

## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW; YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH

Week 11 – He Felt the Nails!

April 6, 2021

Jesus DID feel the nails! He literally SUFFERED and DIED!

Oswald Chambers – “Jesus’ death was not something that happened to Him which might have been prevented. His death was the very reason why He came.” Consider: when we celebrate Jesus’ incarnation – His coming as Emmanuel, God in the flesh (Christmas), we’re celebrating the CROSS – His death!

And we can REJOICE with Jesus...in the cross. The author of Hebrews tells us in Heb. 12:2 to FOCUS ON JESUS...Who for the JOY that was set before Him – in His sufferings – endured the cross, despising the shame!

Over 2.5M Jewish people from the known world converged upon Jerusalem to celebrate Passover which speaks to freedom and deliverance. In Jesus’ day tensions were high in the land. The Roman authorities were on the alert esp. on Jewish religious holy days. The people were stirred up. Many longed for the Messiah. Some did not want the Messiah as they had power and they didn’t want any Messiah taking away their power! Jewish zealots wanted to overthrow the Gentile empire that was oppressing Israel in Jesus’ day – ROME.

How are we to understand Jesus’ crucifixion? God’s plan was being fulfilled. This is how we need to understand it.

Why did Jesus have to die? With that question are we implying that there might’ve been another way? We need to hold unto the truth that before we can come to grips with anything God does, we have to first acknowledge that His ways are not our ways, His thoughts are not our thoughts—they are higher than ours (Isaiah 55:8). In addition, Moses, in Deuteronomy 32:4, reminds us that *“He is the Rock, His works are perfect, and all His ways are just. A faithful God Who does no wrong, upright and just is He.”* The plan of salvation He has designed is perfect, just, and upright. It is this plan of God that delivers us from spending an eternity apart from God. It is this plan that provides for us an eternity with God! And it is this plan of God that costs God everything. JESUS PAID IT ALL!

At His last Passover Seder, Jesus shared the redemption story – the story of a physical deliverance from bondage to slavery at the first Passover. At the Passover Seder He revealed that His death is the basis for their deliverance from bondage to SIN and the basis for eternal life with God. Jesus recounted the story **AND THEN HE FULFILLED it on the cross!**

Matt. 26:30 – And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Traditionally, every Passover Seder ends with a song. Often Psalm 118 is sung. Note Psalm 118:24 - *This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be*

2

*glad in it!* This is what they sang as Jesus made His way to the Garden of Gethsemane and ultimately to the cross for us.

John 18:1 – Jesus and His disciples went out *over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.* Kidron means *dusky, gloomy.* The Brook Kidron has been called the Black Brook. The blood from the altar area where the 256,500 lambs were killed drained into the Kidron Valley – into the brook! “Black Brook” most likely was named because of its blood-stained riverbed and banks! What were Jesus’ thoughts as He walked across that brook? Was He thinking of the blood that He would shed the next day – the blood shed for us?

When the second temple was built after the Jewish people returned to Israel from exile, a two-tiered bridge spanning the Kidron Valley from the Temple Mount to the Mount of Olives was constructed.

Along this bridge on the Day of Atonement each year it has been said that a goat symbolically bearing the sins of the people walked. Following Jesus’ last Passover Seder with His disciples – He walked this way...the way of the SCAPEGOAT!

John 18:1 - over the Brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which He and His disciples entered.

Matt. 26:36-38 - Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” <sup>37</sup> And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. <sup>38</sup> Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

Jesus had left the masses in Jerusalem so that He could celebrate the Passover Seder in the upper room with His disciples and explain its fulfillment. There Judas had forsaken Him. Jesus went with the remaining eleven to the entrance of the Garden and took Peter, James, and John with Him into the inner garden. Then He left the three and prayed alone. Here we may be seeing the movement of Jesus away from the multitude and moving toward the loneliness of the cross...the loneliness of Jesus as He prepared to take upon Himself the sins of the world!

The word *gethsemane* in Hebrew means "oil press." During Jesus' time, heavy stone slabs were lowered onto olives that had already been crushed in an olive crusher. Gradually, the weight of the slabs squeezed the olive oil out of the pulp, and the oil ran into a pit. There the oil was collected in clay jars. Gethsemane provides a vivid picture of Jesus' suffering. The weight of the sins of the world pressed down upon him like a heavy slab of rock pressed down on olives in their baskets. Luke 22:44 - His sweat, *like drops of blood falling from to the ground.*

Into the garden the Romans entered and arrested Jesus. A "great multitude" (Matt. 26:47; Mark 14:43) with swords and clubs came to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. John 18:3 describes this multitude as a "detachment of troops." This refers to a cohort of Roman soldiers which equates to 1,000 men at full strength.

3

Matt. 26:59-60 "*Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, <sup>60</sup>but found none. Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none.*"

Jesus faced six trials – three religious trials and three civil trials. There were many illegalities connected with the trial of Jesus:

- No trial was to be held during feast time – and yet Jesus was arrested at Passover!
- No trial was to be held at night – and yet Jesus was arrested at night and taken directly to Caiaphas, the High Priest.
- If the death penalty was given, a night must pass before the sentence was carried; however, only a few hours passed before Jesus was nailed to the cross.
- The Jewish people had no authority to execute anyone – yet there were three religious trials (Annas, Caiaphas, Herod).
- The accused was to be given counsel or representation - Jesus had none.
- The accused was not to be asked self-incriminating questions; however, Jesus was asked if He was the Christ. Jesus was put under oath by the High Priest Caiaphas to answer the statement, "Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God." Jesus replied with, "It is as you said" (Matt. 26:63-64).

Jesus will one day judge the world but not before the world judges Him!

The religious trials charged Jesus with blasphemy – claiming to be the Son of God, the Messiah. The civil trials charged Jesus with claiming to be King – the accusation of which was noted on the placard nailed to the cross above Jesus' head!

#### WHY JESUS DIED:

Isa. 53:10 - *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin.* Jesus paid the penalty for our sin!

Acts 4:27-28 – *For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together* <sup>28</sup> *to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.*

Jesus was then beaten and mocked. A purple robe was placed upon His bloodied body. A crown of thorns was pushed down upon Jesus' head. What the Roman soldiers meant as a mockery is a picture of the Messiah's two roles: the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53) and the conquering King (Rev. 19). There is further symbolism in the crown of thorns. At the fall of man in the garden of Eden, God told Adam, *Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.* <sup>18</sup> *Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...* (Gen. 3:17-18). The earth was cursed at the fall. The Roman soldiers unknowingly took an object of the curse and fashioned it into a crown for the One Who would deliver us from that curse.

Jesus was led away to Golgotha, in Aramaic, “the place of the skull” – to be crucified. Genesis 3:15 – first Messianic prophecy: ...*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His*

4

*heel.* The significance of Jesus being crucified at Golgotha, the place of the skull, was to show His victory over His enemy, Satan, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Genesis 3:15. As the nail would have been driven through the heels of the one crucified, the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 was being partially fulfilled...Satan would bruise His heel. The remainder of the prophecy was fulfilled as Jesus was lifted above the ground-the place of the skull-crushing the head of Satan. Jesus was literally in a position over His enemies. Golgotha – the skull. The cross of Jesus was rammed into the ground that looked like a skull...*He shall bruise your head....*

Jesus came to die. As the Lamb of God, He was scrutinized and found blameless by Pilate, Herod, and the Sanhedrin. In keeping with the Passover...just as the animal lambs that were found without blemish were sacrificed...Jesus, our perfect Passover Lamb, found to be blameless, was nailed to the cross.

Jesus was nailed to the cross at 9 a.m. (Mark 15:25 – the third hour) as the animal Passover lambs were being slain in the temple -on the day of Passover (Nisan 14).

Crucifixion was the Roman capital punishment. Criminals were crucified. Crucifixion was unimaginably painful and inhumane. Victims of crucifixion could live up to six days! BUT Jesus remained on the cross for six hours. He HAD to die on the day of Passover and at the time He did. Jesus is the fulfillment of Passover; therefore, He had to die on Passover while the animal Passover lambs were being slain! Ex. 12:6b – *the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it* (the lamb) *at twilight.* Twilight – “between the two evenings” - the sacrificing of the lamb was to occur before sunset while it was still day 14 of Nisan.

He had to die the way He did – crucified – to fulfill prophecy (Psa. 22; Isa. 53; Deut. 21:22-23 – *he who is hanged [on a tree – v. 22] is cursed of God*) and to take upon Himself the curse that we deserved as we are sinners – the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23).

Criminals who were crucified had their crimes inscribed on a sign which was attached to the cross. In John 19:19 we have the sign noted as JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS,

Jesus/Yeshua – God is salvation

Nazareth – netzer -BRANCH (Messianic title).

King – melech

Jews – Yehudah

What the Jewish people read from this sign:

Yeshua is the Messiah, the King of the Jews  
WHAT A PROCLAMATION!

Jesus' crucifixion was the height of man's inhumanity to man AND the height of God's love for man!!!!

Man's freedom of choice was on display at Golgotha! God used man's tainted/polluted freedom of choice to unfold His perfect, divine, and redemptive plan! We will never understand the unconditional love of God if we don't

5

understand the depravity of man. We will never understand the grace of God (unmerited favor), if we don't understand the depravity of man...because we, in our depravity can do NOTHING to earn God's love. BUT GOD reached out to us – to reconcile us to Himself!

The cost of the cross remains entirely on God's side!

And in the midst of the unimaginable pain from the crucifixion. . . what did Jesus cry from the cross? *Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.* (Luke 23:34).

Jesus looked down from the cross and saw

- the Roman soldiers casting lots for His clothing (John 19:23-24).
- He heard the two thieves reviling Him (Matt. 27:44).
- The religious leaders were mocking Him (Matt. 27:41-43).
- The crowd was blaspheming Him (Matt. 27:39).

Rom. 5:8 - ...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

If someone believes good works can save them, ask that person, "Why then did Jesus have to die such a horrific death?"

Matt. 27:45 - Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. (Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-48) Three hours of darkness which occurred while Jesus Christ hung on the cross. The time was from noon until 3:00 P.M. The darkness was no metaphor. It was an historical event based on eyewitness accounts and independently corroborated by ancient historians.

Regarding a world-wide darkness: what is the scope of the crucifixion? Jesus took all our sins to the cross to make atonement for our souls, that we might have forgiveness of sins and be reconciled to God. *For God so loved the world....!!!* As the sins of men were cast upon the sinless only begotten Son of God, Jesus' crucifixion has significance for ALL men (I John 2:2). The most reasonable explanation is that the darkness was supernatural - a special miracle of God!

Matt. 27:46 - And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'

- Jesus - 100% God; 100% man - He came in the likeness/appearance of man (Rom. 8:3; Phil. 2:5-8) Did He feel the nails? Did He have emotions? Jesus wept at Lazarus' tomb (John 11:35). Jesus wept over Jerusalem (Matt. 23:37)
- Jesus had been flogged to the point of near death; He was in EXCRUCIATING agony during the crucifixion; He was at the point of asphyxiation...

I am suggesting that Jesus, in His cry from the cross...*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*...was using a teaching tool that the Rabbis used called REMEZ. Jewish boys who were studying under Rabbis learned "remez" which means "hint" in Hebrew – a harkening back. The Rabbis would call out a passage of Scripture and the student would have to give the Scripture before and after that

passage. Jesus' cry from the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" - was a harkening back. Jesus' words were a reminder to the Jews that King David wrote of the crucifixion of the Messiah (Psalm 22) 1,000 years prior to Jesus' death on the cross. Jesus was calling out from the cross, "Here I am – I am the Messiah...I AM!!! I am the One about Whom King David wrote in His psalm – the One Who would be crucified!"

*'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?'* that is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

From these words of Jesus, some have taught that Jesus became sin. Those who teach this state that God cannot look on sin, therefore, God forsook His Son.

Where does it tell us in Scripture that God cannot look on sin? Some cite Hab. 1:13 – context – Habakkuk was having an issue with God tolerating the wickedness of Babylon.

## WHAT ABOUT JOB 1:6 WHEN SATAN CAME BEFORE GOD???

And, some base their view that Jesus became sin on II Cor. 5:21 – (NIV) *God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.* Not a correct translation! Correct translation:

II Cor. 5:21 - (NASB) - *He made Him who knew no sin to be [a]sin (to be a sin offering) in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

### Did God the Father forsake God the Son?

Did you know that Psalm 22, Psalm 23, and Psalm 24 were taught as a UNIT? Observant Jews would know this. And, remember there were no chapter divisions at this time.

Jesus, by crying out, *My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me*, the first verse of Psalm 22, was proclaiming:

- ...“Here I am – the crucified Messiah of Whom King David wrote in Psa. 22.” Again, Jesus was using a teaching tool.
- ...that God the Father answered Him (v. 21) You have answered Me.
- Psa. 22:24 - He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from Him; but when He cried to Him, He heard.  
He was reminding the people that God the Father had NOT hidden His face from God the Son...and, God the Father heard God the Son.
- He was stating His hope and trust in His ever-present Father – Psa. 23 – The Lord is My shepherd, I shall not want - even in going through the valley of the shadow (of death) – the Wadi Kelt by Jericho – the path Jesus took to Jerusalem on the tenth of Nisan/Lamb Selection Day.
- Jesus was envisioning His triumphant return to heaven – Psa. 24:7-10 – lift up your gates and the King of Glory shall come in! (Eph. 4:7-10; II Cor. 2:14)

Most importantly, if there was a separation between God the Father and God the Son, that would equate to a separation within the Trinity...a change in the Trinity. THE TRINITY IS ETERNAL. There can be no separation within the Trinity.

John 16:32 – Jesus said - *You (disciples) will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for My Father is with Me.*

John 19:30 - It is finished – Jesus' work was completed (John 17:4).

Heb. 2:14 – . . . through death, He might DESTROY him who had the power of death, that is the devil.

- “It is finished” is *tetelestai*, an accounting term that means “paid in full.” When Jesus uttered those words, He was declaring the debt owed to His Father was wiped away completely and forever. Not that Jesus wiped away any debt that *He* owed to the Father; rather, Jesus eliminated the debt owed by mankind—the debt of sin.
- Jesus had finished the eternal purpose of the cross. It stands today as a finished work, the foundation of our reconciliation to God, paying fully the debt we owe to God. “We owed a debt we couldn’t pay; He paid a debt He didn’t owe.” What love is this? If you were the only one of earth, Jesus would have come to die for you!
- When Jesus cried from the cross, “It is finished,” it was truly a VICTORY cry which, coming from a victim of crucifixion, is unheard of since the main reason for death is asphyxiation.
- Matt. 27:51 – “*Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom;*
- When Jesus cried “It is finished,” the veil of the Temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom. GOD made the way! The veil that separated the Holy Place in the Temple from the Holy of Holies.
- Only the High Priest had access to the Holy of Holies – once a year. Through Jesus’ death access was available to all.
- And regarding the veil, the historian Josephus documented that the veil was 60’ high/ 4” thick...made of fine twisted linen – very dense.
- At Jesus’ crucifixion, the tearing of the veil signified an INVITATION - that the way to God was open to all through the blood of the Messiah shed on the cross.
- *Acts 6:7b - . . . a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

Matt. 27:51b-53 - . . . and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,<sup>52</sup> and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;<sup>53</sup> and coming out of the graves **after His resurrection**, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.”

- Matthew alone mentioned this miracle.
- While the graves were opened when the earth quaked, the bodies of the saints didn’t come out of the graves until AFTER Jesus’ resurrection! WHY? (to be continued)

The cross is the point where God and sinful man merge with a crash and the way to life is opened...but the crash is on the heart of God.

**QUESTIONS:**

How has this lesson impacted you?

8

What difference will grasping the crucifixion of Jesus make in your life? How will you then live?

What are your observations at this time?

What are your current questions moving forward? How will you search for answers?

**SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:**

Reread Week 11's handout with the Bible references.

Jot down observations and questions. Begin to find answers from Scripture.

Share this lesson with at least one person who is a believer and with at least one person who is not a believer.

Journal how your life changes from understanding Jesus' crucifixion!

Read Pt. 2 of Week 11's lesson - week 10's handout when you receive it.