

#1 Matthew 27:51-66 “Truly This IS The Son of God”

#2 ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵² and the graves were opened;

“the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom” The earthquake was violent – by very specific. It sent a message from heaven – that as Jesus had said all was finished. **#3** The large 15’ high curtain that hid the Holy of Holies (the original resting place of the Ark of the covenant and God’s presence) was torn supernaturally from top to bottom. This did two things. First it revealed that the ark and God’s presence wasn’t in there! The Pharisees and Sadducees & priests had the form of religion – but God wasn’t at the heart of it.

And secondly, it signified the removal of the barrier between God and man. A result of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for the sins of the world! **“The fact that this occurred from top to bottom signified that God is the One who ripped the thick curtain. It was not torn from the bottom by men ripping it.”** Tom Constable **#4 Hebrews 10:19–22** (NIV84) Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body...”

#5 and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

“the saints” Who were these people? Were these the “famous” OT saints – buried in Jerusalem? If so why weren’t they named and where did they go after they appeared? Translated to heaven? (No mention) They wouldn’t have had families to live with. Doesn’t seem logical based on the information we have. What is a possible explanation?

“Fallen asleep” is a term used to describe death by those in the early church. This was based on Jesus description of Lazarus. **#6 John 11:11–15** (NKJV) These things He said, and after that He said to them, **“Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.”** ¹² Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get well.” ¹³ **However, Jesus spoke of his death,** but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.

#7 1 Thessalonians 4:13–14 (NKJV) But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning those who have fallen asleep,** lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

So these could have been believers who had **“fallen asleep”** during Jesus’ earthly ministry. There was so much power directed by God at the resurrection of Jesus Christ in that cemetery that their bodies came back to life. Like what happened in

#8 2 Kings 13:20–21 (NLT) Then Elisha died and was buried. Groups of Moabite raiders used to invade the land each spring.²¹ Once when some Israelites were burying a man, they spied a band of these raiders. So they hastily threw the corpse into the tomb of Elisha and fled. But as soon as the body touched Elisha’s bones, the dead man revived and jumped to his feet!

There are many other ideas about who these saints could be – we really can’t know for sure because these few words are all the evidence we have.

#9⁵⁴ So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, **they feared greatly**, saying, **“Truly this was the Son of God!”**

“they feared greatly” These soldiers had seen how Jesus handled the suffering; it wasn’t like other prisoners. They saw the sign above His head – not like other prisoners. They heard His asking for forgiveness, ministering to the criminal next to Him and His mother – not like other condemned men. They saw the darkness, the earthquake, the sign and wonders – this was a different man and a different day. This man was divine! The result was that they feared God!

“Truly this was the Son of God!” There is no article with God or Son in the Greek so that it means “God’s Son,” either “the Son of God” or “a Son of God.” There is no way to tell. Robertson

#10 What the centurion and the other soldiers probably meant when they called Jesus “the Son of God” that He was a divine being in a pagan sense. If so, they spoke more truly than they knew. Here Gentiles testified to the identity of Israel’s Messiah whom the Jews had rejected. Tom Constable Early church history indicates that this man became a believer!

Centurions far well in the NT: **#11 Matthew 8:5–13 (NKJV)** Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him,⁶ saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.”⁷ And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”⁸ The centurion answered and said, “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.⁹ For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this *one*, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does *it*.”¹⁰ When Jesus heard *it*, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!”¹¹ **And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.**

#12 Acts 10:1–8 (NLT) In Caesarea there lived a Roman army officer (Centurion) named Cornelius, who was a captain of the Italian Regiment.² He was a devout, God-fearing man, as was everyone in his household. He gave generously to the poor and prayed regularly to God...”

“The rest of the story”: **#13 John 19:31–37 NLT** It was the day of preparation, and the Jewish leaders didn’t want the bodies hanging there the next day, which was

the Sabbath (**and a very special Sabbath, because it was the Passover**). So they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. **#14**³² So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus.³³ But when they came to Jesus, they saw that he was already dead, so they didn't break his legs.³⁴ **One of the soldiers, however, pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out.** **#15**³⁵ (This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account. He speaks the truth so that you also can believe.)³⁶ These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, "Not one of his bones will be broken,"³⁷ and "They will look on the one they pierced."

#16⁵⁵ And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar,⁵⁶ among whom were **Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.**

"Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons" **#16a** These women were the last at the cross and the first to the tomb.
Tom Constable

#17⁵⁷ Now when evening had come, there came **a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph**, who himself **had also become a disciple of Jesus.**⁵⁸ This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

"a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph...a disciple of Jesus"

#18 Luke 23:50–51 (NKJV) Now behold, *there was* a man named Joseph, a council member, a good and just man.⁵¹ He had not consented to their decision and deed. *He was* from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who himself was also waiting for the kingdom of God. **#19** John 19:38–42 (NKJV) After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews...³⁹ And Nicodemus, who at first came to Jesus by night"

Matthew apparently wanted to stress the fulfillment of **#20** Isaiah 53:9 (NASB) **"His grave was assigned to be with wicked men, yet with a rich man in His death."** **#20a** **The fact that Pilate allowed Joseph to bury Jesus' body shows that the governor did not think Jesus was guilty of treason.** Tom Constable

#21⁵⁹ **When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth,**⁶⁰ and laid it in **his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock;** and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed.⁶¹ And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.

"When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth"

The following Article comes from: "The Shroud of Turin" By David Sunfellow:

#22 The Shroud of Turin made its first recorded appearance in 14th century France. Housed in the Italian city of Turin since 1578, renewed interest was generated in 1898 when the first photographs were made of the relic and it was discovered that the image on the Shroud was a photographic negative! Historians, pathologists, linguists, biblical scholars, textile experts, chemists, physicists, photographic specialists, artists, botanists, microbiologists and other scientists from around the world have been trying to answer these important questions for decades. **Here are some of the astonishing findings that modern day science has uncovered so far:**

#23 The Shroud itself was woven with techniques common to the first century. The life-size image on the cloth is NOT the result of pigment, stain, acid, dye, or any applied material. The image itself is confined to the top-most fibrils of the cloth's fibers. Whatever made the image did not penetrate the fibers of the cloth as all known artistic materials would.

#24 The exact way the man was crucified closely matches biblical accounts of Jesus's crucifixion, with nails driven through his wrists. **#25** The beard and hair style of the crucified man were not common anywhere in the Roman Empire except Palestine. **#26** The Shroud is stained by human blood that has run out of the image's wounds. Unlike the Shroud's image which only appears on the topmost fibrils of fabric, the blood on the Shroud soaked deeply into the fabric.

#27 A dirt sample taken from near the Shroud image's feet was identified as a relatively rare form of calcium carbonate. Samples of dirt taken from Jerusalem revealed an unusually close match.

#28 58 varieties of pollen were discovered on the Shroud. 11 of the pollen samples were from plants that do not exist in Europe, but which do exist in the Near East. **The pollen samples also indicated that the fabric of the Shroud had to have been made in Palestine before circulating in Europe.**

#29 Pollen samples also helped trace the Shroud's route from Palestine through Anatolia and Constantinople into Europe. Furthermore, two of the pollen samples that were discovered on the Shroud coincided with highly distinctive plants found in the region surrounding Jerusalem. **The pollen study concluded that the Shroud itself was probably made near Jerusalem and that it had been in the vicinity of the Holy City for some time before being transported out of the area.**

#30 Images of 28 different types of flowers, small bushes, and thorns have been detected in bunches around the Shroud image. All 28 grow in Israel, either in Jerusalem or in the nearby desert or Dead Sea area. Most of them are not found in Europe. **#31** 25 of the 28

flowers matched the pollen samples found on the Shroud. 27 of the 28 plants bloom during March and April, which corresponds to the time of the crucifixion.

#32 An image of a coin appears over the right eye of the Shroud image. This coin, a very rare Pontius Pilate lepton struck in 29 to 32 A.D., was not found until 1977.

#33 Very early Icons bear the exact image of the Shroud and **#34** purport to be the face of Christ!

#35 And finally, Robert Bucklin, deputy coroner of Los Angeles and a member of The Shroud of Turin Research Team, compiled the following pathological report concerning the Shroud: **"The evidence of a scourged man who was crucified and died from cardiopulmonary failure typical of crucifixion is clear-cut."**

#36 "On the right flank, a long, narrow blade of some type entered in an upward direction, pierced the diaphragm, penetrated the thoracic cavity through the lung into the heart. This was a post-mortem event (it happened after the man was already dead), because separate components of red blood cells and clear serum drained from the lesion.

#37 Later, after the corpse was laid out horizontally and face up on the cloth, blood dribbled out of the side wound and puddled along the small of the back. "There is an abrasion of one knee, commensurate with a fall; and finally, a spike had been driven through both feet, and blood had leaked from both wounds onto the cloth.

#38 **"his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock"** Garden tomb in Jerusalem **#39** - body length caused the flat area to be extended! Lay the body wrapped in a cloth until flesh rotted off **#40** and then put the bones in an ossuary!

#41 ⁶² **On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate,** ⁶³ saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'
#42 ⁶⁴ **Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day,** lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."
⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how."
⁶⁶ **So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.**

"On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation" Probably Friday, as they wouldn't have gone there on the Shabbat and it doesn't say it was Shabbat? It must have been a Day of Preparation for the Passover. It appears that Jesus was arrested Tuesday evening and crucified on Wednesday. John calls it a "high day"?

#43 **John 19:31 (NKJV)** Therefore, because it was the Preparation *Day*, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.

Several computer software programs exist that enable us to calculate when the Passover and God's other festivals fall in any given year. Those programs show that in A.D. 31, the year of these events, the Passover meal was eaten on Tuesday night and Wednesday sundown marked the beginning of the "high day," the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Scott Ashley

"Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day"

The religious rulers were concerned about the 3rd day, because that's when Jesus had said He would arise! **#44 Matthew 12:39–40 (NKJV)** But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

"So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard. Ridiculous to try and keep God in a hole in the ground! **#45 Psalm 2:4 (NLT)** But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them.

#46 Acts 2:22–24 (NKJV) "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know— ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, **#47** you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; ²⁴ **whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.**