

H O U S E o f W I S D O M

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John 19 - Part I

Behold the Man

Read John 19:1-16

It is about 6:00 am on preparation day for Passover (Jn 19:14), and Pilate makes a last effort to save Jesus, whom he knows is innocent.

1. What alarmed Pilate & caused him to ask Jesus where he came from? Jn 19:7-9

1a. What ultimately convinced Pilate to allow Jesus to be crucified? Jn 19:12-16

Jesus did not answer Pilate's initial question of where Jesus came from; Pilate said to Jesus: *know you not that I have the authority to crucify you or release you?* Jesus gave him a two part answer, Jn 19:11.

2. Why do you think Jesus did not answer Pilate's question about where he was from? Jn 18:36

{If his kingdom was not of this world, neither was he from this world, Jn 3:13. Also Pilate, like the Jews, likely took the kingdom to be only a physical one, and would not have understood a spiritual kingdom.}

2a. What is implied by, *you could have no authority at all...except it were given you from above?*
{God appoints/allows wicked as well as the righteous to rule to suit His purposes. Cf Jer 27:6}

2b. How do those that delivered Jesus have the greater sin?

{Pilate was a Pagan & did not know God. He sinned because went against his conscience, by giving in to the Jews & delivering an innocent man to be tortured & crucified. Judas, Caiaphas & other Jews knew about God & delivered Jesus out of envy & malice. They took advantage of Pilate's position, authority and ignorance about God.}

Read Matthew 27:27-31

By the action of the soldiers in the treatment of Jesus, they indicated they had no relationship to God. What they did outward is indicative of the thinking that formed their character. Mt 7:1-2

3. What do the thorns & scarlet robe indicate about them metaphorically? Jn 19:5 Behold the man!

{thorns: Mt 13:22; Eze 2:6; Isa 55:13: care is for the world, it pleasures, etc. This was the curse on Adam, Gen 3:18; also on Israel when they did not drive out all the inhabitants of the promised land, Num 33:55; Josh 16:10; deceitfulness of riches is living according to our own understanding of God & what we think is right for self.
scarlet/purple robe: Generally, color represents thought, understanding, Isa 1:18; Rv 19:8. These particular colors indicate a king, ruler. Rv 17:1-6: Babylon, mother of harlots, confused thinking about God; those who make themselves kings of the earth, instead of letting Christ rule in their thinking, Rv 1:6; 5:10. Note: The thorns, and other things about Christ's outward appearance will be discussed in more detail when the cross is covered.}

Read John 19:14, 31, 42; cf Jn 7:37; Lk 23:54, 56; Lv 23:3, 36 (extra Ex 16:19-25; 20:8-11; Dt 5:12-15)

4. What day of the week was the preparation day and why was it a "high" or "great" day?

{Confusion among scholars has to do with understanding the difference between sabbaths of the feast days & the 7th-day Sabbath. The day at the beginning & ending of Passover were sabbaths (literally = rest days). No work was to be done, EXCEPT food preparation, Ex 12:16. Never was the killing of the lamb, etc. ever called a "preparation day." On the 7th-day Sabbath, however, even food preparation was not allowed, but prepared the day before, see Ex 16:19-25. Additionally, it was called a Sabbath^{h7676} of rest^{h7677}, Ex 31:15. Sabbath^{h7676} is a Hebrew word meaning "rest" which is in the "intensive form." According to Gesenius, pg 804, Col B, under 7677, this is indicative of a "great day." So the 7th-day Sabbath was considered a great (high) day, which John indicated in Jn 19:31. So the preparation day was on what we call today as Friday, & that year the beginning of the Passover week occurred on the 7th-day Sabbath. Jesus died on 6th day, lay in the grave over the Sabbath, & was resurrected on the first day of the week. Reckoning must be the Hebrew day - sunset to sunset.

Note: Three days/nights: Mt 12:40; Lk 11:30. No where are the three days & nights applied to the cross. The statement of Jesus about the sign is in the future tense, so many assume it applies only to the cross. Look at what Jesus said metaphorically: The earth is a symbol for the mind, Mt 13:3, 18-19, 23; Christ is in you when you receive the word of the kingdom, as he is the truth, Jn 14:6. When Jesus was dedicated at the temple, Simeon gave a prophecy about Jesus: Luke 2:30-35: *30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, 31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; 32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. 33 And Joseph and his mother marveled at those things which were spoken of him. 34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; 35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.* (Cf Mt 21:43; Jn 10:16) Two ideas come to mind about the sign that Jesus was in the heart of the earth: 1) the three years of his ministry as the Son of man; 2) the sign began at Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out. See Acts 2:14-21, where Peter quotes Joel about the signs. While the disciples' understanding was opened a few days before Pentecost, Lk 24:44-45, it was on Pentecost they began to boldly speak the gospel to the people & thousands were baptized. Then Peter was given a vision that the Gentiles should be included; and a short while later, Saul is called, and becomes Paul, a minister to the Gentiles. This was the sign to the Jews that Jesus was their expected Messiah - Isa 42:1-9; 60:1-5.}