

# THE DELIGHT OF DISCOVERY

## The Death

*Led as a Lamb*

### Triumphal Entry

Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

*"Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'" [Zechariah 9:9]*

So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!"

**Matthew 21:1-9**

- Why a donkey? ... a sign of peace

Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, "**If you had known, even you, especially in this your day**, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, **because you did not know the time of your visitation.**"

**Luke 19:41-44**

- Fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy (Daniel 9)

## **The Roman Triumph**

The Bible tells us that Jesus was born during the reign of the Roman emperor Caesar Augustus, who was the son of the assassinated Julius Caesar. Caesar Augustus vowed to build a temple to honor his murdered father and to hold a dedication ceremony to proclaim his father as divine. During that ceremony, a comet streaked through the sky—a sign that Caesar Augustus declared as confirmation that he himself must be “the Son of God,” if his father, Julius Caesar, was God. From that period on, the Roman people believed Caesar Augustus to be the divine “Son of God.” What began as a way to honor conquering generals soon became limited to the emperors, proclaiming their sovereignty and divinity. The [Roman Triumph] ceremony began with the Roman soldiers who assembled at the Praetorium, where the guards were stationed. Then a purple robe (the color of royalty) would be placed on the emperor and a wreath would be placed on his head. “Hail Caesar!” they would shout, and the people would chant, “Triomphe!” as the emperor and the guards wound their way along the Via Sacra in Rome to arrive at the Capitoline, or “head hill.” There, a bull would be sacrificed by someone who had been carrying an instrument of death. The emperor would then be offered a bowl of wine, which he would refuse or sometimes pour out on the head of the sacrificial bull. Finally, the emperor would ascend the steps of the Capitoline, accompanied by someone on his left and someone on his right. The entire population would declare him as their “savior”—their divine Caesar, proclaiming, “Hail Caesar, Lord and God!” Then they would all look for signs in the heavens to confirm their leader’s coronation. Ray brilliantly described how the description of Jesus’ last days in Mark’s gospel, including Jesus’ suffering, perfectly paralleled the Roman procession known as a triumph. After Jesus had been sentenced to death by Pontius Pilate, He was taken to the Praetorium in Jerusalem by the Roman guards. There, they stripped Him, threw a purple robe over Him, and placed a crown of thorns on His head. Then they mockingly worshiped Him, shouting, “Hail, the King of the Jews” and bowed down to Him, striking Him and spitting on Him. After they had tired of this sport, they led Him away along the Via Dolorosa to be crucified. Jesus carried His own cross (instrument of death) until He collapsed beneath it. A passerby, Simon of Cyrene, was forced to carry Jesus’ cross for Him to Golgotha (“the Place of the Skull”). There, the soldiers laid Jesus on the cross and crucified Him along with two revolutionaries, one on His left and one on His right. They offered Him sour wine, which He refused. Pontius Pilate had insisted that a sign (a titulus—a placard that identified His so-called crime) reading “THE KING OF JEWS” be nailed to Jesus’ cross. As He suffered, the crowd around Him taunted Him, “Hail, the King of the Jews.” They hurled blasphemies and insults on Him. Once Jesus gave up His spirit, there was an earthquake and the curtain at the entrance to the Holy of Holies in the temple was split in two from the top to the bottom. Signs, indeed. But perhaps the

greatest irony was what was said by the Roman centurion who had watched the entire event: "Surely this man was the Son of God!" (Mark 15:39).

**Kathie Lee Gifford & Rabbi Jason Sobel**

*The Rock, the Road, and the Rabbi, Chapter 22*

### **Crucifixion on Passover**

Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: On the tenth of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household. And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take it according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

**Exodus 12:3-7**

One Hebrew teacher said that "there is historical evidence that the lamb was roasted upright on a pomegranate pole with a crossbar through its shoulders. ... The pomegranate pole was used, because as a dry wood it would not boil." Boiling was prohibited in preparing the lamb. He also stated that "the pomegranate is symbolic of royalty and the priesthood. Another interesting point is that the entrails were tied around the head so everything could be roasted evenly without boiling. This resembles the crown of thrones."

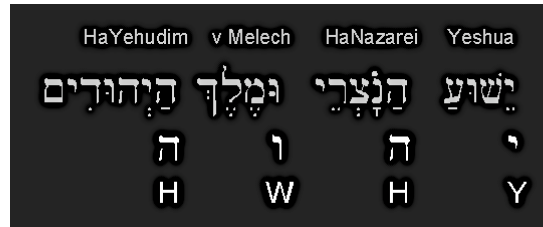
[You were redeemed] with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

**1 Peter 1:19**

The Jewish family usually put the family name around the neck of the lamb as they took it to the Temple to be sacrificed. This was to ensure that they received their own lamb back for the Passover dinner.

Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, 'I am the King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

**John 19:19-22**



And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**"

**Matthew 27:46**

**Psalm 22**

**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?** Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? ... But I am a [scarlet] worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" ... I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

**Psalm 22:1, 6-8, 14-18**

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the **ninth hour**. Then the sun was darkened, and the **veil of the temple** was torn in two. And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.' " Having said this, He breathed His last.

**Luke 23:44-46**

**Golgotha and the Sign of the Curse**

Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

**Genesis 22:2**

So Abraham **took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son**; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

**Genesis 22:6**

Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am." And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son. **And Abraham called the name of the place, The-LORD-Will-Provide;** as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

**Genesis 22:9-14**

*Though Jewish legends states that Abraham offered Isaac up as a sacrifice on the temple mount (threshing floor of Arunah) ... the topography of the land and the account in Genesis makes it seem that it was likely that Abraham offered Isaac at Golgotha (at the top of Mount Moriah ... Jerusalem).*

**A Sign of the Curse**

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had **twisted a crown of thorns**, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"

**Matthew 27:27-29**

Then God said, "Because you ... have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. **Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you ...**

**Genesis 3:17-18**

**The Resurrection: The Feast of First Fruits**

But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the **firstfruits** of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits**, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**, that in **all things He may have the preeminence.**

**Colossians 1:18**