

The Passion of Christ

This study attempts to follow the path of Jesus from the last supper in the upper room all the way to the cross at Calvary. It's important to note that it is not possible for anybody however learned or experienced, to know in totality or absolutely all that our Lord Jesus endured during His sufferings. In addition, it is significantly far beyond my capabilities to adequately illustrate to you and capture the raw emotions and sensations that Jesus endured for the sake of His chosen people. The Holy Spirit must give us the revelation, and enlighten our understanding in order for us to gaze into the past and witness The Passion of Christ (to suffer sadly Acts 1:3)

Who Is This Man Called Jesus:

The answer is found in the following scriptures;

Colossians 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased [the Father that] in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

Revelation 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, [the] Beginning and [the] End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The Practical Word Studies in the New Testament states that Jesus Christ is the Almighty. He is the One who controls all things and rules over all things in the whole universe. This means that Jesus Christ possesses all power: He is omnipotent able to do anything. He controls everything: the universe and every being within the universe. He controls the atoms, protons, neutrons, and electrons of space and matter. He even controls every circumstance, event, and happening throughout the universe.

Before we go any further in our study, let us stop for one moment and consider the following attributes of Jesus Christ, the one who gave Himself for us, unworthy man.

- The Majesty of Christ (He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords)
- The Preeminence of Christ (exceedingly above all/He that cometh from above is above all John 3:31)
- The Supremacy of Christ (highest in authority or rank)
- The Incomparability of Christ (beyond or above comparison/unequaled and matchless)
- The Authority of Christ (all authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to Him)

When we speak of His sufferings, let's make sure we affix all of His sufferings to the person of Jesus with all His attributes attached to his pain and agony.

The Willingness of Christ to Suffer for the Redemption of Man:

In addition to understanding the significance of who Jesus is as it relates to His ultimate sacrifice and humility, we must also realize the He did all out of willful obedience to the Fathers will. There was absolutely no reluctance in His heart to execute the Fathers plan of redeeming mankind unto Himself. Jesus only a hardened desire to do the will of the Father.

Hebrews 10:4-9 For [it is] not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. 6 In burnt offerings and [sacrifices] for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--**To do Your will, O God.**' 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and [offerings] for sin You did not desire, nor had pleasure [in them]" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "**Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God.**" He takes away the first that He may establish the second. (Ref to Psalms 40:6-8)

John 12:27 But for this purpose I came to this hour.

John 18:37 To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world,....

The one and only desire of our Lord Jesus Christ was to do the will of the Father thus bringing Glory to the Name of God. Jesus stressed time and time again that he only came to do the will of the Father

John 4:34 Jesus said ..., My food is to **do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.**

John 5:30 I can of Myself do nothing.**I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.**

John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.**

The Beginning of His Sorrows:

Jesus states in various verses in the Gospel of John that "His Hour", the sole reason why He came to earth, the time of His suffering, the events that proceeded His crucifixion, burial and resurrection has not come yet at those particular times in His life.

John 2:4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? *mine hour is not yet come.*

John 7:6 ...Jesus said unto them, *My time is not yet come:* but your time is always ready.

John 7:30 Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his *hour was not yet come.*

John 8:20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for *his hour was not yet come.*

However, Jesus was alluding to the fact that there was a set time for His purpose to be fulfilled. His Hour, as stated by Jesus has now come upon Him. The beginning of His sorrows or the commencement of His hour has begun. The first recorded expression of Christ's distress appears for us in **John 12:23** when Jesus says "*The hour is come*, that the Son of man should be glorified". In the very next verse (v.24) Jesus says to his disciples "*unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain*".

It's also recorded for us in John 13:1 that ...Jesus knew that *His hour had come* that He should depart from this world to the Father...

At this moment, the stress, the anguish, the torment, the agony, and the utter sorrow of having to be separated from God the Father on behalf of man has to come upon Him thus He says in the following:

John 12:27 Now *My soul is troubled*, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour.

This utterance occurred less than a week before His crucifixion because it says in;

John 12:1-3 "*...six days before the Passover*, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil".

Matthew 26:2, 6-7 You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified. 6 And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, 7 a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured [it] on His head as He sat [at the table].

And remember Jesus was crucified on the preparation day of Passover which is the day before the Passover as indicated in the Book of John:

John 19:14-17 *Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover*, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" 15 But they cried out, "Away with [Him], away with [Him]! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" 16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led [Him] away. 17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called [the Place] of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

So in essence, the beginning of the agony of Christ began a couple of days before anyone ever put a hand on Him. The account the Scriptures give us shows it started the day before what we now call Palm Sunday;

John 12:12-13 The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, 13 took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed [is] He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!"

In The Garden of Gethsemane:

After the Last Supper and the washing of the disciples feet, Jesus and His disciples proceeded to the Garden of Gethsemane where the anguish of Jesus was greatly intensified. It's important to note that our Lord was even distracted by the unmitigated intensity of His anguish.

Matthew 26:36-38 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." 37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be *sorrowful and deeply distressed*. 38 Then He said to them, "*My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death*. Stay here and watch with Me."

Mark 14:32-34 Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 *And He took Peter, James, and John with Him*, and He began to be *troubled and deeply distressed*. 34 Then He said to them, "*My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, [even] to death*. Stay here and watch."

Luke 22:41-44 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." 43 Then *an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him*. 44 And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then *His sweat became like great drops of blood* falling down to the ground.

The expressions that the Gospel writers uses "exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death, deeply distressed, troubled, being in agony" illustrate for us the magnitude and the depth of Jesus' anguish in the garden even before His crucifixion. The grief of our Lord was most extraordinary

in nature and character which leads us to the prophetic sayings of *Lamentations 1:12* "...behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me..."

The disclosure by Luke that Jesus sweat "great drops of blood" reveals to us the extreme intensity his anguish. The medically documented very rare phenomenon of sweating blood (Hematidrosis) occurs when a person comes under exceedingly great emotional stress. The tiny capillaries in the sweat glands break under intense pressure mixing blood with sweat.

This writer is of the opinion that Jesus lamented not for the impending and unavoidable physical pain and suffering he was about to go through. No, I believe that His agony stemmed from the fact that He is now going to assume his role of being the once and for all sacrifice for sin. In other words, Jesus knew that He was on the verge of *becoming* sin.

2nd Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Isaiah 53:6 ... and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

At this hour, Jesus was looked upon by the Father and treated as sinful man. Not just any sinful man like you and I, the weight and the full burden of the sin for all mankind was upon His shoulders. For the first time from the beginning, Jesus would experience separation from the Father and would become the very thing that the Father abhors and refuses to be in the presence of and He was going to be treated as such. He knew He would experience total abandonment by the Father and I think that this fact was a major contributor in causing our Savior to feel great and exceeding distress "even to death". One could only come to the conclusion that it was absolutely necessary for the angel to come and restore the strength of Jesus in order for Him to finish the work He came to do because Jesus was on the brink of death according to his own account as recorded for us in Luke.

His Arrest in the Garden:

John 18:12 Then the detachment [of troops] and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him.

Matthew 26:47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Mark 14:43 And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

The Beatings:

At this point in the progression of His passion, Jesus states in *Luke 22:53* "When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. *But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.*" This moment in time was to be the finest hour for Satan and the power of darkness

for the Son of the Most High God was now in their clutches. The crown jewel of the Kingdom Heaven was captured, the One who is most dear to the Heavenly Father now is in the mist of the unmitigated brutality, viciousness, cruelty, and the inhumanity of our enemy. Soon all the malicious venom of the Enemy will be sunk deep into our Savior with murderous intent.

Matthew 26:67-68 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck [Him] with the palms of their hands, 68 saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

Mark 14:65 Then some began to spit on Him, and to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, and to say to Him, "Prophecy!" And the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands.

Luke 22:63-64 Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. 64 And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, "Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?"

Isaiah 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck [Me], And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

It shouldn't be hard for us to imagine the agitated frenzy instigated by Satan which induced the mob into the apex of human cruelty and brutality. All of the powers of darkness must have been summoned to this event, and invited to participate in the ferocious and savage beating that Jesus endured.

Visualize with me, as the savage burly Roman soldiers took turns punching Jesus with all their might, while he was blindfolded unable to tense up in an attempt to buffer the powerful blows. Imagine His face swollen beyond human likeness, bruised and battered by the multitude of blows thrown with the most evil intentions. Look and see as his beard was being ripped out it their follicles one fistful at a time. Imagine if you will the disfigured face of Jesus coated with layers of thick slimy discharges of mucus and spit hurled from deep within the bowels of the frenzied mob dripping from His face. This scene is nothing less than humiliating, degrading and shameful.

The Scourging:

The practice of scourging generally took place as a preliminary punishment prior to every Roman execution. In most cases, a short whip called a flagrum or flagellum was used as the instrument to carry out the sentence. The whip or flagrum consisted of several single or braided leather straps in which small balls of iron and sharp pieces of bone were tied into the straps.

The condemned man was stripped of his clothing with his hands tied to an upright post. His back, buttocks and legs were then beaten by, in most instances two soldiers on either side of the condemned. The severity of the flogging usually depended on the temperament of the Roman soldiers carrying out the punishment. However, we can be certain that the scourging of Jesus

was particularly cruel and undiluted with even the slightest trace of compassion or sympathy with the intent on bringing Jesus to the entrance of death.

John 19:1 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged [Him].

Matthew 27:26 Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered [Him] to be crucified.

Mark 15:15 So Pilate, wanting to gratify the crowd, released Barabbas to them; and he delivered Jesus, after he had scourged [Him], to be crucified

The Bible is nondescript regarding the occurrences of the scourging of Jesus. The Scriptures only state as a matter of fact that He was scourged. With today's knowledge of ancient crucifixion practices and the human anatomy, it's not difficult for us to re-enact the wounds inflicted upon Jesus during this most brutal attack.

A study by the Mayo Clinic writes "As the Roman soldiers repeatedly struck the victim's back with full force, the iron balls would cause deep contusions, and the leather thongs and sheep bones would cut into the skin and Subcutaneous tissues. Then as the flogging continued, the lacerations would tear into the underlying skeletal muscles and produce quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh. Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock. The extent of the blood loss may well have determined how long the victim would survive on the cross.

The severe scourging, with its intense pain and appreciable blood loss, most probably left Jesus in a pre-shock state. Moreover, hematidrosis had rendered his skin particularly tender. The physical and mental abuse meted out by the Jews and the Romans, as well as the lack of food, water, and sleep, also contributed to his generally weakened state. Therefore, even before the actual crucifixion, Jesus' physical condition was at least serious and possibly critical".

The Crown of Thorns:

One would think that after such a horrific scourging, the suffering of Jesus would have come to its climax. However, the dreadful ordeal of Jesus continues with the crown of thorns and the scarlet robe. The thirst for the blood of our Savior persist, and the need to inflict greater cruelty does not diminish as revealed by the fashioning of branches into a crown covered by one to two inch long thorns and then placed upon the head of Jesus and beaten deep into His skull.

John 19:2-3 And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put [it] on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. 3 Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.

Matthew 27:27-29 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. 28 And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29 When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put [it] on His head, and a reed in His right hand.

And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews! 30 Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

Mark 15:16-19 Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. 17 And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His [head], 18 and began to salute Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 19 Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him.

The scalp is one the most vascular parts of our anatomy. As a result of the thorns that were driven (by the numerous blows of the reed) as deep as they could possibly reach, copious amounts of blood streamed from Jesus' head. In addition, the placing of the scarlet robe upon Jesus appears to be uninteresting at first glance. However, we must consider that the robe adhered itself to the open wounds caused by the scourging as the blood clotted. The result of the soldiers ripping the robe off is likened to someone unsympathetically ripping off a bandaged wound causing agonizing pain. The wounds of Jesus would have been opened a new, and the piercing, throbbing pain would be revived to the original sting cause by the scourging.

In spite of all the pain and torment inflicted upon Jesus leading to this point, the appetite for more is still not quenched. The soldiers referenced in this setting represents a whole garrison, roughly about 500 in number. We have to consider that the majority of them in one form or another participated in either the punching the head of Jesus, the spitting on Jesus, the pulling out His beard, or the beating Him with the reed. It was just an absolutely chaotic and frenzied display of the viciousness of mankind.

The Cross:

The word excruciate means to cause great agony, torment acutely, torture in body or mind. The originates from two Latin words "ex", meaning out of or from, and "cruciate", meaning cross. As a result, the word excruciate means "from or out of, the cross". The meaning of this word was applied absolutely when Jesus was crucified on the cross at Mount Calvary.

John 19:16-18 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led [Him] away. 17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called [the Place] of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, 18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

Matthew 27:31 And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His [own] clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.

Mark 15:20 And when they had mocked Him, they took the purple off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

Luke 23:33 And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.

Upon being thrown down to the ground which probably reopened and aggravated the wounds from the scourging, the Roman soldiers proceeded to nail thick iron spikes into the wrist of Jesus causing great agonizing bolts of pain shooting through the body and detonating inside His brain. A common misconception is that the nails were driven through the palms of Jesus. However, the palms of the hand could not sustain the hanging weight of a man, thus would tear away at the injury. The Bible is accurate when it's written the nails were driven through His hands because the ancients considered the wrist as part of the hand. His feet were nailed to the cross in similar fashion also stimulating and/or severing nerves causing lightning rods of pain to pass through His entire essence. At this point, Jesus is now crucified.

Dr. C. Truman Davis wrote in his study " A Physician Testifies About the Crucifixion" "As He slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrist excruciating pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain--the nails in the wrist are putting pressure on the median nerves. As he pushes Himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, He places His full weight on the nail through His feet. Again there is the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the metatarsal bones of the feet.

At this point, as the arms fatigue, great waves of cramps sweep over the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push Himself upward. Hanging by His arms, the pectoral muscles are paralyzed and the intercostal muscles are unable to act. Air can be drawn into the lungs, but cannot be exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself in order to get even one short breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically, He is able to push Himself upward to exhale and bring in the life giving oxygen".

Keep in mind that in addition to Jesus having to pull upward for His every breath against His nailed driven hands and feet, He also was scraping His back against the rugged wood of the cross in the process which added to His excruciating pain.

In summary, each wound that Jesus received was determined to deliver enormous torment with the cruelest of intent. As a result, the contributors of the official cause of death were various.

His Appearance After His Passion:

Isaiah 52:14 (NIV) Just as there were many who were appalled at him his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness

His Thoughts & Feelings Regarding His Sufferings:

Psalms 22:14-15 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

Isaiah 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck [Me], And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Lamentations 1:12 ... Behold and see If there is any sorrow like my sorrow, Which has been brought on me, Which the LORD has inflicted In the day of His fierce anger.

Why Did Christ Suffer So Exceedingly:

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NIV) But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. 6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all. (NLT)

In Summary:

Romans 8:31-32 What then shall we say to these things? If God [is] for us, who [can be] against us? 32 He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

WHAT MORE DOES HE HAVE TO DO TO GET US TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL OUR HEART, WITH ALL OUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH.

GOD BLESS!!