

DEAD BUT STILL FULFILLING SCRIPTURE PROPHECIES

John 19:31-37; Zechariah 13:1; Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 22:16

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus has died on the cross, much in advance of the normal time it takes to die in such a manner and it was the Roman custom to leave the bodies of the crucified on their crosses till they began to decay. However according to Mosiac law, "*...If thou hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day...*" (Deuteronomy 21:22-23) therefore in keeping with their laws, the Jewish priests went to Pilate and requested that the three men on the crosses have their legs broken in order to hurry up their deaths to prevent ceremonial law violation. Pilate gave permission to do so, but when the soldiers came to Jesus to break His legs, they didn't.

I. SCRIPTURE WAS FULFILLED WHEN JESUS' LEGS WERE NOT BROKEN

1. Scripture prophecy stated that "*...not a bone of Him must be broken, and He must be pierced...*"
 - Every prophecy that went before Jesus Christ had to be fulfilled and up to this moment, every prophecy had been fulfilled exactly as prophesied.
2. The Savior's bones must not be broken AND He must be pierced for Jesus was the Passover Lamb and it was very clearly detailed that not a bone of the Passover lamb would be broken, therefore not a bone of Jesus was to be broken.
 - At the same time the Lord must be pierced, not only with the nails but where the piercing would be visible (*Zachariah 12:10*)
 - Only God could have brought to pass the fulfillment of these prophecies for it would be impossible for any human being to work out the details involved.
 - There are prophecies about Jesus from His birth to His tomb and yet they have been carried out exactly to the very letter.
3. Not breaking His legs seemed very unlikely for Roman soldiers obeyed every order given to them.
 - The soldiers broke the legs of the two on either side of Jesus but why not Jesus' legs?
 - In what order did they break the legs? Reason would dictate that they would go in order, starting with one, then the one in the middle, then the one on the other side.
 - The marvel is that they did not follow their normal procedure but skipped the Lord Jesus and for some reason saved Him to be last.
 - The order was given, two of the three have their legs broken, yet no soldier broke a bone of Jesus for they saw that He was already dead.
 - The soldiers knew nothing of biblical prophecy, why did they fulfill the prophecy?
 - God said that the Lord's bones should remain unbroken, yet that He would be pierced.
4. The prophecies had to be fulfilled.
 - If the bones of Jesus had been broken, then Jesus could not have been "the Lamb of God."
 - The first Passover in Egypt commanded no broken bones of the lambs that were killed.
 - In the Exodus of Israel, no bones were to be broken when lambs were offered.
 - Jesus Christ is the believer's Passover Lamb, therefore no bone could be broken.

- God's Word must be always true, for if a single word should fail, then all others might also fail and if any part of the Scripture be untrue, then all of it may be untrue.
 - It is absolutely necessary that God's Word always be true.
5. The prophecy was fulfilled completely and in a natural way.
- The soldiers did their duty, no angel came down, no vision was seen, no voice was heard, the soldiers did their duty as ordered yet at the same time fulfilling the prophecies of God.
 - God's prophecies in no way interferes with the duties and responsibilities of people.
 - As free agents, the soldiers performed the very things written in the Prophets concerning Christ.

II. WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS AFTER HE DIED STRENGTHENED HIS BEING THE MESSIAH

1. If Jesus was who and what He said He was, the Lamb of God, then He had to be dealt with God's way.
 - Kill the lamb, sprinkle its blood, but do not break its bones, divide it among yourselves and eat it.
 - God is saying: *"...There is My Son, bind Him, scourge Him, spit on Him, crucify Him, but He is the Lamb of My Passover, and you must not break a bone of Him..."*
 - As the Lamb of God, Jesus takes away the sin of the world.
2. The Lamb of God should be pierced by Israel.
 - *"...They shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him..."*
 - Jesus told Thomas to *"...Reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side, and be not faithless, but believing..."*
 - Pierced Jesus must be, for His wounds are the marks and tokens of His being the real Christ.
3. When Jesus' side was pierced *"...forthwith came there out blood and water..."*
 - *"...In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness..."*
 - When the soldier thrust his spear into the side of Jesus, *"...forthwith came there out blood and water..."*
4. The purification of sin was done by blood and water.
 - There is no remission of sin without blood and water is used to cleanse before sacrificing and the victim must be washed with water. Thus blood and water were the two elements necessary to have sins "washed" away.

III. WHAT THE CHURCH IS TO SEE FROM THIS

1. The Church is to see what Jesus Christ is to it (us) today.
 - Jesus is the Paschal Lamb, not a bone was broken.
 - We are to believe it, act upon our belief by "feeding" upon Jesus Christ, for His shed blood has brought us safety and He has become our food, relieving our spiritual hunger.
2. The Church is to see what people do to Jesus Christ.
 - They spit on Him, cried "Crucify Him, Crucify Him, nailed Him to a cross, mocked Him when He was in pain and agony, and the pierce Him through to His heart.

3. The Church is see what Jesus did for all mankind.
 - Jesus bled, drop by drop, bloody sweat for the sins of mankind.
 - Jesus' body has gone on to Heaven, but His blood and water are still here to bring cleansing and remission of sins.

CONCLUSION:

1. Believers in Jesus are safe and should look forward to that day when Jesus shall gather all believers (His Saints) into one body and none will be missing.
2. Here at the cross is found salvation for sinners.
 - Jesus' side was pierced to give sinners cure for sin and removal of its power.
3. Jesus came not only to save sinners, but to seek them and His death not only saves those who believe but creates faith in those who don't yet believe.
4. Look at the cross and feel what Jesus can do for you.
5. All who are guilty, come and trust the Son of God who died for you.
 - There is life in a look at the Crucified One, Jesus.