

**Bible
Teachings
Series**



*A self-study
course about
Jesus' most
important
work*

The Death and Rising of Jesus Christ

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A self-study course about
Jesus' most important work

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Level 1, Book 4



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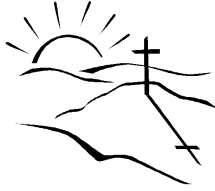
Getting Started

This book will help you learn some exciting things about Jesus Christ, your Savior. Each chapter begins with a list of goals marked with a small star (*). These goals tell you what you learn in that chapter. Then you will read a few lines and answer some questions. At the end of the chapter there is a test. The test questions cover only what you read in the chapter and the questions you have completed.

When you finish answering a group of questions, you will be given a page number where you can turn to check your answers. If you turn to that page, you will find the answers at the very bottom of that page. Check your answers carefully, correcting any mistakes you made. Make sure you understand all the answers before reading any further.

At the end of the book there is a final test. Before you complete the test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you have completed the final test, you can either turn the test in to the person who gave you this book, or mail the test to the address on the back cover.

May God help you as you learn more about Jesus and what he did so that you could live with him forever.



Chapter One

JESUS' LAST DAYS

No one wants to die. Yet each every one of us will die. Death cannot be avoided.

Can you imagine someone being willing to die?
Can you imagine someone standing in the governor's office with the governor offering him freedom, and turning it down?

That is exactly what Jesus Christ did. In this booklet we will learn how his death came about. We will also find out why Jesus died.

In this first chapter we will see what happened during Jesus' last week before his death. By the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * tell who Jesus' enemies were;
- * tell why they wanted to kill him; and
- * tell why the Passover was important.

You may have already studied the life and teachings of Jesus in the booklet, *Jesus the Christ*. You know that he is the Son of God. He came into the world to be the Savior from sin.

Only one nation in ancient times still believed God's promise to send a Savior. That was the Jewish nation. They called the coming Savior the Messiah. The word "Messiah" means the one whom God has chosen. The Jews had been waiting for him for hundreds of years.

That was a long time to wait. Many of the Jews began to get some strange ideas about what the Messiah would do. Different groups of people had different hopes about the Messiah. Three of these groups of people stand out.

First, there were the common people. They thought the Messiah would be a great earthly king. He would lead the Jews to power over the entire world. They wanted such a Messiah very much by the time Jesus lived on earth.

You see, the Romans had conquered the land of the Jews. A Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, ruled over them. He collected taxes from them to send away to Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire. Roman armies marched through their land. People hated the Romans and wanted them gone. They were sure the Messiah would do what they wanted him to do. He would chase the Romans away.

The second group of people was called the Pharisees. They also wanted the Messiah to come quickly. But the Pharisees wanted him to do something more than merely save them from the Romans. They wanted him to pat them on the back and tell them what good and holy people they were.

The Pharisees were proud men who believed that they were almost holy. They felt that they had obeyed the laws of God very well. They even added laws of their own and expected everyone else to obey them. The Pharisees wanted a Messiah who would be as proud of them as they were of themselves.

The third main group of people was the chief priests, the men who were in charge of the religion of the Jews. Their leader, the high priest, was a man named Caiaphas. Their center of power was the great Temple of God in Jerusalem. These men had great power among the Jews. They did whatever they had to do to keep their power. Sometimes they even cooperated with the Romans.

The chief priests did not want a Messiah to come. They feared that the Romans would not like it and would send in Roman armies to destroy the Jewish nation. Then the chief priests would lose their power. They did not want any Jew to claim he was the Messiah. That was too dangerous for the chief priests.

1. The common people wanted the Messiah to be an _____ king.
2. The _____ were proud of themselves and wanted the Messiah to pat them on the back.
3. The chief priests were afraid that the _____ would destroy their country if a Messiah showed up.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 19)

The common people wanted the Messiah to be an earthly king. The Pharisees wanted him to be proud of them. The chief priests did not want any Messiah at all. These were the people who were planning to kill Jesus when

he entered the city of Jerusalem for the last time during the week before his death.

Jesus came to a crowded city. It was the time of the Passover festival. Every Jew who could get to Jerusalem was supposed to be there. The Passover was a big celebration for them. It was as big as Christmas is for Christians today. The Passover was all about how their nation was started.

Fourteen centuries earlier, in the days of Moses, the Jews were slaves in the land of Egypt. God freed them by sending the famous ten plagues to punish the Egyptian king. In the final plague God sent the angel of death to kill all the first-born among the Egyptians.

The Jews, however, were told to take a flawless lamb, kill it, and paint its blood on their doors. They were to roast and eat the meat of the lamb. The angel of death would see that a death had already occurred there. He would pass over their houses.

Every year after that event, they celebrated what became known as the Passover festival. They would kill and eat their best lamb. This would remind them how a lamb's death saved them from death and helped free them from slavery. In the same way, Jesus' death has saved us from eternal death and freed us from the slavery of sin.

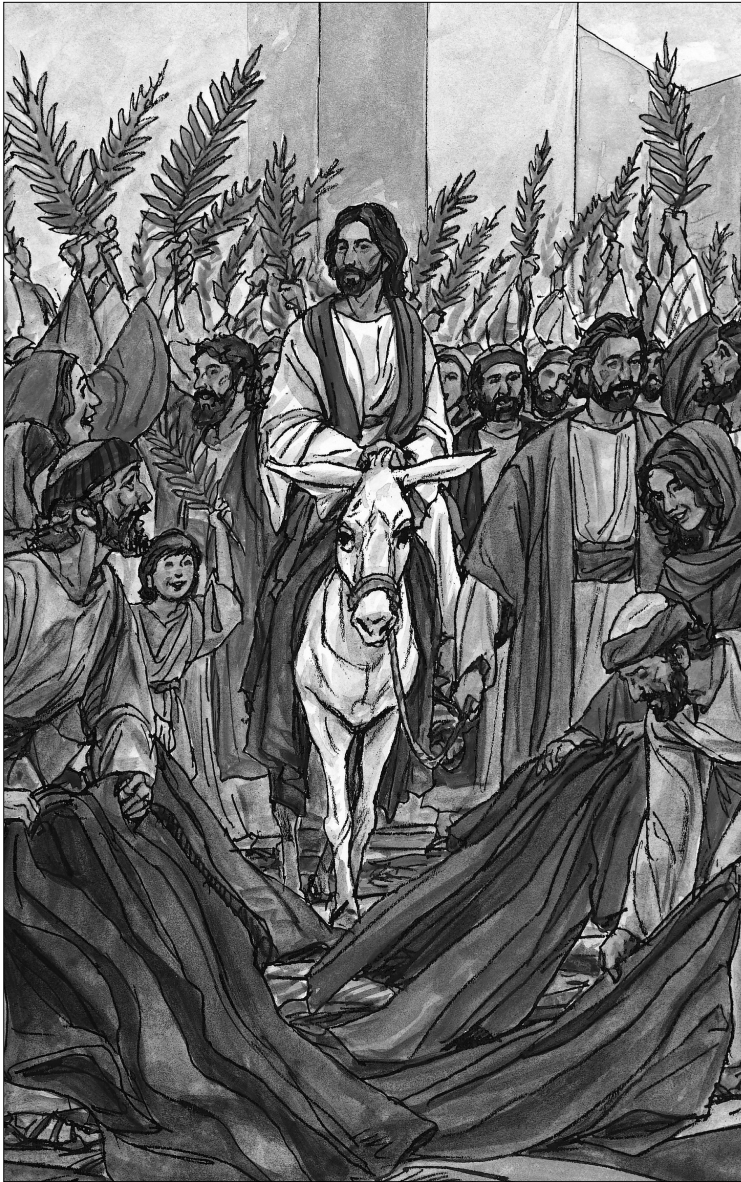
4. A few days before he died, Jesus came to Jerusalem for the _____ festival.
5. This festival celebrated how the Jews were saved from slavery and death in the days of _____.
6. The Jews were told to kill a _____ and paint its blood on their doors so the angel of death would pass over their houses.
7. Every year on the anniversary of that date the Jews were to kill and _____ a spotless lamb.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 19)

Jesus entered Jerusalem on the Sunday before the Passover Festival. People remembered how they were saved from the Egyptians in the days of Moses. They hoped to be saved from the Romans now.

As Jesus entered Jerusalem, he was known as a person who had done many miracles. He proved that God sent him. The common people were thrilled. They were sure that Jesus was the king they were waiting for.

Jesus knew that he was the King of the Jews. But he did not want to be an earthly king. The prophets of ancient times said he would be an everlasting king. One of the prophets even wrote a prophecy to help identify the eternal king when he would come. He said the king would enter Jerusalem as a mild man, not a proud earthly king. And the king would come riding on a humble donkey, not on a splendid horse.



Jesus rides into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

So, Jesus borrowed a donkey from a small village and rode it into Jerusalem. The crowds of common people were thrilled.

The people ran out to give Jesus a hero's welcome. They shouted and sang about the coming of their king. They threw down their coats in his path and cut down branches from the palm trees to cover the road before him. That is how that day became known as Palm Sunday.

8. The common people greeted Jesus as an _____ king.

9. Jesus has come to be an _____ king.

10. He rode into Jerusalem on a _____.

11. We call that day _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 19)

The Pharisees in the crowd were not happy. Jesus had not been the kind of Messiah they wanted. He was not proud of them. He spent

much of his time criticizing them because they thought their man-made laws were as important as God's law, and sometimes more important! When the Pharisees saw the crowds greeting Jesus as a king, they were angry. Some of them forced their way through the crowd. They said to Jesus, "Stop the people from doing this!" But Jesus only replied, "If they were silent, the stones under your feet would start to shout and sing!"

The chief priests were not thrilled about the way Jesus entered their city, either. They knew the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, was in town. The Roman troops were at their barracks next to the Temple. The chief priests were afraid the people would start a riot. Then Pilate would send the Roman soldiers out to shed a lot of blood. "We must stop this Jesus," they complained. "The whole world is running out to meet him!"

But the chief priests had a plan. Their leader, the high priest Caiaphas, suggested it a few

weeks earlier. They had been worrying about Jesus. They were sure he would cause a riot and Pilate would then destroy the Jews. Caiaphas then said, "It is better if one man dies for the people, than if the whole nation is destroyed" (John 11:50).

So they were going to have Jesus arrested and killed. They even had someone close to Jesus who was ready to help them. Jesus had twelve disciples, or students, who followed him everywhere. One of them, Judas Iscariot, was also his treasurer. This man agreed to betray Jesus to the chief priests. And it would be at a bargain price, too; thirty silver coins. "But let's wait until after the Passover," they said. If they waited until all the visitors left Jerusalem, they could kill Jesus without a big uproar from the common people.

12. The Pharisees hated Jesus because he spent most of his time _____ them.

13. The chief priests were afraid that Jesus would cause a _____.
14. The high priest had suggested that they _____ Jesus after the Passover.
15. They got Jesus' treasurer, _____, _____, to agree to betray him.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 19)

During the days before the Passover, Jesus did nothing to make the chief priests and Pharisees love him. He started the week by cleaning out the Temple of God. The chief priests allowed all kinds of storekeepers and bankers to set up their business on the Temple grounds. This made it hard for visitors to concentrate on God, so Jesus threw all of them out of the Temple grounds. He shouted at them, "My house will be a house where people can pray. But you have made it a 'den for robbers'" (Luke 19:46).

Jesus spent the next few days in the Temple, preaching and teaching. The chief priests and the Pharisees kept coming to him with trick questions. They hoped that Jesus would say something that would get the common people angry with him. Or maybe he would say something against the Romans. Then Governor Pontius Pilate would kill him.

But they could not trap Jesus in his words. Instead, he continued to show how the chief priests and Pharisees did not follow God's will. Then Jesus left the city to have a time of rest. He would not return until Thursday, the day of the Passover.

16. Jesus threw the _____
and the _____ out of the Temple.

17. His enemies kept coming to him with
_____ questions.

18. He continued to speak to his enemies, the
_____ and the
_____.

19. He finally left the city and did not return
until _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 19)

Review of Chapter One

The Jewish people were waiting for a Savior for hundreds of years. They called him the Messiah, which means the one whom God has chosen. During the centuries they had come to believe different things about him. The common people wanted him to be an earthly king who would drive out the Roman governor and his soldiers. The Pharisees, a group of men who thought they were holy, wanted him to praise them for being so good. The chief priests hoped he would never come, because they were afraid the Romans would destroy their nation if he did.

Jesus was the King of the Jews, but he was an eternal king who came to save all people from their sins. He came to the Jewish capital city of Jerusalem for the Festival of Passover.

Passover was a holiday on which people remembered how their nation was saved from death and slavery in the days of the prophet Moses. God had told them to kill a lamb and paint its blood on their doors to save them from

death. Every year, on the anniversary of that event, they killed and ate a lamb to remember how God had saved them from death when the lamb had died instead of them.

Jesus came into the city on a Sunday. It is called Palm Sunday because the common people met him by throwing palm branches in his path. He came riding a donkey, since a Bible prophecy had said that the Messiah-King would come to Jerusalem like that.

He threw out the bankers and storekeepers from the Temple of God and preached to the Jews there. His enemies tried to catch him with trick questions, but that did not work. The chief priests had a plan to have Jesus arrested and put to death. They even had one of his followers, Judas Iscariot, ready to turn him over to them. But they wanted to wait until after the Passover, so that the common people would not find out about it.

Answers to questions within Chapter One:

1. earthly; 2. Pharisees; 3. Romans; 4. Passover; 5. Moses; 6. lamb; 7. eat; 8. earthly; 9. everlasting; 10. donkey; 11. Palm Sunday; 12. criticizing; 13. riot; 14. kill; 15. Judas Iscariot; 16. storekeepers, bankers; 17. trick; 18. chief priests, Pharisees; 19. Thursday.

Test on Chapter One

1. The common people wanted the Messiah to be an _____ king.
2. The _____ were proud of their obedience and wanted the Messiah to pat them on the back.
3. The chief priests were afraid that the _____ would destroy their country if a Messiah appeared.
4. Jesus came to Jerusalem for the _____ Festival.
5. This festival celebrated how the Jews had been saved from slavery and death in the days of _____.
6. At the time of Moses, the Jews were told to kill a _____ and paint its blood on their doors so the angel of death would pass over their houses.

7. Every year on the anniversary of that date the Jews were to kill and _____ a spotless lamb.
8. The common people greeted Jesus as an _____ king.
9. Jesus had come to be an _____ king.
10. He rode into Jerusalem on a _____.
11. We call that day _____.
12. The chief priests were afraid that Jesus would cause a _____.
13. The high priest had suggested that they _____ Jesus after the Passover.
14. They bribed Jesus' treasurer, _____, to agree to betray him.

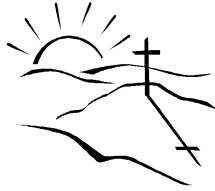
15. Jesus threw the _____ and the _____ out of the Temple.

16. His enemies kept coming to him with _____ questions.

17. He continued to speak to his enemies, the _____ and the _____.

18. He finally left the city and did not return until _____.

(Check your answers on page 108)



Chapter Two

BETRAYED AND ARRESTED

Jesus was arrested for no crime at all. He was arrested only because his enemies wanted him out of the way. He easily could have run away and hid. But instead he went quietly to meet the soldiers who had come to arrest him. He did this because he was willing to die for our sins.

But Jesus did not let anyone think he was merely another prisoner. He proved that he was in control of everything that was happening. We will see that again and again

in this chapter. At the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * tell what each of Jesus' followers did when Jesus was arrested;
- * tell how Jesus showed he was in control of his arrest; and
- * tell how Jesus showed what true greatness is all about.

On Thursday night Jesus returned to Jerusalem. He wanted to eat the Passover supper with his twelve disciples. Even these trusted followers hoped that Jesus would be an earthly king. They sat down to the meal arguing about which of them would be the greatest in Jesus' kingdom.

Jesus listened for a while. Then he arose. He wrapped a towel around his waist and washed the disciples' feet. This was a job usually given to the lowest slave in the household.

Jesus told them he had done this to teach them a lesson. True greatness means serving others. He was about to do that by giving his life for the sins of the world.

1. On Thursday night Jesus and his disciples ate the _____ meal.
2. Jesus washed their feet to show them that true greatness means _____ others.
3. Jesus would serve us by giving his life for the _____ of the world.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 36)

Even though it was the big festival night, Jesus was very troubled. He finally told his disciples that one of them was about to betray him, that is, turn him over to his enemies. When this happened, Jesus said, all the rest of the disciples would run away from him and hide. One of them, Peter, would say three times that he did not even know Jesus.



Jesus said, "Take and eat. This is my body."

All the disciples were shocked, except for Judas Iscariot. Judas was the betrayer. He knew that the chief priests did not want to arrest Jesus during the Passover. But Jesus had other plans. He told Judas, "Do it now." Judas left the meal to go to the chief priests.

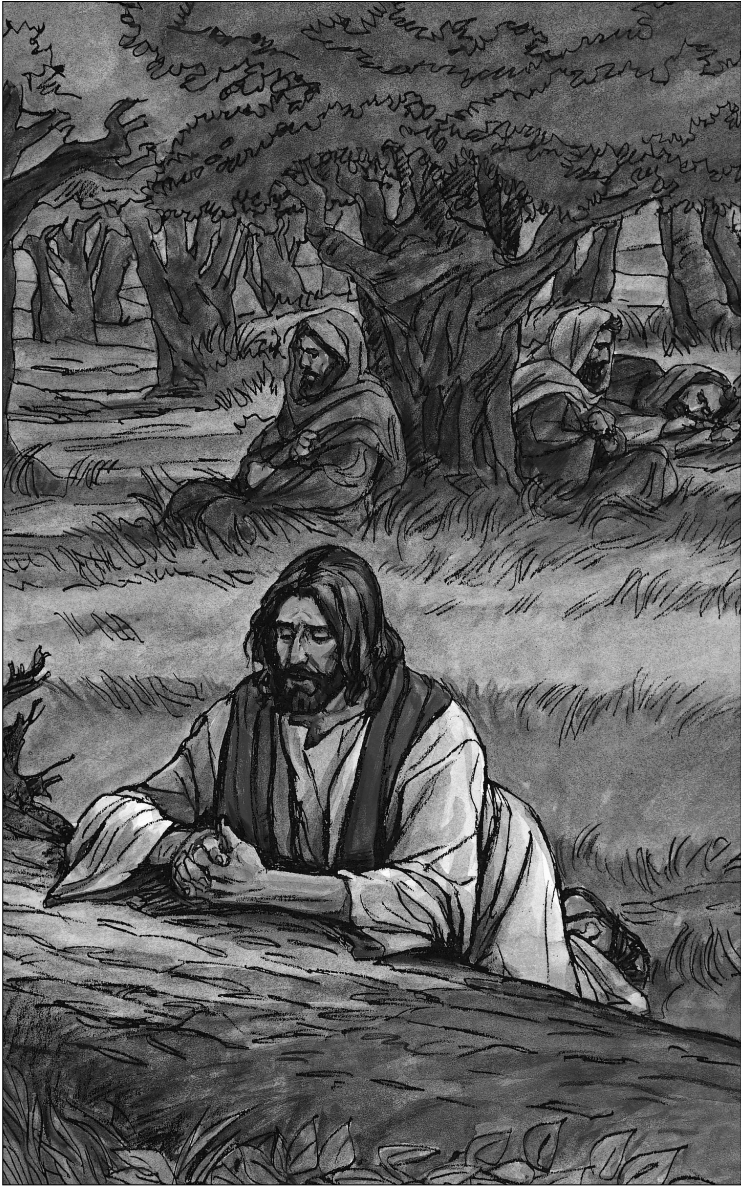
Jesus spent a long time with the rest of his disciples. He spoke to them about what to do when he was gone. He promised to come back for them. They were confused, of course. They could not believe what he was saying.

Jesus also gave them a new meal to celebrate. The Passover recalled the Jews' release from slavery in Egypt. The new meal would remember and celebrate our release from the slavery of sin and death. It is called the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. By continuing to come to the Lord's Supper, Christians honor Jesus for his greatness in giving us forgiveness for all of our sins. By dying for us, he showed that greatness means serving others.

4. Jesus told his disciples that one of them would _____ him that night.
5. The man who would betray Jesus was named _____.
6. One of them, _____, would say three times that he did not even know Jesus.
7. Jesus gave them a new meal, which we call the _____ or Holy Communion.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 36)

After the meal, Jesus led his disciples out of the city. They went to a nearby garden called Gethsemane. There he went a short distance away from his disciples to pray to God. He begged his Heavenly Father to spare him from what was about to happen. But he also prayed that God's will be done. In the meantime, his disciples had fallen asleep.



Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Judas Iscariot was not asleep. When Jesus sent him out, he ran to the chief priests. The priests did not want to arrest Jesus during the Passover festival. Nevertheless, they sent soldiers and priests to go with Judas.

Judas knew the place where Jesus would go. He led the mob of soldiers and priests to arrest Jesus. He did not want the mob to grab the wrong man in the darkness. So he arranged a signal with them. He would go up to Jesus and give him the traditional kiss of greeting.

Jesus saw the mob coming. He awoke his disciples and went out to meet his enemies. Judas came up and kissed Him. Jesus asked, "Judas, are you betraying me with a kiss?" Then he turned to the mob and asked them, "Whom are you looking for?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they shouted back.

"I am he," Jesus replied. At those words, the whole mob fell backwards to the ground. Jesus

was showing them that, with a simple word, he could defeat them and escape. But he let them get back to their feet and then quietly let them arrest him.

But his disciple, Peter, was not ready for what was happening. He pulled out a sword and started swinging it. He cut off one man's ear before Jesus stopped him. Jesus healed the man and ordered the mob to let his disciples go free. The disciples then ran away and hid, as Jesus had said they would.

8. Jesus went to the Garden of _____ to pray.
9. Judas betrayed Jesus with a _____.
10. At one word from Jesus, the mob _____ backwards.
11. One of the disciples, _____, tried to defend Jesus with his sword.
12. Jesus then let the mob _____ him.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 36)

The mob led Jesus back to the city of Jerusalem. The chief priests called together the ruling council of the Jews, known as the Sanhedrin. While they were assembling, the father-in-law of Caiaphas the high priest held a private questioning of Jesus. Such things were not allowed under Jewish law. The chief priests were more concerned with killing Jesus than with obeying their laws.

Peter and another disciple, John, had followed the mob. They were now in the yard outside the high priest's palace. It was a cold night, and many of the servants were standing together around a fire. Peter joined them. Three times people asked him whether he was a follower of Jesus. Three times Peter denied, or said he did not know Jesus, as Jesus had said he would.

After the third time, the rooster crowed. It was nearly dawn. Jesus happened to be in the courtyard, and he looked at Peter. Peter was overcome with sorrow and ran away.

Finally, Jesus was led in to his trial. The chief priests gathered a crowd of witnesses to lie about Jesus. With this false testimony they felt they could condemn him. Unfortunately for their plans, the false witnesses could not agree on their testimony.

Jesus remained silent through it all. Everyone there knew if they could not get two witnesses to agree, Jesus would have to be released. Finally, the high priest, Caiaphas, put Jesus under oath and asked him, "Are you the Son of God?"

Now Jesus could have saved himself. But he would not lie. Instead, he wanted to give his unbelieving judges a chance to repent by telling them that their words spoke the truth. "Yes, I am," he answered.

The Sanhedrin condemned Jesus for the crime of insulting God by claiming to be his Son. They sentenced him to death. Then the soldiers, who had arrested him, along with

some of the priests, began to spit on him and hit him and make fun of him.

13. The Jewish ruling council was called the _____.

14. They called in many false _____ to testify against Jesus.

15. The high priest finally required Jesus to swear to being the _____ of God.

16. They condemned Jesus to _____ for the crime of insulting God.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 36)

Review of Chapter Two

On Thursday night Jesus celebrated the Passover meal with his disciples. He washed their feet as they sat at the dinner table. The washing of their feet showed them that true greatness means serving others. He was about to give us the greatest service by dying for our sins.

At the meal he announced that one of them would betray him. Then he quietly told the traitor, Judas Iscariot, to go to the chief priests and get the job done. He also told his disciples how they would all run away from him, and how Peter would deny him three times.

Jesus gave to the disciples and to us a special meal called the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.

After the meal Jesus led them out of the city to the Garden of Gethsemane. There he prayed to his heavenly Father to spare him if it were possible. But he also prayed that the Father's will be done.

In the meantime, the chief priests had sent Judas with a mob to arrest Jesus. Jesus spoke one word to them, and they all fell to the ground. But then he let them get up and arrest him. He stopped Peter, who wanted to defend him with a sword, and healed the man Peter injured. Then the disciples ran away and hid.

Jesus was brought to the palace of the high priest. While the Jewish ruling council, or Sanhedrin, was being gathered together, Jesus was examined in private by the high priest's father-in-law. Peter, who had followed the mob, was accused of being Jesus' follower and denied it three times.

During Jesus' trial, a number of false witnesses lied about him. Finally, the high priest put Jesus under oath and asked him if he was the Son of God. Jesus answered yes, and was condemned to death.

Answers to questions within Chapter Two:

1. Passover; 2. serving; 3. sins; 4. betray; 5. Judas Iscariot;
6. Peter; 7. Lord's Supper; 8. Gethsemane; 9. kiss; 10. fell;
11. Peter; 12. arrest; 13. Sanhedrin; 14. witnesses; 15. Son;
16. death.

Test on Chapter Two

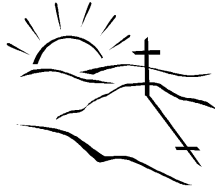
1. Jesus and his disciples ate the Passover supper on _____ night.
2. Jesus taught them that true _____ means serving others.
3. Jesus planned to serve us by dying for the _____ of the world.
4. One of his disciples, _____, would betray Jesus to his enemies.
5. Another disciple, _____ would deny that he even knew Jesus.
6. Jesus gave his disciples a meal to remember his death, which we call the Lord's Supper or _____.
7. Jesus went to the Garden of _____.

8. Judas led a mob to Jesus and betrayed him with a _____.
9. Jesus made the mob fall backwards with a _____.
10. Jesus' disciples all _____ away when he was arrested.
11. The Sanhedrin, the Jewish ruling council, brought many _____ witnesses against Jesus.
12. The high priest finally put Jesus under oath and asked if he was the _____ of God.
13. Jesus was condemned to _____.

(Check your answers on page 108)



The soldiers laughed at Jesus and beat him.



Chapter Three

CONDEMNED TO THE CROSS

Jesus already knew the verdict and his sentence. He was willing to be found guilty, and he was willing to die. That way he could pay for our sins with his death. The Jewish ruling council, the Sanhedrin, condemned him to die. But now they had to convince the Roman governor to kill Jesus for them. In this chapter you will find out how it happened. At the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * tell what happened at Jesus' trials before Pontius Pilate and King Herod; and

- * tell how the Jewish ruling council turned everyone against Jesus.

Early on Friday morning the Sanhedrin took Jesus to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. The Roman government ruled over the Jews. The Roman governor alone was allowed to put prisoners to death. Now the chief priests had to convince Pilate to put Jesus to death.

But Judas Iscariot was having second thoughts. He came to the priests and wanted to return the thirty pieces of silver. They had given the silver coins to him to pay for betraying Jesus. "I have sinned," he confessed. "I have betrayed innocent blood." The priests answered that they did not care. Judas threw the money at them. Then he went out and hanged himself.

1. The Sanhedrin brought Jesus to the Roman governor, whose name was

_____.

2. Only the Roman governor could put prisoners to _____.
3. Judas Iscariot went out and _____ himself.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 50)

Meanwhile, the priests and Pharisees took Jesus to the courtroom of Pontius Pilate. Pilate came out to meet them. They told him Jesus was a troublemaker who stirred up the people to riot and told them not to pay their taxes. Why, he even called himself the Messiah, a king! To call yourself a king was a crime against the Roman emperor. Surely the Roman governor needed to do something about it.

Pilate had Jesus brought inside and questioned him for a few minutes. Then he came out and said that the charges were false. He said Jesus would be released. The priests would not agree to that, of course. They protested that Jesus had been causing trouble throughout the land, starting in his home region of Galilee.

Pilate was happy to hear the name Galilee. King Herod was the king of Galilee. Herod happened to be in Jerusalem for the Passover. So Pilate sent Jesus to Herod for judgment.

Herod was glad to see Jesus. He heard a lot about him. He hoped to see a miracle. But Jesus kept silent while Herod questioned him.

Herod knew that people were calling Jesus a king. He decided to make fun of him. He threw a royal robe over Jesus' shoulders and had his soldiers beat him a little. Then he sent Jesus back to Pilate with the message that he, too, found Jesus innocent.

4. The chief priests said that Jesus stirred up people to _____ and told them not to pay _____.
5. At first, Pilate was going to _____ Jesus.
6. Pilate sent Jesus to King _____, the ruler of his home region, Galilee.

7. King Herod said he also found Jesus

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 50)

By now a crowd was forming at Pilate's courthouse. People knew something was happening and wanted to see what it was. The priests' plan for getting Jesus killed quietly was wrecked. But they went through the crowd and turned the people against Jesus.

It was not hard to turn the people against Jesus. People wanted Jesus to be a great king who would throw out the Romans. Now he was a prisoner of the Romans. The priests said Jesus was a fake. He deserved whatever he got! The people agreed.

Pilate was starting to get worried about this trial. The priests now told him the real reason they wanted Jesus dead. "He claims to be the Son of God," they said.

Pilate questioned him again. He asked where Jesus was from, and why he was here. Jesus

replied, "I came into the world to give witness to the truth. Everyone who is on the side of truth listens to me" (John 18:37).

But Pilate responded with the famous words, "What is truth?" (John 18:38). And he continued the trial.

8. The chief priests turned the crowd _____ Jesus.
9. The priests wanted to kill Jesus because he claimed to be the _____ of God.
10. Jesus told Pilate that he had come to tell people the _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 50)

Pilate came up with a plan to release Jesus. Every year at Passover he let one prisoner go free. He would offer the crowd a choice. First he had Jesus whipped. He hoped the bloodied sight of Jesus would make the crowd feel sorry

for him. Then he gave them the choice. They could have Jesus back, or they could have a murderer released from prison, a man named Barabbas.

But they no longer wanted Jesus as their king. They shouted, "Give us Barabbas!" (John 18:40).

One of the first accusations the Jewish mob had brought against Jesus was, "He claims to be Christ, a king" (Luke 23:2). So Pilate used that fact to make the crowd stop and think. He asked, "What shall I do with your king?"

Then the priests' anger exploded. They challenged Pilate: "If you let this man go, you are not Caesar's friend!" (John 19:12). "We have no king but Caesar," (John 19:15) they shouted. Finally, Pilate gave in. He released Barabbas and handed Jesus over to his soldiers to crucify him. "Crucify" means to nail someone to a cross and leave him there to die.



The people choose Barabbas.

11. Pilate offered the crowd a choice between Jesus and a murderer named _____.
12. The crowd yelled at Pilate to _____ Jesus.
13. The chief priests told Pilate that if he released Jesus he would not be Caesar's _____.
14. Pilate handed Jesus over to his _____ to crucify him.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 50)

Review of Chapter Three

On Friday morning the chief priests took Jesus to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. Only Pilate had the right to put people to death in the land of the Jews. Judas Iscariot began to feel guilty for betraying Jesus. He tried to return the money the priests paid him. When they would not take it, he went out and hanged himself.

The chief priests told Pilate that Jesus started riots and told people not to pay their taxes. They said he claimed to be a king, too. Pilate questioned Jesus and declared that he was not guilty. The priests said he had been causing trouble ever since leaving his home region of Galilee. Pilate decided to send Jesus to Herod, the king of Galilee, who was in Jerusalem for the Passover festival.

Herod hoped Jesus would do a miracle for him. When he did not, Herod and his soldiers made fun of Jesus. Then Herod sent him back to Pilate with the message that he had found Jesus not guilty.

The chief priests went through the crowd that had gathered at Pilate's court. They turned the crowd against Jesus. Pilate thought he could set Jesus free. He gave the crowd a choice between Jesus and a murderer named

Answers to questions within Chapter Three:

1. Pontius Pilate; 2. death; 3. hanged; 4. riot, taxes; 5. release; 6. Herod; 7. innocent; 8. against; 9. Son; 10. truth; 11. Barabbas; 12. crucify; 13. friend; 14. soldiers.

Barabbas. They chose Barabbas and told Pilate to crucify Jesus. The chief priests told Pilate that he had to kill Jesus. After all, if Jesus claimed to be a king, that was a crime against the Roman emperor. Finally, Pilate gave in. He ordered his soldiers to take Jesus and crucify him.

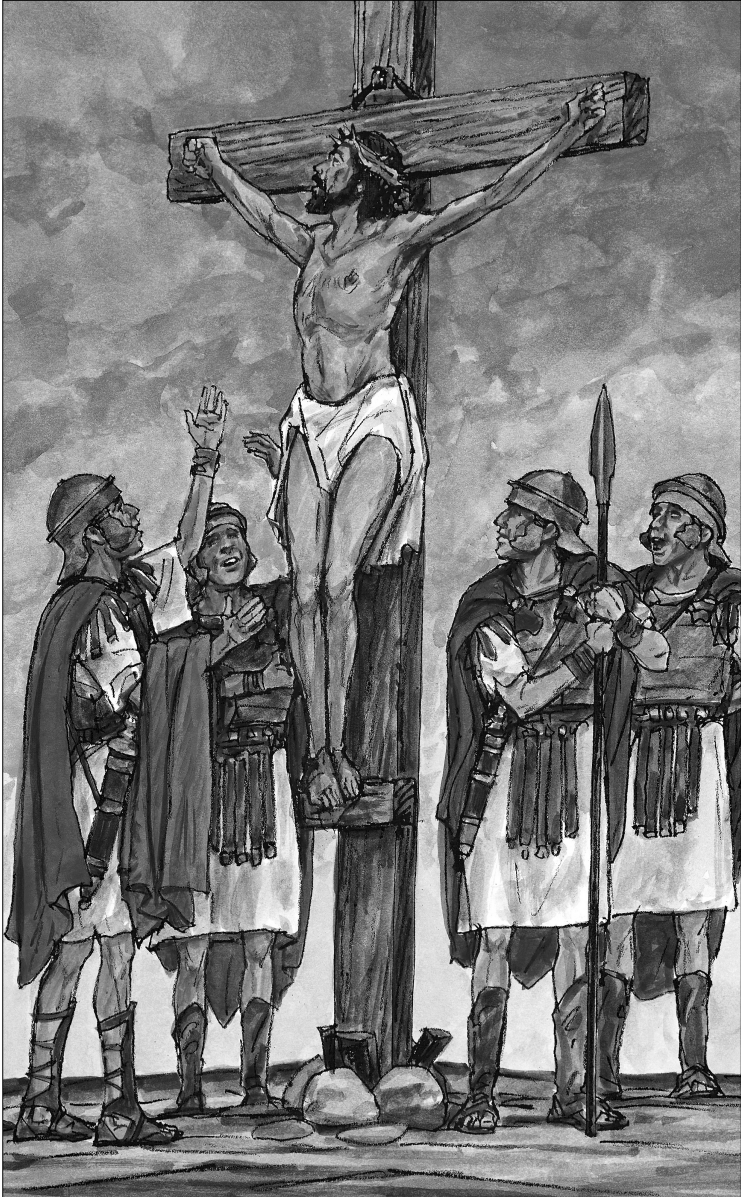
Test on Chapter Three

1. The Roman governor was named _____.
2. He alone could put a prisoner to _____.
3. Judas Iscariot went out and _____ himself.
4. At first, Pilate wanted to _____ Jesus.
5. The chief priests said Jesus stirred up people to _____ and told them not to pay _____.

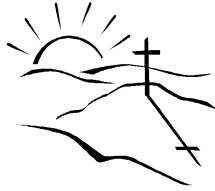
6. Pilate sent Jesus to Herod, the king of Jesus' home region of _____.
7. Herod wanted to see Jesus do a _____.
8. The chief priests stirred up the crowd _____ Jesus.
9. The chief priests wanted Jesus dead because he said he was the _____ of God.
10. Jesus told Pilate that he had come to tell people the _____.
11. Pilate had Jesus _____, hoping that the sight of Jesus would make the crowd feel sorry for him.
12. Pilate offered the crowd a choice between Jesus and a murderer named _____.
13. The crowd shouted to Pilate, " _____ Jesus!"

Extra Credit Question: Why were the chief priests able to turn the crowd against Jesus?

(Check your answers on page 108)



The soldiers made fun of Jesus.



Chapter Four

THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus knew that he would have to die. He was ready to die. He was willing to die. The Bible has given us a very full picture of what happened when he died. At the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * briefly tell the major events of Jesus' death;

- * describe what the crowd, the priests, and the soldiers did when he died; and

- * tell what happened at his tomb on Friday evening and Saturday.

Crucifixion was the cruelest form of death ever thought up by mankind. The victim would be beaten until nearly dead. Then he would be forced to carry a cross, or the crossbeam of the cross, to the place he would die. He would be stripped of his clothing. They would nail him through the wrists and feet to the cross. Then they would raise it up and wait for him to die a slow and painful death.

Jesus was led through the streets of Jerusalem to a place outside the city. On Sunday he had been cheered as a king in Jerusalem. Now people spit at him. He fell beneath the weight of the cross he carried. The Roman guards ordered a man from the crowd to carry it the rest of the way. Finally, outside the walls of Jerusalem, they reached a low hill called Golgotha that means the place of the skull. This hill is also called Calvary. There they crucified Jesus.

They crucified two other prisoners, one at Jesus' right and one at his left. The pain was unbearable. Yet, Jesus prayed to God, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).

1. Jesus was led through the streets of _____.
2. The soldiers forced a man from the crowd to carry Jesus' _____.
3. The place where they crucified him was called _____.
4. Jesus prayed to his Father to _____ the men who were crucifying him.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

A crowd gathered to watch, and people going into the city stopped to stare. The Romans would usually nail a sign to the cross to show the crime the person was dying for. Pilate had this sign nailed above Jesus, "This is Jesus,

the King of the Jews" (Matthew 27:37). The priests and Pharisees could not get Pilate to change it. So they started to make fun of Jesus as he hung there dying.

Many in the crowd did the same. Even one of the criminals who was crucified with him began to make fun of Jesus. The other one, though, asked Jesus to remember him when he came into his eternal kingdom. Jesus answered him, "What I am about to tell you is true. Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).

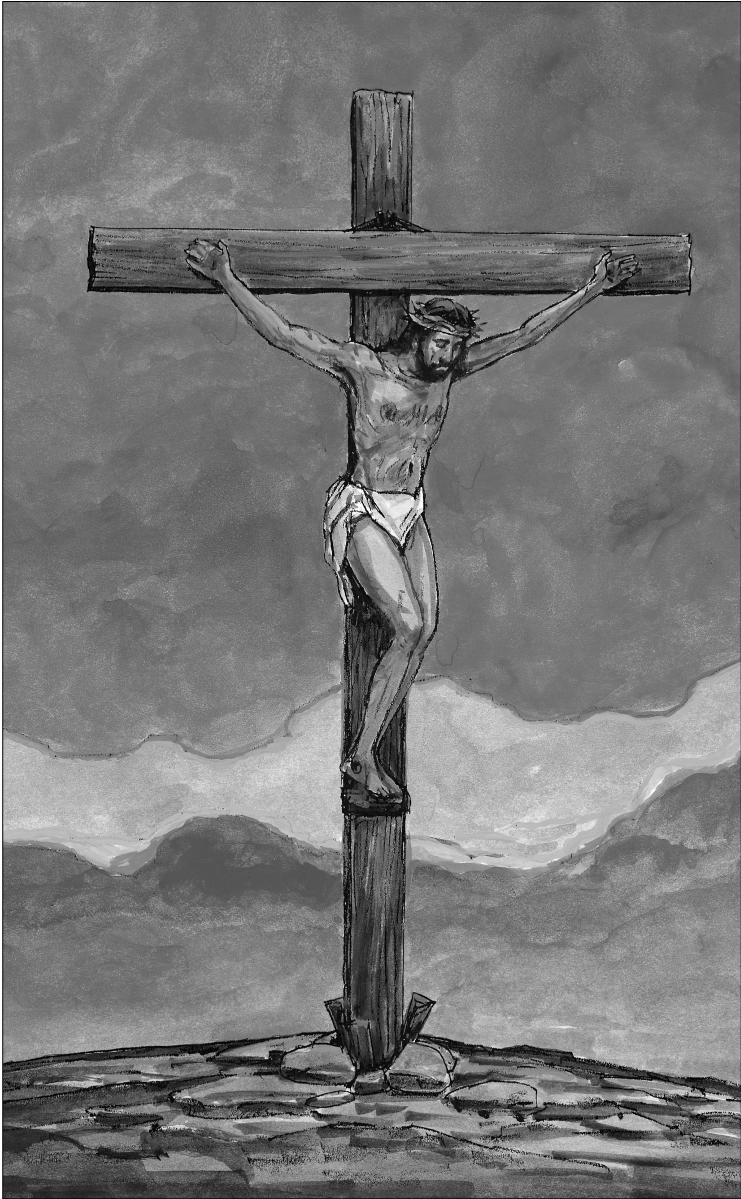
Some of Jesus' friends and family came to the foot of the cross. There Jesus saw his mother and John, one of his disciples. He said to Mary, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to John, "Here is your mother" (John 19: 26, 27). So John began to care for her.

5. The sign nailed to Jesus' cross read, "This is Jesus, the _____ of the Jews."

6. The priests and the crowd made _____ of Jesus.
7. Jesus was crucified with _____ other men.
8. Jesus promised one of them that he would be in _____ with him.
9. Jesus put his mother in the care of his disciple, _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

A man on a cross died slowly. He became weaker hour after hour. At noon, when Jesus had been on the cross for three hours, the sky grew dark over the entire world. It was not an eclipse of the sun or a sandstorm. It was as if the sun refused to shine. Jesus was to die in the darkness. In the middle of the afternoon he cried out, "My God! My God! Why have you deserted me [left me alone]?" (Mark 15:34).



Jesus suffered and died for the sins of all people.

Finally, Jesus spoke to the guards and said, "I am thirsty" (John 19:28). One of them put some sour wine on a sponge, attached it to a stick, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When Jesus had taken the drink, he cried out in a loud voice, "It is finished [fulfilled]!" (John 19:30). Then he prayed, "Father, into your hands I commit my very life [spirit]" (Luke 23:46). With these words, Jesus died.

At that moment, a violent earthquake shook the city. It split the rocks and opened the tombs. It even tore the great curtain in the temple. When the Roman soldier in charge of the crucifixion heard what Jesus said and saw how he died, he exclaimed, "This man was surely the Son of God" (Mark 15:39).

One of the soldiers wanted to make sure Jesus was dead. So he pierced Jesus' side with his spear. Blood and water came running out of the wound.

10. Around midday the sun stopped

_____.

11. Jesus cried out, "My God! My God! Why have you _____ me?"

12. Then Jesus told the soldiers that he was

_____.

13. He shouted out, "It is _____!"

14. He prayed, "Father, into your hands I commit my _____."

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

As the sun was going down, two men came near to the cross. They were Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea. They were members of the Sanhedrin, but they had not voted to kill Jesus. They were secretly Jesus' followers.

They had permission from Pilate to bury the body of Jesus. But they had to hurry. It was almost the Sabbath day. The Sabbath always

began at sundown on Friday and lasted until sundown on Saturday. Jewish law said you could not do any heavy work on the Sabbath Day.

So they took down the body of Jesus and wrapped it in a linen cloth, or burial sheet, with spices. They carried it to a garden near the place of Jesus' death. Joseph owned a tomb, a small cave, cut into a large rock in that garden. There they buried Jesus.

Some women who believed in Jesus were watching. They decided that at first light on Sunday after the Sabbath, they would return with more spices. They wanted to complete the anointing of Jesus' body.

The body was put into the tomb. A huge stone was rolled in front of the mouth of the tomb. Joseph, Nicodemus, and the women left. The sun set, and the day of Christ's death was over.

15. Two men, _____ of Arimathea and _____, buried Jesus' body.
16. They buried Jesus' body in a tomb in a nearby _____.
17. They had to hurry, because the _____ Day was coming.
18. Some women decided to return to the tomb on _____ to finish anointing Jesus' body.
19. The men rolled a huge _____ in front of the tomb.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

Saturday morning some Roman soldiers were sent to the grave. The priests had asked Pilate to set a guard at the tomb. They were afraid Jesus' followers would steal the body and tell everyone he had risen from the dead. The guards put a seal on the tomb so no one could enter, and they kept watch. They stayed the whole day and night, right into Sunday morning.

20. The chief priests were afraid the disciples would _____ Jesus' body.

21. They got Pilate to set a guard at the _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 66)

Review of Chapter Four

Pilate's soldiers led Jesus through the streets of Jerusalem. He was carrying his cross. Finally, because he was too weak, they made a man in the crowd carry it for him.

They arrived at a hill called Golgotha, or the Place of the Skull, also known as Calvary, and nailed Jesus to the cross. He prayed, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). Pilate had a sign hung above Jesus. The sign said, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." The chief priests and the crowd began to make fun of Jesus.

Two criminals were crucified with Jesus. One of them also started to make fun of him. But

the other one asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus came into his kingdom. Jesus said to him, "What I am about to tell you is true. Today you will be with me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

Jesus' mother and John, one of his disciples, were at the foot of his cross. He gave his mother into John's care with the words, "Dear woman, here is your son." "Here is your mother."

Around midday the sun stopped shining. Around the middle of the afternoon, Jesus cried out, "My God! My God! Why have you deserted me [left me alone]?" Then he said to the soldiers, "I am thirsty." They gave him something to drink. Then he shouted, "It is finished [fulfilled]!" He prayed, "Father, into your hands I commit my very life [spirit]." Then Jesus died.

Answers to questions within Chapter Four:

1. Jerusalem;
2. cross;
3. Golgotha;
4. forgive;
5. King;
6. fun;
7. two;
8. Paradise;
9. John;
10. shining;
11. forgotten;
12. thirsty;
13. finished;
14. very life (or spirit);
15. Joseph, Nicodemus;
16. garden;
17. Sabbath;
18. Sunday;
19. stone;
20. steal;
21. tomb.

There was a violent earthquake then. The Roman captain said, "This man was surely the Son of God." One of the soldiers made sure Jesus was dead by piercing his side with a spear.

Two secret followers of Jesus requested permission to bury his body. They had to work fast. The day was almost over, and they could not do any heavy work on the Sabbath Day. They put Jesus' body into Joseph's nearby grave. It was a small cave cut into the rock. Some women who were followers of Jesus decided to come back on Sunday to finish the burial. The men rolled a huge stone in front of the tomb and left.

The next day the chief priest asked Pilate to place a guard at the grave. They feared that Jesus' disciples would steal the body and pretend he had risen from the dead. So the soldiers guarded the grave to make sure no one went in or out!

Test on Chapter Four

1. The soldiers led Jesus to a place called _____.
2. There they nailed him to a _____.
3. _____ other men were crucified with him.
4. Jesus prayed to his Father to _____ the soldiers who crucified him.
5. The sign on Jesus' cross said, "This is Jesus, the King of the _____."
6. Jesus gave his _____ into the care of his disciple, John.
7. Around _____ the sun stopped shining.
8. Jesus cried out, "My God! My God! _____ have you deserted me [left me alone]?"

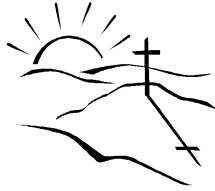
9. Jesus told the _____ that he was thirsty.
10. He shouted out, "It is _____!"
11. He committed his _____ _____ to God and died.
12. A violent _____ shook the city.
13. The Roman soldier in charge of the crucifixion said, "This man was surely the Son of _____."
14. Jesus' body was buried in a _____ near the place he died.
15. The burial was hurried because the _____ Day was approaching when no work could be done.
16. Some _____ who believed in Jesus decided to return to the tomb on Sunday.

17. A huge _____ was rolled in front of the tomb.

18. Later some _____ came to guard the tomb.

19. The chief priests feared that Jesus' _____ would steal the body.

(Check your answers on page 108)



Chapter Five

THE REASON JESUS DIED

After a person in a prison has been put to death, or executed, people start to ask questions. Some are curious. What was the prisoner's death like? What did he say? Did it hurt?

But the biggest question is always, "Why did he have to die like that? What led to his execution?" The answer lies in his past; what his crimes were and how he came to commit them. The answer also lies in the law, and what it had to say about his crime and his punishment.

In talking about Jesus' death, though, the answers are not that simple. Many people think his death was unfair. They blame the Jewish leaders, or Pilate, or the soldiers. In this chapter, we will talk about God, the sinless Judge and loving Father, who decided that the death of Jesus Christ was necessary. At the end of this chapter, you will be able to:

- * tell God's reason for Jesus' death;
- * tell what Jesus' death did about our sins;
and
- * tell why it is important that Jesus rose from the dead.

For hundreds of years people have wanted to blame someone for Jesus' death. Some have pointed their fingers at the chief priests and the Pharisees. Others have accused Pontius Pilate of the deed. Because the Jewish mob cried out to Pontius Pilate, "We and our children will accept the guilt for his death," some have

blamed the entire Jewish race. This has led to many horrible crimes against Jews for many centuries.

The men who wanted to kill Jesus that Friday during the Passover Festival certainly are guilty—guilty of blind unbelief. Blaming the whole Jewish race of all ages is foolish and wrong, however.

Nothing is as simple as it seems when we talk about the end of Jesus' life. For example, Jesus spoke about his death this way, "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son" (John 3:16). And Jesus also said, "No one takes it (my life) from me. I give it up myself" (John 10:18). What does this mean? It means that God the Father sent his Son into the world to live a holy life and to give his life as a perfect sacrifice. He would suffer the punishment that we sinners deserve. God wanted his Son to die for us, and Jesus was willing to do it.

1. For centuries people have wanted to know who was to _____ for the death of Jesus.
2. Some have wrongly blamed the whole _____ race.
3. The holy one who wanted Jesus' death is _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 80)

Why did God want his Son to die? Why did God want to put to death the one man in all of history who never sinned? The reason is this. God is a holy Judge and a loving Father who wanted to save us from eternal death.

We deserved eternal death from God as punishment for our sins. In the beginning, God made the human race perfect and sinless. He said that if we sinned against his commandments, we would die. And death came into the world because of sin. Death means more than simply lying in a grave forever. It means your body and soul deserve

to suffer in hell as punishment for the wrongs you have done. It is like the worst prison imaginable. There is no way out.

God is our Judge, a just and holy judge. He would not set aside the sentence of death for all of us. He has made that clear in the Bible. The whole human race has to pay for its sins. And the punishment for sinning is eternal death.

But God is also our loving Father. He does not want to send people to hell. He wants them to live with him in heaven. The Bible is very clear about this, too. "When anyone dies, it does not give me any joy," God says in Ezekiel 18:32. "He [God] wants everyone to be saved," the Bible says in 1 Timothy 2:4.

4. We deserve eternal death from God for our _____.
5. Death means suffering in _____ forever for our wrongs.

6. Because God is _____, he would not set aside the sentence of death for our sins.

7. Because God is a _____ Father, he wants us to live with him forever.

8. God wants _____ to be saved.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 80)

How would God be able to save us? We deserved to go to hell. Because he is just, God had to condemn us to eternal death. But because he is loving, God wanted to give us eternal life.

The answer was Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God sent Jesus to earth to be our substitute. A substitute is someone who takes our place. Jesus came here because he was willing to take the sentence of death away from us by dying in our place. He even was willing to die on a cross! Think of it! Sinful men who hated Jesus nailed him to the cross in order to get rid of him. But at the same time, Jesus fulfilled his

work as the Savior of the world. God placed the sins of all people on Jesus. He suffered the eternal punishment we all deserved. Jesus suffered death in our place. He gave his life as a sacrifice to pay for our sins.

Not one sin went unpunished. Jesus was treated as if he were the one who committed every sin that has ever been done. And because Jesus, the holy Son of God, died for us, God forgave all of our sins.

9. The answer to our need for forgiveness is the _____ of Jesus.
10. Jesus paid for all sin on the cross as our _____.
11. Jesus suffered the _____ we deserve. He did this in our place.
12. Not one sin was left _____.
13. God has _____ us for them.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 80)

But the story of Jesus did not end with his death. As stated earlier, hell is a punishment that goes on forever. If Jesus had remained dead, it would prove that he was not the holy Son of God. It would prove that his death had not really paid for all our sins. It would mean we have to pay for them ourselves by going to hell.

But listen! In the moments before he died, Jesus cried out in a loud voice, so everyone could hear it, "It is finished!" He had fulfilled God's promise to save the world. His work of paying for our sins was finished. He said so. And here is how we can know that it is true.

If you disobey a law, you may be sent to prison. When you get to the end of your prison sentence, they let you go. You leave the prison and are a free man or woman. You have paid your debt and "It is finished" for you. The same was true of Jesus. When he had finished the entire sentence for our sins, he was able to leave his prison, of death and come back to life.

If he did not, it would mean that the punishment for sin was not finished at all, and each of us would have to pay for his own sins. If Jesus rose from the dead, as he promised to do, it would mean that our sins were all paid for, forever.

That's why we want to look at everything that happened after Jesus died. The priests and Pharisees had asked Pilate to place Roman soldiers at Jesus' grave. They were to keep Jesus' followers from breaking in to steal his body. But if Jesus is the Son of God, how would they ever keep him from coming out of the grave?

14. If Jesus remained dead, it would prove he was _____ to pay for our sins.
15. If Jesus were still dead, it would prove that he did not pay for all our _____.
16. If Jesus were still dead, _____ would have to pay for our sins in hell.

17. When Jesus died, he said, "It is _____!"

18. If Jesus rose from the dead, it would mean all our sins were _____ for.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 80)

Review of Chapter Five

Many people have been blamed for Jesus' death. Some have accused the chief priests and the Pharisees. Some have accused Pontius Pilate. Some have wrongly accused the whole Jewish race.

But the death of Jesus was not that simple. No human could take Jesus' life from him. It was God who sent Jesus to die so that Jesus could save us. God is a just, fair Judge. He said that we must pay for our sins. The punishment is death. Death means suffering in hell forever for our sins. Because he is just, God would not set aside the punishment that we deserve.

Answers to questions within Chapter Five:

1. blame; 2. Jewish; 3. God; 4. sins; 5. hell; 6. just; 7. loving; 8. everyone; 9. cross; 10. substitute; 11. punishment; 12. unpunished; 13. forgive; 14. unable; 15. sins; 16. we; 17. finished; 18. paid.

But God is also a loving Father. He wants to forgive our sins. He wants us to live in heaven with him forever.

God was able to be both just and loving at the cross of Jesus Christ. He made Jesus, a substitute for us. He was punished for our sins in our place. When he was dying on the cross, Jesus was suffering the punishment of hell for our sins. God's justice was satisfied because all the sins of the whole human race were paid for by Jesus' death. And God's love was shown because when Jesus was punished for our sins, we were forgiven of them.

When Jesus died, he shouted, "It is finished"! He meant that his mission of paying for our sins was over. If he remained in the grave, though, it would mean he was unable to pay for our sin. It would mean our sins were not fully paid for. Then we would have to pay for them ourselves. But if Jesus rose from the dead, it would mean that not one sin remained. It would mean that all our sins are paid for. It would mean that we are fully forgiven by God.

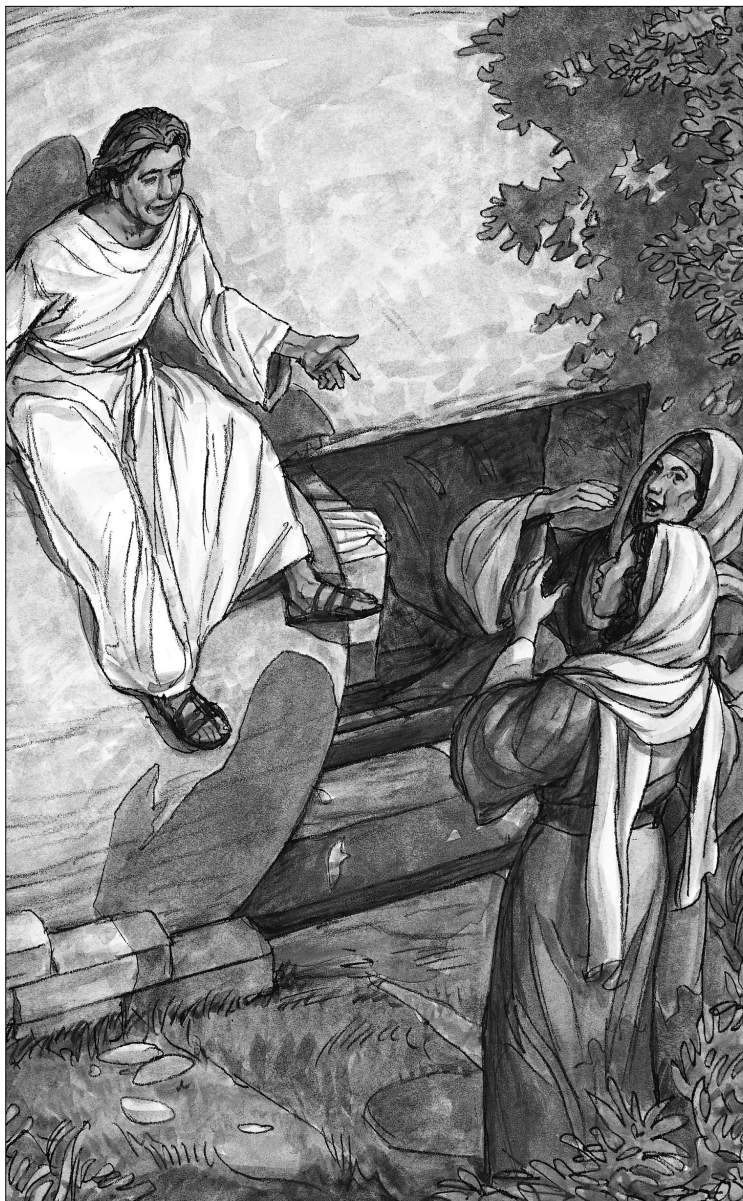
Test on Chapter Five

1. Some people have wrongly blamed the whole _____ race for Jesus' death.
2. The one who sent Jesus to pay for our sins with his death was _____.
3. God is a _____ Judge, that is, a fair God.
4. We deserved to be _____ in hell forever for our sins.
5. God is a _____ Father who wants us to live with him forever.
6. God sent Jesus to be our _____ who suffered in our place.
7. Jesus died so that we could be _____.
8. When he died, Jesus said, "It is _____!"

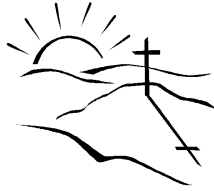
9. If Jesus remained dead, it would mean he was _____ to pay for our sins.
10. If Jesus remained dead, then _____ would have to pay for our sins.
11. If Jesus rose from the dead, it would mean that our sins are _____.

(Check your answers on page 108)

Extra Credit Question: In the space below, explain how Jesus' rising from the dead would be like a person getting out of prison.



*An angel tells the women that Jesus is alive
and his grave is empty.*



Chapter Six

THE RISING OF JESUS CHRIST

If this book were about anyone else, it would have ended at chapter five. For every other person in history, death has been the end. Maybe the ideals of some people live on or perhaps their works survive, but when they are dead, that is the end of their life story.

But this is a book about Jesus Christ. Death was not the end for him. Every year on Easter Sunday we remember that he rose from the dead. In this chapter we will find out what

happened on the first Easter Sunday. We also will find out what it all means. By the end of this chapter you will be able to:

- * describe briefly the events of the first Easter Sunday; and
- * tell the three things which Jesus' rising from the dead proves.

Early on Sunday morning, there was another earthquake. The soldiers on guard at the tomb felt the ground shake beneath them. But it was what they saw that filled them with fear.

Out of the sky of early dawn, an angel came down to the tomb. He was shining like the sun. He rolled the huge stone away from the tomb and sat on it. The soldiers fainted dead away. When they woke up, they ran into the city.

When the sun was rising, the women who watched Jesus' burial on Friday came back to the tomb. They had spices and ointments with

them. They were going to complete the burial. Then they remembered the stone that men had rolled in front of the entrance. As they walked to the tomb, they wondered how they would ever get it moved.

But as they came near the tomb, they saw the stone was already moved. One of them, Mary Magdalene, ran back into the city. She wanted to tell Jesus' disciples. The other women went on to the tomb. They found it was empty! The body of Jesus was not there. Then the angel appeared to them and told them Jesus had risen. He also told them to tell the disciples about it.

1. On Sunday morning, there was an _____ that shook the ground.
2. An _____ came down from the sky.
3. The angel rolled away the _____ from the mouth of the tomb.

4. The _____ fainted in fear and later ran to the city.
5. Some _____ came to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body with spices.
6. One of them, _____ ran back to find Jesus' disciples.
7. The angel said Jesus had _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 100)

As the women went back to the city, two of Jesus' disciples came to look at the tomb. They were Peter, the man who said he did not know Jesus, and John. They found that the burial sheet, the one that had been wrapped around Jesus' body for his burial, was still there. They then went back to the city.

But Mary Magdalene came back to the tomb and started to cry. She loved Jesus dearly. She could not stand the thought she had that his body had been stolen. She heard someone ask

her why she was crying. She thought it was the caretaker of that place. But when he spoke her name, she recognized it was Jesus.

She told Jesus' disciples that she had seen Jesus. The other women told them about the angel they saw. But the men did not believe them. They thought the women were seeing things.

8. Two of Jesus' disciples, _____ and _____ came to see the tomb.
9. Jesus' _____ was still there.
10. _____ came back to the tomb to cry.
11. She thought someone had _____ the body of Jesus.
12. When a man behind her spoke her name, she recognized him as _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 100)

Later that day, two men, who were followers of Jesus were on their way to a village a few miles from Jerusalem. The village was named Emmaus. A stranger started walking with them.

They were talking about what had happened to Jesus. The men were sad and confused about his death. But the stranger said that they did not understand the Bible. "Jesus had to suffer for sins," he said. "Then he would rise again in glory."

When they reached Emmaus, the men asked the stranger to stay the night at their house. He came with them. They went in and got dinner ready. At the table, the stranger said a prayer and started handing them the bread. He was acting as if he were the owner of the house. Suddenly, the men recognized him. It was Jesus! No sooner did they realize this than he disappeared from their sight.

13. Two disciples were on their way to a small village named _____.

14. A _____ walked with them.

15. He explained from the _____
why Jesus had to die.

16. Later, the disciples recognized that he was
actually _____.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 100)

The two men from Emmaus ran back to Jerusalem to tell Jesus' disciples what had happened. They found that Peter had also seen Jesus alive. Suddenly, even though the doors were locked, Jesus was in the room with them.

They were startled and could not believe it was Jesus. He told them not to be so unbelieving. This was what he had told them would happen. Then they believed and were glad.

One of them, Thomas, was not there. He did not believe the others when they told him they had seen Jesus. Thomas said, "First I must

see the nail marks in his hands. I must put my finger where the nails were. I must put my hand into his side. Only then will I believe what you say" (John 20:25).

The next week the disciples were all gathered together in the same room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came and stood among them once again. He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. See my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe!" (John 20:27).

Thomas fell to his knees and believed. Then Jesus said, "Because you have seen me you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen me but still have believed" (John 20:29).

Those words of Jesus speak about our faith. We have not seen him alive. We are surrounded by all kinds of people who tell us that Jesus is dead. But we know differently. The Bible says he is alive, and he is. We believe this to be true.

17. Jesus also appeared to another disciple,
_____.
18. When Jesus appeared to his disciples, they
could not _____ he was there.
19. One of the disciples, _____
was missing when Jesus came.
20. He refused to believe unless he could
touch the _____ in Jesus' hands
and side.
21. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have
not _____ me but still have believed."

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 100)

Because Jesus is raised from the dead, you know that all your sins have been paid for. We discussed this in chapter five. If any one of your sins had not been paid for by Jesus' death, Jesus could not have risen.

Because Jesus has risen from the dead, we also know that he really is the Son of God. Do you remember Jesus' trial before the Jewish council? He swore that he was the Son of God. Jesus would not have been able to defeat death if he had been lying about that. So when Jesus rose from the dead, he proved that what he said was true. He is the Son of God.

His rising from the dead proves one more thing. It proves that we will rise from the dead one day. Jesus said he will return to the earth some day, and everyone will see him. That day is Judgment Day. He will raise us from our graves, and we will live with him forever. That is his promise to all who believe in him. He proved he can raise us from the dead by rising from the dead himself.

22. Jesus' rising from the dead proves that all our _____ have been paid for.

23. If he had not risen, then we would have to _____ for our sins ourselves.

24. At his trial before the Jewish council, Jesus _____ that he was the Son of God.
25. He would not have been able to rise from the dead if he had been _____.
26. Jesus promised to come again and _____ us all from the dead.
27. He _____ that he can bring us back to life by rising from the dead himself.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 100)

For forty days after his rising from death Jesus stayed in this world with his disciples. He came to them in many different places. One time he came to a group of five hundred people who had followed him during his life.

Finally, Jesus led his disciples to a tall hill outside Jerusalem. There he went up into the sky, until a cloud covered him. That is how he returned to heaven. The disciples stood there, staring into the sky. Then two angels were



Jesus arose from the dead and ascended into heaven.

suddenly next to them asking them what they were looking at. "Men of Galilee," the angels said, "Why do you stand here looking at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. But he will come back in the same way you saw him go" (Acts 1:11).

And he will. He came once to die for your sins. He will come again to take you to be with him in heaven. The story of the death and rising of Jesus Christ is the story of how much he loves you. He gave his life for you.

Jesus will come again to give you a life in heaven that will never end.

28. Jesus remained on earth for _____ days after he rose from the dead.

29. He once appeared to a crowd of over _____ people.

30. Finally, he led his disciples to a hill outside the city of _____.

31. There he rose into the sky until a
_____ covered him from sight.

32. Two _____ told the disciples
that Jesus will come again.

(Check your answers on the bottom of page 100)

Review of Chapter Six

On Sunday morning there was another earthquake. An angel came down from the sky and rolled the stone away from the tomb. The guards fainted in fear. When they woke up, they ran into the city.

Later in the morning, women came to anoint the body with ointments. When they saw the stone rolled away, one of them ran to tell the disciples. She was Mary Magdalene. The other women went into the tomb. The angel told them Jesus had risen. He was alive.

Peter and John, two of Jesus' disciples, came out to see the empty tomb. Then Mary Magdalene came. She was the first person to see Jesus alive. But the disciples would not believe her.

Later, two men were walking to a village named Emmaus. A stranger walked with them. He explained to them from the Bible why Jesus

had to suffer and die. When they reached their house in Emmaus, they recognized that he was Jesus. He disappeared, and they ran back to Jerusalem.

Jesus appeared to his disciples for forty days. Once a crowd of five hundred people saw him. Finally, he led his disciples to a hill outside Jerusalem. There he rose up into the clouds. Two angels then promised the disciples that Jesus would return one day in the clouds of the heavens.

Answers to questions within Chapter Six:

1. earthquake; 2. angel; 3. stone; 4. soldiers; 5. women; 6. Mary Magdalene; 7. risen; 8. Peter; John; 9. burial sheet; 10. Mary Magdalene; 11. stolen; 12. Jesus; 13. Emmaus; 14. stranger; 15. Bible; 16. Jesus; 17. Peter; 18. believe; 19. Thomas; 20. wounds; 21. seen; 22. sins; 23. pay; 24. swore; 25. lying; 26. raise; 27. proved; 28. forty; 29. five hundred; 30. Jerusalem; 31. cloud; 32. angels.

Test on Chapter Six

1. On _____ morning there was a great earthquake.
2. An angel rolled the huge _____ away from the tomb.
3. The guards _____ out of fear.
4. The women came in the morning to _____ the body of Jesus.
5. The angel told them he had _____.
6. Two disciples, _____ and _____, came to look at the tomb.
7. The first person to see Jesus alive was _____.
8. Two men spoke with Jesus on the road to a village called _____.

9. The disciple who doubted that Jesus had risen was named _____.
10. Jesus' rising proves that he completely _____ for all our sins.
11. Jesus' rising proves that he really is the _____ of _____.
12. Jesus' rising proves that he will be able to _____ us from the dead when he comes back.
13. Jesus returned to heaven from a hill outside the city of _____.
14. Jesus will come again in the _____ of heaven.
15. He will come to take _____ to be with him forever.

(Check your answers on page 109)



Glossary

(A list of words you may not know)

- anniversary** the calendar date when something important happened in the past
- anointing** to cover with spices and ointments
- arrest** to take someone in the name of the law
- bargain** to make an agreement to get something for a good price
- barracks** a place where soldiers live
- betray** to turn someone who trusts you over to his enemies
- Caesar** the man who ruled over the Roman empire
- celebration** a joyful festival
- centuries** hundreds of years
- chase** to go or run after someone to catch that person
- chief priests** the men in charge of the ancient Jews' religion
- concentrate** to center your attention on something
- condemn** to find a person guilty

confused	to be mixed up in a person's mind
convince	to cause someone to know what you say is true
cooperated	agreed to do something with other people
crime	an act committed against the law
criticizing	saying that someone else is wrong
curious	wanting to know about something or someone
deed	an act, something someone does
defeat	to win a victory over someone
den	a place where killer animals live
disciples	followers and students of a great man
eclipse	when the sun or moon are covered by each other
emperor	the man who rules over an empire
eternal	never dying
execution	putting someone to death
fake	false
famous	well known by many people
festival	celebration or holiday

governor	the head of a state or province
holiday	a festival or a time to rest
ideals	a person's beliefs about how things ought to be
innocent	not guilty
insult	to say something that will hurt someone's feelings
Jerusalem	the capital city of the ancient Jews
just	fair and law-abiding
Messiah	the Jewish name for the coming Savior
mob	a large group of people who may be angry
Moses	the first leader of the ancient Jewish nation
ointment	an oil or perfume rubbed on skin
palace	a very fine home to live in
Paradise	another name for heaven
Passover	a great holiday of the ancient Jews
Pharisees	a group among the ancient Jews who thought themselves to be almost holy
plagues	bad things that God makes happen to people

prophecy	what prophets spoke or wrote from God
priest	a religious leader, one who leads worship
prophets	men who spoke and wrote words God gave to them
protest	to be against something
realize	to come to know or understand
refuse	to not be willing to do something
release	to be let go
riot	to cause a great disturbance
Roman Empire	an ancient kingdom made up of many smaller nations which had been conquered by Rome
Sabbath Day	Saturday for the ancient Jews, a day of rest
Sanhedrin	the ruling council of the ancient Jews
savior	someone who saves or rescues you
shocked	to be surprised or angered
splendid	excellent, very good
stare	to keep on looking at someone or something
survive	to continue to live or exist

swear	to take an oath
temple	a very large house of worship; the ancient Jews only had one, in Jerusalem
testimony	a witness's account of what he saw or heard
thrilled	to feel excitement, pleasure or fear
tomb	a place to bury a dead body
traditional	the way things have always been done
traitor	a betrayer
treasurer	someone who takes care of someone else's money for them
trick questions	questions designed to make you say something wrong
verdict	a statement that a person is guilty or not guilty
waist	the part of the body between the arms and the legs



Answers to the Chapter Tests

Chapter Test One: (Pages 20 - 22)

1. earthly; 2. Pharisees; 3. Romans; 4. Passover; 5. Moses;
6. lamb; 7. eat; 8. earthly; 9. eternal; 10. donkey;
11. Palm Sunday; 12. riot; 13. kill; 14. Judas Iscariot;
15. storekeepers, bankers; 16. trick; 17. chief priests, Pharisees;
18. Thursday.

Chapter Test Two: (Pages 37 - 39)

1. Thursday; 2. greatness; 3. sins; 4. Judas Iscariot; 5. Peter;
6. Holy Communion; 7. Gethsemane; 8. kiss; 9. word; 10. ran;
11. false; 12. Son; 13. death.

Extra credit answer: Instead of running away from Judas and the mob he led, Jesus went out to meet them. He knocked them down with a word, and then let them get up and arrest him. He did not let Peter fight to free him. At his trial, he swore he was the Son of God. This gave his enemies the only evidence they had to convict and kill him.

Chapter Test Three: (Pages 51 - 53)

1. Pontius Pilate; 2. death; 3. hanged; 4. release; 5. riot, taxes;
6. Galilee; 7. miracle; 8. against; 9. Son; 10. Truth; 11. whipped;
12. Barabbas; 13. crucify.

Extra credit answer: The priests and Pharisees turned the people against Jesus by showing how the Romans were beating him. The people had wanted the Messiah to be an earthly king. They wanted him to throw the Romans out. But the Romans were beating Jesus. So the people felt Jesus had betrayed their hopes.

Chapter Test Four: (Pages 68 - 70)

1. Golgotha; 2. cross; 3. Two; 4. forgive; 5. Jews; 6. mother;
7. noon; 8. Why; 9. soldiers; 10. finished; 11. very life;
12. earthquake; 13. God; 14. tomb (or garden); 15. Sabbath;
16. women; 17. stone; 18. soldiers; 19. disciples.

Chapter Test Five: (Pages 82 - 83)

1. Jewish; 2. God; 3. just; 4. punished; 5. loving; 6. substitute;
7. forgiven (or saved); 8. finished; 9. unable; 10. we; 11. forgiven.

Extra credit answer: When a person has completely paid for his crime, he is released from prison. When Jesus had completely paid for our sins, he was released from his prison, the tomb.

Chapter Test Six: (Pages 101 - 102)

1. Sunday;
2. stone;
3. fainted;
4. anoint;
5. risen;
6. Peter, John;
7. Mary Magdalene;
8. Emmaus;
9. Thomas;
10. paid;
11. Son, God;
12. raise;
13. Jerusalem;
14. clouds;
15. us.



Final Test

Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the chapter tests. Also review the goals, marked with a star (*) at the beginning of each lesson. When you are sure that you know all the goals, you are ready to take the final test.

Complete the final test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back cover of this book. You may also ask for more of the Bible Teachings books in this series.



The Death and Rising of Jesus Christ
Final Test

1. The _____ Festival celebrated how the Jews had been saved from slavery and death in the days of Moses.

2. We call the day Jesus entered Jerusalem for this festival _____ .

3. The common people wanted Jesus to be an _____ king, but he had come to be an _____ king.

4. Jesus' main enemies among the Jews were the _____ from the Temple and the _____ who thought they were holy men.

5. Jesus' enemies bribed his treasurer, _____, to agree to betray him.

6. On Thursday night Jesus gave his disciples a meal to remember him by, namely, the _____.
7. Jesus was arrested in the Garden of _____.
8. Jesus testified under oath to the high priest that he was the _____ of _____.
9. Since the Jewish leaders could not kill Jesus themselves, they took him to the Roman governor, a man named _____.
10. At first, the governor wanted to _____ Jesus.
11. Since Jesus was from Galilee, he was sent to be tried by the king of Galilee, King _____.
12. Jesus was nailed to a _____.

13. The sign over his head read, "This is the King of the _____."
14. Moments before he died, Jesus shouted out, "It is _____!"
15. Jesus' body was laid in a tomb, and a huge _____ was rolled in front of the entrance.
16. Some Roman _____ kept watch at the tomb, so that the disciples could not steal Jesus' body.
17. Since God is a just, fair Judge, he had to _____ us for our sins.
18. The punishment for sins is suffering forever in _____.
19. God is a _____ Father who wanted to forgive our sins and let us live with him forever in _____.

20. Jesus was our _____, who took our place and suffered our punishment.
21. If Jesus were still dead, it would mean we have to pay for our own _____.
22. We call the day on which Jesus rose from the dead _____.
23. An _____ rolled the stone away from the empty tomb.
24. The first person to see Jesus alive was _____.
25. Jesus convinced his disciple _____ that he was alive by showing him his wounds.
26. After _____ days, Jesus returned to heaven by rising into the _____.
27. Jesus' rising proves that all our sins have been _____.

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