

# Freedom Isn't Free

Long Beach Alliance Church • Palm Sunday • April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 • Pastor Chris Lankford

**Now it came about at midnight that the LORD struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. Pharaoh arose in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead.**

**~Exodus 12:29-30 (NASB)**

## 1) There Will Be Blood

- A) The first instructions regarding Passover (Exodus 12:3-14) are primarily focused on regulations for Israel's separation from Egypt as God's chosen people.
- B) The next section provides further information regarding Passover for Israel (12:21-28), but is more sharply focused on how Passover protects God's people from destruction.
- C) The acts of Passover, with their violence, blood, smells, tastes, and urgent intensity teach God's people that freedom is not free, but comes at an extraordinary cost!

## 2) The Final Plague Against Egypt

- A) Finally, the Passover reaches its horrific crescendo with the fulfillment of God's promise to take the life of every firstborn in Egypt, from children to livestock, all of Egypt is caught defenseless against God's wrath (12:29-30).
- B) Pharaoh immediately and emphatically orders Moses and Aaron to get out of Egypt and worship the Lord (12:31-32).
- C) Pharaoh's defeat is so thorough, he asks Moses to pray for him (12:32)! The people of Egypt are terrified of what may happen next at the hands of the Israelites, and plead with them to get out of Egypt quickly (12:33).
- D) God's people don't hesitate in their obedience to God (flee quickly), and in requesting both gold (funds) and clothing (supplies) from their Egyptian captors (12:34-35).

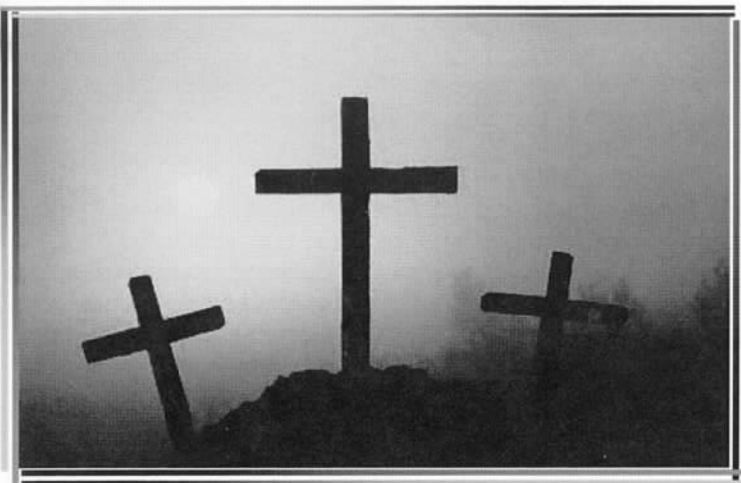
## 3) Miraculous Protection & Provision

- A) Of course, Israel finds favor with their previous captors, who give them gold and clothing, as we witness God provide Israel with all they need (12:36, 39). God provides for and protects Israel as their mighty LORD and Savior!
- B) Israel has grown from Joseph and his brothers (1:1-7) to over 600,000 "able bodied men," a group numbering somewhere between 2-3 million people (12:37-38).
- C) Israel's captivity lasted exactly 430 years (12:40-41), an extraordinary capstone of God's passionate provision and protection of His people!

For further discussion with your family, spouse, or small group study... Why do you think God required the bloody sacrifice of the unblemished lamb, and the equally bloody ritual of blood on the doorposts of Hebrew homes? Who is the "destroyer" of Exodus 12:23? How can a loving God ("God is love," 1<sup>st</sup> John 4:8, 16) also be responsible for killing children? Does God still "pass over" His people? How? What is the cost of God "passing over" His people?

# The Greatest Week In History

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About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” that is, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

~Matthew 27:46 (NASB)

## 1) Monday ~ Friends Are Everywhere!

- A) Arrival in Bethany and Sabbath day. Jesus spends some time with his friends Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. While in Bethany, Mary anoints Christ's feet with costly perfume as an act of humility. This act showed Mary's willingness to give up what she owned (and herself) to serve Jesus (John 12:1-11).

- B) The Triumphal Entry. Jesus rides into Jerusalem on a donkey, fulfilling an ancient prophecy (Zechariah 9:9). The crowds welcomed Christ with “Hosanna's” and the words of Psalm 118:25-26, thus ascribing him a Messianic title as an agent of the Lord, the coming King of Israel (Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:12-50).

### *Monday - Apply It To Life!*

**Get right with God today!**

Where is Jesus Christ in my life? Am I willing to give of what I own and who I am to Jesus without reservation? Do I welcome Christ into my day, relationships, even my own life with ‘Hosannas’ and celebration?

## 2) Tuesday ~ Cleaning House!

- A) Cleaning out the Temple. Christ comes to the temple area and enters the court of the Gentiles and finds traders and money changers making large profits as they gave out Jewish coins in exchange for pagan money. Jesus drives them out and overturns their tables (Matthew 21:10-17; Luke 19:45-48).

### *Tuesday - Apply It To Life!*

**Let God clean out your temple!**  
What areas of my life need to be cleaned out? Have I allowed “pagan money” (values, ideas) to fill up the treasure chest of my life?

## 3) Wednesday ~ Predictions & Parables

- A) Christ teaches in parables on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem. He warns the people about the Pharisees and predicts the destruction of Herod's great temple. He tells of rebuilding the temple in 3 days, and other future events.

### *Wednesday - Apply It To Life!*

**Soak up Scripture today!**  
What areas of my life can God tear down and then rebuild in perfection?

(Matthew 21:18-25:46).

#### 4) Thursday ~ Betrayal & Brutality

A) The Last Supper. Christ prepares both Himself and the disciples for His death. He uses a loaf of bread and a cup of wine to represent His body and blood soon to be sacrificed. During this first "Lord's Supper," after Christ dramatically washes the disciples feet, Judas Iscariot bolts from the room to betray Christ (Matthew 26:17-35; John 13:1-38).

B) Garden of Gethsemane. Christ asks his disciples to watch for Him as He goes to be alone with God. His agony is so extreme he literally sweats blood.

When He returns to His disciples, they have fallen asleep, offering little support. The guards come, Judas betrays Christ with a kiss, and they take Jesus away (Matthew 26:36-56; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-11).

##### *Thursday - Apply It To Life!*

Look Christ right in the eyes today!  
As I see what Christ went through for me, it compels me to tell others about His great love.  
*Spend time finding areas where you would have broken under the pressure, but Christ did not!* Seeing what Christ has gone through compels me to have more courage in living for Him and sharing about Him with my friends and family.

C) Illegal Trial of Jesus. Jesus actually goes through 6 different trials with the Jewish and Roman authorities. By the time the trials are over Friday morning, Christ is totally physically exhausted. He has withstood beatings, being spit on, flogging, and ridicule (See chart for further details).

#### 5) Friday ~ Crucify Him, Crucify Him!

A) Crucifixion of Jesus. The Jewish leaders demand that Pontius Pilate, the Roman authority, crucify Christ. Pilate bargains using a known murderer named Barabbas, trying to reason with the people. The people respond by acquitting Barabbas and demanding Christ be killed. They scream "Crucify him, Crucify him!" Pilate, falsely claiming innocence, gives in to the people and sentences Christ to a horrible crucifixion (Matthew 27:1-66; Mark 15:1-47; Luke 22:66-23:56; John 18:28-19:37).

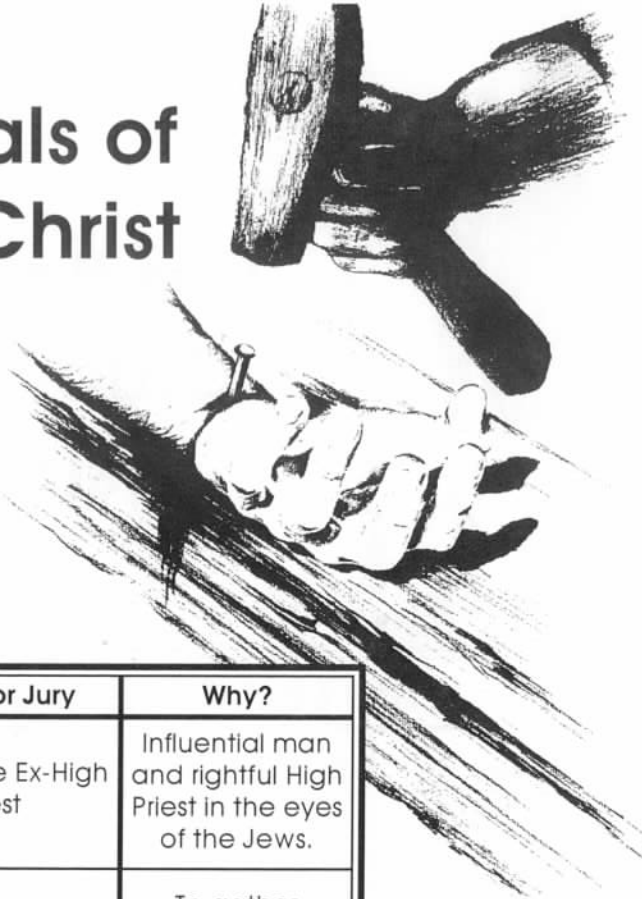
##### *Friday - Apply It To Life!*

Christ's death is the ultimate act of love!  
Use this day to once again dedicate your whole life to Christ. Read Romans 6. Am I a slave to righteousness, or to those things that Christ died for?

### Psalm 22:6-8 (NKJV)

But I am a worm, and no man;  
A reproach of men,  
and despised by the people.  
All those who see Me ridicule Me;  
They shoot out the lip,  
they shake the head, saying,  
"He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him;  
Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

# The Trials of Jesus Christ



Trial #?	Judge or Jury	Why?
Trial #1	Annas, the Ex-High Priest	Influential man and rightful High Priest in the eyes of the Jews.
Trial #2	Caiaphas, the High Priest	To gather evidence for the Supreme Court of the Sanhedrin.
Trial #3	The Sanhedrin, The Jewish Supreme Court	A Jewish death sentence.
Trial #4	Pontius Pilate (Roman Authority)	Only Rome could legally kill a man for a crime.
Trial #5	Herod (Galilean Ruler)	Herod wanted to see a miracle.
Trial #6	Pontius Pilate	Pilate condemns Christ to die via crucifixion.

# The Beatings & Crucifixion of Jesus Christ



The Last Hours of Jesus	
<b>The Beatings</b> Trials # 1,2	Christ is hit once by the temple guard in Trial #1. In Trial #2, Jesus is blindfolded, and punched by a circle of guards who mock Him.
<b>The Flogging</b> Pilate's Soldiers Trial #6	Jesus was taken behind Pilate's palace and either tied or pinned to a large wooden post. Using a special whip called a cat of nine tails (9 leather strips with lead weights at the ends, glass and metal embedded in the leather), a Roman soldier beat Christ 39 times across his body. 40 lashes was considered the death penalty. This thrashing of the body oftentimes tore off so much flesh that ribs and vital organs were exposed from the torture.
<b>The Crucifixion</b>	Christ carried his own cross as far as he could to Golgotha. It was then laid on the ground and Jesus was laid down on it. Christ was stripped naked and then soldiers nailed his wrists to the cross with heavy, wrought-iron nails away from the pulse points. They then bent Christ's legs at the knees and drove a long nail through the top of his feet and through his heel bones. With ropes the cross was hoisted up and wrenchingly dropped into a hole in the ground.