

Matthew Chapter 26-28 – The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus – Part 10
Matthew 27:33-50 – The Significance of the Crucifixion of Jesus

Introduction

Last lesson, we discussed the content of the crucifixion.

1. Jesus is scourged.
2. Jesus is mocked by Roman soldiers.
3. Jesus is led to Golgotha (The Place of the Skull).
4. Simon of Cyrene is conscripted to carry Jesus' cross.
5. Jesus is offered a narcotic but refuses.
6. Jesus is crucified.
7. While He is on the cross, the mocking continues.
8. The two insurrectionists being crucified with Him also mock Jesus.
9. Jesus cries out, "Eli, Eli, Lama Sabachthani."
10. Jesus takes some vinegar water and cries out one more time.
11. Jesus yielded up His spirit.

In this lesson, we are going to re-examine this text attempting to understand Matthew's message.

Matthew 27:33

In this verse, we are told that Jesus was crucified at Golgotha. As stated in the last lesson, we do not know where this is, but we do know that it was along a roadside and not in the city.

Why is this significant?

Leviticus 16:2-3, 20-22, 27 – The bull and the goat, which were offered yearly on the Day of Atonement, were taken from the city, and the sacrifice was finalized outside of the city.

There is a distinction between the sacrifice of an individual family (which was offered at the temple and burnt on the altar there) and the sacrifice offered on behalf of all the people on the Day of Atonement. Since Jesus was dying for the people, it is fitting that Christ would be sacrificed outside the gate.

Matthew 27:34, 48

It was common for those who were being crucified to be given a pain-relieving narcotic, and as we covered last time, Jesus was to be in full control and capacity of mind and did not take that gall.

Near the end, Jesus was given vinegar water to hydrate Him so that He could speak. This was very foul-tasting, but it was effective.

Why is this significant?

Psalms 69:16-22 – For the Hebrews who knew the Psalms well, they would have read this account in Matthew and connected it to this Psalm. This is a fulfillment of prophecy and reinforces the point that Matthew has made throughout the book: Jesus is the prophesied Messiah of the Scriptures.

Matthew Chapter 26-28 – The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus – Part 10
Matthew 27:33-50 – The Significance of the Crucifixion of Jesus

Matthew 27:35

The soldiers divided up His garments among themselves.

Why is this significant?

We find the answer in John 19:23-24. Once again, a seemingly unimportant detail is actually a fulfillment of prophecy.

Psalm 22:9-18 – An astute Jew would have understood that this account of Jesus Christ is in direct relation to Psalm 22.

Matthew 27:38

Two robbers were crucified with Jesus, and He was in between them.

Why is this significant?

Isaiah 53:10-12 – Another obvious Messianic prophecy about the death of the Promised One. Jesus was numbered with the transgressors. He was thought to be one of the other criminals.

In Hebrew, the word for *transgressors* is “פֶּשָׁעִים pasha” and means rebels or lawless ones. As we saw last lesson, the Greek word for *robber* is better translated as “insurrectionist.”

What seems to be happenstance turns out to be a fulfillment of prophecy.

Matthew 27:39-43

The crowd and the religious ruling class mocked and spoke evil about Him. They did not realize that they, too, were fulfilling a prophecy about the Messiah (Psalm 22:6-8).

Matthew 27:45

For three hours, darkness covered the land. The land that became dark was Israel. There is no indication that this was the entire Earth, but it may have been.

This is reminiscent of the ninth plague of the Exodus when a thick darkness fell on all the land of Egypt while it remained light in Goshen (Exodus 10:21-23). The darkness seemed to impact even their other light sources (lamps and torches). It is my opinion that the darkness during the three hours on the cross was the same darkness, a darkness of judgment. What judgment?

There are two reasons for this potential darkness.

1. Israel was coming under judgment for rejecting their King.
2. Jesus, the Son, was being judged as He took on Himself the sins of the whole world. It is a widely held thought that it was during these three hours that the Father could not face Jesus, who was becoming sin for us. It was during these three hours that the sin offering became complete and why Jesus said, “It is finished” (John 19:28-30).

The Significance of the Crucifixion

With everything we know about the significance of this event, I do find it odd that none of the Gospels mentions that Jesus died for sins. The closest indication of this being a sin payment is in Matthew 27:51. We know what this means, but the Gospels do not directly state the significance of the crucifixion.

Romans 3:24-25

Romans 5:8-10

1 Corinthians 15:3-4

2 Corinthians 5:21

Ephesians 1:7

Colossians 2:13-14

Hebrews 1:1-3

Hebrews 9:13-14

Hebrews 9:27-28

Hebrews 10:10, 19-22

1 Peter 2:24

1 Peter 3:18

1 John 2:2

1 John 3:5

1 John 4:9-10

Revelation 1:5