

Chapter 12. JESUS ON THE CROSS

Did Jesus wear the crown of thorns on the cross? The Gospels declare that the purple robe that the soldiers had Jesus wear was taken off of him before they crucified him. They also put his own clothes back on him. There is no mention of the crown of thorns having been removed, neither does it report that He removed it. Perhaps these details have not been recorded as we as humans would probably make a religion about them. It is an interesting point, however, that the thorns were placed on his head, but nothing is written about them being removed. Jesus didn't even remove them. Perhaps, for some of us, we can just think about those thorns signifying the great sins of the whole world for which He died. I'm in that number.

In Genesis 3:17-19 we read when God spoke to Adam:

“Because you have hearkened unto the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it all the days of your life’, thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to you; and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it were you taken, for dust you are, and unto dust shall you return.”

Does the mention of thorns and thistles refer to the crown of thorns that Jesus was given to wear? How very horrible that this insult to his perfect sacrifice would prompt the soldiers to do this. How great was Jesus' forgiveness of them. Jesus hung on a cross made from a dead tree. The fruit of the tree in Paradise was what Adam and Eve sinned with. **The fruit of the tree that Jesus was nailed to was our fruit of redemption.** It was God's gracious gift to us in believing in our one and only Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus did not cry out in pain when he was crucified. It is neither recorded that he did so when they nailed him to the cross or while he was on the cross. This was a prophesy in Isaiah 53:7.

Jesus drank no wine after the last supper with the disciples as he said. When he was offered a drink while he was on the cross, it was with vinegar. Some versions of the Bible say it was “wine-vinegar”. That is incorrect. He said at the last supper he would not drink any “fruit of the vine” until he drank it “anew” in the kingdom with the disciples. When he thirsted on the cross, he tasted the vinegar AND refused it. He said he would not drink, and so he did not. The wine at the Last Supper signified redemption by his sacrifice which was to take place. If he would have accepted wine while he was on the cross, we would have made an excuse for our drinking it in times of despair. We would say, “Well, Jesus had some wine when he was suffering; surely, I can do the same.” With this statement and heading off to drunkenness for the moment, we would be blaming our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for our weakness. Also, and more importantly, Jesus said on the cross, “I thirst”. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well from Samaria, he said he would have given her “living water, springing up to eternal life.” On the cross he was separating from his Father in sacrificing himself for the sins of the

world. This, I believe, made him thirst. It was toward the last moments before he said, "It is finished." It must have been a tremendous thirst, and he bore it. He is the provider of **the** water by which we will never thirst, and he bore that thirst, so we could receive Salvation. He bore everything on the cross so we may believe.

Why are the thieves who were crucified with Jesus only identified with "one on the right and one on the left"? The one who repents and to whom Jesus says, "Today, you will be with me in paradise," is not identified as on the right or on the left. It is not important for us to know that, as we would probably make a religion out of that, and in churches we would all sit on that side of the side of that thief. Neither are they identified with any names. It is interesting that Jesus was in the middle, and there were two thieves. One repented, and one did not. They had the same sentence, but only one repented. Furthermore, Jesus said, "today you will be with me in paradise." The man did not argue or say, "Well, what about pergatory?" Why didn't Jesus allow the crowds to crown him king? He said to Pilate, "My kingdom is not of this world." Jesus did not have to be king of the crowds. In crowds people can mass together in a common cause. Salvation is for one soul at a time: mine or yours. Only those who followed him would know he is King. He is certainly King and Savior to us as believers.