

# Church of God Sunday School

## THE CRUCIFIXION AND THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 26:1 — 28:15; Mark 14:1 — 16:11  
Luke 22:1 — 24:12; John 18:1 — 20:18

Why did Jesus leave Heaven and come to Earth? Jesus was the Son of God, and He came here for a very important reason! Do you know what that reason was?

Jesus knew His time on earth would soon be over. This is why He warned His disciples that "the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified." The chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people hated Jesus. They gathered together to discuss how they might falsely accuse Jesus and have Him put to death.

Jesus and His disciples went to the house of Simon the leper in Bethany. While Jesus was eating a meal there, a woman came to Him carrying an alabaster box. She broke open the box and poured the ointment that was inside over Jesus' head. (An alabaster box was a marble-like container used to store valuable ointments, oils, and perfumes.)

This upset the disciples! They thought it was wasteful. They said, "It might have been sold for more than three hundred pence [about a year's wages], and have been given to the poor." But Jesus told them to leave the woman alone; she had done a praiseworthy thing. He explained that they would always have the poor with them, but they would not always have Him. This woman had poured the ointment on Him to anoint His body for His burial.

After that, Judas Iscariot (*is-KAR-ee-uht*) went to the chief priests and asked them what they would give him if he would turn Jesus over to them. They agreed to give him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas looked for an opportunity to betray Jesus.

On the first day of the Passover feast, as they were eating, Jesus told the twelve disciples that one of them would betray Him. They were "exceedingly sorrowful" to hear that. They all asked, "Lord, is it I?" Jesus said, "He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me."

Then Judas asked, "Master, is it I?" and Jesus said, "Thou hast said." (Jesus knew of Judas' visit to the chief priests. He knew what was in Judas' heart.)

As they were eating, Jesus gave them the Lord's



Supper to keep. After singing a hymn, Jesus and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives. There Jesus said they would all be offended and desert Him that night. Peter firmly stated that he would *never* be offended! Jesus told Peter that he would indeed deny Him three times that very night, even before the "cock crow" (the third watch of the night; Mark 13:35). Peter and all the disciples declared they would never do such a thing.

When they came to the Garden of Gethsemane (*geth-SEM-uh-nee*), Jesus told most of the disciples to sit and wait for Him. He took Peter, James, and John with Him. Jesus began to be very sorrowful and heavy-hearted. He told the three disciples to watch and pray. Then Jesus went on a little farther to pray alone—but the disciples went to sleep!

When Jesus came back and found them sleeping, He said to Peter: "What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Jesus left to pray again, saying, "O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."

Jesus returned a second time and found the three disciples sleeping again! The third time Jesus returned to the disciples, He told them they needed to get up. The hour of His betrayal was at hand. The one who would betray Him was coming.

While Jesus was speaking, Judas Iscariot came with a great multitude from the chief priests and elders of the people. These people had swords and clubs. Judas went up to Jesus, saying, "Hail, master" (or "Greetings, Master"). Then Judas kissed Jesus. This was a signal to show the crowd which one was Jesus.

When the crowd took Jesus, Peter drew his sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. But Jesus told him to put away his sword. Jesus said that He could pray to His Father for more than twelve legions of angels, but if He did that, the Old Testament

prophets' writings would not come to pass. Soon after that, the disciples deserted Jesus. Only Peter followed from a distance when Jesus was led away to the high priest.

The chief priests and elders and all the council looked for false evidence against Jesus. Many false witnesses brought testimony, but they could not agree. Finally, two men came, saying Jesus had said that He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days. But even they could not get their stories straight.

Then the high priest asked Jesus, "Art thou the Christ?" Jesus said, "I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

Upon hearing that, the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He hath spoken blasphemy." When he asked, "What think ye?" the answer was, "He is guilty of death." Some spit on Jesus and slapped Him.

Meanwhile, Peter had followed Jesus to the palace of the high priest. While warming himself at the fire in the courtyard, Peter was recognized by a servant girl. When he went to the porch, another servant girl also recognized him. Both times Peter denied being Jesus' disciple. When Peter was asked a third time, he began to curse and swear, saying, "I know not the man." While he was speaking, Peter heard the sound of the cock crow. He remembered what Jesus had said. He went out and wept bitterly.

What happened to Judas, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus? When he realized that Jesus was going to die, he was very sorry! He took the money back to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us?" They did not care that Judas was sorry. They already had Jesus. There was nothing more Judas could do. He threw down the money in the

temple and went out and hanged himself.

In the morning, Jesus was taken to the governor, Pontius Pilate (*PON-chuhs PI-luht*). Pilate could find no fault in Jesus. But the chief priests had persuaded the people to ask Pilate to release a murderer named Barabbas (*buh-RAB-uhs*) and crucify Jesus. Pilate washed his hands before the people, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye to it." The Jews answered Pilate, "His blood be on us, and on our children."

So Barabbas was set free, and Jesus was to be crucified! After beating Jesus with a whip, the soldiers stripped Jesus, put a scarlet robe on Him, a crown of thorns on His head, and a reed in His hand. They made fun of Him, bowing and saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on Him. They hit Him on the head with the reed, again and again.

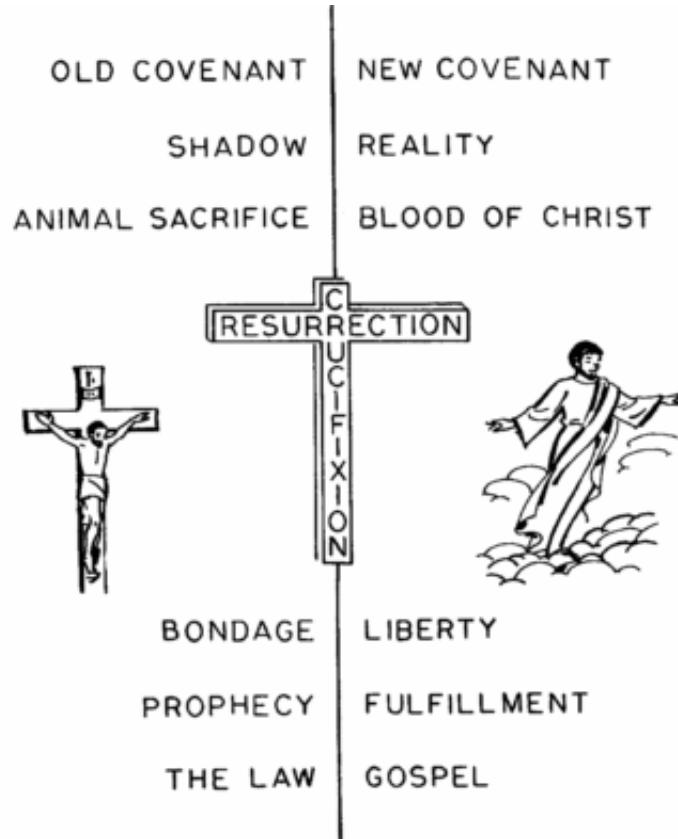
Finally, they took the robe off Jesus, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. Jesus had been treated so badly that He could not carry His own cross, so a Cyrenian man named Simon was made to carry it for Him.

At Calvary, or Golgotha (*GOL-guh-thuh*), the soldiers cast lots for Christ's clothing, as foretold in the Scriptures (Psalm 22:18). A sign was placed over Jesus' head that read, "**THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.**"

Two thieves were also crucified that day—one on each side of Jesus. One of the thieves mocked Jesus, but the other said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus answered, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Darkness covered the earth from the sixth hour to the ninth hour. Then Jesus cried with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?" Jesus cried out once more, and then He died.

Immediately, the veil that hung in the door to the holy of holies was torn from the top to the bottom, and there was a great earthquake! A centurion and others with him



said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

Joseph of Arimathaea (*air-uh-muh-THEE-uh*), a secret disciple of Jesus, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. He wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb. He rolled a large stone in front of the door of the tomb.

Soldiers were sent to guard Jesus' tomb because the Pharisees and the chief priests were afraid the disciples would come and steal Jesus' body. (Later, when the chief priests heard that Jesus had resurrected, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money to lie, saying that the disciples had stolen His body.)

In the early morning of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene (*MAG-duh-leen*) and Mary, the mother of James and Joses, came to the tomb. There was another great earthquake. An angel, with a face as bright as lightning and clothes as white as snow, was at the tomb. He rolled the stone away from the door of the tomb and sat on it! The soldiers guarding the tomb were so scared that they shook and then "became as dead men."

The angel said to the women: "Fear not ye: for I

know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said." As the women ran to tell the disciples, Jesus met them. They worshiped Him. Jesus told them to not be afraid and to tell the disciples that they could see Him in Galilee.

What joy the followers of Jesus must have felt that day! For three days and three nights, Jesus had been dead. But now He was alive! He had risen from the dead, and His grave was empty!

Why did Jesus have to die? It was so that we can be saved from our sins and have His Spirit live in our hearts. We should have died for our sins, but Jesus took our place. To accept this wonderful gift of salvation, we need to tell God we are sorry for our sins and ask Him to come and live in our hearts.

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**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." —Matthew 28:6*  
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