

University Heights Church of Christ

BULLETIN

February 8, 2009

And They Crucified Him

Matthew 27: 35 *“And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots. 36 And sitting down they watched him there; 37 And set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS. 38 Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. 39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, You that destroy the temple, and build [it] in three days, save yourself. If you be the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking [him], with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. 44 The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth.”*

The Bible indicates that Jesus was fastened with nails in His hands and His feet.

John 20: 20 *“And when he had so said, he showed to them [his] hands and his side.”*

Luke 24: 39 *“Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit has not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. 40 And when he had thus spoken, he showed them [his] hands and [his] feet.”*

The prophecy of the crucifixion that is found in Psalms 22 stated that the victim would be pierced in His hands and His feet.

Psalms 22: 16 *“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.”*

John 19: 17 *“And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called [the place] of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: 18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.”*

Among the Romans suspending a victim by nailing them to something and letting them slowly die an unimaginably ugly and painful death was a very common way of executing non-Roman criminals or enemies in war. In “Wars of the Jews”, Book 2, Chapter 5, Paragraph 2, Josephus recorded that in subduing an insurrection in Judea the Romans crucified about 2000 of those considered to be the worst offenders.

At a later period Josephus recorded that when the Romans first put the city of Jerusalem under siege, the Romans were every day able to ambush and capture five hundred or more Jews that slipped out of the city to scavenge for food. These Jewish captives were first whipped and then tormented with all kinds of tortures before they died and were hung up before the wall of the city. Josephus said that the soldiers “nailed those they caught, one after one way, and another after another, to the crosses, by way of jest; when their multitude was so great, that room was wanting for the crosses, and crosses wanting for the bodies.” (“Wars of the Jews” Book 5, Chapter 11, Paragraph 1)

It is interesting that no writer from ancient times adds any information to our knowledge of the details of crucifixion beyond the information that the New Testament gives. All of the few ancient writers that mention crucifixion refer to it in almost exactly the same way the Holy Spirit inspired New Testament writers did.

The New Testament writers and all of the other ancient writers that mention crucifixion give no details about the thing that the victim was attached to. They give neither the size, weight, or design. The New Testament indicates that in the case of Jesus, the thing to which Jesus was nailed, could be carried by one man.

The New Testament indicates that Jesus was fastened in place with nails in His hands and His feet. That is a whole lot more information than Josephus gives about the multiple thousands of crucifixions that Josephus refers to in his writings.

If the non-Bible details of crucifixion that appear in commentaries and articles do not come from some ancient writer who was an eyewitness of Roman crucifixions where do those details come from? They all come from modern speculation. They come from deciding that the stake must have had a cross arm, and the arms of the victim must have been spread and the cross arm would be so long and therefore weigh so much, and that was what they carried, and the upright stayed in place at the site of execution and and and, no ancient eyewitness that I can find ever said any of that. As far as I can see all of those details are pure speculation that was first voiced hundreds of years after the crucifixion of Jesus. The Holy Spirit did not see fit to record any of those details in the New Testament and not a single one of them has come down to us from any eyewitness source that I have ever been able to find. If anyone can find me an eyewitness account of all of those non-Bible details of how the Romans crucified people I would be very, very happy to get the information. See W. E. Vine on “cross” and “crucify” to establish the actual meanings of the New Testament words used.

The New Testament says that the Romans fastened Jesus to a stake (stauros), with nails through His hands and his feet, and set the pole upright. The hands of Jesus could have been brought together above His head with a big nail driven through both of them and bent over to make sure the hands did not come loose. His feet could have been brought together beneath him and fastened the same way. When set upright Jesus would have been in hideous pain and destined to not live a very long time. What did the Romans care. Those soldiers cared no more for the comfort, welfare or longevity of Jesus than Roman soldiers cared for the comfort, welfare or longevity of the multitudes of victims Josephus mentioned. The Roman soldiers beat their victims, tortured them, nailed them to something suitable for the purpose and set them up as an encouragement for non-Romans to be law-abiding and to not make Roman’s unhappy.

Eyewitness accounts from ancient times are valuable in helping us to understand ancient times. Modern speculation about ancient times is limited in its value and unlimited in its harm because the thinking of the speculator is often completely out of harmony with the thinking of those in ancient times. The most accurate, best edited and therefore the most valuable record of ancient times is the Holy Bible. **What the Bible reveals is true and it is truly what we need to know in order to be what God wants us to be.**

Remember To Pray For

Shirley Harrod and her family in the death of Shirly's brother **Raymond Jones**

Ron Tirey recuperating from heart surgery

Ron Catchen the brother of **Bobby Atkisson** also recuperating from surgery
Jackson Scott Spivey

Mildred Collins, **David's** mother is to undergo thyroid surgery

Dallis and **Alma Isaacs**

Francis Nations

Mary Jane Frost

Melanie Bilye

Rick Shamas

Bonnie Wells

Sarah Phillips

Carol Bach

Edith Tirey

Lucy Hale

Pamela Clayton

Ella Wells, and her family

Freddie Ward

David and **Chessie Harwell**

Donna Caldwell

Mabel Greene

Tony Tyree

Ruth Brundige

Cindy Miller

Christie Ellis

Shirley Lewis

Brady Gibbons

Gail Hunter

Larry Flannery

Donnie Joseph

Cheryl Spear

Lanny Hiller

Charity and **Abdiel Pallafox**

Helen Stephens

Chris Handshoe

Jeffrey Howerton

Addison Pervine

Tom Kemp

Freda Blakey

Using the same elements, the same rules, the same principles and different apparatus the same results can be achieved. That is how birds, bees, airplanes and rockets all fly.

Everybody knows that airplanes and rockets came to fly because somebody learned the rules and the principles that governed flying and used the elements to construct apparatus that fly by using those rules and principles. Nobody thinks airplanes or rockets came to fly by accident and all by themselves.

Why doesn't everybody apply the same common sense and logic to birds and bees that they do to airplanes and rockets?

Like it or not the universe says, "In the beginning God created".

We are because God did it.

Thoughts

God's works intrigue us, as they well should, because God created us with the ability to be properly impressed with God's works if we pay attention and think.

The monarch butterfly is an interesting creation of God. It is the big black and orange butterfly, that we see a lot of, especially in late summer. It is a migratory creature. The caterpillar feeds on milkweeds. In its lifetime the caterpillar outgrows and sheds its skin four times. The fifth time the caterpillar undergoes a change it ceases to be a caterpillar. It becomes a chrysalis and within about ten days time forms an entirely new creature that not only is designed to fly but also possesses the knowledge to fly. It has never flown before but this creature emerges from the chrysalis with everything it needs to fly.

In the cycle of the migration of this kind of butterfly it takes four separate generations to complete the trip. The first generation, with a life span of about one-month, leaves its home in the mountains of Mexico flies to the southern United States, breeds and dies. The second generation, which also has a life span of about one-month, flies to the northern United States breeds and dies. The third generation, which also has a life span of about one-month, flies to Canada breeds and dies.

The fourth generation does not have a life span of one month. The fourth generation has a life span of nine months, not one month. That fourth generation comes out of the chrysalis not only completely equipped to fly but completely equipped to fly 2000 miles in two months, directly back by the shortest route to the place in the mountains of Mexico where the first generation of the migration cycle started four generations before. For most the butterflies that 2000-mile trip includes flying across the miles of open water of the Great Lakes.

In order to make the 2000 mile trip in the allotted time the butterflies must use their less than 4" wingspan to fly at least fifty miles per day while making stops for food and water. Definitely do not get in the way of a monarch butterfly because it is a butterfly with an amazing mission.

The target of this fourth generation odyssey is a 60 square mile area 10,000 feet high in the mountains of Mexico that not one of these butterflies have ever been to before they arrive the first and only time in their life.

This migration was not discovered until 1975. Think how much people thought they knew in 1974. Then came the migration revelations of 1975.

Think of the millions of things that must be just as they are and no other way in order for this migration cycle to work. This kind of thing is no surprise and no problem to Bible believers. We believe that God created the heaven and the earth and everything in them with planning, forethought and complete knowledge and power just like capable engineers design and build complicated machines. But consider the plight of the believer in macroevolution that believes it all came about as a result of unguided accidents in colossal quantities. That illogical position would be a very uncomfortable place in which to be.

Attempting to pretend that there is no God cannot be fun when information like this comes bouncing out of the woodwork.

Notes

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:00PM

We are very happy to announce that Adam Litmer has agreed to come and work with this church as a full time preacher. We look forward to the arrival of Adam and his family. Adam has worked for the past four years with the Evandale Church of Christ in the Cincinnati, Ohio area.

If all religious people today obeyed the New Testament only most of the activities of most churches would not exist because those activities are not from the New Testament.

If the churches described in New Testament pleased God by doing only the things that are recorded in the New Testament would churches today please God by doing only those things that are recorded in the New Testament?

What is the legitimate goal of religion other than to please God? If obeying the New Testament only will please God what is the purpose of doing anything else?

Schedule of Services

Sunday Morning

Bible Classes 9:45am

Worship Service 10:45am

Sunday Evening

Worship Service 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening

Bible Studies for all ages 7:30pm

Monthly Song Service

First Friday 7:30pm

University Heights Church of Christ

**445 Columbia Avenue
Lexington, Kentucky 40508**

859 255-6257

859 266-6406

www.uheightschurch.com

**COME STUDY THE BIBLE
AND WORSHIP WITH US**

**HELP GOD'S WORD GROW
LEARN IT • OBEY IT • TEACH IT**