

# **Life of Christ**

## **The Arrest, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension**

### I. The Arrest

#### A. The Chronology of the events

1. The Arrest - late Thursday night
2. The illegal and unjust trials - early a.m. Friday morning
3. The Crucifixion - begins Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. (the third hour - Mark 15:25).
4. Darkness over the land - Friday at noon (the sixth hour - Mark 15:33)
5. The Death of Christ - Friday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. (the ninth hour - Mark 15:33)
6. The burial of Christ - Friday evening (since the next day was a Sabbath - John 19:31).
7. Christ Rises from the Dead - Sunday morning
  - The Jews considered any part of a day to refer to a day. Hence the phrase “three days and three nights” is an idiom which can refer to part of Friday, Saturday, and part of Sunday.

#### B. The Events of Thursday Night

1. The Upper Room - Matthew 26:20-29, John 13-16
2. The Journey to Gethsemane - Matthew 26:30
3. Jesus' High Priestly Prayer - John 17
4. Jesus finds the disciples asleep - Matthew 26:40-45
5. Judas leads the mob to Jesus - Matthew 26:46-48
6. Judas betrays Christ with a kiss - Matthew 26:49
7. Jesus heals the ear of Malchus - Matthew 26:51-54
8. Jesus forsaken by the disciples - Matthew 26:56
9. Jesus led away to His unjust and illegal trials - Matthew 26:57

## II. The Crucifixion

### A. The Trials of Christ

It is important to note that many judicial laws were broken during the trials of Christ. Some, but not all, include:

- Jewish law required a public trial, Christ's were private.
- Jewish law required that a person had a right to self-defense, Christ had none.
- Jewish law required that no one could be condemned without sufficient witnesses, the Jews had to search for two false ones.
- In any trial with the sentence of death given to the accused, a required three-day waiting period must be observed. Christ was executed immediately.
- Jewish law required that no trial be conducted at night, Christ had six trials at night.
- Jewish law forbade the private interrogation of an accused person, Christ was privately interrogated by Annas.
- Jewish law required that a person be arrested only on the witness of two or three, Christ had no accusers until the Sanhedrin found two false ones.
- Annas had no legal authority to question Christ, yet he was the first one Christ met.
- Jewish law required that no one could be tried outside the Hall of Judgment, Christ was tried at the home of Caiaphas.
- The testimony of the false witnesses lacked date, time, and location. Their testimony was not admissible by Jewish law.
- According to Jewish law, the Sanhedrin could only act as judge and jury, not prosecution, yet they are the ones that sought false witnesses in order to condemn Christ.
- Pilate had Christ crucified although he pronounced Christ innocent on several occasions.

#### 1. The Jewish Trials

- a. Trial #1 - Christ before Annas - John 18:19-24
- b. Trial #2 - Christ before Caiaphas - Matthew 26:57
- c. Trial #3 - Christ before the Sanhedrin - Matthew 26:59-68

## 2. The Roman Trials

The Roman trials were necessary because the Jews did not have the right of capital punishment. In order for Christ to have been executed, He had to be condemned by Rome itself.

### a. Trial #1 - Christ before Pilate - Matthew 27:1-2, 11-14

- This was the shortest of the Roman trials, as Christ was before Pilate only long enough for Pilate to ascertain that He was a Galilean.

### b. Trial #2 - Christ before Herod - Luke 27:5-12

- Interestingly, Herod finally meets Christ only to find that Christ will not do any tricks for him.
- Herod and Pilate were made fast friends over Christ.

### c. Trial #3 - Christ before Pilate - Matthew 27:15-26

- Pilate attempts to placate the hatred of the crowd by scourging Christ, all to no avail - John 19:1-3.
- Finally, Pilate defers to the desires of the Jews and condemns Christ. This was a political move on his part since he had made several mistakes with the Jews before, and did not need a riot on his hands.
  - i. Mistake #1 - display of eagles on banners caused a riot.
  - ii. Mistake #2 - Pilate stole money from the Temple Treasury to build an aqueduct for Jerusalem.
  - iii. Mistake #3 - Pilate had the image of Tiberius put on the shields of his soldiers which caused a negative report to Rome.
- Historically, Pilate was eventually banished to Gaul (France) by the Roman Emperor.

## B. The Crucifixion

### 1. The Place - Golgotha

- Christ was led away from the Judgment Hall to the place of execution, Golgotha, thus fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 53:8.

### 2. The Method - Crucifixion

- Stoning was the Jewish method of execution. However, we find a vivid picture of crucifixion in Psalm 22, a Messianic psalm. Thus Christ's crucifixion was a fulfillment of prophecy.

- Refer to *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Matthew 24-28*, p. 255 for a description of crucifixion.

a. As predicted by David

Psalm 22

b. As predicted by Christ

*Mark 10:33-34* Saying, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

*John 12:32* And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

*Matthew 17:22-23* And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men: And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

c. Outside the camp

*Hebrews 13:11-13* For the bodies of those beasts, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned without the camp. Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

d. As a bloody sacrifice

*Revelation 5:6* And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

*John 1:29* The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

- Christ died as a blood sacrifice, but Christ did not bleed to death

i. He voluntarily gave up His spirit

*Matthew 27:50* Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.

ii. He said that no man could take His life from Him

*John 10:18* No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to

*take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

**iii. He still had blood after His death**

*John 19:33-34 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.*

**3. The Prophecies fulfilled**

Some, but not all, of the prophecies fulfilled by Christ at His crucifixion are as follows:

- Betrayed by a friend - Psalm 41:9 cf. Mark 14:10
- Sold for thirty pieces of silver - Zechariah 11:12 cf. Matthew 26:15
- Accused by false witnesses - Psalm 27:12 cf. Matthew 26:60-61
- Silent when accused - Isaiah 53:7 cf. Matthew 26:62-63
- Smitten and mistreated - Isaiah 50:6 cf. Mark 14:65
- Hated without cause - Psalm 69:4 cf. John 15:23-25
- Suffered for others - Isaiah 53:4-5 cf. Matthew 8:16-17
- Crucified with sinners - Isaiah 53:12 cf. Matthew 27:38
- Hands and feet pierced - Psalm 22:16 cf. John 20:27
- Mocked and insulted - Psalm 22:6-8 cf. Matthew 27:39-40
- Given gall and vinegar - Psalm 69:21 cf. John 19:29
- The mockings prophesied - Psalm 22:8 cf. Matthew 27:43
- Prays for His enemies - Psalm 109:4 cf. Luke 23:34
- His side to be pierced - Zechariah 12:10 cf. John 19:34
- Soldiers cast lot for His garments - Psalm 22:18 cf. Mark 15:24
- Not a bone to be broken - Psalm 34:20 cf. John 19:33
- To be buried with the rich - Isaiah 53:9 cf. Matthew 27:57-60

#### 4. The Results

##### a. Atonement - Christ Became Our Substitute

- 1). Christ did not pay a ransom to Satan for us (the Ransom to Satan theory).
- 2). Christ was not merely a moral influence (the Moral Influence theory).
- 3). Christ did not only satisfy the justice of God much like a person paying a debt (the Commercial or Satisfaction theory).
- 4). Christ did take our place and pay the penalty for our sin (the Substitution theory).

*1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

*Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

*1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:*

##### b. Christ Provides Redemption

- Redemption means “to purchase from the marketplace in order to set free.” Christ has purchased us from the slave market of sin to free us to worship and serve God.

##### 1). As pictured in the Old Testament

- Boaz (in the book of Ruth), and Jeremiah (in Jeremiah 32) are two Old Testament examples of “kinsman redeemers.” A kinsman redeemer acted in the behalf of another in order to redeem property that had been sold, or to fulfill the duties of a near-relative in the laws of the levirate marriage.
- The three essential qualifications of a kinsman redeemer was 1) that they be a qualified near-relative, 2) that they be able to redeem, and 3) that they be willing to redeem.

##### 2). As personified in the New Testament

##### a). Christ was our near-relative

*Hebrews 2:10-15 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect*

through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Hebrews 4:15-16 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 5:7-8 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

**b). Christ is able to redeem**

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Ephesians 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

**c). Christ is willing to redeem**

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

**c. Christ Provides Reconciliation**

- **Reconciliation refers to the process whereby those that were once enemies are made friends. Prior to salvation, we were the enemies of God. After salvation, we are part of His family, joint-heirs with Christ.**

Ephesians 2:16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

*Colossians 1:20-22* And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled. In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

*Romans 5:10-11* For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

d. **Christ Is The Propitiation For Our Sin**

- **Propitiation refers to the fact that Christ has appeased God's wrath and has made us acceptable to God.**

*1 John 2:21* *John 2:2* And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

*1 John 4:10* *John 4:10* Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

*Romans 3:24-25* Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

e. **Christ Provides Remission of Sins**

- **Remission is that process whereby our sins are "put away." It is the subtraction of our sin.**

*Acts 10:43* To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

*Matthew 26:28* For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

*Luke 24:47* And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

*Hebrews 9:22* And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.



### III. The Burial

#### A. As Predicted by Isaiah

*Isaiah 53:9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.*

*John 19:38-42 And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.*

#### B. As Proof That Christ Was Dead

- **The Romans were experts at crucifixion and death. The fact that they allowed Christ to be buried gives proof that He was indeed dead.**

#### C. An Essential Proof of the Resurrection

- **Christ was resurrected, not resuscitated.**
- **The burial was long enough to prove the validity that Christ was actually resurrected.**

### IV. The Resurrection of Christ

#### A. The Resurrection Proved Christ Was God

*Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

*Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly;*

#### B. The Resurrection Proved that Christ's Death Was Accepted by God

*Hebrews 9:24-28 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.*

**C. The Resurrection Proved That What Christ Said Was True**

*Romans 1:4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:*

**D. The Resurrection Proves That We Will Be Resurrected As Well**

*2 Corinthians 4:14 Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.*

*1 Corinthians 15:13-19 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*

**E. The Resurrection Proves That Satan Will Be Destroyed**

*Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;*

*Colossians 2:15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.*

**F. Proofs for the Resurrection****1. The Resurrection appearances**

- a. To the guards at the tomb - Matthew 28:2-4
- b. To Mary Magdalene - Matthew 28:1, 5-7
- c. The appearances to the other women - Matthew 28:9-10
- d. The Road to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35
- e. The ten disciples - Mark 16:14, John 20:19-23
- f. At the time of His Ascension - Luke 24:44-53

**2. The Empty Tomb**

- In order to kill the rumors of Christ's resurrection, all the religious leaders needed to do was to produce the body of Christ. The mere fact that they could not do this proves the empty tomb.

### 3. The Character of the Human Witnesses

- The men that attest to the resurrection of Christ were the very men that wrote much of the New Testament, a collection of writing that hold truth in the highest regard.
- Additionally, all of the disciples eventually died as martyrs (with the exception of John). It is hardly believable that no one would have squealed had this been a hoax.

### 4. The Dramatic Change in the Disciples

- One look at the disciples prior to the resurrection, cowering in a room in Jerusalem, and after the resurrection, boldly proclaiming Christ, indicates that something monumental had to have happened.

### 5. The Change in the Day of Worship

- Christ's resurrection altered the day of worship from Saturday (the Sabbath), to Sunday, the day of His resurrection.

## G. False Explanations for the Resurrection

### 1. The Swoon Theory

- Asserts that Christ did not actually die, He merely lost consciousness and in the coolness of the tomb revived, rolled away the stone, and left.
- Refuted by the following facts:
  - i. The Roman soldiers were experts in execution, they knew a dead man when they saw one.
  - ii. Christ's side was pierced and blood and water gushed out, a clear sign of death.
  - iii. It would hardly be possible for Christ, in a weakened state, to have rolled away a one-ton stone, overpowered the guards, and then walked seven miles to Emmaus on feet that had just hours before been nailed on a cross.

### 2. The Theft Theory

- Asserts that the disciples overpowered the guards, stole Christ's body, and then spread the story of His resurrection.
- Refuted by the following facts:
  - i. The disciples did not think that Christ would rise again. The only group that remembered Christ's word were the religious leaders who asked Pilate to seal the tomb.
  - ii. It is hard to believe that the disciples would have allowed themselves to suffer persecution and die for a hoax.

iii. It does not explain the post-resurrection appearances of Christ.

3. The Hallucination Theory

- Asserts that the post-resurrection appearances of Christ were merely hallucinations by his followers who desperately wanted to believe He rose again.
- Refuted by the following facts:
  - i. None of Christ's followers even thought about the possibility of a resurrection.
  - ii. It is hard for 500 people to have the same hallucination at the same time.

4. The Wrong Tomb Theory

- Asserts that the women, and subsequently everyone else, went to the wrong tomb.
- Easily refuted by the following facts:
  - i. It is hard to mistake a tomb which has been sealed by Rome and watched over by guards for some other tomb.
  - ii. It does not explain why the Sanhedrin did not go to the right tomb and produce the body of Christ to stop Christianity at its inception.
  - iii. It is hard to believe that the women, who loved Christ, would have forgotten the tomb where His body was placed.
  - iv. It does not explain the appearance of the angel.

V. The Ascension - Mark 16:19-20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:6-12

- After forty days of ministry, Christ ascended to heaven permanently, there to remain until His second coming.
- His return to heaven returned Him to the place of honor and glory at the right hand of the Father.