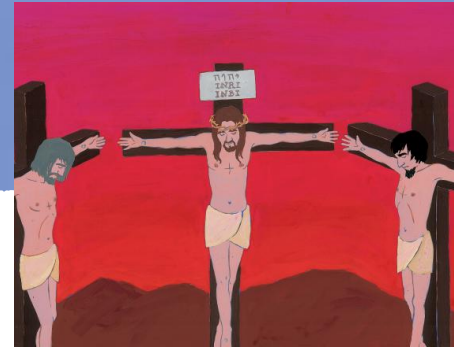


21 JESUS' SACRIFICE



THE CRUCIFIXION – THE SACRIFICIAL DEATH

Luke 23:33–46 and John 19:18–30

Each of the four Gospels report about Jesus' crucifixion with a different emphasis. The following is taken from the Gospels according to Luke and John:

Jesus was taken to Golgotha outside the gates of Jerusalem, where He was crucified. Jesus said, **“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”**

Beside Him, two criminals were being crucified, one to His right, the other to His left.

The soldiers divided up Jesus' clothing and drew lots for His garment. The people stood by, watching.

[In his writings, Apostle John emphasises that through the soldiers' actions the Scriptures were fulfilled: “They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots” (Psalm 22:18).]

Members of the Sanhedrin and some of the people mocked Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ, the chosen God.”

Above Jesus there was an inscription on the cross in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, the meaning of which was “Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews”.

The soldiers mocked him, “If You are the king of the Jews, save Yourself.”

Also one of the criminals, who had been crucified with Jesus, was running Him down, saying, “If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.” The other one rebuked him and made him aware that they were here as a consequence of their actions, whereas Jesus had done nothing wrong. He then turned to Jesus and said, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.” The Son of God replied, **“Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.”**

[We understand this ‘paradise’ to be a place of perfect joy in the beyond.]

Several women, Jesus' mother and John, the disciple whom the Lord loved, stood near the cross. When Jesus saw His mother, He comforted her with the words, **“Woman, behold your son!”** And to John he said, **“Behold your mother!”** And from that hour on, the disciple had her stay in his home.

When, shortly before His death, Jesus was thirsty, they soaked a sponge with sour wine, fixed it on hyssop and held it up to His lips.

[Also this event is symbolic. The Passover lamb was eaten together with hyssop. And, according to God's instructions, the Israelites used hyssop bunches to paint their door posts with blood.]

After Jesus had had some of the sour wine, he said, **“It is finished!”** and died.

INRI
INRI
INBI

EXERCISE 1



Below are a few statements made by Jesus while He was on the cross.
Fill in the blank spaces. The sentences in bold type in the preceding text will assist you with this.

Father, forgive _____

_____.

Assuredly, I say to you, _____

_____.

Woman, behold _____!

Behold _____!

It _____!

21

JESUS' SACRIFICE



EXERCISE 2



Read the following Bible passages and underline the phenomenal happenings at the time of Jesus' death.

Luke 23:44–45: “Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.”

Matthew 27:51 and 54: “... and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split ...

So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God!”

22 JESUS CHRIST'S

RESURRECTION



THE DISCIPLES ON THE WAY TO EMMAUS

Luke 24:13–33

Two disciples were on their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus. This little village is situated about 12 km from Jerusalem. The two men were very sad. The Lord Jesus, who had only done good and great things, had been condemned to death, and crucified ignominiously. Two days ago the Lord had died. Now, even His body had disappeared. They had been frightened by what the women who had gone to the sepulchre in the morning, had told them. The sepulchre had been empty, and an angel had said that Jesus was alive.

While they were still speaking about the events of the past days, a man joined them. It was the Lord Jesus, but they did not recognise Him. Sadly, they told Him what had transpired. He comforted them, and explained to them what Moses and the prophets had written about Christ. The events connected with Jesus' sacrificial death had already been foretold centuries before.

As they approached the village, the Lord Jesus pretended He wanted to continue on. The two men, however, pressed Him to remain with them. When He sat down to supper with them, He took bread, said a prayer of thanks, broke it, and gave it to them. Suddenly they knew who was with them. They had recognised Him when He broke the bread. The Lord disappeared from before their eyes.

Still within that same hour, the two disciples made their way back to Jerusalem.



JESUS, THE RISEN ONE, AMONG HIS APOSTLES

Luke 24:33–43

For fear of the Jews, the apostles had gathered in a room in Jerusalem. After returning from Emmaus, the two disciples went to the apostles and told them what had transpired. While they were still talking with one another, Jesus stepped into their midst and said, "Peace to you." They were startled and very afraid, because Jesus had come through the closed door. They thought He was a ghost. He showed them His hands and feet, and asked them to touch Him, saying, "A spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." They were very amazed and still could not believe it. Only after He had eaten the fish they offered Him, were they sure that it was not a ghost, but Christ, the Risen One, who was with them.