



## World Christian Fellowship

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### John 19:31-37

### Look to the Pierced One!

**John 19:31-37**, *Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. <sup>32</sup> Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. <sup>34</sup> But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. <sup>35</sup> And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. <sup>36</sup> For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.” <sup>37</sup> And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”*

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## Preparation Day

**Deuteronomy 21;22-23**, *“If a man has committed a sin deserving of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, <sup>23</sup> his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day, so that you do not defile the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance; for he who is hanged is accursed of God.*

The day before the feast of Unleavened Bread.

We have complete teaching about Jesus was crucified on Wednesday. Since the High Day on 30 A.D was on Thursday.

A high day is technically an annual holy day, or annual Sabbath, as commanded in **Leviticus 23:9-14**.

There are Seven annual Sabbaths:

The first day of Unleavened Bread,

The seventh day of Unleavened Bread,

Pentecost,

Trumpets (Rosh Hashanah in Hebrew),

Atonement (Yom Kippur),

The first day of Tabernacles (Succoth), and

The Last Great Day.

The first three occur in the spring, and the last four in the fall.

The high day here was one of the three spring holy days, and since Jesus crucifixion took place on the day of Passover (Nisan 14 on the Hebrew calendar).

Jesus disciples and the women kept the holy day on Thursday  
**Mark 16:1**, *Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.*

On Friday, the preparation day for the weekly Sabbath, the women prepared spices for His embalming.

**Luke 23:56**, *Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.*

Saturday the weekly Sabbath.

When they came to the tomb early Sunday morning, He had already risen some time before.

He rose exactly three days and three nights from His interment (a full 72 hours) at sunset as the weekly Sabbath ended.

This shows that there were two Sabbaths—a high day and a weekly Sabbath—during the time of His burial, not one!

People who were crucified could last for days, pushing up on the nails in agony to breathe and then hanging down again.

So, the chief priests went to Pilate to ask that the men's legs be broken, so they would be unable to push up on the nails but would rather suffocate in a short time. This was not an act of mercy on the part of the chief priests.

They were only concerned that they might break the Sabbath Law and the law regarding hanging. They were not concerned that they put an innocent man to death.

What a hypocrisy!

**Matthew 23:24**, *Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!*

worrying about a minor infraction of the Law after killing an innocent man. But this hypocrisy helped fulfil.

**Luke 23:43**, *And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

Without it, the thief would have lived past that day.

Pilate normally wouldn't agree to this, since the purpose of crucifixion is to make the victim suffer, but Pilate knew the Lord was innocent, so granted Him mercy

**V 32,** *Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him.*

Although the crucified were usually left to hang for as long as it took them to die, the Roman government did make exceptions for the religions in the area.

So, the guards take their sledgehammers and shatter the legs of the first man, and then they shatter the legs of the second man, but when they came to Jesus, He is already dead!

**V 33,** *But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.*

The Lord had died faster than the two thieves!

Because Jesus had chosen to die once all prophecies about Him were fulfilled. But it is important to notice the soldier was convinced He was dead, since some say He just fainted, and the apostles claimed He rose from the dead.

But Pilate ordered his legs broken, and the only way a soldier would disobey an order is if he knew He was already dead.

**V 34,** *But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*

## 1. Science:

Medical science is that when the heart undergoes an immense strain after being horrifically tortured, the heart muscle may rupture.

When the heart muscle ruptures, the red clotting factor and the lipid serum mix together. So, when the body is punctured with a spear the mixture that comes out looks like blood and water and it is proof that the heart muscle is destroyed.

## 2. First Adam and Last Adam:

**Genesis 2;21-23**, *And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

God put Adam under anaesthesia and took his rib and made a bride, Eve!

On the cross at Calvary God let the Roman soldiers to pierce the side of our Saviour!

**1 Corinthians 15:45**, *And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.*

When the Lord God put the last Adam to deep sleep of death, God took a bride from Him.

**Revelation 21:9**, *Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife."*

Most pastors teach the bride is the Body of Christ, most grace pastors teach it is redeemed Israel, but it is both, it is all the people in New Jerusalem after the millennium.

**Revelation 21:10**, *And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,*

Old Jerusalem is associated with unsaved Jews.

**Galatians 4:25**, *for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children-*

**John 8:32-34**, *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* <sup>33</sup> *They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone.*

*How can You say, 'You will be made free'?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.*

But New Jerusalem is "the mother of us all".

**Galatians 4:26**, *but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.*

Abraham is "the father of us all"

**Romans 4:16**, *Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all*

The father of all the saved of all ages.

Abraham looked for New Jerusalem!

**Hebrews 11:8-10**, *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; <sup>10</sup> for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

Saved Jews are a part of the Bride according to prophecy (**Isaiah 62:5-19**), and we are part of the Bride according to the mystery.

Just as saved Jews are part of the New Covenant by prophecy, but we are part of it through the mystery.

### **3. Old and New Testament ratified:**

Blood and water ratified the Old Covenant.

**Hebrews 9:19**, *For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people,*

Blood and water will ratify the New Covenant.

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

**Ezekiel 36:25**, *Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.*

### **4. Leprosy:**

Leprosy was a type of sin and was cleansed by blood and water.

**Leviticus 14:4-9**, *then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop.* <sup>5</sup>*And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water.* <sup>6</sup>*As for the living bird, he shall take it, the cedar wood and the scarlet and the hyssop, and dip them and the living bird*

*in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water. <sup>7</sup> And he shall sprinkle it seven times on him who is to be cleansed from the leprosy, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose in the open field. <sup>8</sup> He who is to be cleansed shall wash his clothes, shave off all his hair, and wash himself in water, that he may be clean. After that he shall come into the camp, and shall stay outside his tent seven days. <sup>9</sup> But on the seventh day he shall shave all the hair off his head and his beard and his eyebrows—all his hair he shall shave off. He shall wash his clothes and wash his body in water, and he shall be clean.*

The blood of the dead bird typology of Christ's death.

The water of the live bird typology of His resurrection.

Christ died for our sins.

**I Corinthians 15:3**, *For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

Christ was raised for our justification.

**Romans 4:24-25**, *but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.*

The water that came out of the Lord's side (Jo.19:34) came from the water sack around His heart. Once pierced, men die, if not

already dead as the Lord was. This water was important and symbolic.

**V 36**, *And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.*

John swore an oath that he saw the water for God knew some would claim the Lord only fainted, and the water proved His heart was pierced.

John was about to witness to His resurrection (**Acts 2:32; 3:14,15; 5:32**)

That He was alive, so God first has him swear he was dead.

His unbroken legs fulfilled the prophecy.

All the Lord's unbroken bones testified prophecy had been fulfilled.

**Psalms 35:10-11**, *All my bones shall say, "Lord, who is like You, Delivering the poor from him who is too strong for him, Yes, the poor and the needy from him who plunders him?"* <sup>11</sup> *Fierce witnesses rise up; They ask me things that I do not know.*

**Exodus 12:46**, *In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.*

Jesus fulfils this piece of the Passover meal by not having any of His bones broken – as He fulfils and takes the place of the Passover lamb.

**1 Corinthians 5:7**, *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

The whole deliverance of Israel from slavery in Egypt is a foreshadowing of Jesus' deliverance of His people from slavery to Satan.

Jesus fulfils the whole of the history, including the offering of the Passover lamb, whose bones must not be broken.

**V 37**, *And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."*

God spoke through the prophet Zechariah.

**Zechariah 12:10-13:1**, *"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. <sup>11</sup>In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. <sup>12</sup>And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by*

*itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves;<sup>13</sup> the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves;<sup>14</sup> all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves.*

*“In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.*

God is speaking, and He is God Who says that the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem will look at God Whom they have pierced.

## **Conclusion:**

What does John do here by emphasizing this double flow from Christ’s side?

- The death of Christ Justifies the sinner by His shedding of blood.
- The death of Christ also enables the Holy Spirit’s work of cleaning us and making us clean.
- Our sin is forgiven.
- We are set apart for the cleansing of the Holy Spirit.

So, we see that Christ died to cure our sin problem both in declaring us free from the curse of sin but also cleaning us up from sin's effects.

It is by faith in Christ we have two great benefits:

We are declared righteous.

We are being made righteous.

Since blood and water flowed from the side of our Lord, Justification and Sanctification. We must examine ourselves to see whether we have truly been Justified and Sanctified?

**1 Peter 1:18–19**, *knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,<sup>19</sup> but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*

So, the blood of Christ cleanses us from our sin.

**How then is it applied to us individually?**

John's Gospel has been called the Gospel of Belief.

Faith or belief is the means by which the blood of Christ is applied to us or becomes effectual for us.

**John 20:30–31**, *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;<sup>31</sup> but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is*

*the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

### **How do we know the blood has been applied to us?**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

As a new creation we will be different than we were before we believed.

The Holy Spirit will begin to produce the fruit of the Spirit. Because of God's sanctifying work in us we will become more and more like Christ.

We will be engaged in some level of good works.

We will serve others, especially those within our church body. Our lives will become lives of service for fellow brothers and sisters rather than us!

**Ephesians 2:10**, *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Matthew 7:16–20**, *You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup> Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad*

*fruit. <sup>18</sup> A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

Service to others, good works for others within the church family is a mark of true conversion.

The fruit of the Spirit is the outward manifestation of the inner work of the Holy Spirit within the believer.

These good works shown to others within the church family is external proof that the blood of Christ has been applied and the person is a new creation.

These good works are different in everyone and sometimes show themselves differently.

These good works are for the building up of the body of Christ.

Are you showing the inner workings of the Spirit as you serve others within the body of Christ?

What ministry do you have here?

How are you building up the body of Christ here at Grace?