

Strange incident on lonely mountain

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. As they looked on, a change came over him, and his clothes became shining white, whiter than anyone in the world could wash them.

Then the three disciples saw Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is a good thing that we are here. We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

He and the others were so frightened that he did not know what to say.

A cloud appeared and covered them with its shadow, and a voice from the cloud, "This is my own dear Son—listen to him!" They took a quick look round but did not see anyone else; only Jesus was with them.

DISCIPLES PUZZLED

As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has risen from death."

They obeyed his order, but among themselves they started discussing the matter, "What does this 'rising from death' mean?" And they asked Jesus, "Why do the teachers of the Law say that Elijah has to come first?"

His answer was, "Elijah does indeed come first to get everything ready. Yet why do the Scriptures say that the Son of Man will suffer much and be rejected? I tell you, however, that Elijah has already come, and that people did to him what they wanted to, just as the Scriptures say about him."

Any day is a good day to start reading the Bible everyday



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Prisoner 'guilty' despite lies at trial

By JOHN MARK in Jerusalem

Then they took Jesus to the High Priest's house, where all the chief priests, the elders, and the teachers of the Law were gathering.

Peter followed from a distance and went into the courtyard of the High Priest's house. There he sat down with the guards, keeping himself warm by the fire. The chief priests and the whole Council tried to find some evidence against Jesus, in order to put him to death; but they could not find any. Many witnesses told lies against Jesus, but their stories did not agree.

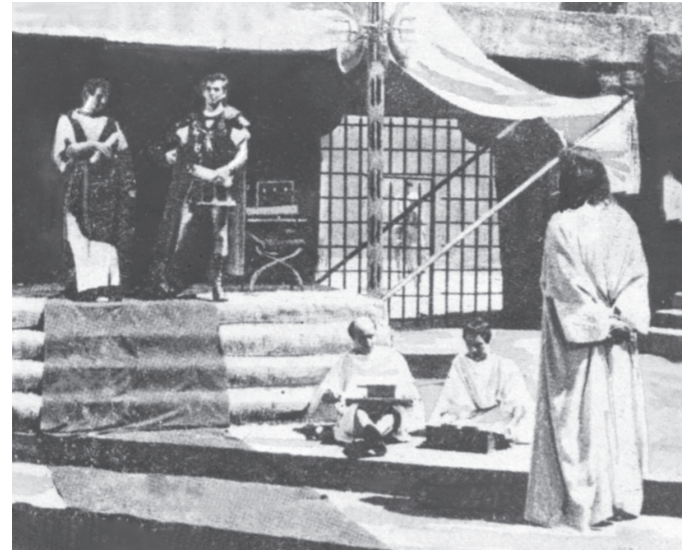
Then some men stood up and told this lie against Jesus, "We heard him say, 'I will tear down this temple which men made, and after three days I will build one that is not made by men.' " Not even they, however, could make their stories agree.

The High Priest stood up in front of them all and questioned Jesus, "Have you no answer to the accusation they bring against you?"

But Jesus kept quiet and would not say a word. Again the High Priest questioned him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed God?" "I am," answered Jesus, "and you will all see the Son of Man seated at the right side of the Almighty, and coming with the clouds of heaven!"

The High Priest tore his robes and said, "We don't need any more witnesses! You heard his wicked words. What is your decision?"

They all voted against him: he was guilty and should be put to death.



Scene at trial

GOVERNOR GIVES DEATH SENTENCE

At every Passover Feast the Governor would set free any prisoner the people asked for. On the day of the trial a man named Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder in a riot. When the crowd gathered and began to ask Pilate for the usual favour, he asked them, "Do you want me to set free for you the king of the Jews?" He knew very well that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous.

But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask, instead, Pilate to set Barabbas free for them. Pilate spoke again to the crowd, "What, then, do you want me to do with the one you call the King of the Jews?"

They shouted back, "Crucify him!" "But what crime has he committed?" Pilate asked. They shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!"

Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he set Barabbas free for them. Then he had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be crucified.

FLASHBACK

Warning to disciples

Then Jesus began to teach his disciples: "The Son of Man must suffer much, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law. He will be put to death, and after three days he will rise to life."

He made this very clear to them. So Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But Jesus turned round, looked at his disciples, and rebuked Peter. "Get away from me, Satan," he said. "Your thoughts are men's thoughts, not God's!"

Then Jesus called the crowd and his disciples to him. "If anyone wants to come with me," he told them, "he must forget himself, carry his cross, and follow me. For whoever

wants to save his own life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. Does a man gain anything if he wins the whole world but loses his life? Of course not! There is nothing a man can give to regain his life."

"If, then, a man is ashamed of me and of my teaching in this godless and wicked day, then the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

NEWS · SUPPLEMENT



EMPTY TOMB PUZZLE

Body gone

EXECUTED MAN LIVING AGAIN



What Happened?

"..... He is not here — he has been raised! Look, here is the place where they placed him..."

BETRAYED BY CLOSE FRIEND

Jesus was still speaking to his followers in the garden of Gethsemane where Judas, one of his disciples and a closest friend arrived. With him was a crowd carrying swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests, the teachers of the Law, and the elders.

The traitor had given the crowd a signal: "The man I kiss is the one you want."

Night arrest in garden

Arrest him and take him away under guard."

As soon as Judas arrived he went up to Jesus and said, "Teacher!" and kissed him. So they arrested Jesus and held him tight. But one of those standing by drew his sword and struck

at the High Priest's slave, cutting off his ear.

Then Jesus spoke up and said to them, "Did you have to come with swords and clubs to capture me, as though I were an outlaw? Day after day I was with you teaching in the temple, and you did not arrest me. But the Scriptures must come true."

Then all the disciples left him and ran away.

A certain young man, dressed only in a linen cloth, was following Jesus. They tried to arrest him, but he ran away naked, leaving the linen cloth behind.

The body of Jesus of Nazareth has disappeared from the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea where it was placed under guard after his crucifixion last Friday.

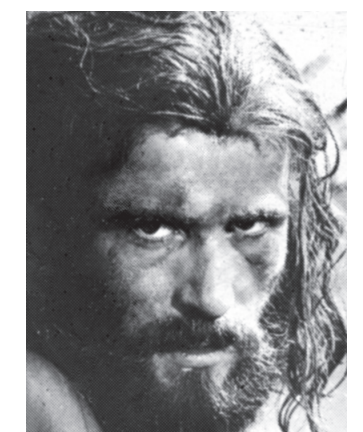
Rumours are rife in Jerusalem that he has risen from the dead.

One of the eyewitnesses to the burial, Mary Magdalene, together with Mary the mother of James and a woman called Salome are known to be involved.

They had prepared spices to go and anoint the body of Jesus and very early on Sunday morning, at sunrise, they went to the grave. On the way they said to one another, "Who will roll away for us the stone from the entrance to the grave?" (It was a very large stone.)

Then they looked up and saw that the stone had already been rolled back. So they entered the grave, where they saw a young man sitting at the right, wearing a white robe — and they were filled with alarm.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was nailed



to the cross. He is not here — he has been raised! Look, here is the place where they placed him."

Now go and give this message to his disciples, including Peter: 'He is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him, just as he told you.' "

So they went out and ran from the grave, because fear and terror were upon them. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

Action Angered Religious Leaders

On coming to Jerusalem, Jesus went to the temple and began to drive out all those who bought and sold in the temple.

He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the stools of those who sold pigeons, and would not let anyone to carry anything through the temple courts.

He then taught the people, "It is written in the Scriptures that God said, 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples.' But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves!"

The chief priests and the teachers of the Law heard of this, so they began looking for some way to kill Jesus. They were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was amazed at his teaching.

When evening came Jesus and his disciples left the city.

EXECUTION DRAMA

SEE
PAGE 3

See Profile on Page 2

PROFILE.... Who is this man?

EDITORIAL COLUMN

The dramatic events recorded in this paper have shaken the whole of the world. They happened almost 2,000 years ago but their earth-shaking effect is still being felt in the lives of ordinary men and women, all over the world, from every social and religious background.

Why does the death and resurrection of Jesus have such an effect? While he was alive, Jesus claimed to be God and demonstrated this through living a most remarkable life, backed up by supernatural signs and wonders. As the Lord Jesus himself said, "The blind can see, the lame can walk, those who suffer from dreaded skin-diseases are made clean, the deaf can hear, the dead are brought back to life, and the Good News is preached to the poor. How happy are those who have no doubts about me!"

If we believe in the Lord Jesus we too can be happy. His death means that God will forgive our sins and all our wrong attitudes and motives. His coming back to life means that the Lord Jesus is alive today.

Would you like to read more about

the life and teaching of the

Lord Jesus?

Write a letter or a post card to:

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A few days later Jesus came back to Capernaum, and the news spread that he was at home. So many people came together that there wasn't any room left, not even out in front of the door.

HEALER ENRAGED LEADERS

Jesus was preaching the message to them, when a paralysed man, carried by four men, was brought to him. Because of the crowd, however, they could not get the man to Jesus. So they made a hole in the roof right above the place where Jesus was. When they had made an opening, they let the man down, lying on his mat. Jesus saw how much faith they had, and said to the paralysed man, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

Some teachers of the Law who were sitting there thought to themselves, "How does he dare talk against God like this? No man can forgive sins; only God can!"

At once Jesus knew their secret thoughts, so he said to them, "Why do you think such things? Is it easier to say to this paralysed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your mat, and walk?' I will prove to you, then, that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralysed man, "I tell you, get up, pick up your mat, and go home!"

While they all watched, the man got up, picked up his

FLASHBACK

HE FLOUTED TRADITION

The Pharisees and some teachers of the Law who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus. They noticed that some of his disciples were eating their food with unclean hands — that is, they had not washed them in the way the Pharisees said people should.

For the Pharisees, as well as the rest of the Jews, follow the teaching they received from their ancestors: they do not eat unless they wash their hands in the proper way, nor do they eat anything that comes from the market unless they wash it first.

And they follow many other rules which they have received, such as the proper way to wash cups, pots, copper bowls, and beds.

So the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law asked Jesus, "Why is it that your disciples do not follow the teaching handed down by our

mat, and hurried away. They were all completely amazed and praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Then Jesus went back to the synagogue, where there was a man who had a crippled hand. Some people were there who wanted to accuse Jesus of doing wrong; so they watched him very closely, to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath. Jesus said to the man with the crippled hand, "Come up here to the front." Then he asked the people, "What does our Law allow us to do on the Sabbath? To help, or to harm? To save a man's life, or to destroy it?"

But they did not say a thing. Jesus was angry as he looked round at them, but at the same time he felt sorry for them, because they were so stubborn and wrong. Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand."

He stretched it out and it became well again. So the Pharisees left the synagogue and met at once with some members of Herod's party; and they made plans against Jesus to kill him.



As they came near Jerusalem, at the towns of Bethphage and Bethany, they came to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus sent two of his disciples on ahead with these instructions, "Go to the village there ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a colt tied up that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. And if someone asks you, 'Why are you doing that?' tell him, 'The Master needs it and will send it back here at once.'"

Crowd hailed Messiah

About two weeks ago, Jesus came to Jerusalem for what was to be his last visit before his death. He was greeted and felicitated as a King.

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches in the fields and spread them on the road. The people who were in front and those who followed

behind began to shout, "Praise God! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the coming kingdom of our father David! Praise be to God!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem, went into the temple, and looked round at everything. But since it was already late in the day, he went out to Bethany with the twelve disciples.

He calmed a storm

One evening Jesus asked his disciples to come with him to the other side of the lake. So they left the crowds.

On the evening of that same day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." So they left the crowd; the disciples got into the boat that Jesus was already in, and took him with them. Other boats were there too. A very strong wind blew up and the waves began to spill over into the boat, so that it was about to fill with water. Jesus was in the back of the boat, sleeping with his head on a pillow. The disciples woke him up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we are about to die?"

Jesus got up and commanded the wind, "Be quiet!" and said to the waves, "Be still!" The wind died down, and there was a great calm. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Why are you frightened? Are you still without faith?"

But they were terribly afraid, and began to say to each other, "Who is this man? Even the wind and waves obey him!"

‘WITH A LOUD CRY JESUS DIED’ HOLY MAN CRUCIFIED AT “SKULL HILL”

The soldiers took Jesus inside the courtyard (that is, the governor's palace) and called together the rest of the company. They put a purple robe on Jesus, made a crown out of thorny branches, and put it on his head. Then they began to salute him: "Long live the King of the Jews!"

They beat him over the head with a stick, spat on him, fell on their knees, and bowed down to him. When they had finished making fun of him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to nail him to the cross.

On the way they met a man named Simon, who was coming into the city from the country, and they forced him to carry Jesus' cross. (This was Simon from Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.) They brought Jesus to a place called Golgotha, which means "The Place of the Skull."

There they tried to give him wine mixed with a drug called myrrh, but Jesus would not drink it.

So they nailed him to the cross and divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to see who would get which piece of clothing. It was nine o'clock in the morning when they nailed him to the cross.



TWO BANDITS

The notice of the accusation against him was written, "The King of the Jews." They also nailed the two bandits to crosses with Jesus, one on his right and the other on his left. [In this way the scripture came

true which says, "He was included with criminals."]

People passing by shook their heads and hurled insults at Jesus: "Aha! You were going to tear down the temple and build it up in three days! Now come down from the cross and save yourself!"

In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the Law made fun of Jesus, saying to each other, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Let us see the Messiah, the king of Israel, come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him!"

And the two who were crucified with Jesus insulted him also.

DEATH OF JESUS

At noon the whole country was covered with darkness, which lasted for three hours. At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud shout, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why did you abandon me?"

'THIS MAN WAS
TRULY THE
SON OF GOD'



Some of the people who were there heard him and said, "Listen, he is calling for Elijah!" One of them ran up with a sponge, soaked it in cheap wine, and put it on the end of a stick. Then he held it up to Jesus' lips and said, "Wait! Let us see if Elijah is coming to bring him down from the cross."

With a loud cry Jesus died.

The curtain hanging in the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The army officer, who was standing there in front of the cross, saw how Jesus had cried out and died. "This man was really the Son of God!" he said.

Events were predicted

They left that place and went on through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where he was, because he was teaching his disciples, "The Son of Man will be handed over to men who will kill him; three days later, however, he will rise to life."

They did not understand what this teaching meant, but they were afraid to ask him.

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