



Crucifixion, Resurrection and a New World!

Isaiah 53:6: (KJV) *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

It was some 2,000 years ago that the world was changed by the faithful, selfless and courageous actions of one man. It is today, as we do every year, that we celebrate this gift of life that Jesus gave us. Come and spend some time with us as we stop, look and listen to a portion of his story - the greatest story of the greatest life ever lived.

We know that Jesus loves us - we know because we have the Holy Scriptures to tell us his story. They begin even from the very foundations of the world and pass through the prophecies of the Old Testament. They then move on to his real life experiences in the New Testament and then on through the development of the true church afterwards. Let us now focus on just a few days of this grand and historical life - we will begin at the end - at the end of his earthly ministry on the night before his crucifixion. Jesus has just washed his disciples' feet, instituted the sacred memorial of the bread and the wine, encouraged his followers and prayed for them as well. He now is on his way to suffer:



Chapter One: The Garden

Matthew 26:36-46: (NRSV) ³⁶*Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, Sit here while I go over there and pray. ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me. ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.*

You can just begin to imagine the weight that Jesus must have felt. He went to do what he always did when the stresses of his call became heavy - he prayed. Only this time there was a deeper and more solemn urgency, for he knew that this would be his last opportunity for communing with his Father before the hailstorm of trial would erupt. So he asked for Peter, James and John - his closest friends - to be near as he threw himself prostrate upon the ground and upon the mercy of his Father. His struggle was intense and he asked for his Father's mercy, but only within the confines of his Father's will.

⁴⁰*Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? ⁴¹Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. ⁴²Again he went away for the second time and prayed, My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.*

His anxiety grew as his unknowing and weary friends could not watch with him, not even for a short while. He urged them to be alert, for a trial was coming and he knew they were weak. With a deepening grief he went and prayed a



second time for deliverance, not from the price that he had already determined to pay, but deliverance from the ignominy of crucifixion as a blasphemer, as one who stands against God. So he asked this a second time - but again it was not his own will, but ultimately it was the Father's will that he sought...

Luke 22:43-44: (NRSV) *Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength.*

God heard his prayer and swiftly answered with the strength of an angel, for Jesus had no one else to turn to because his friends were once again asleep.

⁴⁴In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, *Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.* ⁴⁶*Get up, let us be going. See, my betrayer is at hand.*



Olive Trees in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jerusalem

Jesus now having been encouraged, used that strength delivered by God's holy messenger to pray all the more earnestly, so much so that he began to sweat great drops of blood upon the ground. He again approached his weary friends and again he found himself alone, for they were asleep. So a third time he went and prayed until there was no time left, for the storm had arrived.

The physiological trauma that Jesus would experience this night is something that we don't often think about. We will be referring to the comments of Dr. David Acuna, a modern day trauma surgeon and Christian to help us grasp the significance of Jesus' sacrifice.



The Crucifixion, sweating blood, Dr. David Acuna

- *I believe that Christ's suffering and the demonstration of the physiologic stress that his human body was under is manifested in the Garden of Gethsemane, where it is described that he was sweating blood. There is a well-documented medical condition in which patients who were under a tremendous amount of emotional and physiological stress can in fact sweat blood because little blood vessels within the glands burst and blood is expressed.*

The Betrayal

Luke 22:47-48: (NRSV) ⁴⁷While he was still speaking, suddenly a crowd came, and the one called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him; ⁴⁸but Jesus said to him, *Judas, is it with a kiss that you are betraying the Son of Man?*



What grief Jesus must have felt as one who had been his friend. One who had been a trusted follower arrived with the enemy and betrayed him. He betrayed him with a kiss...

John 18:3-11: (NRSV) *³So Judas brought a detachment of soldiers together with police from the chief priests and the Pharisees, and they came there with lanterns and torches and weapons.*

Such a scene! Soldiers! Police! Weapons! Armor! All there to apprehend the humble miracle worker, the carpenter from Galilee.

⁴Then Jesus, knowing all that was to happen to him, came forward and asked them, Whom are you looking for? ⁵They answered, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus replied, I am he. Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶When Jesus said to them, I am he, they stepped back and fell to the ground. ⁷Again he asked them, Whom are you looking for? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. ⁸Jesus answered, I told you that I am he. So if you are looking for me, let these men go. ⁹This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken, I did not lose a single one of those whom you gave me.

Jesus now, even though he would be taken prisoner, took complete control. A clarity of purpose seized him and that clarity overcame his anxiety as he singled himself out as the one they sought and as he endeavored to protect his feeble and frightened friends...

¹⁰Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus. ¹¹Jesus said to Peter, Put your sword back into its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me? Luke 22:51-53: (NRSV) ⁵¹But Jesus said, No more of this! And he touched his ear and healed him.

Chaos broke the standoff and a bloody battle certainly would have erupted but Jesus, with firm love and wisdom, not only disarmed his disciple, but he assured Peter that he had accepted his Father's answer to his prayer and that he was indeed ready for all of the suffering to come. Jesus then turned to the soldiers, commanded them to stand down and healed - yes - he *healed* his enemy...

⁵²Then Jesus said to the chief priests, the officers of the temple police, and the elders who had come for him, Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a bandit? ⁵³When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness!

So Jesus freely gave himself over to the powers of darkness, for this was indeed the appointed hour and the will of his Father.

John 18:12: (NRSV) *So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him.*



What observations do we see?

- Jesus could have at any time "opted out."
- Jesus seeks, finds, and follows his Father's will.





- Jesus protects and defends his friends.
- Jesus freely gives himself over to certain pain and death.



Chapter Two: Scourging

The long and tortuous night of trial begins with Peter's denial. Jesus was brought before Annas the High Priest. Peter and John followed Jesus there. John was able to go into the courtyard with Jesus, and eventually Peter was able to join him.

Luke 22:54-65 (ASV) and John 18:13-27: (NRSV): ...⁵⁵And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the court, and had sat down together, Peter sat in the midst of them. ⁵⁶And a certain maid seeing him as he sat in the light of the fire, and looking steadfastly upon him, said, This man also was with him. ⁵⁷But he denied, saying, Woman, I know him not...

We can only imagine the fear and confusion in Peter's mind. Not too many hours ago Jesus had washed his feet, and Peter had begged to be washed completely to be able to be closer to his Lord. Soon after that, Peter had cut a man's ear off in the heat of the moment to defend his Lord and now? Now he had just denied that he even knew Jesus! What was happening?!

John 18: 25: Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, You are not also one of his disciples, are you? He denied it and said, I am not.

Again? Another denial! What was wrong with him? Where was his loyalty? Where was his courage? WHERE WAS HIS FAITH?

Luke 22:59: ⁵⁹And after the space of about one hour John 18:26: ²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this man also was with him; for he is a Galilaean. Luke 22:60-62: ⁶⁰But Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. ⁶¹And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how that he said unto him, Before the cock crow this day thou shalt deny me thrice. ⁶²And he went out, and wept bitterly.



Just think - an hour goes by - plenty of time to think about what was happening and to try and find your center again. Don't be afraid, stand up for Jesus! He's innocent! And then it happens again...a third recognition of who Peter is, and yet another flat out denial! Then the moment when the world stopped turning - Jesus, your Lord, your Savior, and your friend hears your denials and turns and looks at you - no, no he looks right through you! And just as he said, the cock crows and suddenly all that you have left is failure and tears - bitter tears of pain and sorrow for your own cowardice...

Luke 22:63-65: ⁶³And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and beat him. ⁶⁴And they blindfolded him, and asked him, saying, Prophecy: who is he that struck thee? ⁶⁵And many other things spake they against him, reviling him.



And so Jesus is beaten - just for the sake of mockery. Today we would call that a "hate crime," but Jesus saw it as the reason he had come. These were the men he died to save...

It was now early morning and Jesus would be taken from Caiaphas to Pilate. Pilate questioned Jesus, but could find no fault with him and therefore sought his release.

John 18:37-40: (NASB) ³⁷Therefore Pilate said to him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice. ³⁸Pilate said to him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, I find no guilt in him. ³⁹But you have a custom that I release someone for you at the Passover; do you wish then that I release for you the King of the Jews? ⁴⁰So they cried out again, saying, Not this Man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

So the Jews chose the release of a thief over the release of a miracle worker and teacher. We look at this and wonder, what were they thinking? Perhaps they were *not* thinking, perhaps they were simply moved by the base instinct of blind rage...

John 19:1-16: (NRSV) ¹Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face.

Here the mockery is not only multiplied, it is void of any of its last vestiges of human dignity. The depth of cruelty that mankind can inflict upon his brother seemed to know no bounds.

 **The Crucifixion, scourging, Dr. David Acuna**

- *The scourge involved the use of a short whip with pieces typically of metal, bone or pieces of porcelain wrapped in leather straps, utilized to come across typically the back, shoulders and the legs of the victim. The first few passes across a particular body part would tear through the skin and the fat, but eventually once the outer layers were torn away, it would start getting in the muscle and the tendon. Of course, along the way, you are ripping through all the blood vessels that supply all of those tissues, so you are losing blood the whole time.*

It was in this condition of extreme pain, blood loss and humiliation that Jesus would again be presented to his accusers.

⁴Pilate went out again and said to them, Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him. ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, Here is the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, Crucify him! Crucify him! Pilate said to them, Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.

One of the biggest problems with blind hatred is that it is, in fact, blind. It cannot see, and it therefore cannot reason. Without reason there is no restraint and where there is no restraint, the end is always death. It was in this condition that the Pharisees gazed upon this humble man of God, now beaten nearly to death and humiliated beyond recognition - yet all they saw was their own exposure as false leaders, so all they wanted was his removal - at any cost, even without just cause...



⁷The Jews answered him, We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God. ⁸Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, Where are you from? But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰Pilate therefore said to him, Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you, and power to crucify you? ¹¹Jesus answered him, You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.

Again, Jesus - even in the face of brutality, hatred and shame - is able to set perspective in order. None of this could happen had it not been allowed by the Father above, and no one, not even Pilate, would have any inkling of authority over Jesus unless the Father himself had granted it.

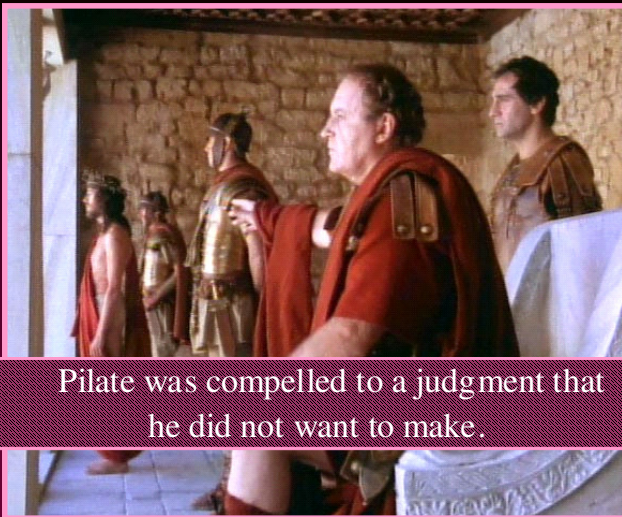
 **The Crucifixion, crown of thorns, Dr. David Acuna**



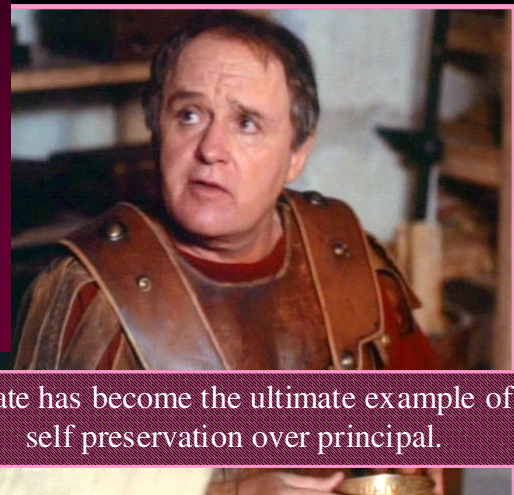
- *It actually had a very long thorn, not the little thorns we would think from a rose bush. These were thorns that were typically an inch and a half to two inches in length. The scalp is one of the most vascular portions of our body. There is a huge blood supply up there. Having those thorns shoved down onto the bony plate would have gone through all the scalp which in and of itself would have created a huge amount of blood loss. I've seen people bleed to death from just a scalp injury. So this is not a small injury to have - dozens of these things shoved into your scalp. That would have caused more blood loss.*

Clearly Jesus suffered well before he got to the Cross.

¹²From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, If you release this man, you are no friend of the emperor. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against the emperor. ¹³When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge's bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover; and it was about noon.



Pilate was compelled to a judgment that he did not want to make.



Pilate has become the ultimate example of self preservation over principal.



Pilate was fearful. He had never been presented with a dilemma such as this! On the one hand, he had in his custody what he knew to be an innocent man. Standing against this man was an angry mob, led by the city's most influential Jewish leaders. His conscience tugged at him to find a way to do the right thing, and yet his fear of uprising held him back...

He said to the Jews, "Here is your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but the emperor." ¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So Pilate caved. He would not withstand the frenzied outcries of the mob and he gave into their heinous cries for crucifixion. Pilate consented to the further torture and the death of an innocent man. And so it came to be that by the betrayal of a friend, through beatings and scourging, through the depths of humiliation, underscored by multiple acts of injustice and by blind rage and cowardice, it is by these things that Jesus the Christ came to crucifixion...



Chapter Three: Ransom



"Why," (Part 1) Nichole Noredman

We rode into town the other day just me and my daddy
He said I'd finally reached that age
And I could ride next to him on a horse
That of course was not quite as wide

We heard a crowd of people shouting
And so we stopped to find out why
And there was that man that my dad said he loved
But today there was fear in his eyes

So I said, "Daddy why are they screaming?
Why are the faces of some of them beaming?
Why is he dressed in that bright purple robe?
I'll bet that crown hurts him more than he shows"

"Daddy please can't you do something?
He looks as if though he's gonna cry
You said He was stronger than all of those guys
Daddy please tell me why, why does everyone want him to die?"

Sometimes we, just like that small girl in the previous song just ask why, because all we can see is the pain and suffering - Jesus saw the end result of redemption and was therefore able to walk that road...

John 19:17: (KJV) *And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*



"Via Dolorosa," Sandi Patti

Down the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem that day
The soldiers tried to clear the narrow street
But the crowd pressed in to see
A Man condemned to die on Calvary

He was bleeding from a beating, there were stripes upon His back
And He wore a crown of thorns upon His head
And He bore with every step
The scorn of those who cried out for His death

Down the Via Dolorosa called the way of suffering
Like a lamb came the Messiah, Christ the King,
But He chose to walk that road out of
His love for you and me.
Down the Via Dolorosa, all the way to Calvary.



Think of the charged atmosphere that must have prevailed. Here was Jesus, beaten so badly that he couldn't even carry the cross, who just days ago had literally hundreds of thousands of the Jews shouting "Hosanna!" to him, shouting "Hail King of the Jews!" Here was Jesus, who owned no earthly possessions, who spent his life teaching any who would listen and reasoning with those who would not. He was carrying the weight of all humanity upon his worn and bloody shoulders. Here was Jesus, abandoned, betrayed and now walking all alone. Here was Jesus, who had raised Lazarus from the dead, who healed, who walked on water and who was now walking the "way of suffering" so he could bear the sins of those who mocked and spit at him. Here was Jesus.

Luke 23:26-28: (KJV) ²⁶And as they led him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian...and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus. ²⁷And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. ²⁸But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children.

John 19:19-22: (KJV) And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰This title then read many of the Jews: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. ²¹Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. ²²Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.



Mark 15:27: (KJV) And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

Matthew 27:39-44: (KJV) ³⁹And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, ⁴⁰And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. ⁴¹Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴²He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. ⁴³He trusted in God;



let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. ⁴⁴The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.

John 19:25-27: (KJV) ²⁵Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son! ²⁷Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home.



Luke 23:39-43: (KJV) ³⁹And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. ⁴⁰But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. ⁴²And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee today, shalt thou be with me in paradise.

We all know that Jesus died as our ransom price, but did you ever think about that being illustrated in his dying in the place of Barabbas?

Is Barabbas a picture of Adam? Consider these similarities:	
Who was Barabbas?	Adam and the race of Adam
He was the Son of Abba, (Strong's #912), 'son of father.'	Just as Barabbas was 'son of father,' Adam was a Son of God. <u>Luke 3:38</u>
He was a notable prisoner. <u>Matthew 27:16</u>	Barabbas was already sentenced and serving time in prison: Adam and the race in his loins are under the sentence of death, and are in the prison house of death. <u>Romans 5:12</u>
He was a rebel, who stirred up sedition with other fellow insurgents.	Barabbas was the one who deserved chastisement. Adam and his family were condemned to death, guilty of rebellion or disobedience. <u>Romans 5:15</u>
He was guilty of murder. <u>Mark 15:7</u> He was a robber, "one who plunders openly and by violence." Vines; <u>John 18:40</u>	Jesus' sacrifice resulted in Barabbas release. Barabbas was released from being crucified, and then from being thrown into the Gehennah dump, where criminals' bodies were disposed. Jesus saved the whole race of mankind from permanently dying with no hope of life again. <u>Romans 5:18</u>



What a picture! It was a microcosm of the big picture of what Jesus was there to do. He was there to bear the sins of the many. Bearing the sins of Barabbas is a small picture of his greater sacrifice of bearing the sins of all men.

Isaiah 53:3: (NASB) *He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face he was despised, and we did not esteem him.*



Chapter Four: Forsaken - The Final Test

The Crucifixion, the nails, *Dr. David Acuna*

- *Anatomically we consider the wrist as part of the hand so with the placement of the nails between the radius and the ulna, at that position, it still fits the definition of being in the hand and it's a position in which the nail won't rip out, which you have to have. You have to have a solid point of fixation.*
- *Another interesting point about the placement of that is that the median nerve goes right straight through that particular portion of the wrist and so there would have been either destruction of the nerve or an impingement of the nerve that would have created a tremendous amount of pain. Every time you tried to take a breath it would be agonizing. Pushing down on spiked feet, which of course hurt, and then you would be hanging on spiked arms. So you would alternate from excruciating pain to excruciating pain every time you take a breath.*

Isaiah 53:3-4: (NASB) ³*He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face he was despised, and we did not esteem Him.* ⁴*Surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows he carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

This prophecy reveals what the hearts and minds of men saw and felt on that day. He hung there, helpless and writhing in agony, a man who had once been an uncompromising example of steadfastness, faith and godliness. His whole existence reverberated with the presence of the power of God within him and there was seemingly nothing he could not do. And now, here he was, looking like a mere broken shadow of greatness, reduced to one who was now despised.



Mark 15:33-36: (KJV) John 19:28-30: (KJV)
Luke 23:46: (KJV) ³³*And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*

Psalm 22 is where Jesus' mind went:

Psalms 22:1-2: (NASB) ¹*My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. ²O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; and by night, but I have no rest.*

Here was indeed the final test - the



previous night Jesus came to grips with crucifixion as a blasphemer, though it took sweating great drops of blood to get there. Now he was faced with the utter loneliness and agony of his Father's ever present face being turned from him, for this was the last necessary darkness that he would be called upon to bear by his Father. And he bore it. He bore this burden piled upon all of the other burdens because he did not know how to *not* do his Father's will. Though not perceptible to any onlooker at this point, victory had been secured!

²⁸After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. ³⁵And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. ³⁶And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down. ³⁰When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he bowed his head, and gave up the (spirit).

Of course we know that there would be one last humiliation done to the body of Jesus, as they would pierce his side to be sure he was in fact dead.

 **The Crucifixion, the spear, Dr. David Acuna**

- *So even if he survives the actual crucifixion, he would have had to survive what I believe to be a lethal injury from the spear to find out whether he was alive or not. What is described as a loss of water and blood and now would...indicate that unless you are treated by a trauma surgeon like myself, with all the advanced equipment that we have would not be survivable after even a few minutes.*

It was in this manner that Jesus the Christ was crucified and it was in this manner that Jesus the Christ did die...

Isaiah 53:6-7: (NASB) ⁶All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. ⁷He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so he did not open his mouth.

The work was done. Now things would begin to focus in a whole new way.

Matthew 27:51: (KJV) And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; Matthew 27:54: Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earth-quake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

The earth did quake, for the Father would no longer restrain Himself. Because of Jesus' faithful completion of his mission, the darkness would now assuredly pass and the Temple veil being torn in two signified the opening of a new and living way - the pathway to discipleship in Christ!

Mark 15:40-41: (NRSV) ⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

In the midst of the earth-shattering victory that was recognizable from Heaven, there was still sadness, shock and mourning among those present here on earth - for they did not know what their Heavenly Father knew.

Let's go back to the song about the little girl watching the crucifixion - Her question was why - why do these people want him to die? This last verse is the



Father watching the horror of crucifixion and assuring Jesus of the glorious results to follow:



"Why," (Part 2) Nichole Noredman

For my precious son, I hear them screaming
I'm watching the face of the enemy beaming
But soon I will clothe you in robes of my own
Jesus, this hurts me much more than you know

But this dark hour I must do nothing
Though I've heard you unbearable cries
The power in your blood destroys all of the lies
Soon you'll see past their unmerciful eyes

Look there below, see the child
Trembling by her father's side
Now I can tell you why
She is why you must die



Chapter Five: Forgiveness



There was a sense of urgency to end this crucifixion scene - the urgency was not driven by any form of compassion or mercy, but by the fact that sundown was the beginning of both the Sabbath and the Passover, which made this particular Sabbath a higher and holier celebration than normal. With the hundreds of thousands of extra people in Jerusalem for the Passover, the spectacle of bodies on crosses, especially Jesus', had the potential to cause a stir amongst the people that the Pharisees did not want to deal with. Thus the urgency was only for the Pharisees' protection.

So Jesus was taken down to be buried in a new tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph and Nicodemus respectfully wrapped the lifeless body with myrrh and aloes in linen cloths and laid it to rest. They then rolled the stone over the door. All was now quiet and the following day at the request of the Pharisees the guards arrived, sealed the tomb and watched - lest someone should steal the body and claim resurrection...



Mark 16:1-6: (KJV) ¹And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. ²And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. ³And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? ⁴And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. ⁵And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were afraid. ⁶And he saith unto them, Be not

The angel continued:remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,
 ✓ Luke 24:7-8: (KJV) ⁷Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men,
 ✓ and be crucified, and the third day rise again. ⁸And they remembered his words, Mark 16:7:
 (KJV) ⁷But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee:
 there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

Peter would not be forgotten by his Lord. Jesus would pick up the pieces of Peter's shattered life, rejuvenate his faith and help him to break the chains of the darkness that had grown within him.



"He's Alive," Don Francisco

During Jesus' time, there was one way a carpenter let the contractor know a job was finished. A signature, so to speak.

Imagine a hot afternoon in Galilee. Jesus has completed the final pieces of a job he has worked on for several days. The hair of his strong forearms is matted with sawdust and sweat. His face is shiny with heat. He takes a final—and welcome—drink of cool water from a leather bag.

Then standing to the side of his work, he pours water over his face and chest, splashing it over his arms to clean himself before his journey home. With a nearby towel, he pats his face and arms dry.

Finally, Jesus folds the towel neatly in half, and then folds it in half again. He sets it on the finished work and walks away. Later, whoever arrives to inspect the work will see the towel and understand its simple message. The work is finished.

Christ's disciples, of course, knew this carpenter's tradition. On a Sunday of sorrow, three years after Jesus had set aside his carpenter tools, Peter will crouch to look into an empty tomb and see only the linens that the risen Lord has left behind.

A smile will cross Peter's face as his sorrow is replaced by hope, for he will see the wrap that had covered Jesus' face. It has been folded in half, then folded in half again and left neatly on the floor of the tomb.

Peter understands.

The carpenter has left behind a simple message.

It is finished.

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Jesus knew his potential and Jesus knew that deep within Peter lived a fearless and abiding courage. So, Peter is given a glorious redemption and now it would be Peter's turn to rise to the challenges of leadership as he would stand upon the shoulders of His Lord.

Redemption is a powerful force!

Let's jump ahead to the post-resurrection appearance of Jesus when his Apostles were fishing. This experience really helps us to see the tenderness and direction that Jesus was to give Peter, both for the sake of the past and his faithless denials as well as for the sake of the future and his courageous responsibilities as a foundation pillar of the true church.

John 21:15-17: *Jesus said to Simon Peter, Simon son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my lambs.*

¹⁶*A second time he said to him, Simon son of John, do you love me? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Tend my sheep.*



¹⁷*He said to him the third time, Simon son of John, do you love me?... And he said to him, Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep...*



One of the greatest practical lessons we can take from the whole Peter part of the crucifixion/resurrection story is this: Because the ransom price has been paid, forgiveness is a complete self contained package. When it is received, all one must do is open it and apply the contents liberally to our wounded conscience and we will be immediately made as whole as we will allow ourselves to be.



Chapter Six: Hope

Let's start with a conclusion from our trauma surgeon, Dr. David Acuna:



The Crucifixion, what it means, Dr. David Acuna

- I'm profoundly impacted by it, because I realize the price that he paid was something that I would never be willing to do for probably anybody. It's very difficult for me to even sing songs about the Cross, even in worship because I truly do understand the price that he paid.*

We can all identify with that sentiment, as we appreciate and honor the depth of the sacrifice given on our behalf. But we must also take a few moments to reflect upon the massive world-changing results that the life, death and resurrection of Jesus accomplished - for as deep as our appreciation is for what he did for us personally, it is merely a drop in the bucket compared to what he did for the world.

Daniel 2:44: (ASV) *And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

There is a very specific context being set out here in Daniel: we have *those kings* - what kings? The kings of the earth. We have the God of heaven setting



up an indestructible kingdom that breaks the previous kingdoms in pieces, so it must be - again - here on the earth.

Jesus actually taught us to pray for this in the Lord's Prayer - *thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, in Earth as it is in heaven*. Think about how much sense this makes: Jesus died for Adam, and therefore for us, and that means he came to restore what was lost...a perfect earth!

Colossians 1:18-20: (NRSV) ¹⁸*He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.* ¹⁹*For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,* ²⁰*and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.*

Let's notice the elements here - we have Jesus and the church - his called out ones. Then it says that God through Jesus and his sacrifice *reconciled and made peace with ALL things* - this is much more than the church - redemption looks so much bigger!

Acts 3:20-21: (NASB) ²⁰*and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you,* ²¹*whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.*

God through Jesus is not only reconciling all things to Himself, He is restoring all things - when you restore something, you return it to its former state. Peter here in Acts says that the prophets spoke of this restoration - well, what did they say? Let's look at just a few:

Isaiah 51:3: (NRSV) *For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.*

The perfection of Eden was lost and Isaiah is saying that the waste places of earth will look like it. See - redemption brings restitution! It's an amazing picture to show what the ransom of Jesus actually brought for us.

Micah 4:1-5: (KJV) ¹*But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it.* ²*And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

These are specifics about the future of earth! There will be many nations and they will ALL be seeking after God and they will walk in Godly paths with Israel as their example.

³*And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.* ⁴*But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it.* ⁵*For all people will walk everyone in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.*



God will teach the world the ways of peace: swords to plowshares, spears to pruning hooks, no more war, rather they will all dwell in peace, each with the ability to provide for themselves and all while living under God!

So, while those faithful to Jesus now will have an inheritance in heaven, the "everybody else" will have an inheritance on earth - once they prove faithful to Jesus in the Judgment Day.

Praise be to God for His unspeakable gift!!

No wonder the Scriptures say:

Philippians 2:8-11: (NASB) ⁸Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹For this reason also, God highly exalted him, and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isaiah 35:5-10: (NRSV) ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Isaiah 65:21-25: NRSV) ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-- and their descendants as well. ²⁴Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent--its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.



" Hallelujah!" The Messiah

The sacrifice of Jesus bought life for the entire world. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. We give praise and honor to the life that changed all lives. Bask in the glory of a sacrifice completed and a ransom paid!

Crucifixion, Resurrection and a New World!
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!

