

¹⁶ 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. 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.

²¹ Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross. ²² And they brought Him to the place Golgotha, which is translated, Place of a Skull. ²³ Then they gave Him wine mingled with myrrh to drink, but He did not take *it*. ²⁴ And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them *to determine* what every man should take.

²⁵ Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him. ²⁶ And the inscription of His accusation was written above:

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷ With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. ²⁸ So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."

²⁹ And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! *You* who destroy the temple and build *it* in three days, ³⁰ save Yourself, and come down from the cross!"

³¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. ³² Let the Christ, the King of Israel, descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe."

Even those who were crucified with Him reviled Him.

³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

³⁵ Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" ³⁶ Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down."

³⁷ And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, ⁴¹ who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem.

⁴² Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

⁶ But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷ But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.”

⁸ So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Introduction

Last week we finished our studies in Mark Chapter 14: v. 42.

Before we engage with the passage that I read to you, we need to be aware of what happened from Mark Chapter 14: v. 43 until Chapter 15: v.15.

After Jesus had completed his three difficult sessions of prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, he was betrayed by Judas, one of the disciples.

Jesus was arrested by a large band of people, comprising of chief priests, scribes and elders.

They arrived with swords and wooden weapons.

One of the disciples tried to resist the arrest of Jesus and drew his sword and cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest.

After Jesus challenged the arresting crowd, all the disciples ran away and were no longer there to support Jesus.

One of the disciples, probably Mark, was determined to follow Jesus, but when an attempt was made to arrest him, he managed to escape, but had to flee naked, leaving his clothes behind.

Jesus was led away to **face a Jewish legal court.**

Somehow Peter managed to follow at a distance.

He was able to mingle with the servants, undetected.

The chief priests and all the legal Jewish Council sought witnesses in order to pronounce a death sentence upon Jesus.

However even the testimonies of the false witnesses didn't agree.

The High Priest asked Jesus if he was the “Christ”, the Jewish Messiah?

Jesus answered “I am”.

Mark 14:62

⁶² Jesus said, “I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.”

This statement by Jesus was enough to convince the high priest that Jesus was guilty of **“Blasphemy”.**

Everybody agreed with the high priest and then Jesus was abused by them.

Peter was below in the courtyard and denied knowing Jesus, 3 times.

After a rooster/ or cock crowed twice Peter remembered the words of Jesus that foretold about this very situation.

Peter was very upset and he cried.

In the morning Jesus was tied up and handed over to the Roman leader, called Pilate.

Pilate asked Jesus if he was the King of the Jews, and Jesus replied, “It is as you say”.

Although the Chief Priests made many allegations against Jesus, he did not reply to their lies.

Pilate was hoping that he could use a custom of releasing one prisoner at the Jewish Passover.

We are told in v. 10 that Pilate knew that the chief priests were only envious of Jesus and his popularity.

Although Pilate offered to release Jesus, the chief priests stirred up the crowd, and persuaded them to have a **hardened criminal called Barabbas released.**

So Jesus was then led away to be crucified.

We are now up to date with Mark’s account and can move forward into our reading today.

I will divide the passage into three clear sections.

1. The Killing of the King – Chapter 15: v. 16-41.
2. The Burial of the King - Chapter 15: v. 42-47.
3. The Resurrection of the King – Chapter 16: v. 1-8.

1. The Killing of the King – Chapter 15: v. 16-41.

This section of Mark's gospel represents both the fulfilment of Old Testament scripture and the fulfilment of what Mark has recorded about the words of Jesus in his writing so far.

Isaiah 53 in the N.L.T.

Who has believed our message?

To whom has the LORD revealed his powerful arm?

² My servant grew up in the LORD's presence like a tender green shoot,
like a root in dry ground.

There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance,
nothing to attract us to him.

³ He was despised and rejected—
a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.

He was despised, and we did not care.

⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried;
it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,
a punishment for his own sins!

⁵ 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.

⁷ He was oppressed and treated harshly,
yet he never said a word.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.

And as a sheep is silent before the shearers,
he did not open his mouth.

⁸ Unjustly condemned,
he was led away.

No one cared that he died without descendants,
that his life was cut short in midstream.

But he was struck down
for the rebellion of my people.

⁹ He had done no wrong
and had never deceived anyone.

But he was buried like a criminal;
he was put in a rich man's grave.

¹⁰ But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him
and cause him grief.

Yet when his life is made an offering for sin,
he will have many descendants.

He will enjoy a long life,
and the LORD's good plan will prosper in his hands.

¹¹ When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish,
he will be satisfied.

And because of his experience,
my righteous servant will make it possible
for many to be counted righteous,
for he will bear all their sins.

¹² I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier,
because he exposed himself to death.
He was counted among the rebels.
He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

Although I won't read it out, Psalm 22 is also another prophecy about Jesus and the circumstances of His death. You might like to read it later.

We need to remember that these prophecies were written down about 800 years before this event.

This shows us clearly that God was in full control of the killing of His son.

Jesus Himself predicted these events as recorded by Mark in 8: v. 31, 9:31, and 10:33.

There are three main themes woven into verses 16-41.

The first is that Jesus is the **"King of the Jews"**.

Six times in chapter 15 Jesus is called the King of the Jews. **In v.2,9,12,18,26,32.**

In v. 16-20 the Roman soldiers mock Jesus as the **King of the Jews.**

In v. 17 we are told that they clothed Him with purple.

Purple was the **"Royal"** colour that Kings used to wear.

They twisted a "Crown of thorns" and put it on his head.

Kings in those days wore crowns of gold, not of thorns.

The soldiers also paid Jesus false homage.

Nevertheless, Jesus was recognised as the **King of the Jews.**

On top of this in v.26 we are told that above the head of Jesus an inscription was written with the words:

"The King of the Jews"

In spite of the mocking by the Roman Soldiers, the Roman governor recognised that there was something special about Jesus.

He ordered that this text be put above the head of Jesus.

The third evidence we have about Jesus being the King of the Jews, comes from the Roman centurion who witnessed the death of Jesus on the cross.

He said in v. 39 that **"Truly this man was the Son of God"**.

The word **"Son of God"** was a **"Kingly Title"** that was used in Mark's gospel.

Even the Roman Soldier recognised that Jesus was the **"King of the Jews"**.

Application

The question we need to ask ourselves today is why did God go to great lengths to make sure that Jesus died as the **"King of the Jews"**.

God sovereignly worked through a Gentile Roman Ruler, mocking Roman soldiers and a deep conviction coming from a high ranking Roman soldier to make sure that this point was made.

I will give you one good reason why Jesus had to die as the **"The King of the Jews"**.

The reason for this, is that, Jesus is STILL **"King of the Jews"**.

God is presently fulfilling prophecy concerning the Jewish nation.

To help you work through these prophecies, I have written an appendix to the written sermon so you can look them up for yourself.

On top of this, there is also lots of un-fulfilled prophecy concerning the Jewish nation.

The prophecy, that involves Jesus, requires Him to remain the King of the Jews during His second coming.

These are also recorded in the appendix.

So there is plenty of reading for those who are interested.

On top of all this information, we have Roman's chapter 11.

In this chapter Paul teaches about the goodness and severity of God.

The goodness of God in saving the Gentiles, that is happening today.

The severity of cutting off rebellious Israel.

However, the Gentiles must not boast because they have a privileged position now. God can cut them off too. (we as Gentiles are only grafted in now)

At the end of this age towards the second coming of Jesus, the Gentile nations will join together in a **world coalition that refuses the word of God and the Son of God.**

We can see the **beginnings of this today through the Islamic countries and their allies.**

So even if you are not a Jewish believer in Christ, **Jesus is your King too!!!**

He needs to rule and control your life here and now.

The question is – Is Jesus your King? Is He ruling and reigning in your heart and mind today?

The second thing in this passage is that Jesus bears the judgement of God on our behalf.

Please focus on v.33- 34 of Chapter 15.

³³ Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴ And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?” which is translated, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Jesus said **seven important things** when He was nailed to the cross.

However, Mark focuses on what he feels to be **the most important.**

He does that to teach us that the most important thing about what happened to Jesus as He was hanging upon the cross was **God’s judgement for man’s sin.**

Jesus took the punishment that **we deserve for our sins.**

Paul puts it this way in 2 Corinthians 5: v. 21 –

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

I don’t think that we will ever fully understand the love of God, until we understand what Jesus did for us on the cross.

There is a story that **might help you focus more sharply on this matter.**

The story goes that on a national holiday in the U.S.A. a father took his son with him to work.

The Father used to operate the lifting of a large railway bridge to allow boats with a high mast to pass through.

When a train was about to come along he would lower the bridge back into position for the trains to travel over the bridge.

On this hot and sunny day, his son was playing near the river, and his father was high up in a control tower operating the swing bridge.

The father got a telephone call to say that a train was approaching fast and he had to immediately lower the bridge into position.

As he slowly lowered the bridge, he noticed that his son had caught his clothes in the operating machine near the bridge.

The father had two choices.

He could either lift up the bridge and save his son, or he could let the bridge down and save the people on the train.

What a difficult problem and he had only a few seconds to decide what to do.

It was either his son had to die or a train full of hundreds of people.

The father closed his eyes, pulled the lever and let the bridge connect into place.

His son was instantly killed, but the people on the train were wonderfully saved from a certain death.

The two sad things about this story is that the father lost his son, and that the people on the train, never knew how much it cost, to save their lives.

If you are a Christian today, you need to know what it cost Father God, to save your soul for all eternity. It cost God’s wrath upon **His Son, Jesus Christ.**

The third thing we need to note in this section is that the death of Jesus is effective.

Mark gives us three things which point to the effectiveness of God’s work on the cross.

The first is in v. 37 where it says that Jesus **cried out with a loud voice just before He died.**

I am not a doctor, but I have been with dying people on a number of occasions and our hearing is the last thing we lose before we die.

Being able to speak at all would have been impossible for Jesus at this time before He died on the cross.

Therefore, it was a super-natural thing to have happened.

It was a miracle.

This was the one thing that witnessed to the centurion soldier in v. 39 and convinced him that Jesus was indeed the Son of God.

John's Gospel tells us that Jesus said the words "It is finished" (John 19: v. 30)

The Greek scholars tell us that the word used here in English – "**breathed His last**" implies a deliberate death.

In other words, everything had been achieved in God's purposes, and it was now time for Jesus to physically die.

The next thing that convinces us that the death of Jesus is effective is verse 38.

³⁸ Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

In the Jewish Temple there was a very thick curtain, about 4 inches thick.

It separated the holy Place from the Holy of Holies.

It was only the high priest who could enter the Holy of Holies, and only once a year to make atonement for people's sins.

God was demonstrating through this act of tearing the curtain in two that the death of Jesus was going to open up a way into the presence of God for everybody.

This must have been an amazing thing for the Jewish people.

They had experienced about 1,300 years of the sacrificial system, operating first through the Tabernacle and then the Temple.

God was demonstrating that He had begun a new covenant.

Sin was no longer to be forgiven through the blood of a male lamb without any defect, it would be forgiven upon believing that Jesus Christ was the lamb of God who can take away your sin. (John 1: v. 29)

2. **The burial of the King - Chapter 15: v. 42-47.**

We are now introduced to a man called Joseph.

He came from Arimathea.

He was a prominent council member who was waiting for the kingdom of God.

He was obviously a wealthy man who had purchased an expensive tomb.

The tomb had been cut out of a rock. This would have taken a lot of time and been very expensive.

If you are coming to Israel, on the O.I.C. trip, you will see a tomb cut out of rock and you will be able to go inside the tomb.

There are lots of Biblical evidences which point to the possibility that the tomb cut out of rock in Jerusalem was in fact the tomb where they laid the body of Jesus.

Pilate confirmed through the centurion that the body of Jesus was dead and had been dead for some time.

Mark informs us that Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James observed where the body of Jesus was placed.

The question we need to ask is, **why is the burial of King Jesus important?**

To believe in the resurrection of Jesus, **you must believe that He actually died.**

It would have been easy at that time for people to say that Jesus had not died and that he was taken away and recovered from His wounds.

Therefore, His burial was important.

We also note that this Jewish man Joseph who was waiting for the kingdom of God, felt it necessary to bury the body of Jesus.

Joseph was a prominent man in the community, and he would be a good witness of the fact that Jesus died and was buried.

3. The Resurrection of the King – Chapter 16: v. 1-8.

Some of the early manuscripts of the New Testament do not include v. 9-19 of Mark chapter 16. However, without the additional material, Mark's Gospel would end rather abruptly.

What we do have is the other Gospel writers' accounts of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the teaching of the New Testament from Acts to Revelation which include much information and teaching about the resurrection of Jesus.

There is nothing in these last verses that contradict the Bible's teaching on the resurrection of Jesus, but it is clear that **the style of writing does not fit into the normal style of Mark's writing.**

Therefore, I will not include it today.

Also I don't want you to leave the service today and tell people that the Pastor of OIC said it was **O.K to drink poison, and pick up deadly snakes.**

What Mark does tell us, is that Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome came to the tomb, where the body of Jesus had been placed.

They discovered that the stone, which sealed the tomb, had been rolled away.

They entered the tomb and saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side.

The ladies were afraid.

The young man said, "**do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen. He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go and tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee, there you will see Him as He said to you.**"

The three ladies believed in the resurrection of Jesus **not by what they saw, but by what they didn't see and by what the Angel told them.**

They didn't see the body of Jesus, and they believed the words of the Angel.

God's word came to them through the Angel. They believed his word.

Application

The resurrection of Jesus Christ with a real body is fundamental to the Christian faith.

There is no other religion that bases its claim to acceptance upon the resurrection of its founder.

The importance of this doctrine is evident from the prominent part it played in the preaching of the Apostles.

Acts 2: v. 24,32 3:15 4:10, 5:30, 10:40, 13:30, 34, 17:31,

It was belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ that led to the establishment of the early Church, which continues today.

Jesus regarded His resurrection as being so important that He remained for 40 days on the earth after His resurrection.

He gave many infallible proofs of this fact, even appearing to 500 people at one time.

Jesus appealed to his resurrection again and again as evidence of the truth of His claims.

Matt. 12: v. 39-40

³⁹ But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. ⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

John2: v. 20-22.

²⁰ Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But He was speaking of the temple of His body. ²² Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.

So it is up to you now.

If you are a Christian, today is a great celebration for you.

Jesus died for your sins. He was raised from the dead to give you a future and a hope.

Your place in Heaven and on the New earth is secure.

If you are not a Christian today, you have no hope of your sins forgiven.

This life is all you have and Jesus will judge you, upon your death.

But the good news is that today, you can have your sins forgiven. You can have a hope for the future after your death.

Please remain behind and pray with somebody today.

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Appendix for Easter Sunday service.

Prophecies currently being fulfilled concerning the Jewish Nation

1. Isaiah Chapter 11: v. 11-12 - The fulfilment of this started from the 20th century.
2. Ezekiel Chapter 37: v. 21-22. – Prophecy fulfilled May 14th 1948.
3. Zechariah 8: v.4-8. – Prophecy fulfilled June 7th 1967.
4. Ezekiel 36: v. 34-35 - This prophecy has continued to be fulfilled from the 20th century until now.
5. Zephaniah 3: v. 9 - The Hebrew Language has been revived from the dead, it began in the 19th and 20th century and has continued with its revival until this day.
6. Zechariah 12: v. 1-3 - This Prophecy is being fulfilled now.

Prophecies yet to be fulfilled in the future.

1. Israel will defeat an Arab Alliance - Zechariah 12: v. 6.
2. Israel will dwell in security and prosperity – Ezekiel 38: v. 11.
3. A Russian led army consisting mainly of Muslim nations will invade Israel – Ezekiel 38: v. 1-7.
4. This Russian led army will be destroyed by God. - Ezekiel 38: v. 18-23 and Ezekiel 39: v. 1-8.
5. The Anti- Christ will return and provide security for Israel and rebuild the Temple. Daniel 9: v.27.
6. After three and a half days (some believe this is years, and not days) the agreement with the Anti-Christ will be broken. - Daniel 9: v. 27, Matthew 24: v. 15-18.
2Thessalonians 2: v. 3-4.
7. The Jews will reject the Anti-Christ and He will be at war with them. Two thirds of the Jewish nation will die. Revelation 12: v. 13-17, Zechariah 13: v. 8-9.
8. At the end of the Tribulation, the Jews will return to God and will be the prime nation in the world. God will bless the Jewish Remnant.
Zechariah 12: v. 10, Romans 9: v. 27-28, Romans 11: v.25-27, Deut. 30: v.1-9, Isaiah 2: v. 1-4, Micah 4: v. 1-7, Isaiah 60: v. 1-22, Zechariah 8: v. 22-23.