

WHY CRUCIFIXION? (Luke 23:20-24)

- I. Roman PURPOSES in Crucifixion
 - A. To cause great HUMILIATION
 - B. To inflict intense PAIN/SUFFERING
 - C. To instill widespread INTIMIDATION

- II. Roman PRACTICE of Crucifixion
 - A. OUTSIDE a city in a PUBLIC place (Ps. 22:6-7, 16-18)
 - B. Victim usually NAKED, but Jews may have demanded a LOINCLOTH (Mt. 27:35)
 - C. Preferred crosses in shape of an UPPER-CASE "T" (cf. Mt. 27:37)
 - D. Crosses usually LOW, about 5-6 feet off the ground (Mt. 27:48)

- III. Roman PROCEDURES for Crucifixion
 - A. Victim first BEATEN, often near DEATH (Jn. 19:1; cf. Is. 53:5)
 - B. Crossbar tied to victim's SHOULDERS (Ps. 22:6; Jn. 19:16-19)
 - 1. Paraded through town as an EXAMPLE
 - 2. Soldier carried SIGN proclaiming the condemned man's CRIME
 - C. Prisoner's WRISTS nailed to crossbar before it was hauled to top of stake so ANKLES could be nailed to it
 - D. Sign identifying CRIME attached to the STAKE (cf. Col. 2:14)
 - E. Victim could remain conscious for DAYS, but soldiers often speeded death by BREAKING their LEGS (Jn. 19:33; cf. Ex. 12:46; 34:20)
 - F. Prisoner eventually died from BLOOD loss and lack of OXYGEN

G. SOLDIERS kept the victim's POSSESSIONS (Mt. 27:35; Ps. 22:18)

H. Prisoners able to TALK in only SHORT BURSTS

- [1. To Mary, "Woman, behold, your SON!" and to John, "Behold, your MOTHER!" (John 19:25-27)]
2. "Father, FORGIVE them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Lk. 23:34)
3. "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with ME in PARADISE" (Lk. 23:43)
4. "My God, my God, why have You FORSAKEN me?" (Mt. 27:46; cf. Ps. 22:1)
5. "I am THIRSTY" (Jn. 19:28)
6. "It is FINISHED!" (Jn. 19:30)
7. "Father, into Your hands I commit my SPIRIT" (Lk. 23:46; cf. Ps. 31:5)

IV. Jesus' PRESENTATION for Crucifixion

A. The Jews wanted a POLITICAL savior (Mt. 21:9; Jn. 12:13)

B. Jesus announced His identity as an ETERNAL and SPIRITUAL Savior (Zech. 9:9-10; Lk. 19:41-44)

1. Passover LAMBS traditionally slaughtered at 3:00pm, announced by priest sounding the *shofar* (RAM'S HORN)
2. Christ's final words came at the moment of the KILLING of the LAMBS (Jn. 1:29)

C. Reminder of the significance of the LAST SUPPER (Mk. 14:22-26)

1. The bread represented Jesus' BODY offered for US
2. The wine represented Jesus' BLOOD shed for US
3. Ingesting both represents CHRIST IN US and us in HIM
4. Partaking of both reminds us that He will COME AGAIN