

The Passion of the King - 3Leader's Notes1. THE DEATH OF THE KING Matthew 27:45-66

As we read through the story of the death of Jesus we see it was not the death of an ordinary man.



What amazing events took place as Jesus hung on the cross?
What do you think is the significance of these events?

- a.) V45 Darkness came over the land from the 6th hour to the 9th hour.
The 6th to the 9th hour was from midday until 3 o'clock when Jesus died. It was just like the darkness of sin that Jesus carried on the cross.
- b.) V50 Jesus gave up His spirit.
At 3.00pm Jesus shouted, "It is finished," and then died. This was a shout of triumph as the work on the cross had been completed. None of us can choose the moment when we die, but Jesus did.
- c.) V51 The curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.
This was the veil separating the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. The High Priest could only enter this place once a year when he atoned for the sin of the people. This signified that Jesus had taken our sin and the way was now open for men to come to God through His blood.
- d.) V51 The earth shook and the rocks split.
This was like a demonstration of God's mighty power and His judgement on sin.
- e.) V52 The tombs broke open and holy people were raised to life.
This was a demonstration of what Jesus' death had done. The power of death was broken and we will all be raised to life one day.

The Roman Centurion and the other guards had been at the scene that day. What was their response to these amazing things?

V54 They were terrified and exclaimed, "Surely He was the Son of God."

2. THE RESURRECTION OF THE KING Matthew 28:1-20

If Jesus had remained in the tomb His death could not have saved us. What evidence is there in this story to prove that Jesus did rise from the dead?
(Imagine you are an inspector or special agent investigating the case.)

- Joseph could testify that Jesus was really buried and that a huge stone had been rolled in front of the tomb.
- Mary Magdalene and the other Mary had seen what Joseph had done, so there were 3 witnesses to prove that Jesus really had been buried.
- The guards put a seal on the tomb and had been on duty guarding it. No one could have stolen the body.
- The stone was found rolled back.
- The guards were so afraid they had fled. Obviously something unusual had happened.
- The women found the stone rolled back and an angel sitting on it. They could not have pushed the stone back themselves.
- The women met Jesus and later the disciples did too. 1 Corinthians 15 says that He appeared to 500 men at one time.
- The Chief Priests had to bribe the guards not to say anything.



What does the resurrection of Jesus mean in our lives?

- It proves that Jesus really is the Messiah, the Son of God.
- It means Jesus was a sinless man and death had no power over Him.
- It means His death can save us.
- It means that we too will receive a resurrection body.

What is that command?

V19 “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

What is the promise?

V18 “All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me.”

V20 “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Let’s obey His command. When the gospel has been preached to all nations the end of the age will come. This is the time when our King will return, we will receive our new resurrection bodies, and His Kingdom will be established forever. Amen!