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John 19

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

John 19.

Topics.

- Jesus is brutally beaten and the crowd cries, "Crucify him, crucify him!"
- Those who delivered Jesus over to Pilate have the greater sin.
- Jesus is brought before the judgment seat of Pilate.
- Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.
- Roman soldiers divide Jesus garments.
- Jesus gives up his Spirit.
- The soldiers pierced Jesus side and blood and water came out.
- Not one of his bones will be broken.
- They will look on him whom they have pierced.
- Joseph and Nicodemus lay Jesus in the tomb.

The previous chapter: in the previous chapter Judas, soldiers and officers from the chief priests arrested Jesus and took him to Annas the Jewish high priest. Annas sends Jesus bound to Caiaphas the official Roman appointed high priest. Peter denied Jesus three times and early in the morning Jesus was taken to the headquarters of Pilate the governor. Even though Pilate could find no fault in Jesus the crowd cried out for Barabbas to be released.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

JOHN 19:1-8

Jesus is brutally beaten and the crowd cries "Crucify him, crucify him!"

- **John 19:1-8:** Then Pilate took Jesus and flogged him. ²And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. ³They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands. ⁴Pilate went out again and said to them "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." ⁵So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them "Behold the man!" ⁶When the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, for I find no guilt in him." ⁷The Jews answered him "We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God." ⁸When Pilate heard this statement, he was even more afraid.

Some Christians judge God's love for them by their circumstances and outward situations (good or bad) or whether they are feeling happy or depressed. They feel if their life is calm and blessed God loves them, but if it takes a turn for the worse God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition since it is not circumstance of life that determines how much God loves us. Should anyone ever doubt that God loves them all they have to do is read these verses and realise what it cost the heart of God to save us and ponder the horrific and brutal horror His Son suffered to redeem us to eternal life. Pilates soldiers cruelly whipped Jesus, forced a

crown of thorns on his head, dressed him in royal clothing, mocked him and repeatedly slapped his face then Pilate still finding no guilt in Jesus took his bloody, bleeding and beaten body out to the chief priest and their officers and they cry out "Crucify him, crucify him!" (v6).

NOTICE: the chief priests wanted Jesus killed because he said he is the Son of God, they believed that was blasphemy because they believed he was saying he was equal to God.

Even today the Jewish people do not accept Jesus: though the Jewish nation had the most convincing evidence, the most powerful preaching, the clearest call from Christ himself and from his apostles, ever since the first preaching of the Good News of the Gospel of grace multitudes of them have remained even to this day hardened and blinded to the glory of God's grace in Christ by their obstinacy and unbelief from generation to generation. In (2011) I attended a public meeting in which an Israeli lecturer who travelled the world speaking for the Jews today and about Israel's land and their history as recorded in the Bible. At the end of her lecture the meeting was opened up to the audience for questions. One lady asked:

- "How do the Jews view Jesus today?"

The Jewish speakers' answerer was:

- "Our Messiah has not yet come."

There was a sudden silence over the meeting at this moment, then the same lady obviously a Christian quoted a few Scriptures to show that Israel's Messiah did come, the lecturer was kindly patient, but after a short while turned and picked up a Jewish Bible, held it in the air and said:

- "This is our Bible and there is no New Testament in it."

A man stood up and asked:

- "How do the Jewish people view a Jew who converts to Christianity?"

The speakers replied:

- "We would consider that they have left the faith."

As she spoke it was clear that the Jewish people love God and love their Messiah the promised seed of Abraham and David, they just haven't recognised him yet (and even this is in God's eternal plan) but it reminded me of the following fabulous and prophetic words of Zechariah: -

- The LORD will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be great, the land and the priests shall mourn, and all the families that are left each by itself shall mourn (Zech. 12:9-14).

When this momentous and beautiful moment takes place, the entire world will change as we know it today, and a glorious New Age will begin, one of righteousness, justice, joy and peace because the King of peace will be the Head and Shepherd of all nations.

JOHN 19:9-12

Those who Delivered Jesus over to Pilate have the Greater Sin.

- **John 19:9-12:** He (Pilate) entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been

given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

¹²From then on Pilate sought to release him, but the Jews cried out, "If you release this man, you are not Caesar's friend. Everyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar."

Jesus tells Pilate he would have no authority over him unless it had been given to him from God, as horrific as all these events are they are still in the sovereign and eternal plan and control of God.

NOTICE: though it was Pilate who gave his Roman soldiers the authority to have Jesus killed Jesus says it is the religious rulers who committed the greater sin and who Jesus holds accountable since it was the chief priests and their officers who falsely condemned Jesus and cried for him to be killed, (v6, 21) whereas Pilate was more than willing to let him go, but the Jewish religious leaders had enormous authority and influence over the nation of Israel and threatened Pilate by implying they would inform Caesar that he has supported a king who is an enemy of Rome (v12).

JOHN 19:13-18

Jesus is brought before the Judgment seat of Pilate.

- **John 19:13-18:** So, when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, and in Aramaic Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of Preparation of the Passover. It was about 12 noon. He said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" ¹⁵They cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar." ¹⁶So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called the place of a skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.

Gabbatha: was a vernacular term for the Roman tribunal in Jerusalem and the place of judgment.

Golgotha: means the skull also known as Calvary it was a knoll near Jerusalem and the Hebrew name of the place where Jesus was crucified.

Preparation Day: is Passover Day, it was called Preparation Day because the day immediately following Passover Day was a Sabbath Day and the first day of the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread so the Jews had to prepare for this seven day feast on Passover Day thus the reason Passover Day is sometimes called Preparation Day.

- It is approaching or close to 12 noon the 6th hour of the day.

The words, "So when Pilate heard these words" (v13) refer to the Jewish religious leaders threatening Pilate that they would tell Caesar he supported a king who was an enemy of Rome if he let Jesus go (v12).

Overview of the events: the following is an overview of the events that have taken place so far. From sunset Friday the 14th Passover Day Jesus and the apostles ate the Last Supper. Officers of the Pharisees came and took Jesus captive to the high priests Annas who sent him to Caiaphas who took him bound to Pilate. Pilate sent him to Herod who after hearing him sent him back to Pilate who then handed Jesus over to the Roman soldiers who brutally tortured and mocked him. Annas, Caiaphas and the Jews with them had not entered Pilate's headquarters because they wanted to remain clean to eat the Passover meal which they ate sometime after they had handed Jesus over to Pilate. The chief priest's then demanded Pilate have Jesus killed.

Pilate sits on his judgment seat before Christ: this is stunning and the epitome of spiritual blindness to the extreme, Pilate a Gentile secular man was willing to recognise Jesus as the King of the Jews while the Jewish religious rulers of Israel rather than exalt their Messiah and King

not only call to have him murdered, but also confess the secular king of Rome as their king. They no-doubt rejoiced when they saw Christ being cruelly nailed to a cross as a common criminal.

Is it any wonder Jesus said:

- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness (Matt. 23:27, 29) (Luke 11:47-48).

JOHN 19:19-22

Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

- **John 19:19-22:** Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written.

Matthew tells us that Pilate knew that it was out of envy that the Jewish religious rulers had delivered Jesus up to him (Matt. 27:18). It is most likely Pilate put the inscription, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" over his head for the following two reasons:

1. Because he respected Jesus, the that fact he had it written in three languages testifies to this.
2. To offend the Jewish religious rulers since he knew their primary reason for having him killed was to protect their own religious empire of power.

4

The Sign: "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." Matthew, Mark and Luke record the words written on Pilate's inscription slightly different to each other sceptics use this fact to say that the Bible contradicts itself, but this is a foolish statement since it is very easily explained.

Matthew says:

- This is Jesus the king of the Jews (Matt. 27:37) (KJV).

Mark says:

- The king of the Jews (Mark 15:26) (KJV).

Luke says:

- This is the king of the Jews (Luke 23:38).

John says:

- Jesus of Nazareth the king of the Jews (John 19:19) (KJV).

It probably read:

- This is Jesus of Nazareth the king of the Jews.

Remember four different people are stating what the sign said and it was written in three different languages added to this it is not important what the exact words written on the inscription were because what is important is very clear is the truth Jesus is the King of the Jews, no-one can mistake this truth regardless of whose inscription they read.

JOHN 19:23-24

Roman soldiers divide Jesus Garments.

- **John 19:23-24:** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things.

Here is the wonder and splendour of the Bible, the words: -

- This was to fulfil the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

Immediately excites the mind of the ardent Bible student as it instantly transcends their mind to the words of David in Psalm twenty-two in which David a king and prophet echoes Christ on the cross saying: -

- They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots" (Psalm 22:18).

The entire chapter (Psalm 22) is fabulous reading as it is a beautiful example of a Bible echo and revelation of Jesus Christ on the cross.

The dividing of Christs garments: when they nailed Jesus to the cross, they stripped him of his garments (at least his upper garments) obviously if the garment was torn and divided it would be of no use to any one therefore, they agreed to cast lots for it. Following is some reasons they may have contented for Jesus garment:

- Because it was so fine and rich, that it was worth a considerable amount of money, but this is not in harmony with the poverty Christ appeared in.
- Perhaps they had heard of those that had been cured by touching the hem of his garment and they thought it some magic virtue in it.
- They hoped to get money of his friends for such a sacred relic.
- Because, in contempt, mockery and scorn they would seem to put a value upon it, as royal clothing.
- They were simply playing a game of dice for the clothes as a diversion to pass away the time while they waited for Jesus to die.

Whatever the reason they cast lots for the Lords garment the word of God was accomplished as recorded in the first words of the famous Psalm in which it states "They parted my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Psalm. 22:18). This was never true of David, but certainly echoes Christ, of whom David (a prophet) in spirit, spoke.

NOTE: the fact that David by the Spirit was so accurate in speaking these words thousands of years before the event actually took place shows us that all the horrific events that took place leading up to the Lord's crucifixion was the fulfilment of the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God.

JOHN 19:25-27

The Woman at the Cross.

- **John 19:25-27:** but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Behold: carries the idea of considering, knowing and perceiving. Standing at the cross was Jesus mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas and Mary Magdalene.

Mary the mother of Jesus: visited her cousin Elizabeth when pregnant with John the Baptist, she was with Jesus at a marriage in Cana of Galilee and sought him out when he was teaching in a house. She was at the cross and dwelt with the disciples in Jerusalem.

Mary Magdalene: was said to be possessed of devils, but delivered by Jesus of them, she was at Christ's crucifixion, the sepulchre and recognised Jesus after the resurrection.

Mary the wife of Cleophas: (an Israelite)

The mother of James and Joses: was at the sepulchre, assisted in preparing the body of Jesus for burial and a witness of the resurrection.

Behold your mother: I have heard some state that Jesus was harsh because he addressed his mother as woman rather than mother, but it is likely he addressed his mother in this way for two reasons:

1. So, his followers would not exalt her as a goddess or image to worship.
2. Jesus saw all those who were faithful to him as his family no-one is considered in the eyes of Christ as being of greater value than another.

Jesus was in effect showing to all that he does not exalt his biological family above his spiritual family meaning no-one has privileges or talents no matter how great or successful that exalt them above others in the family of Christ or that makes them of more worth to Christ than anyone else who is in his family. In the same way we are all to see each other as Christ sees us (i.e., as brothers and sisters in Christ who are all of equal worth and to be equally loved).

JOHN 19:28-30

Jesus gives up his Spirit.

- **John 19:28-30:** After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I thirst."²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Sour wine: means vinegar as sour wine.

Hyssop branch: was a symbol of spiritual cleansing.

It is finished: Jesus words it is finished means God's plan for eternal salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ for all mankind (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) that He planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the foundation of the world and was spoken of by the prophets is complete.

Gave up his Spirit: means Jesus knowing the joy that was set before him (Heb. 12:2) accepted his death and gave up his life (i.e., he breathed his last breath) trusting that God his heavenly Father would raise him from the dead. The following is a beautiful glimpse of the beauty and wonder of the language of the Bible. Jesus words:

- I thirst and a sponge of the sour wine on a hyssop was held to his mouth (v28-29).

Are absolutely fabulous as it immediately takes the mind of the ardent Bible reader back in time to the following words of David the king and prophet:

- They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. (Psalm 69:21).

These suffering words of Christ take us back to (Psalm 69) which is majestic reading as it is a beautiful example of a Bible echo and a revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary.

JOHN 19:31-36

The Soldiers Pierced Jesus side and Blood and Water came Out.

- **John 19:31-36:** Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness— his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."

It is still the day of Passover (also called the Day of Preparation). The words, "The Sabbath drew nigh" refer to the first day of the seven-day Feast of Unleavened Bread which was a Sabbath day.

Blood and water: the human body is made up of water and blood. Jesus had performed miracles and wonders on earth that no man could ever do so the phase:

- There came out blood and water.

Showed that Jesus was human to all who may have marvelled and wondered who this man was that called himself the Son of God especially those who might have thought of him as some kind of spirit creature or being. Figuratively blood symbolises the cleansing power of God through Christ and water figuratively symbolises water baptism the entry into the family of Christ.

He who saw it has borne witness: the words, "He who saw it has borne witness" (v35) most likely refer to John himself, since it is a principal of Bible writers to hide themselves in the letter. The writers very rarely use the word I they will often say that disciple with them or him when they are referring to themselves. It is a style of writing that avoids boasting. The spirit of the world is pride and the desire to feel important, if someone of the world has contact with a famous person they want to boast about it to their friends, biblical writers often avoid this by hiding themselves in their writings as John by saying, "He who saw it has borne witness" is most likely doing.

Not one of his bones will be broken: it was the custom to remove the bodies nailed to the crosses before the Sabbath Day arrived so that they would not pollute the Holy Day, but of course not all who were nailed to the stake would be dead before the Sabbath came when this happened they would break their legs to kill them so they could be taken down.

These things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: the Roman guards broke the legs of both criminals either side of Jesus, but when they came to Jesus he had already given up his life, so they did not break his bones, fulfilling Old Testament Scripture and pointing every reader to the fact that Jesus Christ is the ultimate sacrificial Lamb without blemish. The following is majestic, the words:

- For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken" (v36).

Are absolutely fabulous because they immediately take the mind of the ardent Bible reader to God's command to the nation of Israel not to break any bone of the Passover Lamb without blemish (Exod. 12:46) (Num. 9:12). Added to this excitement is the fact when Jesus and the apostles

ate the Last Supper which was actually the last Passover meal that Jesus ate there is no Passover lamb mentioned even though they would have had a proper Passover meal, we know this because Jesus sent two disciples to prepare a room for them to eat it in, so it is hardly likely they set the table with one cup of wine and one slice of bread for thirteen men to eat after a day's work, but this is the wonder and splendour of the Bible the Passover lamb is deliberately not mentioned because Jesus that very night was about to become the Passover Lamb without blemish for everyone (Jew and Gentiles) who is seeking God. For further information see the title:

- Bones (No Bones Broken), in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

JOHN 19:37

They will look on Him whom they have Pierced.

- **John 19:37:** And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

This is another fabulous verse which immediately transcends the mind back in history to David the king and prophet and to Zechariah a prophet of God for the following two reasons:

1. The words of David the king and prophet who wrote in Psalms twenty-two the following words, "For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet I can count all my bones they stare and gloat over me" (Psalm 22:16-17) beautifully echoing the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross added to this the entire Psalm gives a graphic picture of Christ on the cross.
2. The wonder does not end at the words of David, but also take us to the following prophetic words of Zechariah, "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:10).

The entire chapter is fabulous reading as it is a good example of a Bible echo and a revelation of Jesus Christ and his return especially when John's statement and Zechariah's prophetic words are linked to the following words recorded in the final book of the Bible:

- Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen (Rev. 1:7).

For further information see:

- Zechariah 12, in Commentary Old Testament (ON WEBSITE MENU).

JOHN 19:38-42

Joseph and Nicodemus lay Jesus in the Tomb

- **John 19:38-42:** After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So, he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

Arimathea: was a place in Palestine.

Nicodemus: means victorious among his people, he was a Jewish Rabbi. Joseph and Nicodemus laid Jesus in the tomb sometime after 3pm but before sunset Friday (the 14th day of Nisan), because after sunset Friday the Jewish weekly Saturday Sabbath began, but this Saturday also happened to be the first day of the seven Day feast of Unleavened Bread which was also a Sabbath Day so it was a double Sabbath called a High Sabbath.

Three days in the tomb: Jesus was in the tomb Friday the 14th (Passover Day) for a very short period of time then all day Saturday (the Jewish weekly Sabbath) and then for a short period of time on Sunday the first day of the week, fulfilling the Scriptures and Jesus words to the apostles that he would be put to death and rise the third day.

NOTE: there is confusion over the Scriptures which state:

- For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth (Matt. 12:40) (Jonah 1:17-2:2).

But when it is understood that the expression three days and three nights is a Jewish idiom which simply means the third day everything that is written about Christ's death and resurrection beautifully harmonizes together.

For further information see the title:

- Three Days and Three nights.
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

Bible House of Grace