

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS

BIBLE TEXT: John 19:31-42; Matthew 27:62-66; John 20:1-31.

LESSON 14 Junior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept" (1 Corinthians 15:20).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

John 19:31-42.

³¹ The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

³² Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

³³ But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

³⁴ But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

³⁵ And he that saw *it* bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

³⁶ For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

³⁷ And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

³⁸ ¶ And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave *him* leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus.

³⁹ And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and

NOTES:

Redemption Promised

God planned from the beginning of time that someday Jesus would come to earth to show men by His life how they should live; and that He would have to shed His Blood and die that men's sins could be forgiven and they could go to Heaven.

All through the Old Testament the prophets talked about the time when Jesus would come to make atonement for men's sins; and because the prophets believed that Jesus would come, God forgave their sins, too; and when they died they went to Heaven. God told the prophets what they should say, which made it really true; so everything came to pass even if it had been prophesied thousands of years before. (See how many references you can find in this lesson to Old Testament Scriptures, such as **Psalm 22:16**; ¹⁶ For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. **Psalm 69:20**; ²⁰ Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked *for some* to take pity, but *there was* none; and for comforters, but I found none. **Isaiah 53:4-7**; ⁴ ¶ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. ⁶ 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. ⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.)

Of course, God did not like it when the first man, Adam, sinned and He does not like it when we sin. He has told us that we must suffer for our sins, and if Jesus had not died for us we would all have to go to hell. But God loved us so much that He sent Jesus, His only Son, the fairest Jewel of Heaven, to suffer for us. Jesus let people spit on Him, put a crown of thorns on His head, whip Him with lashes, talk mean to Him; and He never answered back. He began to carry the heavy cross, but the soldiers found Simon, the Cyrenian, and made him carry it the rest of the way up the hill.

That We Might Live

When the mob came to the top of Mt. Calvary, they laid Jesus on the cross and drove the nails through His hands and feet to fasten Him to it. Then they lifted the cross upright, and Jesus hung there with the Blood running from His hands and feet. After a while, a soldier thrust his spear into Jesus' side, and Blood and water ran out. When the water ran out it showed that all the Blood was gone -- it had all been shed for our sins. Now we can come to Jesus and ask Him to wash away our sins with that Blood that was shed on Calvary. Was not Jesus good to us?

It made God feel very sad that men were so cruel to Jesus, so He let darkness come upon the earth right in the middle of the day. It was dark for three hours -- and there was an earthquake, too. That frightened the people, and some of the unbelievers said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

Jesus Laid in a Tomb

The Jews were very careful to keep the Sabbath. You would think, after all the evil things they had done to Jesus, that they didn't

aloes, about an hundred pound *weight*.

40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury.

41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.

42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation *day*; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

Matthew 27:62-66.

62 ¶ Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

63 Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

64 Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.

65 Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make *it* as sure as ye can.

66 So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

John 20:1-31.

1 The first *day* of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where

have much religion. But there are people today who say they are Christians who tell lies, quarrel, go to shows, and do many things that Jesus does not want them to do.

Because the Sabbath was near, and the Law said that anyone who had been hanged on a tree must not remain there more than that day, the Jews asked Pilate that the legs of Jesus and the two thieves who were crucified with Him might be broken so that they wouldn't run away after they were taken down. When the soldiers came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Hundreds of years before David said of Jesus: "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken" (Psalm 34:20). God did not let anything happen to Jesus other than what He had told the prophets would happen.

Joseph of Arimathæa was a good man who was looking for the Kingdom of God, and he had not said a word against Jesus at the trial. We haven't heard about him before, but he now went to Pilate boldly, asking for the body of Jesus that he might bury Him. Joseph had a new grave, not far from the cross, into which he laid Him. Nicodemus went with him and helped to wrap Christ's body in clean, white linen, and they bought expensive spices to use in embalming, as was the custom of the Jews. Joseph was rich, which fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy, "He made his grave with the wicked [the thieves], and with the rich in his death."

No Grave Could Hold Him

The Pharisees who had crucified Jesus remembered that He had said He would rise again. They asked permission of Pilate to fix the grave so His body could not be removed. Joseph had placed a stone before the entrance, and now the Pharisees and priests sealed it and put guards there to watch it. But how puny are the attempts of men to hinder the working of God! "With the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked" (Isaiah 11: 4). You remember when Daniel was put into the lions' den, a stone was put before the mouth of the den, and it was sealed with the king's signet; but that did not keep the angel of the Lord out. The angel came right in with Daniel and closed the mouths of the lions.

When it came time for Jesus to rise, He went right up as though there was nothing holding Him. He had a glorified body with which He could go through the doors when they were shut. When Jesus comes to get His people, those who are ready to go will have the same kind of body, and will go up through the ceiling (if they are in a house) just as though it were not there; and they will be with Jesus.

Jesus had told His disciples many times that He was going to suffer and die, and that He would rise again. But they did not want those things to happen to Jesus, so they didn't even think about them. Jesus had even told them how long He would be in the tomb - three days and nights (The Jews figured every part of a day as a day and night, and Jesus was dead parts of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.)

When Jesus rose He broke the bands of death. It was a tremendous victory, and the earth shook with the importance of it. He showed us that there is life after death. One time when He was telling His disciples that He was going away, He told them He would live again, and "because I live ye shall live also." Paul tells us that Christ was the firstfruits of them that slept (or were dead), and when He comes again all who are His will arise with glorified bodies to live again (**I Corinthians 15:23**; ²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming).

After Jesus left the sepulchre an angel came down to roll the stone away so the disciples could see that Jesus was gone. The guards, who were supposed to be such brave men, became petrified with fright and could not move. Later they told the priests what had

they have laid him.

³ Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

⁴ So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

⁵ And he stooping down, *and looking in*, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

⁶ Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

⁷ And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

⁸ Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

⁹ For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

¹¹ ¶ But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, *and looked* into the sepulchre,

¹² And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

¹³ And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

happened, and the priests gave them large sums of money to tell people that Christ's disciples had stolen His body in the night. They did not want anyone to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead. That, made them look like very poor guards. But some people will say almost anything to get money.

The hearts of the disciples were heavy when they came to the sepulchre to anoint the body of Jesus. Even when they saw the empty tomb they did not realise that Jesus had risen. But two angels appeared who reminded them of what Jesus had said: "The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again" (Luke 24:7). When they remembered those words they ran with great joy to tell the other disciples that Jesus was alive. Mary Magdalene was the first to see Him; and afterwards He appeared many times, sometimes to a few and sometimes to many at a time. John tells us he was there and saw all these things himself, and bears record that they are true.

QUESTIONS

1. Why were Jesus' legs not broken?
2. What part did Nicodemus have in the burial of Jesus?
3. What three things did they do to safeguard the tomb of Jesus?
4. Who was the first to see Jesus after He arose?
5. Do you think we could be saved if Christ had not died?
6. The words of Jesus, "Peace be unto you," were spoken three times within eight days. What were the occasions?

16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God.

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* he had spoken these things unto her.

19 ¶ Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you.

20 And when he had so said, he shewed unto them *his* hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.

21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

22 And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

24 ¶ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

26 ¶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto

you.

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed.

30 ¶ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.