

Strange Things in Secret Places

John 19.28-42

My Friend, Hawaiian Pastor > his 20 yr old Son Died > PAINFUL, SHOCK
 Few years EARLIER: Wife 'PROPHECY' > Son would marry ISRAELITE Girl

NEVER FULFILLED > Son now DEAD > TEST of Faith? RESURRECTION!?
 Body EMBALMED > Family took HOME for FIVE Days > PRAYER VIGIL

Church Members CONSTANT Watch > GUARDED Door: Only Faithful Enter
 CHURCH in UPROAR > Various OPINIONS, NEIGHBORS Worried > NUTS!

5 DAYS Later > SON still DEAD, Pastor LOST JOB, MARRIAGE Strained
 SON'S BURIAL > SOMBER Event > Tears and Wailing > FAITH Shattering!

BURIAL: NEVER Easy, No Matter Age or Circumstances, Always Pain & Loss
 NO LESS SO Consider that LORD of GLORY was laid into a GRAVE: FINAL!

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, and in
 Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,

Dead and Buried, Descended into Hell...

1. A Cross

2. A Cave

3. A Crisis

1. A Cross

a. Sovereign Sufferer: 'was crucified'

MOST People are NOT at their BEST in SICKNESS or PAIN

This Week > SINUS & ALLERGY > MURKY HEAD, Felt UNDERWATER

Jesus > CROSS > EXCRUCIATING, AGONIZING, HORRIFIC PAIN

Not only KNOWS what is GOING ON > HE CONTROLS what is Going ON

Nothing SECRET about Crucifixion > Victim Mercilessly EXPOSED

Cross > FULFILLMENT of the SECRET, ETERNAL COUNSEL of God

v. 28 *knowing that all was now completed*, and so that the Scripture would be
 fulfilled...> Knew every MINUTE of GOD'S CLOCK & Followed Faithfully

EVEN NIGHT Before Jesus PRAYED > Declared ‘Mission Accomplished’
 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.
 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you
 before the world began. John 17:4-5

NO QUESTION about OUTCOME of EVENTS the NEXT DAY

JUDAS – SANHEDRIN – HEROD – PILATE – PILATE’S WIFE > Wondered?
 WHAT would happen to INNOCENT NAZARENE? > He KNEW from Eternity

John wants to make his readers understand that every part of Jesus’ passion was
 not only in the Father’s plan of redemption but a consequence of the Son’s direct
 obedience to it. D.A. Carson

v. 30 Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his
 spirit.

Not ‘I GIVE UP!’ > DONE! **It has been and will for ever remain finished!**
 2 Others Died when LEGS BROKEN, Jesus Died when WORK FINISHED

A Couple Years EARLIER in SAMARIA Jesus told his DISCIPLES:
 My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to *finish his work* John 4.34

FINISH = Greek Word > TETELESTAI > Wide Usage in EVERYDAY LIFE

SERVANT > Reporting back to MASTER – tetelestai – COMPLETED Job

PRIEST > Examined ANIMAL for Sacrifice – tetelestai – FAULTLESS

ARTIST – Finished Picture or WRITER a Manuscript – tetelestai – DONE!

MERCHANT – Completes BUSINESS Transaction – tetelestai – PAID in FULL

The Crucified One is the true king, the kingliest king of all; because it is he who
 is stretched on the cross, he turns an obscene instrument of torture into a throne
 of glory and reigns from the tree. F.F. Bruce

Jesus: “I lay down my life-only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.”
John 10.17,18

b. Second Death: ‘he descended into hell’

Not in Earliest Known form of Creed 215 AD or Next 340 AD, 1st in 404 AD
Apostle’s CREED = HUMAN Doc >> Can it be SUPPORTED from Bible??
Some Churches DO NOT Recite THIS PHRASE > or Change Hell to DEAD

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?? – get Hat & Coat – Little Walk 1600 yrs of Ideas!

MOST BIZARRE from PAGAN USA, Dangerous Wasteland of Christian TV
“Jesus did not pay for your sins on the cross. He paid for your sins in hell. His work on the cross did not pay for your sins; His going to hell paid for your sins ‘descended into hell’ literally means that Jesus spent time in physical hell under the torment of the devil in order to die a spiritual death and to pay for our sins which were not paid for on the cross.” Kenneth Hagin and Kenneth Copeland

Second Chance: Jesus goes into the realm of the dead to preach to the people who didn’t have a first chance.

Harrowing of Hell: Jesus victoriously, proclaims his victory over sin and death to the departed saints imprisoned there.

...he gave up his spirit...The earth shook and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.

Matthew 27:50-52

Difficult to Know EXACTLY HOW LONG – Jesus Hung upon CROSS
4 Gospels diff Time Recon: Jews (Sun Up) Rome (Midnight) – John (Symbolic)

Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others - one on each side and Jesus in the middle.
John 19:17-18

At LEAST 3 – possibly 6 – Hrs of SUFFERING > 4 Evangelists = 7 Sayings

HIS FINAL MOMENTS on CROSS, AFTER HOURS of Silent SUFFERING
v. 28 Later, knowing that all was now completed > WHAT was COMPLETED?

HE was BACK – Where had He GONE? HE HAD GONE to Gehenna: HELL!
CROSS > Darkness, Thirst, Isolation from God & Good, Agony > that is HELL!

He suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.
Hebrews 2:9

Change ORDER of Creed: **Crucified, Descended into Hell, Dead, and Buried**
Fulfilled QUOTIENT of Divine Wrath for Elect > Drank Cup to its DREGS

The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in
the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:14-15
ETERNAL STATE of UNREPENTANT, FAITHLESS, all who REJECT JESUS

But JESUS offers FAITHFUL ONES a BETTER DESTINY:

Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life...

He who overcomes will not be hurt at all by the second death. Revelation 2:10-11

How could he JUSTLY offer an EXEMPTION from SECOND DEATH??
ONLY He CAN offer it > ONLY HE Passed THRU It > ON the CROSS

...he also descended to the lower, earthly regions Ephesians 4:9

Paul described DOWNWARD Descent of Jesus: Heaven – Earth – Cross – Hell!
Being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to
death - even death on a cross! Philippians 2:8

We may even dare to say that our sins sent Christ to hell (not to hades, the abode
of the dead) to which the Creed says he descended after death, but to hell
(gehenna, the place of punishment) to which our sins condemned him before his
body died. John Stott

HELL: SPIRITUALLY not SPATIALLY – as PUNISHMENT, Not PLACE

If Christ had died only a bodily death, it would have been ineffectual. No, it was
expedient at the same time for him to undergo the severity of God's vengeance,
to appease his wrath and satisfy his just judgment. For this reason, he must also
grapple hand to hand with the armies of hell and the dread of everlasting death.
John Calvin

After a sacrifice was slain, it was offered to God as something holy, good and pleasing to him, not as an object of his further wrath and punishment. God's wrath and punishment was portrayed in the taking of the life of the sacrificial animal, and not in subsequent abuse of its body parts or spirit. Since Jesus' was the archetypal sacrifice, we should be inclined to view God's wrath as having been poured out on him in his death and in the suffering that preceded it, not in what came after it.

Ray McLaughlin

In THOSE HOURS of AGONY on CROSS > DESCENDED INTO HELL

Similar CLOSURE and FINALITY in Luke's Account:

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."
When he had said this, he breathed his last.

Luke 23:46

WORDS of RECOMMITMENT > Not 'I am coming for MORE TORTURE!'
GOING to Restore Blessed FELLOWSHIP of ETERNAL LOVE – Father, Spirit

ESCORTING a GUILTY THIEF; Who REPENTED, Now RIGHTEOUS
Thief said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus
answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23.42,43

TODAY – We're Going! > Not AFTER MY FIELD TRIP TO HELL!

After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied

Isaiah 53:11

vs. 28,30 Later, knowing that all was now completed...Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The cross is a pulpit from which Jesus preached the love of God to the world.

Augustine

2. A Cave

a. Definitely Dead

Normal Practice > Suffering on CROSS lasted for DAYS > GASPING, AGONY
After DEATH > Romans LEFT Victim on CROSS > VULTURES ate FLESH

v. 31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.

MURDER of an INNOCENT?? OK! – SPOILING our HOLY DAY? No Way!

The Jews, as is usually the case with hypocrites, direct their whole attention to small matters, and yet pass by the greatest crimes without any hesitation.

John Calvin

LEGS Broken: No Longer THRUST UPWARD– GASP for AIR - SUFFOCATE

v. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

SWOON Theory > Jesus BADLY WOUNDED and in Cool of Grave HEALED
Spread by Muslims TODAY > Jesus Died OLD MAN > Buried Kashmire

Now what does Jesus' victory consist of; in his death on the cross or in his escape from the cross?...We believe that he was taken down from the cross alive (in a state of swoon of course) and he entered the heart of the earth alive, then he can rightly be said to have overcome his enemies and frustrated all their evil designs.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

“Da Vinci Code” >> RESUSCITATED Lie: Jesus married Mary Magdalene

Michael Baigent (known recently as the one who tried to sue Da Vinci Code author Dan Brown) suggests Jesus may have been sedated on the cross and taken down before he died. The ancient swoon theory come back to life. But the four narratives that the church considers gospel make no bones about it: Jesus was dead as a doornail. Check his pulse; hold a feather over his mouth. Nothing.

Swoon theory resurrected in time for Easter, London Free Press

ROMANS knew how to KILL VICTIMS > 100% SUCCESS Record w/ CROSS

The theory is undermined by all the relevant historical data and it is high time it was exposed for the nonsense it is.

Bruce Milne

Some Theologs.think ‘HELL’ NOT GEHENNA = Final ETERNAL TORMENT
But SHEOL (Heb.) or HADES (Gk.) = UNDERWORLD, Place of the DEAD

If you DO NOT WANT to Change the WORD Order of Creed > Dead, Descend

The phrase means that Jesus' death was complete to the point of the separation of His body and Spirit...His Spirit departed to the realm of the dead. Ligon Duncan

Jesus entered Hades, not Gehenna...indicating that he really died, and that it was from a genuine death, not a simulated one, that he rose. J.I. Packer

POINT of BURIAL – MENTIONED in All FOUR GOSPELS – Part of Gospel

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, *that he was buried* 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

'Tis mystery all! The immortal dies; Who can explore his strange design?
Charles Wesley

b. Definite Place

Another GRISLY, SADISTIC Fact from Roman History of CRUCIFIXION
After VULTURES Finished Feasting, Gnawed Carcass thrown RUBBISH Dump

AMAZING Prophecy > JARRING, Never Heard of CONTRADICTIONS:

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death
Isaiah 53:9

DIED with ROGUES / BURIED by ROYALTY

vs. 38-42 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Enough SPICES to PRESERVE 3 Kings > New Grave > Strips of Linen
(Apostle JOHN shreds the SHROUD of TURIN Theory into STRIPS!)

Had Joseph and Nicodemus not been there, it is likely the body of Jesus would have been carried off to some obscure and accursed ditch. James Stalker

God MADE All THINGS READY: Jesus DEAD & BURIED, Ready & Waiting

3. A Crisis

STRANGE THINGS > SECRET PLACES of Counsel of God, Cross, Caves
NOW > SECRET PLACE of the HUMAN HEART

a. Faithful Witness > JUDAS was Gone > 10 RAN AWAY > 1 REMAINED

John YOUNGEST of 12: In TEENS > Special FRIENDSHIP with LORD JESUS

vs. 34,35 One of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

THIRTY Something Years Earlier – Old Prophet Named SIMEON told Mary: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. *And a sword will pierce your own soul too.*" Luke 2:34-35

MARY lived to SEE THAT DAY > Final INDIGNITY > Senseless VIOLENCE
3 Days LATER > Mary & John would SEE a BETTER DAY

ONLY thing that Makes HORROR of Story BEARABLE > NOT the END!
John in very RESERVED, RESPECTFUL, CHRIST-EXALTING WAY
Writes his TESTIMONY 'I WAS THERE!' > Saw with MY OWN EYES!

NOT Like Jesse Jackson 'Martin Luther King died in MY ARMS!' Maybe?

GORY FLOW must have made them GASP > TOKEN of SAVIOR'S LOVE
BLOOD and WATER? MEANING??

MODERN Commentators – MEDICAL ANALYSIS:

Fluid of PERICARDIAL Sac or perhaps HEMORRAGIC Fluid > Maybe?
Jesus DIED of a BROKEN HEART? OVERWHELMED by SORROWS!

Jesus DID NOT Die of SORROW > He died STRONG, CHOOSING to SAVE

According to the Gospel accounts, Jesus died triumphantly, having dismissed his spirit.
James Boice

KEY Principle of INTERP. > What does TEXT Mean to ORIGINAL Audience
Apostle John > Not Writing to 21st C – MEDICAL STUDENTS, Pathologists

John NOT WRITE Medical Textbook > THEOLOGICAL TREATISE
Goal > Not Academic Persuasion > BELIEVE > LIFE > thru HIS NAME!

Water > Recurrent THEME in the JOHN'S GOSPEL

Ch 2 > Water into Wine / Ch 3 > Nicodemus: Born of Water and Spirit

Ch 4 > Offers Samaritan Woman Living Water – Never thirst Again

Ch 5 > Heals Lame Man at the Pool of Water in Bethesda

Ch 6 > Jesus WALKS on the WATER

Ch 7 > Water Poured out on Temple Courts: Feast of TABERNACLES

Jesus: *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."*
By this he meant the Spirit...
John 7.37-39

BLOOD > Symbol of FORGIVENESS // WATER > Symbol of NEW LIFE

The water had to be mingled with Jesus' blood before the Spirit could give his testimony.
Raymond Brown

Even though dead, he imparts the Spirit who is the power of his kingly reign.
Bruce Milne

Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, *he now showed them the full extent of his love.*
John 13.1

b. Fearful Workers

vs. 38,39 Joseph of Arimathea...was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night.

COULD NOT MAKE this STORY UP > TOO STRANGE for FANTASY!
Jesus # 1 FOLLOWER – Ran like SCARED CHICKEN, Weeping like BABY

TEENAGE Kid – Only one LEFT to CARE for HIS WIDOWED MOTHER

Then into SCENE of Grisly HORROR > 2 of Most Prominent Men in Nation

Joseph of Arimathea is one of the few who is mentioned in all four Gospels.
MT 'rich man'/ MK 'honorable counselor' / LUKE 'good and upright'

BIG Shot, tells Pilate 'what's what' > GET'S THINGS DONE, Others FEAR

Nicodemus > Jesus called him 'Israel's Teacher' > TOP Teacher in Nation
Every ref to him in John 'CAME at NIGHT' > Founder of 'Nic at Night'??

Nicodemus appears often enough in the narrative to evoke curiosity, but not, it seems, often enough to satisfy it. Jouette M. Bassler

Unlikely HOMEBOYS – for BLOODY, THANKLESS, TASK

TOUCHING the DEAD BODY of JESUS > DEFILED Joseph and Nicodemus
COULD NOT Participate in the PASSOVER FEAST

NO PROBLEM > Christ, their PASSOVER LAMB > Had BEEN SLAIN

AMAZING! – 'DISCIPLES of Jesus' > Dare to Assoc w/ INSURRECTIONIST

DEATH > Ends SECRET DISCIPLESHIP of Joseph & Nic > Join His Suffering

MANY QUESTIONS – Why they NOT STOP Unjust Proceedings? > CROSS?

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. Luke 23:50-51

Was he THERE? Was he SILENT? Did he GO DOWN FIGHTING?

Bigger Question – WHERE DO THEY GO?? > Rest of NT Never Mentioned

Joseph...waiting for the kingdom of God.

Luke 23:50-51

MISSED Many Opport. Hang Out w/ King & His People, Before & After Cross

We can expect to find secret disciples in the most unlikely places. We ought always to consider what the Lord commands, and how far he bids us advance. He who stops in the middle of the course shows that he does not trust in God, and he who sets a higher value on his own life than on the command of God is without excuse.

John Calvin

120 Gather waiting for Pentecost > NOT Mentioned, 3000, 5000, Never HEAR APOSTLES face SANHEDRIN > NEVER Mentioned

Nevertheless > One Critical Moment in History of Redemption

Grim Day > Dark and Fearful Moment > THERE, BIG WAY, BIG THING!

Where are the palaces, the estates, the fleet of vehicles and the rest, for Jesus?

These two men who were secret disciples of Jesus put us to shame – even as we openly claim to be his disciples.

Samuel M. Ngewa

The World Christian Encyclopedia, estimates there are about 112 million secret disciples or “churchless Christians” worldwide, about 5 percent of all adherents, and projects that number will double by 2025. If we look at the secret believers in India today we find a common characteristic that others around them are quietly challenged to examine the claims of Christ. In almost every case the secret believer in India has been influential to a family member or acquaintance to look at the claims of Christ and become a follower of Jesus. Brad Beaman

Imagine MANY in this City > POSITION of PROMINENCE

Fear LOSS of STATUS, JOB, INCOME, RESPECT

DISAPPOINTED w/ OLD Religions and Traditions > Attracted to CHRIST
PRAY we Could help Them – By our LIFE and EXAMPLE move CLOSER

DO Not KNOW SECRET Thoughts of YOUR Heart > Any Room for Him?
IF you are LOOKING for MORE PROOF before Making STEP of Faith....

c. Trustworthy Record

We cannot Touch BODY of our LORD > We're TIED by WORDS of FAITH

Young Teenager – who DID NOT RUN AWAY – Witness of LIVING WORDS
As OLD MAN who LOOKED BACK on DAY of DAYS at GOLGOTHA

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched-
this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 1 John 1:1

DELIVERANCE Planned in Eternity / PROMISED in History / Fulfilled Now
EVEN in SUFFERING > Jesus ORCHESTRATES GOD'S PURPOSES

Keep in Mind > MOSES Wrote 1300 yrs Before Jesus, David 1000, Zech 500
In FULLNESS of TIME > God Sent His Son > Born under Law, to Fulfill Law

v. 28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

THIRSTY > Offered LIVING WATER to Samaritan Woman > Now HE Thirsts

FULFILLED DAVID's Words of DESPERATION - ABANDONMENT
I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched... They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst. Psalm 69.3,21

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?
Psalm 42.1-2

v. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "These are the regulations for the
Passover... Do not break any of the bones." Exodus 12.43,47

GOSPEL of John > Jesus DIED at Moment Passover LAMBS Being SLAIN

A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them
all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. Psalm 34.19-20

vs. 36,37 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be great Zechariah 12.10-11

PROPHECIES > NO Broken Bones AND PIERCED > VERY Unusual Mix

It was the exact opposite of these two prophecies that the soldiers set out to fulfill. They had come to break Jesus' legs...they had no intention of piercing Him...How can brutal men be kept from acts of violence, for which they had a specific commandment, and be led to enact another for which they had no command? There is only one answer. By overruling circumstances, the God who inspired the prophecies made sure they were fulfilled. James Boice

Next time you meet with an unlikely promise, believe it firmly. Next time you see things working contrary to the truth of God, believe God, and believe nothing else. Let God be true and every man a liar. Though men and devils should give God the lie, you hold on to what God has spoken, for heaven and earth shall pass away, but not one jot or tittle of his word shall fall to the ground. Charles Spurgeon

William Cowper (1734) promised post as Clerk of Journal to House of Lords
FEARED > Public Examination in House before beginning his duties
Made up his mind to commit suicide > Several Attempts > Mental Assylum

Life of Struggle with DEPRESSION, DOUBTS, FEARS >>> also FAITH

After recovering, Cowper came to realize how God can erase the stain of any sin.

There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.
The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day;
And there have I, though vile as he, washed all my sins away.
Dear dying Lamb, Thy precious blood shall never lose its power
Till all the ransomed church of God be saved, to sin no more.
E'er since, by faith, I saw the stream Thy flowing wounds supply,
Redeeming love has been my theme, and shall be till I die. *****

John 19:28-42

28 Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. 32 The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. 33 But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. 34 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. 35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. 36 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," 37 and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

38 Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away. 39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. 41 At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. 42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.