

Lesson Four — His Death

Day One — How Death Entered the World

Day Two — The Need for Jesus to Die

Day Three — Immediate Events Leading up to His Death

Day Four — His Death

Day Five — His Post-resurrection Ministry

Last week we briefly perused the life of Christ. We looked at His message and His mission, and ended the week of study by glancing at the last few days of His life prior to His death. This week we will look closely at the prophecies and events leading up to and including His death. Before we go to the facts concerning the death of Christ, we must see how death entered the world. Death was not the pre-determined, eventual condition of man at his creation. When God created Adam, He did not create him *to die*. Quite the opposite! God created man to live — eternally. In fact He created man to rule.

Genesis 1

26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” ... 28 And God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

But a series of events ensued that brought about the immediate spiritual death of Adam, and his eventual physical death. And through him, death entered the world. However, God was not taken by surprise by the scenario that ensued. God knew from eternity past what history would reveal in time and space. God knew in eternity past that Adam would sin, and that He would have to send His Son to die on the cross for mankind, redeeming man from eternal death.

So what happened? Let’s look at it.

Day One — How Death Entered the World

After God spoke the purpose for man and created him, He put the man in a garden and gave him several commands. God told Adam, in Genesis chapter two that disobedience to a particular command would result in death.

Genesis 2

15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.” 18 Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”

After the command was given to Adam, God took a part of Adam’s body and formed a helper suitable for him. Adam called the new creation “Woman,” for “she was taken out of the man.” Shortly thereafter a series of events took place, which led to death.

Satan, taking on the form of a serpent, sought to bring about the man’s demise through deceiving the woman. His success in this attempt allowed him to maintain his original position — that of ruling over the earth, which had been his position since his creation and appointment by God (Ezek. 28:11-15).

We are given scant details of what took place in this deception of the woman. Here is what we have:

Genesis 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” 2 And the woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, lest you die.’” 4 And the serpent said to the woman, “You surely shall not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the tree [of the knowledge of good and evil] was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

This is the single incident which caused sin to enter the world, and death through sin. While there is much to learn from these passages at the beginning of God’s revelation to man, our main focus in this study is to understand *how death entered the world*. So let’s compare Scripture with Scripture, and read how Paul explained what happened:

Romans 5

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...

According to this passage, what happened?

Following the event recorded in Genesis chapter three, God began to verbalize His eternal plan of redemption. He called all three individuals — the man, the woman, and Satan — into account. In the end, God spoke the following to Satan (the god of the age, the very one who brought about the fall of man):

Genesis 3

15 And I will put enmity¹ between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

¹ **en-mi-ty**: the feeling that enemies have toward each other; hate. *Syn.* hostility, hatred.

Who shall bruise whom on the head?

Who shall bruise Whom on the heel?

This is a prophecy spoken by God to Satan concerning the ultimate ordeal between the One Who would redeem mankind and the one responsible for bringing sin into the world (by deceiving the woman).

God had created the man and woman to rule over the earth in Satan's stead (Gen. 1:26-28), and they were tested to prove their worthiness to rule. With sin, and death through sin, they would not be able to fulfill their created position. But again, remember that God was not taken by surprise by these events, and His plan would not be thwarted. In the end, His plan will be fulfilled — man will yet fulfill his created position.

But he will not be able to rule *until he is able to live eternally* again!

It is at this point where we must understand that Jesus came to die on the cross in our stead. We must understand how all of this fits together. We just looked at a succinct and brief description of how death entered the world, as given by Paul in Romans chapter five. Now let's see what Paul goes on to say toward the end of Romans chapter five, as he explains the God-given means of redemption.

Romans 5

15 But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. 16 And the gift is not like that which came through the one who sinned; for on the one hand the judgment arose from one transgression resulting in condemnation, but on the other hand the free gift arose from many transgressions resulting in justification. 17 For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. 18 So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. 19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. 20 And the Law came in that the transgression might increase; but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, 21 that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

How do you see this all fitting together? Briefly describe.

The man fell because of the scheme of the original ruler, and as a result of that sin, man died. Since the man could not attain to his created position in a fallen state, according to the *eternal plan*, God sent the "second Man" (I Cor. 5:47), "the last Adam" (I Cor. 15:45), the only begotten Son of God, born as the Son of Man to a virgin so that through His death and resurrection, He could redeem mankind from the grip of death thereby extending eternal life back to man, placing him back into a position wherein he could take the rulership of the earth from Satan and rule as God had intended. (Whew! That is a lot to comprehend!)

And so, Jesus — the Son of God, the Son of Man — had to die. And in His death, His heel would be bruised through crucifixion; but also in His death, the head of Satan would be bruised (*lit.*, crushed). Satan was dealt a mortal blow in the death of Christ, the ultimate result of which is yet to be realized.

Now look back at Genesis 3:15, and see how this all fits together.

If you care to, would you write out a brief summary of what you learned today? It may be good to verbalize these things in your own words.

Day Two — The Need for Jesus to Die

We have seen how sin entered the world and death through sin. We've also seen that sin not only brought about death, but it also disqualified the man and woman to rule over the earth. Now, with Adam disqualified to fulfill his created purpose, God began to reveal His redemptive plan from eternity past, that of sending His Own Son, born of a virgin, to die in man's place, in order to redeem man out of the state of eternal death.

Today we are going to peruse a string of passages that brings into focus the fact that *man's sin did not result in God setting aside His original purpose for man*. These passages reveal the ways and means God would bring this purpose to pass. Within the means itself, Jesus had to die in man's stead. (This will be included in the topic of this week's lecture.)

Knowing that the entire Bible reveals *all the details* given by way of Divine revelation to man concerning the ways and means of man's redemption, in this study we can only focus on a skeletal framework of the overall picture.

We'll begin at the beginning with a brief review of passages, and lead into the need for Christ to die. First, go back to the bottom of page 63 and reread the passage from Genesis chapter two.

Summarize this passage:

Now go to page 64 and reread the passage from Genesis chapter three. What happened?

Now reread at the bottom of the page, concerning what God said to the serpent. Summarize this passage:

Okay. With that as a brief review, let's pick up our skeletal framework of how God revealed the outworking of His plan.

Genesis 12 (God's beginning revelation to Abraham.)

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you; 2 And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; 3 And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Underline the last sentence of v. 3, then summarize this passage:

Genesis 17 (God continued His revelation to Abraham.)

4 "As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, And you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. 5 No longer shall your name be called Abram, But your name shall be Abraham; For I will make you the father of a multitude of nations. 6 And I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come forth from you.

...15 Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. 16 "And I will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Underline the last phrase in both v. 6 and v. 16, then summarize this passage:

Genesis 35 (God speaking to Abraham's grandson, Jacob)

10 And God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel² shall be your name." Thus He called him Israel. 11 God also said to him, "I am God Almighty; Be fruitful and multiply; A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, And kings shall come forth from you. 12 And the land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, And I will give the land to your descendants after you."

² The name *Israel* means "one who fights (or strives) with God and man, and has prevailed." The name is derived from the Hebrew word "*sarah*," which means "*to fight*." "*Sarah*" also means "princess." The KJV translators translated the name Israel to mean "a prince that has power with God." Jacob's twelve sons became the Twelve Tribes of Israel, or the Children of Israel, making up the nation *who has power with God, or the nation who will rule with God*.

Underline the last phrase in v. 11, then summarize this passage:

Genesis 49 (Abraham's grandson, Jacob, prophesied over each of his twelve sons prior to his death. This is what he spoke to Judah.)

8 "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you. 9 Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up? 10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Underline the first half of v. 10, then summarize this passage:

In the course of God's progressive revelation to Abraham, God promised him that his descendants would be sojourners and enslaved for 400 years (Gen. 15:13), and then brought out of slavery in order to be taken into the land, which God had promised to Abraham. Since God's Word always holds true, 400 years after Isaac was born, God brought Abraham's descendants out of their enslavement in Egypt. It was the night of Passover.

Exodus 12

1 Now the LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, 2 "This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. 3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves...

... 5 Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 And you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight. 7 Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses ...

...11 it is the LORD'S Passover. 12 For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike down all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments — I am the LORD. 13 And the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. 14 Now this day will be a memorial to you, and you shall celebrate it as a feast to the LORD; throughout your generations you are to celebrate it as a permanent ordinance.

Summarize this passage:

And so, God brought Abraham's descendants out of bondage, *in order to take them into the land* He had promised to Abraham. As is stated, He did so with purpose. Read what His purpose was.

Exodus 19 (God told Moses what to say to the Children of Israel upon their arrival at Sinai.)

“...4 ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings, and brought you to Myself. 5 Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel.”

Underline the first phrase in v. 6, then summarize this passage:

At Sinai, God formed the nation of Israel into a kingdom which lasted from the time at Sinai (Ex. 40) until the Babylonian captivity, some 800 years. God ruled as King in the nation’s midst until the people desired a king, like the other nations (I Sam. 8:5-7). Saul came into the picture and was made king over Israel (I Sam. 9). Due to a series of events in Saul’s 40-year reign, God raised up David to be the *second king over Israel*. During David’s reign, God gave a prophecy to David through the Prophet Nathan concerning one of David’s descendants. We have already studied the promise and have seen that David understood this promise well. (If necessary, turn to pp. 29, 30 for a review.)

In II Samuel chapter seven, God said that He Himself would be a Father to David’s Descendant, and that David’s Descendant would be the Son of God. Then there are untold numbers of prophecies concerning how God would bring forth His Son, but today we will look at two specific ones.

Isaiah 7

14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Underline the third phrase of v. 6 and all of v. 7, and then summarize these passages:

Although we have previously briefly studied the fulfillment of both II Samuel 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6, 7, let’s glimpse a few New Testament verses again.

Matthew 1

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Luke 2

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, 5 in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

Luke 2 (Remarks made by Simeon and Anna)

28 then he [Simeon] took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 “Now Lord, Thou dost let Thy bond-servant depart In peace, according to Thy word; 30 For my eyes have seen Thy salvation, 31 Which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Thy people Israel.”

...38 And at that very moment she [Anna] came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

In Matthew 1:1, what two men are named as the ancestors of Jesus Christ in the very first verse of the entire New Testament?

Now summarize these passages:

With one exception at the age of twelve, the events of the first thirty years of Christ's life are not recorded in Scripture. But finally the stage is set and something happened! God spoke from heaven. Imagine the scene!

Luke 3

21 Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.”

Summarize this passage:

Thus far we have reviewed the fact that although man was created to rule, he disqualified himself, as well as all his offspring, through his fall. As a result, God promised a Redeemer. We have also seen that God promised to bring forth kings from Abraham's lineage (through Sarah), reiterating the promise to his grandson, Jacob. Then we witnessed the fact that through one specific descendant of Jacob — King David — God promised to send His Own Son, Who would be The Eternal King, sitting on an eternal throne.

But lo! When the Son of God arrived on the scene, God's Own people refused His message, rejected Him as King, and crucified Him. But all of this was part of God's plan. Through Jesus' death, God redeemed mankind from the bondage of sin, and the grip of death.

We will read only two of the many passages which reveal this.

Romans 5

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

1 Peter 3

18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;

Do you have any thoughts about today's lesson? What have you learned?

Day Three — Immediate Events Leading up to His Death

Today and tomorrow we are going to read through large portions of Scripture, perusing the details of the events leading up to and including Christ's death. Though the other gospel writers record a variety of these events, we will focus mainly on the details given through the Gospel of Matthew. I have left a wide right hand margin, for you to write out notes, as you desire. Spend a good amount of time studying through these passages, as there is a lot to notice.

TWO DAYS PRIOR TO HIS DEATH

NOTES:

Matthew 26

1 And it came about that when Jesus had finished all these words, He said to His disciples, 2 "You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man is to be delivered up for crucifixion." 3 Then the chief priests and the elders of the people were gathered together in the court of the high priest, named Caiaphas; 4 and they plotted together to seize Jesus by stealth, and kill Him. 5 But they were saying, "Not during the festival, lest a riot occur among the people."

6 Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it upon His head as He reclined at the table. 8 But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, "Why this waste? 9 For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor." 10 But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me. 11 For the poor you have with you always; but you do not always have Me. 12 For when she poured this perfume upon My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. 13 Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done shall also be spoken of in memory of her."

14 Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?" 16 And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Him.

THE NIGHT BEFORE HIS DEATH

NOTES:

Matthew 26

17 Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" 18 And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; I am to keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.'" 19 And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and they prepared the Passover.

20 Now when evening had come, He was reclining at the table with the twelve disciples. 21 And as they were eating, He said, "Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me." 22 And being deeply grieved, they each one began to say to Him, "Surely not I, Lord?" 23 And He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the bowl is the one who will betray Me. 24 The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." 25 And Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Surely it is not I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said it yourself."

26 And while they were eating, Jesus took some bread, and after a blessing, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." 27 And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; 28 for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins. 29 But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."

30 And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I WILL STRIKE DOWN THE SHEPHERD, AND THE SHEEP OF THE FLOCK SHALL BE SCATTERED.' 32 But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee." 33 But Peter answered and said to Him, "Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away." 34 Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you that this very night, before a cock crows, you shall deny Me three times." 35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You." All the disciples said the same thing too.

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." 39 And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt." 40 And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour? 41 Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but

the flesh is weak.” 42 He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, “My Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Thy will be done.” 43 And again He came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. 44 And He left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more. 45 Then He came to the disciples, and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Behold, the hour is at hand and the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Arise, let us be going; behold, the one who betrays Me is at hand!”

47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, came up, accompanied by a great multitude with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now he who was betraying Him gave them a sign, saying, “Whomever I shall kiss, He is the one; seize Him.” 49 And immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. 50 And Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him. 51 And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 52 Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. 53 Or do you think that I cannot appeal to My Father, and He will at once put at My disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 How then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen this way?” 55 At that time Jesus said to the multitudes, “Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest Me as against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize Me. 56 But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled.

57 And those who had seized Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were gathered together. 58 But Peter also was following Him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and entered in, and sat down with the officers to see the outcome. 59 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, in order that they might put Him to death; 60 and they did not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward, 61 and said, “This man stated, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.’” 62 And the high priest stood up and said to Him, “Do You make no answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?” 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest said to Him, “I adjure You by the living God, that You tell us whether You are the Christ, the Son of God.” 64 Jesus said to him, “You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN.” 65 Then the high priest tore his robes, saying, “He has blasphemed! What further need do we have of witnesses? Behold, you have now heard the blasphemy; 66 what do you think?” They answered and said, “He is deserving of death!” 67 Then they spat in His face and beat Him with their fists; and others slapped Him, 68 and said, “Prophecy to us, You Christ; who is the one who hit You?”

69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a certain servant-girl came to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.” 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl

saw him and said to those who were there, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." 72 And again he denied it with an oath, "I do not know the man." 73 And a little later the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Surely you too are one of them; for the way you talk gives you away." 74 Then he began to curse and swear, "I do not know the man!" And immediately a cock crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, "Before a cock crows, you will deny Me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

We'll call it a day! I know there was a lot of reading to do today. But I'm sure you didn't have anything more important to do during this time. Right? ☺

Day Four — His Death

Yesterday we read the details from the Gospel of Matthew leading up to the day Christ died. As has been mentioned, the other gospel writers also gave details, with the complete story being told in the compilation of the four gospels (along with the O.T. word picture as seen in the types and antitypes, as well as all the prophecies on the subject). If time permits, you may want to read all the accounts given in the gospels. But again, for our purposes today, we will use the account given by Matthew to study the details of Christ's death.

THE DAY CHRIST DIED

NOTES:

Matthew 27

1 Now when morning had come, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death; 2 and they bound Him, and led Him away, and delivered Him up to Pilate the governor.

3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" 5 And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. 6 And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." 7 And they counseled together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers. 8 For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying, "AND THEY TOOK THE THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, THE PRICE OF THE ONE WHOSE PRICE HAD BEEN SET by the sons of Israel; 10 AND THEY GAVE THEM FOR THE POTTER'S FIELD, AS THE LORD DIRECTED ME."

11 Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, "Are You the King of the Jews?" And Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." 12 And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer. 13 Then Pilate said to Him, "Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?" 14 And He did not answer him with regard to even a single charge, so that the governor was quite amazed. 15 Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the multitude any one prisoner whom they wanted. 16 And they were holding at that time a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. 17 When therefore they were gathered

together, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" 18 For he knew that because of envy they had delivered Him up. 19 And while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that righteous Man; for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him." 20 But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the multitudes to ask for Barabbas, and to put Jesus to death. 21 But the governor answered and said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." 22 Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let Him be crucified!" 23 And he said, "Why, what evil has He done?" But they kept shouting all the more, saying, "Let Him be crucified!" 24 And when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of this Man's blood; see to that yourselves." 25 And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 26 Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified.

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. 28 And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 And they spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. 31 And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

32 And as they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross.

33 And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull, 34 they gave Him wine to drink mingled with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink. 35 And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves, casting lots; 36 and sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. 37 And they put up above His head the charge against Him which read, "THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS." 38 At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. 39 And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads, 40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him, and saying, 42 "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe in Him. 43 HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET HIM DELIVER Him now, IF HE TAKES PLEASURE IN HIM; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 And the robbers also who had been crucified with Him were casting the same insult at Him.

45 Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?" 47 And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, "This man is calling for Elijah." 48 And immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. 49 But the rest of them said, "Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." 50 And Jesus cried

out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. 51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split, 52 and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53 and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many. 54 Now the centurion, and those who were with him keeping guard over Jesus, when they saw the earthquake and the things that were happening, became very frightened and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!” 55 And many women were there looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, 56 among whom was Mary Magdalene, along with Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

57 And when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. 58 This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given over to him. 59 And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away. 61 And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the grave.

62 Now on the next day, which is the one after the preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered together with Pilate, 63 and said, “Sir, we remember that when He was still alive that deceiver said, ‘After three days I am to rise again.’ 64 Therefore, give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, lest the disciples come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.” 65 Pilate said to them, “You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how.” 66 And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone.

Do you have any thoughts?

While you go your way today, think on these things. God’s grace and mercy towards us is unfathomable!

Day Five — His Post-resurrection Ministry

Again today we will read large portions of Scripture concerning the *post-resurrection* ministry of Christ, *not* confining ourselves only to Matthew’s gospel, but we will gather the details given by other New Testament writers as well. The focus of the scope of Christ’s message is brought to bear once again in His forty-day ministry prior to His ascension to glory. Let’s look to see what it is.

We'll begin by a very succinct statement of the overall forty days at the beginning of the Book of Acts. Then we will fill in some of the details from the various gospels.

Acts 1

3 To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

According to this verse, what was the topic of teaching during this forty-day time period?

Peter gave a powerful message to the Men of Israel on the Day of Pentecost — fifty-three days after the crucifixion of Christ, which was fifty days after the resurrection of Christ, and ten days after the ascension of Christ. Here is part of what Peter said:

Acts 2

22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know — 23 this Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. 24 And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. 25 For David says of Him, ‘I WAS ALWAYS BEHOLDING THE LORD IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, THAT I MAY NOT BE SHAKEN. 26 THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL ABIDE IN HOPE; 27 BECAUSE THOU WILT NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW THY HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. 28 THOU HAST MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; THOU WILT MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH THY PRESENCE.’

29 “Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 And so, because he was a prophet, and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS UPON HIS THRONE, 31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. 32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. 33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. 34 For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, 35 UNTIL I MAKE THINE ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR THY FEET.”’ 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Essentially, what did Peter quote from David's writings about the Christ in vv. 25-28? In this quote, what had David said about the resurrection?

What does Peter remind the men of Israel about the promises given to David in v.v. 30, 31?

What did Peter remind them that God had said to the Lord in vv. 34, 35?

Now let's look at a few of the specific post-resurrection appearances of Christ. First, He appeared to the women at the tomb, early in the morning on the first day of the week.

Matthew 28

1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. **2** And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. **3** And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; **4** and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. **5** And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. **6** He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying. **7** And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold, He is going before you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you." **8** And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. **9** And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him. **10** Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they shall see Me."

...16 But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. **17** And when they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. **18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

In v. 18, what were the first things Jesus said to His disciples?

What did Jesus instruct the eleven disciples to do?

Also, that same day Jesus appeared to the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. On pages 45 and 46, we covered the discussion which ensued on the road to Emmaus between the two disciples and Jesus on Resurrection Day, recorded in Luke chapter twenty-four. Do you remember what the essence was of Jesus' teaching to the two disciples that day? What was it?

Later that day, back in Jerusalem, Jesus appeared to the eleven disciples in Luke 24:36ff. We have also glimpsed this appearance in a previous week of study, which followed the events that took place on the

road to Emmaus and the breaking of the bread as the two reclined at the table with Jesus upon their arrival at Emmaus. Here is what is recorded of this appearance.

Luke 24

33 And they [the two disciples] arose that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, 34 saying, "The Lord has really risen, and has appeared to Simon." 35 And they began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.

36 And while they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst. 37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. 38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. 41 And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;

43 and He took it and ate it before them. 44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and rise again from the dead the third day; 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

What did you learn from the details of this appearance?

At another time, Jesus again appeared to the disciples,

John 20

26 And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you." 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

In John chapter twenty, what had Thomas come to believe?

By the fact that Jesus could eat with the eleven, as seen in Luke chapter twenty-four, and that Thomas could place his finger into the wounds in His hands and his hand in His side, as seen in John chapter twenty, what is revealed about Jesus' resurrected body?

What did Jesus say was true for someone who believed without seeing?

Keeping in mind the overall scope of what we have studied from God's Word in the past four weeks, what do you think the resurrection from the dead has to do with? Why is it important?³

Paul dealt with some of this in his letter to the Corinthians:

I Corinthians 15

1 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as it were to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. 9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

In summary of these things, John ends his gospel with a thought in chapter twenty, which is expressly repeated at the end of chapter twenty-one.

John 20

30 Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

John 21

24 This is the disciple [John] who bears witness of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his witness is true. 25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books which were written.

According to John 20:31, why did John write his gospel?

³ This will be covered in greater detail in this week's lecture.

From what you have studied in the past four weeks, what does it mean that Jesus *is the Christ, the Son of God?* (This is of immense importance!)

We'll end today at the place where we began today, for the remainder of the passage leads us into our final week of study.

Acts 1

3 To these He also presented Himself alive, after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days, and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. **4** And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; **5** for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

6 And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" **7** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; **8** but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." **9** And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. **10** And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was departing, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them; **11** and they also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

According to v. 6, what seemed to be the foremost thought on the minds of the disciples after Jesus had spent forty days with them? Why was this so?

Summarize what the angels said to them upon Jesus being taken up.

We will pick up the story here next week. But for now, may I encourage you? You are doing a great job! Keep studying God's Word, for there is nothing more important than this!

Notes

