

LESSON VIII

A Survey of the Life of Christ (Part III)

CHAPTER I

THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF CHRIST

The ministry of Jesus came to one grand finale in the final week before His death. We say a grand finale but it was one filled with suffering and sorrow. The Gospel writers have written much, regarding this final week of the ministry of Jesus. And while we read from the Gospels these accounts and realize what Christ did do for mankind, we can only lift up hearts of praise and gratitude for the goodness of God.

Jesus' ministry had taken just about three years. During these three years, He had trained His twelve disciples and others. He showed that His claim to be the Messiah, the Son of God, was founded upon good credentials. He did many miracles of various kinds and He taught as no man ever taught before.

The final week of Christ's ministry began with His re-entry into the city of Jerusalem. He had been out for some time in various places during the three years of His ministry. He had been in Judea. He spent a long time in Galilee. He visited Samaria and had visited Jerusalem also. But had finally been in Judea again and then began moving towards Jerusalem. This time His return to Jerusalem, was filled with events.

This was the first day of the week, our Sunday, and He rode into Jerusalem in a very striking manner. Jesus asked two of His disciples to go to a certain village and that there they would find tied before a certain house, an ass, i.e., a donkey and her colt. They were to untie the animals and bring them to Jesus. If anybody was to ask why, they were to say, "The Lord hath need of him." The disciples did just that. They went, found the colt, untied him and then a man asked why they were doing it. And they answered, "The Lord hath need of him."

Similarly, Jesus prepared for what would take place in Jerusalem. He told His disciples to go into the city in Jerusalem, enter a certain street, and at a particular place they would see a man walking along the street, with a jar of water on his head. The disciples were supposed to follow him. And when they saw him enter his house, they were to ask him for permission to use an upper room. The disciples did that and it happened accordingly. And permission was given for Jesus and his disciples to make use of an upper room in the man's house for a very particular purpose. So Jesus prepared in advance for His entry into Jerusalem and for what would take place there.

The Triumphal Entry: Everything went according to the way Jesus had predicted. The disciples brought the colt of the donkey to Him and He rode upon it. The disciples had laid garments on the colt and a great big crowd gathered and accompanied Him. The crowd placed

upon the road their cloaks and outer garments, others cut branches from the trees around. And they cried out as Jesus rode into Jerusalem, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” “Praise God for Him who comes as a King,” “Hail to Him who is King.” And as they rode into Jerusalem the crowd evidently got bigger and a great deal of excitement was generated. So much so people asked, “Who is this?” And the crowd replied, “This is the Prophet, Jesus from Nazareth.” Some people disliked what was happening and they asked Jesus to restrain the crowd. And Jesus answered, if they keep quiet, even the stones will shout aloud. Jesus was acknowledging the fact of who He was. That He really was the Son of God and the King of Kings.

The Cleansing of the Temple: In Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple and there He found the temple being used for purposes of commerce, for purposes of profit and gain, and not for what it was intended. He drove them out, overturned their tables of money and made them realize that this was supposed to be a house of God and was not to be misused.

The Last Supper: In the week that followed in Jerusalem, Jesus taught on many important subjects. Christ taught the people regarding His second coming, about the destruction of Jerusalem, and He answered many questions put to Him by learned people, such as the Pharisees.

Jesus and His disciples being Jews, were to observe the feast of the Passover according to the Law of Moses. You can read about the feast of the Passover, in Leviticus chapter 23. The Feast of the Passover, was probably the most important religious feast for the Jews. They celebrated it in the first month of their religious year, on the 14th day of the month of Nisan. Nisan corresponds to our April. The Passover was to remember how God delivered the Jews from Egypt and how they were established as a nation. The Feast of the Unleavened Bread, which lasted for seven whole days began the very next day following the Feast of the Passover. The Feast of the Passover was for which Jesus had made the preparation of securing an upper room in Jerusalem.

According to the plan, He and His disciples were gathered together in that upper room, probably during the early part of the night. After supper, Jesus took a loaf of bread and divided it, little by little, amongst His disciples. He gave thanks for it and the Bible says, He blessed it. Then He took a cup of wine, or grape juice, and did the same thing. And he informed them that the loaf that He divided amongst them represented His body. He said, “This is my body”. Then again He said regarding the cup of grape juice, “This is my blood which is shed for you.” And then he commanded them saying, “Do this in remembrance of Me.” This commandment is for us to keep regularly. Particularly when we remember the Resurrection of our Lord on the first day of every week, we also remember how He died for us. This is the commandment we find in the Bible for the weekly observation of the Lord’s Supper.

During this last supper, Jesus once again told His disciples of what was going to happen and how one of them was going to betray Him. This disturbed the disciples as they tried to see who amongst them would be the betrayer. But Jesus did give some form of identity when He said it was going to be the one who would dip simultaneously with Him the bread in whatever accompanying gravy was prepared for the Supper. It was customary to have a common dish for this purpose. Also, Jesus said that the betrayer would be the one to whom He would give the sop

or the bread that Jesus dipped in the gravy. He gave this to Judas, who also dipped with Him in the dish. Judas was the one amongst the twelve, who was chosen to keep their money or whatever finance they had.

Peter also, is mentioned in this supper with a reference in the Bible. Peter swore allegiance to his Lord. And Jesus looking on Peter said, "Peter, before the night is over, before dawn breaks and the cock crows, you are going to deny me three times." Jesus was warning His disciples of all that was going to take place in the next few hours and days. Following this last Supper with His disciples, they sang a hymn, the Bible says, and went out.

Gethsemane: Judas had already made arrangements with some of the Jewish leaders to betray Christ. His fee, or reward for this traitorous act was to be 30 pieces of silver. Judas left that last supper early and went on this task. The others of course took themselves, with Jesus, to the Garden of Gethsemane. It seems that Jesus was familiar with this garden and His purpose on this particular night was to go to this place to pray in seclusion. It was probably quite late at night, and just after they entered the Garden, He left eight of them to wait. Then He took three of them, Peter, James and John, and went further and then asked these three too, to wait, while He went a little more distance to pray. He prayed that if it were possible this cup of suffering should pass away from Him. But nevertheless, He prayed, "not as I will, but as Thou wilt." In other words he said, "Lord, if it be Thy will let this agony go from me. But not my will, Lord, finally let it be your will." He prayed and came back to His disciples and they were asleep. The Gospels tell us that He did this three times. And then came His arrest by the guard and the Chief Priest.

Why did Jesus pray? Was He not the Son of God? Did He need to pray? We must remember that Jesus, on earth, was both God and man. And constantly through His life the human nature would have been attacked by Satan. So we see Him going through tremendous agony. As man, His human nature prayed that God would be with Him at this time and perhaps help this agony to be over. But even then He prayed that God's will would be done and not His. His prayer was so agonizing that the Bible said it appeared as though great drops of blood fell with His perspiration. These words could be translated as 'blood-clots' and we could say that bloody sweat appeared on Him, due to the tremendous agony of His prayer. It is hard to understand the agony, but we can try. Jesus the Son of God, Divine, Sinless was going to take upon Himself the entire sins of all the world, past, present and future. He was going to become sin for our sakes. He who knew no sin was going to become sin, so that man – you and I could be saved. He knew too that God cannot tolerate sin. And so as He took sin upon Himself, there would be this temporary separation from God. And so, in agony of what was going to happen spiritually, as well as physically, He prayed, "Let this cup pass from me. But not my will. Thine be done."

Then came the soldiers with the Chief Priest and Judas. Judas immediately went to his Master and kissed Him on the cheek, showing the Roman soldiers who Jesus was. It was a betrayal kiss. And Jesus asked saying, "Is this for what you have come?" We could imagine Judas' feelings. He had walked with His Lord so long and now he was betraying Him. But the deed was done. But immediately, Peter, and the other disciples who were there, had seen what had happened and Peter rushed forward, took a sword and attacked a servant of the High Priest

and cut off his ear. But Christ was not going to defend Himself in this manner and He immediately told Peter to put away his sword. He then stretched out His hand and healed the ear of the wounded man. Then He told the crowd that had come to arrest Him, “Are you come out against me with swords and staves, as though I was a robber? Daily I was with you in the temple, you didn’t arrest me then.” But the soldiers did arrest Him and took Him to the Palace of the High Priest.

The Trials of Jesus: It is really right to say trials, because Jesus was tried before the Priest and the Council and also before Pilate. Immediately after His arrest, Jesus was taken first to the palace of the High Priest. The High Priest at this time was Caiaphas, but his father-in-law Annas, was still very much influential and therefore Jesus was taken to Annas. Here He was questioned, regarding His disciples and His teaching and Jesus answered, that He had never taught anything in secret. He always taught in public. And so the people knew what He had taught. This displeased one of the Officers present and he struck Jesus with the palm of his hand. It was about this time that Peter was approached by one of the maid servants, who recognizing him said, “Are you not one of His disciples?” And he denied her and said, “I am not.” Peter had followed Christ and he stood near the door of the Palace of the High Priest, seeing what was taking place.

Annas then sent Him to Caiaphas, his son-in-law, for questioning. The time was now probably between midnight and dawn. This was the most important trial, as far as the Jews were concerned, since Caiaphas was the legal High Priest. They condemned Jesus and accused Him of blasphemy and for claiming that He was the Son of God. When the High Priest asked Jesus, “Are you the Christ, the Son of God?” Jesus answered saying, “I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting on the right hand of God and coming in the clouds of heaven.” Now this really angered the High Priest, who tore his clothes and concluded that this was the sufficient evidence. And they condemned Him to death. Some spat on His face this time and beat Him, mocked Him and even the servants displayed their anger in this manner. Here again, Peter denied Him when he was approached by someone who recognized him. Later Peter was recognized again. Peter denied any knowledge of Jesus or any association with Him. And immediately the cock crew. And Peter, remembering Jesus’ words concerning himself, went out and wept.

Now, Jesus’ questioning by Caiaphas and the others was also in conjunction with the Sanhedrin or the Council, and at day break they finalized their accusations against Him on the charge of blasphemy and sent Him to Pilate. Now, Pilate tried to be fair, when questioning Jesus as to whether He was the King of the Jews. Jesus answered saying that His Kingdom was not of this world, but was of a different nature. And when Pilate tried to confirm whether He claimed to be the King, and had come into the world to hear witness to the truth. This seemed to disturb Pilate, who seemed satisfied with Jesus’ innocence. So he sent Him on to Herod, who happened to be in Jerusalem at that time.

Herod was considered as the ruler of Galilee. And once more Jesus was questioned concerning His teaching. But Herod and His men mocked Jesus and put on Him a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate. This time Pilate tried to have Jesus released, for there seemed to be a custom regarding the release of one prisoner during this time of the Feast of the Passover. But the crowd did not want Jesus released. They wanted instead, a man called Barabbas, who was in

prison for murder and for rioting. Pilate gave in to the crowd, washed his hands and released Barabbas, instead of Christ. Pilate's wife had a dream concerning Christ and she warned her husband not to have anything to do regarding Jesus. But the crowd's demands were very pressing and there were the threats to report the matter to Caesar. So Pilate had Jesus scourged and handed Him over to the Jews and their Priests. And the soldiers made fun of Him. They put on Him a scarlet robe, made a crown out of thorns and put it on His head, and in His hand a reed, and mocked Him as King of the Jews, while they spat on Him and hit Him on the head. They then took off the scarlet robe and put His own robe on Him and led Him out to be crucified.

Meanwhile, Judas the betrayer when he saw that Jesus was condemned to die, felt very remorseful and very guilty and went to the Chief Priest and elders and returned the money and then went and hung himself. Eventually the priests took the money and bought a field in which to bury strangers.

The Crucifixion: Jesus was taken outside the city to a place called Golgotha, which means in Hebrew, The Skull. The place was also called Calvary, which is Latin for Golgotha. Jesus was made to carry His own cross. It appears that Jesus who was now without sleep and without food for many, many hours felt the weight of the cross. The soldiers then got a man called Simon and made him carry the cross to Golgotha. A great crowd of women followed Him to Calvary and probably His friends too did follow, though the Bible says that His disciples, or most of them, stood afar off.

Crucifixion was a common method of execution by the Romans, reserved for very notorious criminals and rebels. The Cross was sometimes shaped like a capital 'X', sometimes like a 'T', sometimes like the traditional cross we know today. But regardless of the shape, the cross was a means of tremendous suffering. And Jesus was taken and placed on the cross. His hands were nailed down to the wood and probably His legs too. And then the cross was lifted and dropped into the hold that was prepared for it to hold it upright. The mocking continued. Soldiers gave Jesus vinegar to drink, that was mixed with gall. Jesus tasted it and refused it, because it probably would have been a means of detracting from His suffering. They also wrote an inscription and placed it above the cross and it read, "This is Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." The inscription was written by Pilate himself and was in three languages. In Latin, which was the official language of Rome. In Greek, the universal language of the whole Roman Empire; and in Hebrew, which was the language of the Jews. So almost everybody who passed that way could read – whether they were Jews, or Romans or Greeks, or strangers. The Jewish leaders did not like this title. They wanted it changed, saying, "Let it be that He said He is the King of the Jews," But Pilate this time did not give in to them and said, "What I have written, I have written." Then the soldiers took His garments and gambled for it. They saw that His robe was of one piece, woven together and so they did not wish to cut it in pieces for division amongst themselves. So they gambled for it and one of them won the robe of Jesus.

The leaders of the Jews and others mocked Him saying, "He saved others and now He cannot save Himself." But Jesus was determined to go through the suffering on the cross, for His purpose was your salvation and mine. The salvation of the whole world. And so while the crowd mocked, and the soldiers spat on Him and while, they laughed, He cried out in prayer to His Father saying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Even on the Cross,

Christ's concern was for others. His concern was even extended to His enemies. Those who had mocked Him and crucified Him – those who were putting Him to death. And He prayed for forgiveness for them.

Crucified together with Jesus were two other persons, one on either side of Him. These two men were thieves, being crucified for the crimes they had committed. One of the thieves mocked Jesus saying, "If you really are the Christ, then save yourself and save us too." But the other thief rebuked him and said, "Don't you fear God, seeing that you too are condemned? We are condemned for crimes we have committed. But this man is dying for nothing. He did not commit any crimes." And then he turned to Jesus. He acknowledged Him as God and said, "Lord, remember me when Thou comest into Thy Kingdom." And Jesus knowing that this thief was penitent and that he truly believed, He offered him pardon and said, "Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

The disciples stood afar off, watching the scene. The women who knew Jesus were in a group nearer the cross. This group included Mary, the mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, Jesus' mother's sister and others. And it also included one disciple, John. And once again Jesus seeing His mother, was filled with concern, not for Himself, but for others. And speaking to His mother He told her, "Woman, behold your son" referring to John. And to John, He said, "Behold your mother." In this Jesus was making provision for John to take care of His mother after His death.

It was now approximately 12 noon, which according to Jewish time was the sixth hour. And there came a great darkness over all the land, for three hours. This would have caused the people around the cross to wonder why it happened. And might have even caused some of them to realize that the Person on that central cross was really what He claimed to be – the Son of God. And during this darkness, Christ cried out to God His Father, saying, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" This indicated that Christ was in the heights of agony due to the sins of the world. An agony that He had to bear alone, for it meant that God the Father could not endure sin at all.

Later, Jesus spoke again from the Cross, saying, "I thirst." They gave Him sour wine or vinegar, which He now accepted. And then soon after He cried out, "It is finished". And also, He prayed, "Father into thy hands I commend my Spirit." Then He died. The soldiers came by to see whether He was really dead or not. One soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear and blood and water flowed out. This assured the soldier that Jesus had died.

Thus did the earthly life of the Son of God end on a cross, on a hill called Calvary. But even on Calvary He was recognized as God's Son. The centurion who was in charge of the crucifixion seeing all that happened cried out, "Truly this man was the Son of God." And back in the temple in Jerusalem, the thick veil or curtain that divided the holiest place in the temple was no longer separated from the other places. The significance is seen in the fact that this place the holy of holies was entered only once a year, by the High Priest of the Jews, to perform the ritual of atonement. But no longer was this necessary. Christ, through His death, provided the atonement. No more need for earthly mediators – Christ is our mediator. The Old Testament law was fulfilled on the cross through Christ's death. And man, through Christ's death and

Resurrection, can go to God as a redeemed sinner – saved by the blood of Christ. We thank God for this privilege. We thank God for providing us an eternal atonement – His Own Son. And that Christ went through the agony of the death on the cross to give us the means of being righteous in God’s sight!

The manner in which Jesus died had an influence on one of the soldiers, the centurion in charge of the crucifixion. He had seen the crucifixion through to its final acts; had witnessed the darkness and the earthquake that accompanied it; had heard, probably, the words of Jesus, and he declared, “Certainly this was a religious man” (Luke 23:47). He is also recorded as saying, “Truly this man was the Son of God.” (Matt. 27:54). And in this the centurion was different from the thief who mocked Jesus. To the centurion, Christ’s death was a revelation not only of Christ’s innocence and righteousness but also of His Deity. And not only for this one particular person, but also for all ages of mankind, the death of Christ reveals to us that He was and is God, and His Death was for the salvation of man.

The Burial: After Jesus had died on the cross, two men, both members of the Sanhedrin (the Council), came to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus to be given to them for a proper burial. These two men, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were called “secret disciples” in that they did not openly proclaim their allegiance to Christ when He was alive. But now they came forward in public testifying to their belief and requesting that the body of Jesus be given to them. This permission was granted and they took the body of Jesus and prepared it according to the Jewish custom for burial. They did this as quickly as possible so that they would not be hampered by the Jewish Sabbath day, which began at six in the evening. The more complete burial was left for the day after the Sabbath.

The body of Jesus was taken to a new tomb in a garden. The Bible says, that the tomb was in the garden, where Jesus was crucified, signifying that the place of burial was not very far from the place of crucifixion. The tomb itself was probably in the form of a cave, hewn out of the rock, so that the entrance could be sealed by a boulder.

Some of the Pharisee and Chief Priests came to Pilate and requested Pilate to have the tomb sealed and guarded. This was done, so that the body of Jesus could not have been stolen. This is what the Priests and the Pharisees feared. But it is also to us a proof that the body could not have been stolen. And what happened after His burial was true.

We should remember that Jesus died on the day before the Sabbath. And He was in the tomb the whole of the Sabbath day and He rose from the dead the day after the Sabbath. According to Jewish custom it was common to call parts of a day, as one day. Therefore to criticize the prophecy that Christ would be in the tomb for three days and three nights saying that it really wasn’t so, is incorrect. Three days and three nights in Hebrew usage simply meant three days. And again in Hebrew usage three days included parts of a day. So in all accuracy, Jesus did rise on the third day. That is, the third day after His death.

CHAPTER II

THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION

The Resurrection: All the four Gospels talk about the Resurrection of Jesus at quite some length. They all indicate that it was on the third day after the death of Jesus and upon the first day of the week. This first group to visit the tomb on the third day after Jesus' death, was a group of women. This group included Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and John, and Joanna, who was the wife of a steward of Herod. And it seems that there were other women too. They came for a particular purpose, to embalm the body of Jesus in a proper manner. They brought spices and other things so that the body could be prepared for permanent burial.

The Gospels tell us that they came very early in the morning. The Gospel of Matthew says they came as it began to dawn. So they probably were at the tomb around sunrise or dawn. They found an angel sitting near the tomb and they found the stone rolled away from the mouth of the tomb and the tomb was empty. But the angel told the women, "Don't be afraid. I know you have come to look for Jesus, who was crucified. But He is not here, for He has risen. Come and see where His body was." And then they were instructed to go and tell the disciples that Christ had risen from the dead and had gone into Galilee, where they would meet Him. The women ran and told the disciples. And then, the women, were met by Jesus Himself. And the Bible says they fell down and worshipped Him. On hearing this news the disciples went to the tomb. Meanwhile Peter and John had run to the tomb, and John outran Peter. But Peter went into the tomb and saw what the women had seen. There was no body – there was no indication that Christ was still dead. John believed that his Lord had risen, while Peter wondered at what he had seen. Mary Magdalene came back to the tomb and remained weeping, but Jesus Himself appeared to her and showed her that He was truly alive. And on that Resurrection day, Jesus showed Himself again to the other disciples and then separately to Peter and finally in a wonderful way to the two men, who were His disciples, on the road to Emmaus.

Emmaus was a village about seven miles northwest of Jerusalem. The two disciples were going there on the day of the Resurrection. On the way somebody joined them for the trip. It was probably late afternoon by this time and as the three journeyed on, they began to talk about what had happened in Jerusalem, concerning the Christ. Then the third person, who really was Jesus, began to expound to them the Scriptures concerning Himself and to talk about the Resurrection. Towards the evening they arrived in Emmaus and the two men asked Him to spend the evening with them, which He did. And then as they sat down to dinner, He took bread and blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. And immediately they realized who He was. They saw in His act of blessing and breaking the bread and distributing it to them, their Lord and their God. And then when they realized that He was the Christ alive, He vanished out of their sight. Then they remembered how He expounded the Scriptures to them on their way to Emmaus, and that they were amazed at the way He did it. Immediately the two men returned to Jerusalem and told the eleven disciples what had happened.

Later Jesus met His disciples together in Jerusalem and they were afraid. But Thomas was absent from the group. Jesus told them not to be afraid. And He said, "Look at Me. Look at my hands and My feet. It really is me." And while some of them did not believe, because

they were so excited, He asked for some meat and they gave Him some broiled fish and a honeycomb and He did eat. This was to show them that He was really the Christ, risen bodily from the dead and not a Spirit only. Then He taught them from the Scriptures about how He had to suffer and to die and that He would rise again, which He did. And He told them of their duty to preach in His name, of repentance and forgiveness of sins among all nations.

Thomas was absent when Jesus met His disciples on the Day of Resurrection. So He refused to believe that He was alive until he saw and touched Christ's hands with the nail prints and the spear wound in His side. One week later, on the first day of the week, Jesus suddenly appeared in the midst of the eleven disciples (Judas had already committed suicide). He spoke to Thomas and showed him the nail prints and the wound. Thomas needed no further proof. He fell down and worshipped Christ, proclaiming, "My Lord, and my God."

So we have the Resurrection testified to by many people who saw Him. The women saw Him. Mary Magdalene saw Him. Peter saw Him. Two disciples on the road to Emmaus saw Him. All the eleven saw Him together. And in Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians in Chapter 15, he enumerates the many who saw Him. In First Corinthians 15 from verse 3 to verse 8, he says, "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and that He was buried and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve. After then He was seen of about 500 brethren at once of whom the greater part remained unto this present, but some had fallen asleep. After that He was seen of James and then of all the Apostles. Last of all He was seen of me also, as if one born out of due time." There is no reason to doubt the Resurrection. Scriptures can be proved as authentic, ancient literature, that could not be disputed, even at the time when they were first written.

The Ascension: We mentioned in the last chapter how Jesus appeared to many people fully alive after His Resurrection. You can read in the book of Acts, in the first chapter, how Jesus, for about forty days after His Resurrection appeared to His disciples many times, as a proof to His Resurrection. He taught them during this time regarding the work they were to continue after He would leave them. This could be summed up in the words of the last two verses of the book of Matthew. In Matthew, chapter 28, verse 18 to 20, we have what is commonly called the **Great Commission**. And Jesus at this particular time was with His disciples on a mountain in Galilee, when He said unto them, "All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commended you and lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world." So the command to evangelize the world was given. And it was to be done through preaching and teaching and baptizing those who believed. We find this command also mentioned in the last chapter of the book of Mark, with indications that when the apostles preached and people believed miracles would happen. As we read the book of Acts we see that this took place when the apostles did what Christ had commanded them.

Finally, He was with his chosen apostles on the Mount of Olives. He blessed His disciples and then asked them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for power to be given to them. This power was to come through their being baptized by the Holy Spirit. We could read this in the

first chapter of Acts, while they asked Him about the Kingdom of Israel, or how the Kingdom He spoke about was to be established, He told them to wait in Jerusalem for the promised power. And then he ascended bodily upwards into Heaven. And the Bible says, “a cloud received Him out of their sight.” The disciples were spell bound. While they kept gazing heaven-ward two angels appeared to them and reminded them that Christ had gone up into heaven and that they should do what was asked of them. So the disciples went and lived together in Jerusalem, waiting for the promised power of the Holy Spirit.

Mark in his Gospel tells us that after Jesus was received up into Heaven He sat down at the right hand of God. We can read the Prophecy in the book of Psalms, in Psalm 24, that the Son of God would be received into Heaven with rejoicing and glory for having finished His work on earth. A coronation was going to take place, for the King of Glory was coming back. The Lord strong and mighty had completed His work on earth, had finished the salvation of mankind and was back with God the Father and Creator, in their abode.

CONCLUSION

It was not possible in these brief lessons, to cover the Life of Christ in all its entirety. But by considering the highlights of Christ’s life on earth, we are able to understand His purpose for coming to earth, beginning as a babe, born in a humble manner, and going on to live a sinless life, and then dying for man’s sin, but rising from the dead with power and glory. Remember, that these lessons can best be understood by reading the passages of Scripture that are given as references. And still further, it would be of great advantage to read for yourself the Gospels. The Gospels are the first four books in the New Testament, viz., Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Read them and know the grand and glorious life of Christ as it was recorded by these inspired men of God.

And as the Life of Christ is studied, you will have to consider whether Jesus’ claims about Himself were true or not. Jesus taught He was God. His birth was miraculous. His Life with its teaching and miracles were extraordinary. His Death was accompanied by miraculous happenings. His Resurrection was the Greatest Miracle of all time and has been recorded as authentic history. And He commissioned His disciples to proclaim His Message to all men and they gave their very lives for Him. Considering all this, is He not then what He was, the Son of God? Surely He is, as the evidences of His Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection grandly testify.

You can prove the Son of God further by experiencing Him in your own life. Accept His promises! Obey His Commands! And see how He keeps His Word and provides peace and redemption to all who believe in Him. Only God can give eternal peace and salvation from sin. And Christ, being God, offers it to all who believe and obey. Have you accepted Christ as your God and Saviour?

Name:.....

Student No.....

Grade.....

QUESTIONS ON LESSON VIII

A SURVEY OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST (Part III)

Note: Answers to the questions below are found in the lesson material. Read the lesson carefully before answering. Try to answer in your own words, as much as possible. Wherever necessary, just fill in the blanks, or choose the correct word. Print out this page if you like. If you wish to send in the answers or to write further comments, or ask any questions yourself, do so on a separate sheet of paper and put your name and student number in a prominent place.

CHAPTER I

THE DEATH AND BURIAL OF CHRIST

1. When Jesus observed the Passover (Last Supper) what did He command His followers to do?

2. Who betrayed Jesus? For what?

3. Jesus was questioned by many leaders after His arrest. Name these people.

4. What happened in the Temple when Jesus was crucified? Why?

5. How do we know that Jesus did die?

6. Who came to bury the body of Jesus?

CHAPTER II

THE RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION

1. Give at least two evidence to show that Christ rose from the dead.
2. Who wanted real evidence before he would believe in Christ's Resurrection?
3. If you lived during that time, would you have believed in Christ's Resurrection, or would you have doubted? Tell us why you would have believed or doubted.

4. Jesus never died again. How do we know this?

5. What is the “Great Commission”.

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