

might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. The scripture referenced here is PSALMS 69:21, which reads: *They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.* JOHN 19:29 *Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.* MATTHEW 27:48 records the same thing stated like this: *And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.*

Number thirteen in Scofield's list of fifteen events at the crucifixion of Jesus found in his footnotes of MATTHEW 27:33 is the sixth of the seven cries Jesus made while upon the cross. This is found recorded in JOHN 19:30. JOHN 19:30 *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished:...* . This is the victor's cry, and Jesus was here saying: 'I have completely finished the work God the Father sent me to do, down to the last detail. It is finished once for all.' Let's read the Apostle Paul's commentary about this found in HEBREWS 10. HEBREWS 10:4 *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. 7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. 8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; 9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. 10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: 12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; 13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.*

The fourteenth event in Scofield's list of fifteen events at the crucifixion of Jesus is the seventh cry of Jesus upon the cross, which is recorded in LUKE 23:46. LUKE 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit... .*

The Death and Burial of Christ Jesus

Immediately thereafter Scofield's fifteenth event occurs, which is when Jesus dismisses his spirit, and all four of the gospel records mention this. Luke states it like this: LUKE 23:46 *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.* MATTHEW 27:50 *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.* MARK 15:37 *And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.* JOHN 19:30 *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

Sister Bodie wrote in her commentary of JOHN: "In the perfect consciousness of who He was, what He had accomplished, and of His perfect acceptance with God, He died, after His triumphant shout. He was the only Man that had power to lay down His life and power to take it up again. His death was not a surprise to Him. It was no accident. He had come to die; for this He was born." {End of quoting Sister Bodie.}

There are some things we discussed earlier in this study, which are very appropriate to again review at this time. Jesus on the cross of Calvary gave Himself for us; He gave Himself for you; He gave Himself for me. The reason Christ Jesus came into the world in the first place was to give Himself for us, and to redeem us from our sins. Five (GRACE) times in scripture the Apostle writes that our Lord Jesus Christ "gave himself" for our sins, stating in GALATIANS 1:4 *Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.* In GALATIANS 2:20 Paul writes that Jesus Christ *...gave himself for me.* Put your name there too, Jesus gave Himself for you, that you too could enjoy God's best for your life! EPHESIANS 5:25 informs us that Christ gave Himself for the church, pointing to the fact that He gave Himself for the Bride of Christ. EPHESIANS 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ*

also loved the church, and gave himself for it. In 1 TIMOTHY 2:6 Paul again writes of the man Christ Jesus ...*Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.* TITUS 2:14 explains this about Jesus Christ: *Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.* It was always Jesus intention from eternities past to freely give Himself for our sins! Jesus allowed Himself to be crucified, and in JOHN 12:27 Jesus explains: *...but for this cause came I unto this hour.* Again as Sister Bodie noted: He was the only Man that had power to lay down His life and power to take it up again. His death was not a surprise to Him. It was no accident. He had come to die; for this He was born.”

Let's now go back and finish looking at LUKE 23:45. LUKE 23:45 *And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.* Both MATTHEW and MARK enhance what Luke wrote here. We read in MATTHEW 27:51 *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.* MARK 15:38 *And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.* As Jesus dies upon the cross, the finger of God rent the veil of the temple in the midst, from top to bottom, from heaven to earth, opening to us by the blood of Jesus entrance unto the holies of holies, the throne of grace, where we can boldly come, and obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need! We can go to the Holy of Holies anytime we want, as HEBREWS 4:16 tells us. HEBREWS 4:16 *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.* The Apostle Paul further expounds upon the fact that we now have access to the Holy of Holies in HEBREWS 10. HEBREWS 10:19 *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,* 20 *By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;* 21 *And having an high priest over the house of God;* 22 *Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.*

Jesus death upon the cross is what ended the law, and that is where the law ended. ROMANS 10:4 explains this stating: *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.* In GALATIANS 3:13 we read: *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.* One more important scripture that also begins to define the age we are living in today is found in JOHN 1:17, where the Apostle John wrote: *For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.* Jesus death upon the cross is what ended the law. We are now living in the age of grace. We are now living in the Church Age. Joe Rogers wrote an excellent tract about this entitled “The Church Age and The Kingdom Age,” which is on the Living Waters Tabernacle website. The purpose of this Grace Age, this Church Age, these two thousand years since Calvary, is for the Bride of Christ to make herself ready as REVELATION 19:7 teaches. Now is the time not only to get ready, but the time to be ready for the coming of the Lord! It is the Apostle Paul's gospel of grace and glory, which prepares the Bride of Christ to make her this readied wife of Christ. Paul wrote in 2 CORINTHIANS 11:2 *For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.* Now look at ROMANS 7:4, which ties all we have been studying here into one concise thought. ROMANS 7:4 *Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.* Jesus death upon the cross is where the law ended, and ushered in this Church Age in which we are still living. We are in this current Church Age to be ...*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God...* ...HEBREWS 12:2. We are the joy that was set before Him as he endured such a contradiction of sinners against Himself upon the cross. The ultimate joy that was set before Him as He endured the cross narrows down to His Bride, the Bride of Christ, potentially you and me! Let's be ready for that twinkling of an eye moment in time! Amen.

We covered a lot of territory in the preceding paragraph, and now we will return to where we left off in LUKE 23. We have just finished examining Scofield's order of fifteen events at the

crucifixion of Jesus, which have taken us up to the point where Jesus voluntarily gave His life up, thus dying for our sins, ending the law and ushering in our yet present Church Age, the age of grace and glory. Those witnesses at the cross of Jesus had seen many things, and had witnessed the sun being darkened as we read in LUKE 23:45. *LUKE 23:45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.* Jesus gave up the ghost in LUKE 23:46, then we read: LUKE 23:47 *Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.* Matthew shed further light here as to what else happened at this time. MATTHEW 27:50 *Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.* 51 *And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;...* 54 *Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.*

We will read LUKE 23:48 & 49 in a moment, but before we do, is there any way to express this final scene at the cross? Words fail me. The Apostle Paul wrote in PHILIPPIANS 2:8 *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.* Before we read further in PHILIPPIANS 2 note the fact that the crucifixion of Jesus Christ was the foundation of Paul's gospel message. Follow Paul's logic in the following verses of 1 CORINTHIANS. 1 CORINTHIANS 1:17 *For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.* 18 *For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.* Paul continues in 1 CORINTHIANS 1:23 *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness.* Again in 1 CORINTHIANS 2:2 Paul adds this thought: *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.* Then once again in the 3rd chapter of 1 CORINTHIANS Paul wrote about Jesus Christ crucified being the foundation of Paul's gospel message. 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9 *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.* 10 *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.* 11 *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* Jesus death upon the cross happened two thousand years ago, and is still preached every day, and remembered by all of God's children constantly. Because Jesus died upon the cross we have eternal inexpressible benefits, for which we can only say thank you Jesus. The Apostle Paul expressed it like this in 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 *Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.* We are encouraged by the Apostle Paul, take inventory in our own lives, and always remember that we were redeemed by the precious life giving blood of Jesus Christ, so that we too could have everlasting life, eternal life, abundant life, and a life filled with hope looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who indeed is our life! Continuing with what Paul wrote next in PHILIPPIANS 2, we read: PHILIPPIANS 2:9 *Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* Paul also wrote this next important portion of scripture, which we reference often, found in ROMANS 10. ROMANS 10:9 *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.* This is how we are born again confessing ...*that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father...* PHILIPPIANS 2:11.

One more thought before we move on. The New Testament memorial of Calvary is the Lord's Supper, instituted by ...*the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped,*

saying, *This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me...* 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-25. It is Christ's desire for all believers to connect back to Calvary, and keep the Lord's Supper as a permanent memorial of Calvary. The Lord instructs each believer: *...this do in remembrance of me.* We are too thus remember that the Lord's supper's purpose, given of God, was to keep that unspeakable sacrifice of Christ for our sins, fresh in our minds, in our thoughts, in our midst, and keep it from becoming neglected or common place, or a distant memory. The Lord's Supper is a permanent memorial of Calvary; a memorial of Christ, and His death, to whom we show remembrance, thankfulness, respect, love and honor till He comes. 1 CORINTHIANS 11:26 *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.* Partaking of the Lord's Supper also connects us back to the last Passover where Jesus instituted this memorial. When we partake of the Lord's Supper we have fellowship with His broken body, and the shed blood of Jesus. We recall His suffering, His death, and His resurrection. The bread and wine are figures of Christ's death and resurrection, first found in scripture in GENESIS 14:18, gifts from the priest of the most High God, presented unto Abraham, the father of the faithful. We remember also that COLOSSIANS 1:14 tells us: *...we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.* There is nothing magical in the communion, nor is there anything in the Lord's Supper that will fill or sustain the physical body, or make you strong, however we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us. It is upon Christ Jesus whom we focus during the Lord's Supper! Leaving the Lord's table we are to be satisfied in Him; focused upon Him; rejoicing in His fellowship; proclaiming His death until He comes, and to be constantly looking for His soon coming! May we ever be loving His appearing, loving one another, and rejoicing evermore. *Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift...* 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15.

LUKE 23:48 *And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned.* 49 *And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.*

It is hard to find the proper words to describe this scene. The Holy Ghost gave Luke the inspiration to write three different Greek words that show different views of beholding something. Luke writes in LUKE 23:48 *And all the people that came together to that sight...* . What a sight to behold! The Greek word translated "sight" here is *theoria*, number 2335 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, and is only used this one time in scripture. *Theoria* means a viewing; a beholding; and denotes a spectacle, or to gaze at a sight. No doubt most were drawn together to this scene by following the commotion of the crowds that had came to see what was going on here. It was a "sight" like none other is the best way to describe this spectacle. We could ask the very same question Jesus asked the people concerning John the Baptist as to why they journeyed out into the wilderness to see John: *"But what went ye out for to see?"* {See MATTHEW 11:8 & 9; and LUKE 7:24-26.} LUKE 23:48 *And all the people that came together to that sight...* *"...But what went ye out for to see?"*

The second of the three Greek words Luke used to describe this scene is the word "beholding" found in in LUKE 23:48, which is a different Greek word than the "beholding" found in verse 49. LUKE 23:48 *And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned.* In verse 48 "beholding" comes from the Greek word *theoreo*, number 2334 in The Strong's Greek Concordance, a commonly used word that is used to describe looking on, or at a thing with interest, and for a purpose, usually indicating the careful observation of details. It means to view attentively. Their reaction to viewing such a sight was a smiting of their breasts probably because of the utmost astonishment, confusion, fear, and dread of what they had just witnessed, which was the darkness, the earthquake, and the cold empty feeling experienced while witnessing the death of Christ Jesus! It's hard to find the words to properly express this emotional scene!

LUKE 23:49 *And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.* We find in MATTHEW 27:54-56 who some of these women were, that being Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's

children, and from JOHN 19:26 we know that Jesus mother Mary was there, as well as the Apostle John. We find here in LUKE 23:49 that these people, Jesus acquaintance, *...and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things.* The “beholding” found here in verse 49 come from a different Greek word than was used in the previous verse. The Greek word here translated “beholding” is horao, number 3708 in The Strong’s Greek Concordance, and as used here means; to see with wonder, and with grief and shock, and with aching hearts, and flowing eyes. Again words cannot express what they saw and felt.

The Apostle John, who was there at the cross of Jesus when He gave up the ghost, explains what happened next, and he was the only gospel writer to mention the following. JOHN 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. 32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs: 34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. 35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. 36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. 37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.*

There is a number of Old Testament scripture alluded to in this passage we just read from JOHN. Keep in mind as we discuss this portion of scripture from JOHN that Jesus body was still upon the cross, and the other gospel writers don’t mention what the Holy Ghost had the Apostle John write here. And the Apostle John wrote what he witnessed here, what he was “beholding” here while Jesus body was still hanging upon the cross of Calvary. Here are some of the Old Testament scriptures that help explain this passage we just read in JOHN 19:31-37.

DEUTERONOMY 21:22 *And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: 23 His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.* This is why John wrote in JOHN 19:31 *...that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day.* The purpose of breaking the legs of those still alive upon the cross which they were hanged was to expedite their death. However as John 19:33 explains: *...But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs...* thus fulfilling the following scriptures. EXODUS 12 explains about the death of the Passover lamb, which was a type of Christ, our Passover Lamb of God who died for us upon the cross of Calvary. We read in EXODUS 12:46 this about the Passover lamb: *In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.* We also read in PSALMS 34:20 *He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.*

There are eight scriptures where we find the word “pierced,” and two of them are found here in JOHN 19. JOHN 19:34 *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.* And JOHN 19:37 *And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.* The scripture referenced in JOHN 19:37 comes from ZECHARIAH 12:10. ZECHARIAH 12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.*

Let me read a few words that Sister Bodie wrote in her commentary of JOHN concerning this portion of scripture. Sister Bodie wrote; “The soldiers could not break His bones. They could not touch that sacred Body after He had made atonement. He was thru. No more could men lay sacrilegious hands upon Him. The shield of Jehovah lay over Him, and the rough, untutored hands of lawless men respected that Holy One, not knowing why; but we know why. The Word of God ruled everywhere even among the ignorant and hostile. The touch of a soldier’s spear certifies to the death

of our Redeemer. Out of Christ as the riven Rock flow streams of spiritual life and blessing -- not water alone came forth but water and blood, as the beloved writer insists. The miraculous nature of the flow is clear from the way it is insisted upon -- the positive truth of it is reiterated -- so that we may be assured that it is a double cure. Cleansing for men is necessary on the one side as well as expiation for sin on the other. God must be satisfied in the death of Christ as to the matter of man's iniquity and rebellion as well as men sanctified. Christ's marvelous sacrifice on the cross has laid the foundation for man's full redemption -- spirit, soul and body. He is justified by the blood, and sanctified of cleansed by water, type of the Word, practically used in daily life." {End of quoting Sister Bodie.}

Let's discuss more about JOHN 19:34. JOHN 19:34 *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.* The soldier who pierced Jesus side made a wound deep and wide. We know this because of what our resurrected Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ told Thomas in JOHN 20. JOHN 20:19 *Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.* 20 *And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.* 21 *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.* 22 *And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:* 23 *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.* 24 *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.* 25 *The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.* 26 *And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.* 27 *Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.* 28 *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.* 29 *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.* Thus we see the gaping hole in Jesus side was big enough to thrust a hand into! There are twelve "blessed are they" statements in scripture. We who have believed in our heart that God hath raised Jesus Christ from the dead are saved, and are counted among the ...*blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.* This verse also points to SPIRITUAL PERFECTION as there are seven "have not seen" statements in scripture, and this particular instance speaks to us who have believed.

We read in REVELATION 1 concerning the Revelation of Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth, (REVELATION 1:5), that He is also Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, the first and the last, the Almighty, the One who was dead, and is alive for evermore. Then we read in REVELATION 1:7 *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.* This also answers to JOHN 19:37 and ZECHARIAH 12:10: ...*They shall look on him whom they pierced.*

JOHN 19:34 *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.* REVELATION 1:5 tells us that Jesus Christ ...*washed us from our sins in his own blood.* Jesus purchased our redemption with His own blood there upon the cross of Calvary. ACTS 20:28 informs us that Jesus Christ has purchased the church of God with his own blood. We read in HEBREWS 9:22 *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.* Then Peter tells us in 1 PETER 1:18 & 19 -- *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.* The blood that flowed from Jesus pierced side on Calvary purchased our redemption. Furthermore in JEREMIAH 2:13 and 17:13 we find that the Lord is the fountain of living waters. PSALMS 36:9 states: *For with thee is the fountain of life;... .* Finally we

read in REVELATION 21:6 That Jesus also is the water of life. REVELATION 21:6 *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*

Truly this was an incredible sight that the Apostle John witnessed, and recorded for us in scripture, but these things John here wrote about did indeed happen. Thus John continues in JOHN 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.*

We now come to the burial of Jesus, which needed to be accomplished in the next three hours. Even though it wasn't yet written in scripture, the principles spelled out in PHILIPPIANS 4:19 were already in effect, and had been since "in the beginning." PHILIPPIANS 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* There was no need for the burial of Christ Jesus until such time as He was dead. All four-gospel records tell of a rich man named Joseph of Arimathaea, a disciple of Jesus, being used of God to assist in the burial of Jesus. To see the complete picture we will compare the information from all four-gospel records starting with Luke's account first.

LUKE 23:50 *And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: 51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. 53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid. 54 And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on. 55 And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. 56 And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.*

Next let's read what Matthew wrote. MATTHEW 27:57 *When the even was come, there came a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: 58 He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. 59 And when Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, 60 And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. 61 And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.*

MARK 15:42 *And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, 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. 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. 45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. 47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.*

Last we come to John's account of Joseph of Arimathaea. JOHN 19:38 *And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. 39 And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight. 40 Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. 41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. 42 There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.*

This is all the information we have in scripture about Joseph of Arimathaea, which is enough to piece together his most wonderful testimony. There actually is a prophecy about him in ISAIAH 53:9 *And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.* Arimathaea means "a high place," and certainly Joseph of Arimathaea was given "a high place" in a couple of different respects. First of all Joseph

of Arimathaea is noted to be “...an honourable counsellor...” MARK 15:43. The word “honourable” signifies he was of honourable position, and the word “counsellor” found both in LUKE 23:50 and MARK 15:43 show that he was a member of the Jewish Sanhedrin! The above scriptures we read of Joseph of Arimathaea tell us that he was a good man, a just man, a disciple of Jesus, who also waited for the kingdom of God, and who did not consent to the ruling of the rest of the Sanhedrin that Jesus should be crucified. In fact we read in JOHN 19:38 that Joseph of Arimathaea was a secret disciple of Jesus, indicating that he secretly attended on the ministry of Jesus Christ, and believed Him to be the Messiah, but kept his thoughts to himself so as not to get kicked out of the Sanhedrin, a “high place” in Jewish society. However God also gave Joseph of Arimathaea “a high place” in assisting in the burial of Christ Jesus!

With such “a high place” in Jewish society Joseph of Arimathaea had no trouble getting the attention of Pontius Pilate, and “begged the body of Jesus” according to MATTHEW 27:58 and LUKE 23:52. MARK 15:42 tells us that Joseph of Arimathaea *...went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And we know that...Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph...* MARK 15:43 & 44. We next find that both Joseph of Arimathaea, and another ruler of the Jews named Nicodemus, who also followed Jesus secretly, buried Jesus. Make a note somewhere in your thinking that Nicodemus is only found mentioned in the book of JOHN, where he is mentioned five times. Five is the number of GRACE, and we know by grace are ye saved through faith (EPHESIANS 2:5 & 2:8). In JOHN 3 Jesus told Nicodemus how to get saved, that “Ye must be born again,” and “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,” JOHN 3:3 & 7. We find in JOHN 19:39 that Nicodemus *...brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight...* and in verse 40 we see that Joseph of Arimathaea, and Nicodemus *...took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury. MATTHEW 27:60 inform us that Joseph of Arimathaea took the body of Jesus, and ...laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. JOHN 19:41 goes on to explain where this sepulchre was: Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. Thus we find the need for a burial of Jesus body fulfilled by the unexpected boldness of Joseph of Arimathaea, and Nicodemus, members of the Jewish Sanhedrin council, who forsook their worldly “high calling” for a higher calling.*

Brother Hawkins notes this of Joseph of Arimathaea as he buried Jesus. “This spent body” (of Jesus Christ) “was not cast off as something that was now worthless and unimportant, but was placed in the hands of one who was determined to treat His body with the greatest of respect and tender loving care. It is first, wrapped in linen, indicating that it has been and remains, a vessel of righteousness. This priceless treasure is laid to rest in a sepulchre, which had never been occupied. Under the Old Covenant, God took great care to insure that, even in type, the death of Jesus was not confused with any other. The ashes of the offering were not to be treated as something commonplace, but were to be put beside the altar, and then carried forth without the camp to a clean place (LEVITICUS 6:10-11). If a sin offering was sodden at all in an earthen vessel, that vessel was to be broken so that no other remnants of death could come in contact with it. So it is that the Body of Jesus was laid in a sepulchre where death had never entered, and thus remained separate from all others.” {End of quoting Brother Hawkins.}

Sister Bodie in her commentary on MATTHEW here wrote: “He is laid away in the clean sepulchre, where never man yet lay. No death defiling body had ever rested in the tomb, which held the precious tabernacle of Christ. His death cannot mingle or be identified with the death of any other man; but rather His death, is death dispelling. Moreover the Holy One who is to see no corruption cannot enter the abode of corruption. How marvelous is the sovereignty of God manifested over every little detail. All is under His direction and government.” {End of quoting Sister Bodie.}

As we leave this scene of Jesus sepulchre let us take careful note of the following facts. After Joseph of Arimathaea, and Nicodemus finished burying Jesus, and departed the sepulchre, note what

MATTHEW 27:61 tells us: *And there was Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary, sitting over against the sepulchre.* MARK 15:47 states this same event with the following words: *And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.* Their good intentions were to anoint the body of Jesus, but they were not given that opportunity. The next time we read of these women will be in three days, when Jesus arose early in the morning from the dead. These women who were last at the cross, and last seen “sitting over against the sepulchre” at Jesus burial will be the first to witness the empty tomb where Christ was buried three days later!

Going back to MARK 14 and JOHN 12 we read that Mary of Bethany within the previous week did get to anoint Jesus against the day of His burial. MARK 14:3 *And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.* 4 *And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made?* 5 *For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.* 6 *And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me.* 7 *For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always.* 8 *She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.* 9 *Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.* We see here also that Jesus knew after His death and resurrection that the gospel would be preached throughout the whole world, and that the story of Mary of Bethany anointing Jesus against the day of His burial would be a part of this gospel record. JOHN 12:1 *Then Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead.* 2 *There they made him a supper; and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him.* 3 *Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. ...7 Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this.*

MATTHEW 27:62-66 completes the story of Jesus burial. MATTHEW 27:62 *Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,* 63 *Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.* 64 *Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first.* 65 *Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can.* 66 *So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.*

In this passage we see that the chief priests and Pharisees did indeed remember Jesus words, which He had spoken many times of His death and resurrection three days later. Those with a SCOFIELD reference Bible find eleven scriptural references to the three days mentioned in MATTHEW 27:63. Though the chief priests and Pharisees didn't believe Him, and here called Jesus a deceiver as they also did in JOHN 7:12 where they also said “He deceiveth the people,” they wanted to make as sure as they could that they could prevent Jesus resurrection. Pilate gave them permission to make the watch on the sepulchre as sure as they could, but the best of their efforts would be nothing more than folly. To think that their guard could beat the resurrection power of God was utter foolishness. PSALMS 14:1 and PSALMS 53:1 both say basically the same thing: *The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good.* Thus we find these chief priests and Pharisees that went to Pilate with this request were mere fools, having in reality said in their heart “there is no God.”

Now consider this also as we focus for a moment on Jesus disciples, and His closest followers. For these three days while Jesus body lie in the grave, what were their thoughts? Were they awaiting Christ being raised from the dead three days later? The answer is no, the resurrection of Jesus Christ was not in their thinking. To them Jesus was dead! They had witnessed His death. In a moment we will re-read a portion of scripture from LUKE 18 that we discussed earlier in this study,

but notice here also that the chief priests and Pharisees in their unbelief did at least consider the resurrection of Jesus on the third day as a possibility. Let's read again LUKE 18:31-34, and see why Jesus disciples didn't consider the resurrection of Jesus on the third day as a possibility. LUKE 18:31 *Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished. 32 For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be mocked, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on: 33 And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again. 34 And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.* Again notice that verse 34 reveals three things: 1) the eyes of their understanding was not yet enlightened, nor could they yet fully comprehend these things, because the Holy Ghost was not yet given; 2) this saying was hid from them, or in other words this saying was a puzzle unto them; and 3) they could not even begin to grasp what He meant. This is part of why the Apostle John also wrote in JOHN 20:9 after Jesus resurrection: *For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.* We mention all of this again concerning Jesus disciples and His closest followers to better appreciate their feelings, their emotions, and their thinking during the three days before Jesus resurrection. The darkness that occurred those last three hours of Christ's crucifixion followed them emotionally during these next three days as they grieved His death. The only thing the gospel records record of what took place during these three days is what we read above in MATTHEW 27:62-66 concerning the chief priests and Pharisees, who had a watch set over His sepulchre.