

Luke 23.44-56

Dead and Buried

“ground zero” — noun - Colins English Dictionary
a point on the surface of land or water at or directly above or below the center of a nuclear explosion // a scene of great devastation

Fearful Words in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, LOWER MANHATTAN

Ground Zero – Gospel of Luke > ALL Human History > CROSS!

10’s of 1000’s DIED on Crosses – but THIS Cross, VICTIM - UNIQUE!

Both Greatest Devastation & Greatest DELIVERANCE for Human Race

Most Familiar Themes of Christianity – CROSS & RESURRECTION Seen thru Lense of Entire Gospel LUKE – Shadow of Cross over Cradle

1. Facts about Jesus

a. Real Place v. 32 they came to the place that is called The Skull

Aramaic > GOLGOTHA // Latin > CALVARIA // English > CALVARY

v. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how the body was laid

Make SURE NO Chance of Mistaken Identity > RIGHT TOMB Empty

b. Real People

v. 26 Simon of Cyrene – NORTH African – Wrong Place / Wrong Time Conscripted led to Conversion for him & sons Alexander & Rufus

v. 27 there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women

NOT Everyone in Jerusalem shouted ‘Crucify Him,’ MOST Shocked!

v 32 2 others, who were criminals...Throw-AWAYS from Normal Society

v. 35 the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him.

v. 36 the soldiers also mocked him > Beaten, Bloodied, Now Bullied

v. 50,51 a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He as a member of the council a good and righteous man

v. 55 The women who had come with him from Galilee

24.10 Mary Magdalene, & Joanna, & Mary the mother of James & other

ONE Thing NEVER Seen in Luke > Jesus FOCUSED on Himself ALWAYS

Thinking Others – Serving – Helping > DISCIPLESHIP

MOMENT of EXCRUCIATING Pain & Suffering Thinks of OTHERS

Luke > Follow Jesus – DISCIPLE Followers who Call Others to Follow

c. Real Events

vs. 44,45 now about the 6th hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the 9th hour, while the sun's light failed.

HIGH NOON – FULL MOON (Not Possible Eclipse) – 3 DARK Hours

3 Hrs MIRACLE of Darkness > NOT Eclipse, FULL Moon, Passover

The wonder of this darkness is related in your own annals & is preserved in your archives to this day. Tertullian, to Roman readers, 200 AD ca.

Sun Refused to Shine > Black Curtain fell Over Stage of Salvation

Evil > Deeds of Darkness, Trials at Night, Arrest in Gethsemane

Rebellious Creatures Killed CREATOR > CREATION is ASHAMED

SUN stops SHINING cause Stubborn People will NOT STOP SINNING

Judgment: Zeph 1.15 “day of wrath...a day of distress & anguish, ruin & devastation, a day of darkness & gloom a day of clouds & thick darkness”

Exodus 10.21 -- 3 DAYS of Darkness over Egypt during Plagues

3 HOURS while God's Passover Lamb was Slain on the Cross

Sorrow > “a veil had been drawn over the suffering of God's Son” Boice

Words AMOS came TRUE that DAY / God DIED in the DARKNESS

Sovereign LORD: "In that day I will make the sun go down at noon & darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your religious feasts into mourning & all your singing into weeping...I will make that time like mourning for an only son & the end of it like a bitter day”

Amos 8.9,10

Genesis 1.2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Out of this DARKNESS > Jesus is making a NEW CREATION

Real EVENT / Darkness & v. 45 curtain of the temple was torn in 2

Termination: Temple, HP, Sacrifice = SYMBOL > Jesus REALITY

90 ft High, btwn Holy Place & Most Holy Place / HP goes 1 Yr Passover

Hiroo Onoda - Imperial Japanese Army intelligence officer WW 2
 Ordered never to surrender / Shot down / Lubang Island Philippines
 Fought 29 yrs after VJ Day > Thot word Japan defeat Propaganda
 Hid in Jungle til 1974 > Former comm Officer Relieved him of Duty
 2000 yrs Jewish people carried on their Duties > Not Heard Commander
 All God's Promises are Yes & Amen in Jesus, Messiah, Savior, Lord

Termination & INVITATION > Jew AND Gentile come to God thru X

Now ALL Welcome thru True & Final High Priest & Sacrifice: Jesus

Theme of Luke 19.10 "Son of Man came to Seek and Save the Lost"

Luke > Acts: Sent by Ascended X 1st to Synagogue > Messiah Come!

Gospel is power of God for salvation for all who believe 1st 4 JEW 1.16

Hebrews 10.19-22 "brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings"

2. Faith in Jesus

- a. Dead v. 46 Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Volumes written – Countless Sermons & Songs – About CROSS of Jesus Luke's Tantalizingly BRIEF – Word CROSS used ONCE

LUKE'S readers did not NEED MANY WORDS about CROSSES

Vivid Images – Regular Occurrence Occupied Roman Colony of JUDEA Seen MEN & WOMEN – Writhing, Gasping, Dying in AGONY

LOUD Voice: Strength at End – Declaration! – Laid Down His Life!

PEACE and CONFIDENCE > Body Writhes in Pain / Soul at REST Jews recited as LAID DOWN TO SLEEP // "Now I lay me down to sleep

'Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord' Psalm 31.5

Recommitment: Restore Fellowship of ETERNAL LOVE – Father, Spirit

Jesus praying thru Psalms on Cross / 22 "My God, why... > Psalm 31

- b. Buried 23.52 “the body of Jesus...wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.”

Burial PILLAR of Xtian Gospel 1 Corinth 15 “X died for our sins in accordance w Scriptures, he was buried, raised on 3rd day > Scriptures”

Point of Burial – MENTIONED in All 4 GOSPELS – Part of Gospel

SWOON Theory: Jesus Badly WOUNDED & in Cool of Grave HEALED Spread by Muslims

TODAY > Jesus Died OLD MAN > Buried Kashmire

“Da Vinci Code” RESUSCITATED: Jesus married Mary Magdalene

Romans knew how KILL Victims > 100% SUCCESS Record w/ CROSS

Jesus was DEAD – Cold, Lifeless, Empty Shell of BODY

Lowest COMMON Denominator of Human Experience – Frail CORPSE

SHINING thru GORE of Execution, Unquestioned INNOCENCE of Jesus Hardened, Murderous

Romans – NO LOVE for Jews – No Ordinary Jew

Roman DEATH Specialists > Spoke of Him in PAST TENSE

v. 47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!”

Man: Real Death / God: For All / Innocent: For Others / Dead: Fully Paid

Confirm He was Really DEAD > Debt of Sin PAID in FULL

Romans 6.23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”

3. Following Jesus

- a. Conflict v. 23 “they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified”

v. 48 And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

Crowd Gathered w Many Motives > Lovers and Looky Loos > Miracle??

Whatever they EXPECTED > What they SAW went WAY Beyond!

3 Hrs of Darkness at NOON! 7 words of Jesus from the Cross!

BEAT Breast Jewish Cultural Tradition for WOMEN > Not MANLY!

Women AND Men – Stunned, Shocked, Overwhelmed by SORROWS

GOSPEL Message FOR WORLD > EVOKES Very MIXED Reactions

Carried SINS of World > Whole World is GUILTY of His DEATH

v. 35 but the rulers scoffed at him / v. 36 the soldiers also mocked him

WOLVES Baying for BLOOD of their VICTIM > Some just WATCHED

Believers in Deep Remorse / Betrayers DELIGHTED, REJOICING

Aroused ANGER of Religious Leaders/ AFFIRMED as True by Righteous

Want to FOLLOW Jesus – Any Country – City > Same Conflict

PROOF of Real Power and Presence of Jesus > Violently HATED Today If MERE MYTH –

Ancient FAIRY TALE – Easily IGNORED w Laugh REAL Jesus – Really Died & Lives –

Christians today Really Killed

Churches Really Closed & BURNED – Sometimes w Followers Inside Real BATTLE: There is

SOMEONE REAL who calls us to BELIEVE

b. Confession v.47 when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, “Certainly this man was innocent!”

Gambling Soldier? Maybe WENT HOME as WINNER of Jesus CLOAK Remorse of MURDERER? TRUE Faith? > CONFESSION of TRUTH

Would you GIVE UP All & Start Religious Movement > THEY Said So

INNOCENT - 3 X's from Gov. Pilate // same from Tetrarch Herod

Substitutionary Atonement: *God became man for man to know God*

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5.21

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6.23

He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Romans 4.25

“For ever let us bless God that our great Redeemer’s death is a fact beyond all dispute. The centurion who stood by the cross, the friends who took out the nails, and laid the body in the grave, the women who stood by and beheld, the priests who sealed up the grave, the soldiers who guarded the sepulcher, all, all are witnesses that Jesus actually was dead... The great sacrifice was really offered. The life of the Lamb was actually taken away. The penalty due to sin, has actually been discharged by our Divine Substitute. Sinners believing in Jesus may hope and not be afraid. In themselves they are guilty. But Christ hath died for the ungodly; and their debt is now completely paid.”
J.C. Ryle

v. 35 the people stood by, watching

“he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living” 1 Corinthians 15.6

Risen Jesus: “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” Acts 1.8

c. Courage – *Everything to Lose*

vs. 50-52 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. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body.

Can NOT MAKE this STORY UP > Too STRANGE for FANTASY!

Jesus # 1 Follower – Ran like SCARED CHICKEN, Weeping like BABY

Then SCENE of Grisly HORROR: 2 of Most Prominent Men in Nation

Nicodemus & Joseph of Arimathea 1 of few Mentioned all 4 Gospels

MT ‘rich man’/ MK ‘honorable counselor’ / JOHN ‘secret disciple’

Dares to Assoc w/ INSURRECTIONIST DEATH > Ends SECRET

Luke emphasizes DISCIPLESHIP of Joseph > Join His Suffering

BIG Shot, tells Pilate ‘what’s what’ Get’s Things DONE, Others FEAR

TOUCHING the DEAD BODY of JESUS > DEFILED Joseph

COULD NOT Participate in the PASSOVER FEAST

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

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

v. 53 he (Joseph) took it (Jesus body) down, wrapped it in linen shroud & laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid.

A Tomb? Not HIS OWN – Too Close to Execution / Too Far his Home

Joseph & Nicodemus WAITED in Tomb w Clothes & Spices

Walmart would have been CLOSED on PASSOVER!

HOLY Tomb Never been USED // Holy DONKEY Never Been Ridden LIKELY no CRUCIFIED Corpse ever lain in Expensive Stone Tomb

He was assigned a grave w the wicked & w the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. Isaiah 53.9

DIED with ROGUES / BURIED by ROYALTY

QUESTIONS: Why they NOT STOP Unjust Proceedings? > CROSS?

v. 50 Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and righteous man

v. 51 who had not consented to their decision and action

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

Bigger Question: WHERE do they Go?? Rest of NT Never Mentioned

v. 51 “looking for the kingdom of God” / So Many Questions to ask hi

Nevertheless > One Critical Moment in History of Redemption

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

Millions of secret Christian disciples worship worldwide, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Asia, where they face persecution, social isolation, or death for converting from Islam. These "hidden believers" often operate in underground house churches, use encrypted technology, and hold secret baptisms to avoid detection by authorities and community extremists. Global Christian Relief

Almaty, KZ > Shia Iranian Prayers “We Hate those Guys!”

Majority in MUSLIM World > Penalty for Apostasy is DEATH

Imagine MANY in this CHINA, IRAN: Position of Prominence

Fear LOSS of STATUS, JOB, INCOME, RESPECT

Attracted to Christ PRAY we Could help Them – By Life & Example

Cannot REMAIN a Secret Disciple > EITHER Secrecy will End Discipleship /

OR Discipleship will End the SECRECY!

Psalm 68.20-35 Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death. // **But God will strike the heads of his enemies, the hairy crown of him who walks in his guilty ways.** // The Lord said, “I will bring them back from Bashan, I will bring them back from the depths of the sea, // **that you may strike your feet in their blood, that the tongues of your dogs may have their portion from the foe.**” // Your procession is seen, O God, the procession of my God, my King, into the sanctuary // **the singers in front, the musicians last, between them virgins playing tambourines:** // “Bless God in the great congregation, the Lord, O you who are of Israel’s fountain!” // **There is Benjamin, the least of them, in the lead, the princes of Judah in their throng, the princes of Zebulun, the princes of Naphtali.** // Summon your power, O God, the power, O God, by which you have worked for us. // **Because of your temple at Jerusalem kings shall bear gifts to you.** // Rebuke the beasts that dwell among the reeds, the herd of bulls with the calves of the peoples. // **Trample underfoot those who lust after tribute; scatter the peoples who delight in war.** // Nobles shall come from Egypt; Cush shall hasten to stretch out her hands to God. // **O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord,** to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice. // **Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.** // Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel // **he is the one who gives power and strength to his people Blessed be God!** **Amen and Amen.**