

2000 YEARS AGO IN JERUSALEM

I SHOWING UP

They were on their way up to Jerusalem with Jesus leading the way, and...he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. "We are going up to Jerusalem," he said, "and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise."

As they approached Jerusalem...Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here." When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Mark 10:32-34; 11:1,2,7-9

II THE CHIEF PRIESTS ON THIN ICE

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. "But not during the Feast," they said, "or there may be a riot among the people."

Matthew 26:3-5

III THE LAST SUPPER

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread and, after blessing it, broke it and said: "This is my body, which is for you. Do the same, to keep the memory of me." Just so with a cup, after finishing dinner: "This cup is the new bond, in my blood. Do the same, as you drink it, to keep my memory." After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me. It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon. "What you are about to do, do quickly," Jesus told him.

1 Corinthians 11:23-25 John 13:21,26,27

IV GETHSEMANE

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me." Going a little further, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Now Judas, who betrayed him, knew the place, because Jesus had often met there with his disciples. So Judas came to the grove, guiding a detachment of soldiers and some officials from the chief priests and Pharisees.

Matthew 26:36-39 John 18:2

V CRUCIFIXION, DEATH

The soldiers led Jesus into the palace and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, "Hail, king of the Jews!" Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. It was the third hour when they crucified him. At the ninth hour Jesus cried out "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" With a loud cry Jesus breathed his last.

It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the council who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the tomb.

Mark 15:16-20, 25, 34, 37, 42, 43, 46

VI LOSS, GRIEF, DESPAIR, FEAR, SHAME

(The Sabbath began at sundown and ended at sundown the next day, Saturday. Work or activity of any kind was forbidden. Nothing is written about the followers of Jesus during this time.)

VII FIRST LIGHT OF THE NEW WEEK

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

There was a violent earthquake, for an Angel of the Lord came down from Heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

They told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others.

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running...

Mark 16: 1-3 Matthew 28:2-8 Luke 24:9 John 20:3, 4

VIII I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:16-20