Galilee: **'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and on the third day (Sunday) be raised again?'** Then they remembered His words.'*

There are those who say Jesus didn't keep His words. In Matthew 12:40, He said: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."

- (1) Jesus died at 3 PM on **Friday**, and was buried during the **daylight** hours (before the sun went down). He then spent Friday **night** in the tomb.
- (2) Jesus then spent all day **Saturday (day and night)** in the tomb.
- (3) **Sunday** (the third day) He was still in the tomb during the **night**, and rose when the sun came up (**daylight**).

"Then they saw a young man dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side where Jesus' body laid. 'He is not here,' he said. 'See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him, just as He told you.'

*Trembling and bewildered, **the women went out and fled from the tomb.** They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.*

*So **Mary Magdalene came running to Peter and John**, and said, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put Him!'*

*So **Peter and John started for the tomb.** Both were running, but John outran Peter, and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. **The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen (as if Jesus wanted them to keep it --- The Shroud of Turin?).** Finally the other disciple (John), who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from the Scriptures that Jesus had to rise from the dead).*

*Then the disciples went back to their homes, but **Mary Magdalene stood outside the tomb crying.** As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and one at the foot."*

SEE MY STUDY ON "ARE YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT AN ANGEL IS?"

"They asked her, 'Woman, why are you crying?'

'They have taken my Lord away,' she said, 'and I don't know where they have put Him.' **At this, she (Mary Magdalene) turned around and saw Jesus standing there (first to see Him), but she did not realize it was Jesus.**

'Woman,' He said, 'Why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?'

Thinking He was the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have put Him, and I will get Him.'

Jesus said to her, 'Mary.'

She turned toward Him and cried out in Aramaic, 'Rabboni!' (Which means Teacher).

Jesus said, 'Do not hold on to Me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to My brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.' So Mary went to the disciples with the news that she had seen the Lord and that He had told her this.

Meanwhile, the other women were running away from the tomb, afraid, yet filled with joy, and ran to tell the disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them (second to see Him). 'Greetings,' He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshiped Him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see Me'."

15- THE ROMAN GUARDS REPORT TO THE CHIEF PRIESTS

(Matthew 28:11-15):

"While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened (notice they didn't report to Pilate who would have had them killed). When the chief priests had met with the elders, they devised a plan. They gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, 'You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole Him away while you were sleeping.' If this report gets to the Governor (Pilate), we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble.' So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day."

16- JESUS APPEARS TO TWO MEN ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

(Luke 24:13-35):

"Now that same day (Sunday) two of them (Jesus' disciples) were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus Himself came up and walked along with them (fourth appearance); but they were kept from recognizing Him.

He asked them, 'What are you discussing together as you walk along?'

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked Him, 'Are you the only one living in Jerusalem who doesn't know what things have happened there in these days?'

'What things?' He asked.

'About Jesus of Nazareth,' they replied. 'He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Him over to

be sentenced to death, and they crucified Him; but we had hoped that He was the One who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find His body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said He was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see.'

He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow of heart that you do not believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if He were going farther. But they urged Him strongly, 'stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.' So He went in to stay with them.

When He was at the table with them, He took bread (Ton Arton, or The Loaf -- as in Communion --- unleavened, because they are still celebrating the week of Passover), gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him, and He disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us'?"

17- JESUS APPEARS A FIFTH TIME TO 10 APOSTLES & OTHERS UNNAMED THAT ARE WITH THEM (THOMAS WAS ABSENT)

Luke 24:36-49:

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven (Judas is dead) and those with them, assembled together and saying, 'It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon (Peter obviously had told them He saw Jesus, and Jesus had obviously confirmed to these men that Peter indeed was the third person He had appeared to). Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when He broke The Bread (Tou Artou, or The Loaf --- as He did with the Apostles at the Last Supper)

SEE MY STUDY ON "WHY WE NEED TO TAKE COMMUNION"

"While they were still talking about this, Jesus Himself, stood among them (Jesus' fifth appearance) and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'

They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at My hands and My feet. It is I Myself! Touch Me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have'."

The Heavenly body may have the bright appearance of a ghost; for when Jesus transfigured His body earlier, according to *Matthew 17:2*: "His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as light."

There are two kinds of flesh or bodies according to *I Corinthians 15:35-58*: “...there are heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies.”
But, you notice Jesus said nothing about His resurrected body having any blood! *I Corinthians 15:50* says: “I declare to you, brothers, that flesh (earthly) and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

“While they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, He asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’ They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it **and ate it in their presence**” (proving He was not a ghost, and that the Heavenly body will be able to eat food).

SEE MY STUDY ON “HEAVEN”

“He said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of Moses (first 5 Books of the Old Testament), the Prophets and the Psalms’ (rest of the Old Testament).

Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: **‘The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His Name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what My Father has promised (Holy Spirit); but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on High’** (Which happened 50 days after the Passover, on The Day of Pentecost, according to Acts 1,2).

18- JESUS APPEARS A SIXTH TIME TO ALL 11 APOSTLES (THOMAS IS PRESENT) *John 20:24-30*:

“Now **Thomas**, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. When the other disciples told him that they had seen the Lord, he declared, ‘Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it.’

A week later (again on Sunday) His disciples were in the house again (no longer the Passover, **but notice they are still meeting together on Sunday**, when Christ rose from the dead), **and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked (Romans and Jews were already trying to stop Christians from worshiping), Jesus came and stood among them (sixth appearance), and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then He said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe!’**

Thomas said to Him, ‘My Lord and My God!’

Then Jesus told him, **‘Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’**

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this Book. **But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing, you may have life in His Name.”**

19- JESUS APPEARS TO SEVEN OF HIS APOSTLES FOR A 7TH APPEARANCE (John 21:1-25):

“Afterward Jesus appeared again to His disciples by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael (Bartholomew), the sons of Zebedee (James and John), and two other disciples (Andrew --- Peter’s fishing partner, according to Matthew 4:18), and Philip --- Nathanael’s partner, according to John 1:45) were together. ‘I’m going out to fish,’ Simon Peter told them, and they said, ‘We’ll go with you.’ So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize it was Jesus (thought He had gone back into Heaven).

He called out to them, ‘Friends, haven’t you caught any fish?’

‘No,’ they answered.

He said, ‘Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.’ When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved (John) said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ As soon as Peter heard him say this, he wrapped his outer garment around him and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish you have just caught.’

*Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. **It was full of large fish, 153,** but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, ‘Come and have breakfast.’ None of the disciples dared to ask Him, ‘Who are you?’ They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. **This was now the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He was raised from the dead” (seventh appearance overall).***

When Jesus first called these same men, they were in these same boats fishing and catching nothing (Luke 5:4-7 & John 1:40-50). Jesus performed the same miracle in order for these same men to leave their boats and fish (business and money) to follow Him and fish for men. Now, three years later, Jesus repeats this same miracle to keep them fishing for men!

“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you truly love (agape) Me more than these (your boats and fish, or your business and money)?’

‘Yes, Lord,’ he said, ‘You know that I love (phileo) You.’

Jesus said, ‘Feed My lambs.’

Again Jesus said, ‘Simon, son of John, do you truly love (agape) Me?’

He answered, ‘Yes, Lord, You know that I love (phileo) you.’

Jesus said, ‘Take care of My little sheep.’

The third time He said to him, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love (phileo) Me?’

*Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him a third time. He said, 'Lord, you know all things; You know that **I love (phileo) You.**'
Jesus said, '**Feed My little sheep**.'*

Peter was hurt that Jesus asked him three times if he loved Him, perhaps, because Peter fled when they arrested Jesus, and denied three times that he ever even knew Him before He was put to death (*Luke 22:54-62*).

READ MY STUDY ON "**HAVE YOU TAKEN THE 'LOVE TEST'?**"

It is interesting that the first two times Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him, He uses the word "agape" (which is a love you have for someone or something regardless of any emotional affection). For instance, Jesus was asking Peter if he loved Him more than his business and money (or job). Peter answered both questions with "*you know that I love (phileo) you.*" He changes Jesus' word (agape) to "**phileo**" (meaning he loved Jesus with tender affection). But when Peter told Jesus he loved Him with tender affection, Jesus said first, to "*feed My lambs,*" and second and third, to "*feed My little sheep.*"

Jesus told **Nicodemus** earlier, in *John 3:3*, that he "*must be born again*" --- that would make him one of Peter's "*lambs.*"

Later, on the **Day of Pentecost**, according to *Acts 2:38*, there would be 3,000 more "*lambs*" that would, at Peter's command: "*repent and be baptized...in the Name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of their sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

Jesus was telling Peter, that if he truly loved Him more than his fishing business, that he would continue where Jesus left off, and teach people how to become Christians, and then, as they grew from "*lambs*" into "*little sheep,*" he would continue to take care of them: feeding them first, the "*milk*" of the Gospel of Jesus Christ; and, as they grew, more "*solid food*" of the Gospel, as **Paul** told the Christian "*lambs*" in *I Corinthians 3:1,2*: "*you were mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it.*"

After Peter got the point, Jesus asked him if he loved (*phileo*) Him with tender affection. **And Peter again answered that he loved (*phileo*) Him with tender affection, more than his business and money; and, he was agreeing to leave them again to shepherd Christ's flock.**

READ MY STUDY ON "**WAS THE CHURCH BUILT ON PETER?**"

"Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then He said to him, 'Follow Me!'

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved (John) was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and said, ‘Lord, who is going to betray you?’) When Peter saw him, he asked, ‘Lord, what about him?’

Jesus answered, ‘If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow Me.’ Because of this, the rumor spread among the brothers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; He only said, ‘If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that is that to you?’

John was the only Apostle to die of natural causes (lived more than 100 years), but he was banished to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote Revelation; and later, the Books of I, II, III John and the Gospel of John.

“This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that his testimony is true.

Jesus did many other things as well (some Matthew, Mark and Luke wrote about). If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.”

20- JESUS RETURNS TO HEAVEN (Matthew 28:16-20, Acts 1:1-26):

“Then the Eleven Apostle went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him (eighth appearance), they worshiped Him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age’.”

SEE MY STUDY ON “**THE BIBLE DOES NOT SAY ‘FAITH ONLY’**”

THEN LUKE WRITES THE FOLLOWING IN THE BOOK OF ACTS: *“In my former book (The Gospel of Luke), Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day He was taken up to Heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles He had chosen. After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the Kingdom of God.”*

In I Corinthians 15:3-8, the Apostle Paul tells us who Jesus appeared to during these forty days: *“For what I received I passed on to you as first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Peter (third appearance), and then to the Twelve (fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth appearances), most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep (died). Then He appeared to James (“the Lord’s brother” according to Paul’s writings*

in Galatians 1:19 --- tenth appearance), then to all the Apostles (including Matthias who was chosen by lot to replace Judas in Acts 1:21-26 --- the eleventh appearance), and last of all (twelfth appearance) He appeared to me (the Apostle Paul)."

Paul leaves out the women and the two men on the road to Emmaus, and lists only Apostles specifically, because he is trying to give the new Christians in Corinth a reason to respect him as an Apostle, who had the sole power and authority to lead, speak and write Divine Revelation or New Testament Scriptures on behalf of Christ through the Holy Spirit (as he states in *Ephesians 2:20-3:5*).

"On one occasion, while He was eating with them (the Apostles), He gave them (the Apostles) this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift (Holy Spirit) My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about (during the Last Supper). For John (the Baptist) baptized with water, but in a few days you (the Apostles) will be baptized (baptizo or immersed) with the Holy Spirit.'

So, when they met together, they asked Him, 'Lord, are you at this time going to restore the Kingdom of Israel (set Himself as an earthly King)?'

He said to them: 'It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you (Apostles) will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you (baptizes or immerses you); and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

After He said this, He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into Heaven.'

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day's walk from the city (about a half-mile --- Jews were forbidden to walk any further than a mile during the Sabbath --- remember, they had to get home). When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers (THATS RIGHT --- HIS EARTHLY HALF-BROTHERS FINALLY CAME BACK TO HIM!).

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about one hundred and twenty), and said, 'Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as a guide to those who arrested Jesus --- he was one of our number and shared in this ministry.'

(With the reward he got for his wickedness, Judas bought a field; there he fell headlong, his body burst open and all his intestines spilled out. Everyone in Jerusalem

heard about this, so they called that field in their language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood).

'For,' said Peter, 'it is written in the Book of Psalms,

'May his place be deserted; let there be no one else dwell in it (Psalm 69:25)

and, 'May another take his place of leadership.' (Psalm 109:8)

Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection (qualifications to be one of the Twelve Apostles).

So they proposed two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. Then they prayed, 'Lord you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this Apostolic Ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.' Then they drew lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the Eleven Apostles.'

According to the Greek dictionary, the word "**lot**" is the word "**kleros**" which is translated: "*an object used in casting or drawing lots, which consisted of bits, or small tablets, of wood or stone; these were sometimes inscribed with the names of persons, and were put into a receptacle or a garment (a lap, Proverbs 16:33), from which they were cast, after being shaken together; he whose lot first fell out was the one chosen.*"

It may be interesting to note that the word "**clergy**" is derived from this same word "**lot**" or "**kleros**."

NOW READ MY STUDIES ON:

"DID JESUS COMMAND ME TO BE BAPTIZED IN WATER?"

"WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?"

"WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BAPTISM AND GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?"

"GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT (TONGUE-SPEAKING)"

"HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE ANOINTING?"