The Gospel of Jesus Chrsit (7)

The Promised Gospel (6)

The Burial of Jesus

Roman Practice vs. Jesus' Destiny:

- Roman crucifixion practice: Bodies of criminals were left exposed or thrown into common graves.
- Because Jesus was counted among sinners on the cross, He was destined to be discarded with criminals.

Joseph of Arimathea:

- Upper-class, wealthy, and respected member of the Sanhedrin (highest governing council).
- Secret disciple who feared retaliation from Jewish leaders.

The Courageous Act (Mt. 27:56–60)

- Risked consequences after Jesus died, and went directly to Pilate to ask for the body.
- Wrapped the body in clean linen, placed it in his own new tomb cut out of rock, rolled a large stone in front of the entrance.

The Burial of Jesus

Scripture Fulfillment

- Isaiah 53 & Psalm 22: Famous chapters describing the suffering, death, and meaning of the Messiah.
- Isaiah 53:9 (NLT): "He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man’s grave."
- Core Point: He committed no sin, yet was counted as a criminal. Ultimately, God ensured He was buried in a rich man’s tomb instead of with the wicked.

Dual Importance of the Burial

1. Proof of Actual Death

- After severe scourging, crucifixion, and having His side pierced with a spear, He could not survive in a tomb for days without medical care.

2. Historical Evidence of the Empty Tomb

- Less than two months later, disciples proclaimed the Resurrection in the streets of Jerusalem with massive power. If fabricated, opponents could easily disprove it by producing the body from the known tomb.

Jesus' Own Prophecies of Resurrection

1) The Sign of the Prophet Jonah (Mt. 12:39–41)

- Demand for a Sign: Religious leaders demanded supernatural signs, but their hearts were hardened; they sought to disprove Him, not believe.
- Jonah was in the belly of a huge fish for 3 days and 3 nights after fleeing God's call to Nineveh.
- Mt. 12:40: "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
- Meaning: Jesus foretold He would remain buried for 3 days and come out victorious, just as Jonah returned from the fish.

2) Direct Revelation Following Peter's Confession

- Peter's Confession (Mt. 16:16): "You are the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the living God.
- Jesus began explaining He must go to Jerusalem, suffer many things from elders, chief priests, and teachers of the law, be killed, on the third day be raised to life.

Jesus' Own Prophecies of Resurrection

3) The Stone the Builders Rejected (Mt. 21:42 / Ps. 118)

- Parable of the Vineyard
  - Owner: God | Vineyard: Israel | Farmers: Religious Leaders | Servants: Prophets | Son: Jesus.
  - Religious leaders acted like owners, killed the servants, and finally seized and killed the Son to claim the inheritance.
- Cornerstone Prophecy (Ps. 118:22–23 quoted in Mt. 21:42):
  - "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes."
  - Religious leaders ("builders") rejected/killed Jesus ("the stone"), but God raised Him to be the most important cornerstone of the church.
- Resurrection in Psalm 118:16–18:
- "The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things! I will not die but live..."

Jesus' Own Prophecies of Resurrection

4) The Temple Raised in Three Days (Jn. 2:16–22)

- Jesus made a whip, drove out sellers, overturned money changers' tables: "Stop turning my Father's house into a market!"
- "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." (Jn 2:19)
- Jews thought of the physical building (built over 46 years).
- Jn. 2:21: "But the temple he had spoken of was his body."

Shift in How We Meet God:

- Old Testament: God's presence met people in a physical building.
- New Covenant: Jesus' body is the true Temple. We don't go to a specific building; wherever we are, we access God through Jesus—the way, truth, and life.
- 1 Peter 2:4–7: Jesus is the living Stone (chosen and precious); believers are built as living stones into a spiritual house and holy priesthood.

Reflection Questions

1. How was Jesus buried after His death on the cross? How was His burial prophesied in the Old Testament? What is the significance of Jesus' burial?

2. What did Jesus mean by the "sign of Jonah"? How is the sign of Jonah related to Jesus' death and resurrection?

3. Explain the parable of the vineyard that Jesus told. After telling the parable, Jesus quoted Psalm 118, saying, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." What does this mean? What other passage in Psalm 118 points to Jesus' resurrection?

Jesus rose from the dead and became the "cornerstone." What is at the most important foundation and center of your life right now? Is it Jesus, or is it something else?

Reflection Questions

4. Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.” What did He mean by this?

How are you growing in an intimate relationship with God through Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and how are you being built up as a temple in which He can dwell?

Memory Verses

“He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man’s grave.” (Is. 53:9, NLT)

“For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” (Mt 12:40)

“I will not die but live, and I will proclaim what the LORD has done. The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.” (Ps. 118:17–18)

“Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days... the temple he had spoken of was his body. ” (Jn. 2:19, 21)