

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Eleven

THE CRUCIFIXION AND DEATH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1)

Scripture reading: Mark 15:25; Matt. 27:34-44; Luke 23:32-43

Burden to Impart:

The crucifixion and death of the Lord Jesus were by no means an accidental tragedy. This was a very crucial step in God's plan which was foreknown and foreordained in eternity past according to God's determined counsel (Acts 2:23; 1 Pet. 1:20; Rev. 13:8).

Although God foresaw that man would sin against Him, rebel, and forsake Him, His love and purpose for man remained unchanged. He would provide a way for man to be forgiven and cleansed of his sin and be able to receive the divine life. However, because of God's righteousness, there could be no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood. God Himself would pay the great price for man's redemption. God Himself, in the person of the Son, would provide His own sinless and holy blood in order to become the substitute and sacrifice for man.

Memory Verse: "Who Himself carried up our sins in His body onto the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

Facts to Teach:

1. The Lord's sufferings on the cross can be divided into two periods of three hours each. In this lesson we will see the sufferings of our Lord and the events that took place from unrighteous and wicked men during the first three hours. In the next lesson we will look at His sufferings on the cross during the last three hours.
2. According to the Old Testament prophets, the coming Savior would come the first time to die for the sins of God's people and would come the second time in power and glory to bring in His kingdom. The Jews had no understanding regarding their Messiah's first coming, which would be to suffer and to die for redemption.
3. According to the Jewish way of execution, criminals were stoned to death. This was a quick death. Jesus, however, died according to the Roman way of execution, a shameful, painful, and cruel way in which the hands and feet were nailed to a cross. Thus was fulfilled the prophecy that His hands and feet would be pierced (Psa. 22:16).
4. At the third hour (9 a.m.) Jesus was crucified on a hill called Golgotha, or Calvary (Mark 15:22; Matt. 27:33, note 331).
5. The soldiers offered Him wine mingled with gall but He would not drink it. This would have drugged Him and reduced His pain and suffering.
6. He was crucified between two criminals, for He was counted by the people to also be a criminal. This fulfilled the Scriptures in Isaiah 53:12.
7. The soldiers took away His clothes and cast lots for His garments (John 19:23-24), again fulfilling the Scriptures (Psalm 22:18).
8. He was mocked by the people who passed by, the chief priests, and also the two criminals who were crucified with Him. They told Him, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" "He saved others, Himself He cannot save!" "He is King of Israel, let Him come down now from the cross and we will believe on Him" (Matt. 27:39-44).
9. He did not get angry with them or curse them. He only prayed to God that their sins would be forgiven, for they did not know what they were doing (Luke 23:34). If He had come down, the Lord Jesus would have had no way to save them or us.