

Calvary's Astonishing Events

No Ordinary Death, part 3

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The Astonishing Events surrounding Christ's crucifixion on Calvary authenticate Jesus as the unique Son of God — No Ordinary Death.

Anchor Scripture

- **Matthew 27:45,50-54**

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had died were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

- darkness from 12-3 — veil torn, earthquakes, rocks split, graves opened
- graves opened — not all, many, certain ones, by grand design, opened Friday, awaiting Sunday

Fifth Astonishing Event — Graves opened, bodies of the saints raised

Question — Whose graves were opened, which ones?

Answer — the righteous departed, those awaiting Messiah to make final payment for sin

- **Hades in general**, is the place of the departed, the underworld, two parts: evil, righteous
- **Luke 16:19-31**
"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'" Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the

dead.”

- **prior to Jesus death and resurrection**, the righteous departed lived in Abraham’s bosom, a place of waiting, comfort, rest until Messiah would come.
- **the wicked are in Hades**, hell, in flames, in torment, GREAT GULF FIXED, two separate places.

Important — after His death everything changed; when Jesus descended into lower parts of earth, to lead captivity captive, *Ephesians 4:8-10*, to release the prisoners, *1 Peter 3:19*, this is where He went; and when He went there the place shook, the earth quaked, demons freaked, righteous were released, and brought to heaven on Sunday *after the resurrection*.

“...he preached to those who were in hell also, so that he might save all those who would believe in him.
For both those who were alive on earth during the time of his incarnation
and those who were in hell had a chance to acknowledge him.”¹
Cyril of Alexandria

“...until he appeared in the lower regions everyone, including those who had been educated in
righteousness, was bound by the chains of death and was awaiting his arrival there...
Nevertheless, not everyone who was in the lower regions responded to Christ when he went there,
but only those who believed in him.”²
Severus of Antioch

Listen — those not brought to heaven immediately were those in our original text—of graves opening...

- **Matthew 27:52-53**
...and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.
- *Imagine seeing **Uncle Joe** who you buried a few weeks, months, years ago...*
“I was in Abe’s bosom chillin’, all of a sudden Jesus came preached, delivered, almost all went to Paradise—He told us to walk the streets and appear to people, so here I am... one more thing He said... I have conquered death, hell and the grave, fear not!”

Question — What kind of body did those coming out of the grave have?

Answer — A revived body, like those of Lazarus, Jairus’ daughter, Widow of Nain’s son, etc., they would die again, and then get their spiritual body like the others in heaven.

- **Point in this Fifth Miracle of Calvary**
 - **Jesus conquered death, hell, and the grave, not just for Himself, but for all who would believe on Him**
- **John 11:25-26**

¹ Thomas C. Oden, James, 1-2 Peter, 1-3 John, Jude (Routledge, Oct 31, 2013) 108

² ibid

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?

- **Since talking death and bodies** — what happens *this* side of Calvary... **post** resurrection?
- **2 Corinthians 5:4-8**
For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
- **Application** — *when in our natural body, absent from Lord, upon transition, the Believer's mortality gets swallowed by life itself as we immediately enter into the Lord's glorious Presence!*

Our bodies in heaven...

- **Philippians 3:20-21**
For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.
- our natural body gets transformed into His glorious body, incorruptible, powerful, spiritual, similar to our human appearance, but with transformed ability... flies, appears through walls!

Sixth Astonishing Event — Undisturbed graveclothes of Jesus...

...after Mary told Peter and John that Jesus was missing from the grave

- **John 20:4-8**
So they both (Peter and John) ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.

FACT — the clothes weren't missing because the body had been stolen, they weren't piled up in a corner as if a body had been unwrapped.

- **Miraculously** — they laid in the same location as Jesus was laid, without disturbance, no change in position, no bandages undone... the head piece was folded nicely in the corner, however, as if there was no hurry and like Someone was totally composed and in charge.
- **not taken off the body** — but that the body was lifted, raised and taken through them... resurrection life can't be held by clothes, graves or tomb stones... Jesus passed through them all, so will His followers!
- John saw and believed!

The birth, life, crucifixion, death, and resurrection of Jesus is like no other.
Without question
He is the fulfillment of all the ancient prophets wrote about and longed for.

He is

The Sacrifice for our sin

The Resurrection and Life for our eternal hope

He is worthy of

Our praise

Our worship

Our obedience

Our sacrifice

Our lives

OUR ALL

Discussion Questions

1. Had you ever heard of the term “Abraham’s bosom” before today?
Do you understand it well enough now to explain it to someone else?
2. What does it say about God’s love, that Jesus went to declare Himself to those in Hades?
Did it surprise you that not everyone responded?
3. At Jesus’ resurrection, what was the body like of those coming out of the grave?
Compare it to what our resurrection body will be like when we depart this earth.
4. What does Jesus passing through his undisturbed grave clothes mean to us as His followers?
5. What are the things that you can/will say to assure someone that there is no reason to fear death?