

Jesus Had Power Over Life and Death... (While nailed on his cross)

Bible study for consideration by.....Pete McGregor.

Jesus said.....

Joh 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.

Joh 10:18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Our Lord Jesus performed one of his greatest miracles when he seemed from our mortal, human point of view in a hopeless and powerless situation. He was at the point of facing a slow, painful death, having been beaten, reviled, deemed guilty by his own people (Jews) and nailed to a pagan Roman crucifixion cross to die a slow agonising death.

The Bible tells us that the Jewish leaders came later that day to ask Pilate, the Roman ruler of Judea to have the body of Jesus and the two thieves that were crucified along with him taken off their crosses, as the next day for Jews was a "high" religious day starting that evening (about sunset).

The Roman soldiers that put Jesus on his cross to die were probably experts at this type of execution, and they, taking into consideration scourging of a person as well, would know approximately how long it would take for each person on this occasion to expire from shock and exhaustion asphyxia.... probably two to three days or more. However, Jesus died on the same day that he was put on his cross between the two thieves being crucified at that same time. He miraculously died prematurely, having power over this situation, dying on the same day he was crucified (about six hours duration on the cross) instead of taking several days to die demonstrating this as a great miracle. He had done this from a position of apparent weakness showing he had power to do so. This appears to be why Pilate "marvelled" when the centurion stated Jesus was already dead and not needing to be killed before that evening. The two thieves had their legs broken by the Roman soldiers as to hasten their death so it would be in compliance with the request made of the Jews to Pilate. Jesus however had already given up the ghost and did not need to have his legs broken.

The amazing point is that Jesus performed a miracle in a hopeless situation in full public view. Even the centurion close by was amazed about the whole affair.

Verses for consideration

Mar 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

Mar 15:38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

Mar 15:39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.

Joh 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

Joh 19:32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

Joh 19:33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

Joh 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Joh 19:35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

Joh 19:36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

Joh 19:37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

Mar 15:43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

Mar 15:44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

Mar 15:45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

Psa 34:20 He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. #####