

HISTORICAL DETAILS OF BURIAL OF JESUS

All four Gospels record the burial of Jesus (Matt.27:57-66; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; and John 19:38-42).

This lesson will study five historical details of Burial of Jesus.

1. Immediately after the death of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate to request rights for burial. He had to get a death certificate from Roman authority because of crucifixion (Matt.27:57-58).

(Mark 15:42-45) "When evening had already come, because it was the preparation day (Passover), that is the day before the Sabbath (High Sabbath/ John 19:30-37), Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate wondered if He was dead by this time, and summoning the centurion, he questioned him as to whether He was already dead. And ascertaining this from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph." (Lev.23:4-8)

2. A second member of the Sanhedrin joined Joseph in the burial of Jesus (John 19:38-42; Luke 23:51). This was the same Nicodemus of John 3:1-16.

(John 19:39-40) "Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the custom of the Jews."

This 100 pounds was sufficient for a king's burial (John 19:19). Three different Greek words were used for the wrapping of the body for burial:

- (Mark 15:4 6) **sindon** linen cloth
- (John 19:40) **othonion** strips of linen cloths or wrappings; (Jn.20:5, 6, 7; Lk.24:12)
- (John 20:7) **sudarion** face cloth or napkin; (Jn.11:43-44).

3. On the first day of Unleavened bread, the Sanhedrin met with Pilate concerning the prediction of Jesus, "After three days I am to rise again." (Matt.27:62-66)

They were afraid that His disciples would steal Him (Matt.27:64). Pilate ordered the sealing of the tomb and posted a three day guard of soldiers and temple police (Matt.27:65-66).

The Greek word used for temple police is koustodia (Matt.28:11) [custodian]. The Greek word for soldier is stratiotes (Matt.28:12).

"This was the temple police, stationed under Roman officers in the Tower of Antonia, and having charge of the high priest vestments. Hence the significance of Pilate's words, 'Ye have a guard.'" Vine's, pg.284)
After the resurrection, SOME of the tomb detail was bribed by the Sanhedrin to say the disciples had stolen the body (Matt.28:11-15).

4. **On the third day of His burial, there was a second earthquake and the tomb of Jesus was opened by an angel to let the world view an empty tomb (Matt.28:1-7).**

Angel:

(Matt.28:7) “**He is risen** from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see Him. Now I have told you.”

What about all those tombs that were opened with the first earthquake at the time of the physical death of Jesus? (Matt.27:50-54)

(Matt.27:52-53) “And the tombs were opened; and many of the bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out **AFTER** His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.”

5. **The last deception will be worse than the first. This was the fear of political-religious Jews.**

(Matt.27:64) “Therefore gives orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, otherwise His disciples may come and steal Him away and say to the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last deception will be worse than the first.”

- **What would be the Last deception?** – He has risen from the dead.
- **What would be the First deception?** – He is the Jesus the Christ.

Martha – “I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world.” (John 11:27)

Centurion and guard detail of tomb of Jesus – “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Matt.27:54b)

Thomas – “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28) “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.” (John 20:29)