

Search for Truth

8. Jesus the Christ, Makes a New Covenant

Path to Christ's Death

Luke 19:35-38

As Jesus approached His final weeks on earth, His ministry seemed to intensify— more miracles, more healings, and more reaction from His audience. As the people were declaring that Jesus must truly be the Messiah! The high priest and religious officials were furious. Jesus must be stopped—He must be killed! Sinister plans were immediately drawn. Jesus tried to prepare His disciples for the inevitable tragedy.

A few of the main events that happened in Jerusalem

The Last Supper - Luke 22:7-20

Garden of Gethsemane - Luke 22:39-53

Trial before Caiaphas - Matthew 26:57-75

Judas hangs himself - Matthew 27:3-10

The beating of Jesus - Matthew 27:1-2, 11-31

Crucifixion at Calvary - Matthew 27:32-56

Last Supper

Luke 22:14-21

At this somber moment, Jesus chose to institute a "new" blood covenant . . . a covenant of the blood of Christ! From the days of Adam, Noah, and Abraham, God had made covenants with chosen ones. Each blood covenant solemnly bound God and His earth partner to an oath and agreement. Jesus explained, "This is my body which is given for you. . . . This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you"

"And without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

Looking backward; looking forward

1 Cor 11:23-26

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: 24 And when he had given thanks, he

brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. 25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. 26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Looking back, we gratefully remember our Lord's suffering and death that provided salvation and healing. Looking forward, we anticipate His return when we shall enjoy the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in our Father's new kingdom!

Garden of Gethsemane

Luke 22:39-44

What could bring the glorious Son of God so low? Remember that Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully man. The flesh cried out to the indwelling Spirit, "not my will but thine be done". At that point all the sins committed from Adam to those of the last living person were in the cup of Christ's agonizing prayer. With one ghastly burden of accumulated horror, its weight crushed the Man Christ Jesus who became the Lamb of God.

Heb 5:7 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; 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Jesus sentenced by Pilate

Luke 23:1-4, 16-25

The beating of Jesus

Dr. C. Truman Davis, who has studied crucifixion from a medical perspective, describes the Roman flagrum: "The heavy whip is brought down with full force again and again across the shoulders, back and legs. At first, the heavy thongs cut through the skin only. As the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles. "The small balls of lead first produce large, deep bruises which are broken open by subsequent blows. Finally the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognizable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When it is determined by the centurion in charge that the prisoner is near death, the beating is finally stopped" (McDowell, The Resurrection Factor, page 43).

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Healing promises

Luke 22:19; Matthew 8:17;
I Peter 2:24; Luke 9:11;
Acts 10:38; James 5:15

Jesus' ministry, from beginning to end, brought peace to the soul and healing to the body. On His way to the cross to die for our sins, Jesus stopped by the whipping post. When we remember healing's expensive price—the beating of Christ's back with a whip—how grateful we should be to use it! It's mine! It's yours! Claim your privilege!

Ways to be healed

James 5:14-16; Mark 16:15-18;
Acts 19:11-12; Matthew 18:19-20;
Mark 11:22-24; John 14:12-14;
Matthew 8:16; 10:1; Luke 9:1-2;
I Corinthians 12:9

God is a healer!

Could we demand healing with no thought for the source of our problem? Good nutrition, fasting, exercise, and cleanliness are still essential to good health. When we faithfully do our part, Christ will faithfully do His. God has made every provision for His blood- covenant members to be healthy and strong! It is God's will for us to be in good health.

III John 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

"It Is Finished!"

The horrific pain of the nails in Jesus' hands and feet did not kill him. Medical studies have found that when a person is suspended by his two hands, the blood sinks rapidly into the lower extremities. Within six to twelve minutes, blood pressure drops to fifty percent while the pulse rate doubles. As the heart is deprived of blood, fainting follows from poor circulation. Death by crucifixion is usually due to heart failure; however, victims often lingered for two to three days. Dizziness, cramps, thirst, starvation, sleeplessness, raging fever and inflammation of untended wounds were part of the ghastly death (Keller, The Bible in History, pages 376-377).

Col 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

A new way to God

Luke 23:44-46

The moment Jesus bowed His head and died, an awesome miracle occurred inside the Temple. The veil separating the Holy Place from the Holiest of Holies was suddenly ripped from top to bottom, exposing the sacred enclosure viewed only by the high priest once a year. This veil was 60 feet long and 30 feet wide. Its thickness was the width of the palm of the hand. The way into the glorious presence of the Most High was opened to all who would believe!

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Ac 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

The Gospel—“Good News”!

1Co 15:1-4

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

To believe the gospel is to believe that Christ died, was buried and rose again! You should always keep in mind that the gospel is not just the fact that we can be saved but actually how to be saved.

2Th 1:8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

The Gospel must not only be believed, but it must be obeyed.

A New Day Dawns for Man!

Luke 24:1-9

1 Cor 15:13-14

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

Everything as a Christian pivots around this point, Jesus did not stay in that tomb but on the third day he rose from the dead! The Jewish leaders could not find His body. All the Jewish authorities had to do was produce the body and

the disciples would have been silenced forever. Rather, they forcibly brought the apostles before their council and threatened them with death unless they ceased preaching a risen Christ.

II Peter 1:16

For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

1Co 15:5-8

5 And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: 6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. 7 After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. 8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

The reason they were willing to die is not only because they saw Jesus but because they believed in him!

John 11:25-26

25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?