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The Crucifixion – Luke 23:26-49

When they led Him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene coming in from the country, a country in Northern Africa with a large Jewish population **and placed on him the cross to carry behind Jesus** the crossbeam, weighing nearly 100 pounds, as Jesus was too physically weak to carry it. **And following Him was a large crowd of the people, and of women who were mourning and lamenting Him. But Jesus turning to them said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, stop weeping for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children** because of the destruction of Jerusalem which happens in 70. **For behold, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’ Then they will begin TO SAY TO THE MOUNTAINS, ‘FALL ON US,’ AND TO THE HILLS, ‘COVER US’** probably the future Tribulation. **“For if they do these things [reject Jesus] when the tree is green [when Jesus is with them], what will happen when it is dry?” [when Jesus is no longer with them].**

Two others also, who were criminals, were being led away to be put to death with Him. When they came to the place called The Skull [in Hebrew, Golgotha—John 19:17], there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. Evidence exists of many forms of crucifixion. We can't be sure of the details here. The point seems to be that it was public, alongside the road (Matthew 27:39), as a deterrent to future crimes, and that the person suffered, sometimes for several days. The actual death was from suffocation. Beating the person ahead of time would shorten the time on the cross. For the three, they needed to be dead before 6:00 that evening, when Sabbath (and Passover this year) began. So they broke the criminals' legs, but Jesus was already dead, so they did not break His legs (John 19:31-33), **For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken”** (John 19:36). Women, including the mother of Jesus, were standing by, along with John. So Jesus entrusted His mother Mary to John, for him to take care of her (John 19:25-27). **But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing”** Most likely, those being crucified cursed God or prayed for help. But no one said these words that Jesus said. **And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves** prophesied in Psalm 22:18 **And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.” The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up to Him, offering Him sour wine** to deaden the pain? **and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!” Now there was also an inscription above Him, “THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?** This thief recognized his own sin and that he was deserving of death. **“And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong”** As far as we know, the only thing this thief knew about Jesus he learned from the mocking and words the soldiers and crowds were hurling at Jesus, at a time when no one else was showing faith in Jesus. **And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”** Obviously, they were both about to die, so this thief believed in an afterlife, when Jesus would have a kingdom **And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today** there is no soul sleep. At death, you enter immediately into your eternal state **you shall be with Me** the hope of believers, to be with Jesus as soon as we die (John 14:1-6). **in Paradise”** or Abraham's Bosom (see notes on Luke 16:19-31), the place dead believers from the Old Testament went until Jesus died. Then He took them to heaven, so when we die during our church age, **to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord** (2 Cor. 5:8).

It was now about the sixth hour noon, as the day started at 6:00 A.M. **and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour because the sun was obscured** 3:00 P.M. Precisely the hour the priests across town at the Temple were slaughtering the Passover lambs, Jesus, THE Passover Lamb was dying, shedding His blood for our sins. **and the veil of the temple was torn in two** revealing the Holy of Holies, representing the presence of God, where the Ark of the Covenant used to be (prior to the Babylonian Captivity). And it was torn from top to bottom by God (Matthew 27:51). This ends the age of the Mosaic Law. First Corinthians 3:16 tells us, now... **you are a temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you. And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.” Having said this, He breathed His last.**

For more information see: **Commentary on Luke** on Relational Concepts web page: <https://relationalconcepts.org/>
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