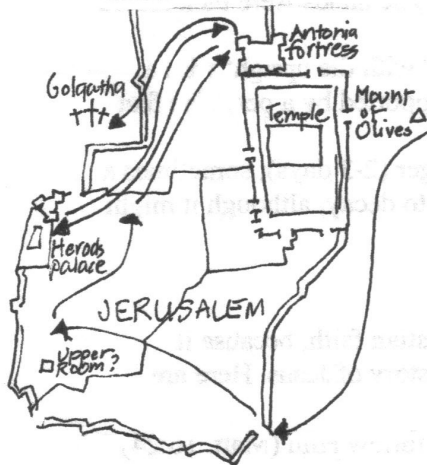


TREE OF CALVARY

Scriptures of the Crucifixion: Matthew 27:32-56, Mark 15:21-41, Luke 23:26-49, John 19:17-37.

“...Who Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness – by whose stripes we are healed.” (1 Peter 2:24 NKJV)



The Last Week of the life of Christ

Sunday – Triumphal Entry

Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12

Monday – Jesus cleanses the temple

Matthew 21, Mark 11

Tuesday – Jesus teaches in the temple

Matthew 21, Mark 12, Luke 20-21

Wednesday – Plot against Jesus (probably on Wed.)

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22

Thursday – The Last Supper (Passover)

Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, John 13

■ Gethsemane (*Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22*)

■ Jesus' arrest (*Matt. 26, Mark 14, Luke 22-23, John 19*)

Passion Week Friday

Jesus before the Jewish leaders:

Hearing before Annas, former high priest (deposed in AD 14)

Before Caiaphas current high priest and the Sanhedrin (condemned)

Formally condemned by the Sanhedrin (given death sentence)

Jesus before the Roman government

Trial before Pontius Pilate (Roman procurator of province of Judea)

Appearance before Herod Antipas (ruled Galilee and Perea, exiled later)

Final sentencing by Pontius Pilate

Jesus' crucifixion and death

On Golgotha, just outside the city of Jerusalem

Jesus' burial

In tomb of Joseph of Arimathea (member of the Sanhedrin)

(Matthew 27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, John 18-19)

But the story does not end here. **Sunday** the tomb is empty and Jesus is seen by Mary Magdalene, then two men on the Emmaus road and by 10 of the disciples!

Roman Crucifixion: (*“Great Events of the Bible Times by Doubleday, p. 162*)

The Roman punishment of crucifixion was the extreme penalty. It was the typical method of execution applied to slaves. Philippians 2:7-8 tells of Jesus who took the very nature of a servant and became obedient to death on a cross.

The typical crucifixion was not a pretty picture and is a hard one to study, yet I feel it is good to realize the extent that Jesus went to in order to illustrate God’s love for us. In a typical crucifixion the agony started before the cross...

It began with scourging, where the man was bent over, tied to a post and beaten with a lash inter-twined with pieces of bone or steel.

It continued with the weakened victim being expected to carry the beam of the cross through the streets with the notice of his crime hung around his neck. The upright beam of the cross was secured in position at the place of the crucifixion.

On arrival, the condemned man was stripped and laid flat on his back. The cross-beam was pushed under his neck, and his arms were tied to it. The hands were then nailed in position.

The beam was lifted by ropes and nailed to make a “T” with the upright with a small projection for the notice. The weight of the body was supported by a peg. The feet were then nailed to the upright.

Victims usually survived till death by exposure or hunger (2-3 days); sometimes a lance wound was given to accelerate death. The body was left to decay, although it might be released to the victim’s friends.

The Cross:

The cross has become the universal symbol of the Christian faith, because it reminds us of the most astonishing and important event in the story of Jesus. Here are some final thoughts on the cross from Scripture:

- Jesus urged His disciples to take up their cross and follow Him (Matt. 16:24)
- The message of the cross (the gospel) is the power of God (I Cor. 1:18)
- We should not boast, except in the cross of Jesus (Galatians 6:14)
- God reconciled Jews and Gentiles into one body on the cross (Eph. 2:16)
- Jesus’ death on the cross is an example of humility and obedience (Phil. 2:8)
- Our sins are forgiven and our condemnation nailed to the cross (Col. 2:14)
- Jesus endured the cross, but his attention was on the future joy; He is our example and model (Hebrews 12:2)

Complete this sentence in your own words: Because of the cross of Jesus, I....

Homework for next week: Read Luke 19:1-9. And now Nancy has a poignant study for us on the seven things Jesus spoke from the cross...