

Jesus Crucified

Matthew 27:32-66

by Don Falkos

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Jesus was taken to Golgotha, The Place of the Skull. After they nailed him to the cross, the soldiers divided up his clothes among themselves by casting lots. The written charge against Jesus was placed above his head, THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Jesus was crucified along with two other men, both criminals – one on his right, the other on his left.

The people passing by shouted abuse, "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" The religious leaders scoffed, "He saved others, but he can't save himself!" Even the men crucified with him ridiculed him.

At midday darkness fell until about three in the afternoon. Then Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last. The curtain that separated the most holy place in the Temple was torn in two. There was a massive earthquake. Tombs were split open and many holy people who had died were raised to life.

The centurion, the Roman official in charge of the crucifixion, was terrified and said, "Certainly this was the Son of God."

All the while, the women who had supported Jesus' ministry and who had followed him from Galilee stood at a respectful distance and watched. A man named Joseph from the town of Arimathea took Jesus' body down from the cross, wrapped it in linen, and placed it in a rock-hewn tomb that had never been used. And the women saw where Jesus' body had been placed. Then Joseph rolled a large stone across the entrance to the tomb.

Pilate had the seal of the Roman government placed on the tomb and guards were posted to protect it.