

TRUTH & RIGHT

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NUMBERS AT THE CROSS

One Lord (*Acts 2:36*)

The Scriptures state that there is "one Lord" (*Ephesians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 8:6*). They also declare that Jesus of Nazareth is "Lord of all." (*Acts 10:36*) "Lord" means master, or one who is supreme in authority. That is why we are to do all "in the name of the Lord Jesus." (*Colossians 3:17*) No one, except Jesus, is authorized to be man's spiritual Lord. He was made both Lord and Christ (*Acts 2:36*).

Two Thieves (*Matthew 27:38*)

Jesus' crucifixion between two thieves fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy: "And He was numbered with the

transgressors." (*Isaiah 53:12; Mark 15:28; Luke 22:37*) This one, who was without sin (*Hebrews 4:15; John 8:46*), died in the company of sinners as a sin sacrifice to redeem sinful man from his sins. Living in the world among sinners, God's sinless Son gave Himself to save sinners. What love. What a sacrifice.

Three Crosses (*John 19:17-18*)

Crucifixion on a wooden cross, a Roman form of execution, was a horrible way to die. The cross represented death, and Jesus taught His disciples that they must take up their crosses and follow Him (*Matthew 16:24*). They had to be prepared to offer

their Lord the ultimate sacrifice-- faithfulness until death (*Revelation 2:10*; Cf. *Philippians 2:8*). On the cross of shame and suffering, Jesus endured agony to dedicate the new covenant with His blood and provide redemption from sin for all who are faithful (*Hebrews 9:11-22*). We should recall the "old rugged cross" because of who died on it and the significant part it played in our salvation and eternal destiny.

Four Soldiers (*John 19:23*)

Four Roman soldiers were commissioned to carry out the horrible and disgusting task of crucifixion. They stripped the condemned of His garments and divided them among themselves for their own possession (*John 19:23-24*). These soldiers were only doing their jobs; yet, they were also fulfilling God's will and Old Testament prophecy (*John 19:24*; *Psalms 22:18*). They witnessed our Savior's suffering and death (*Matthew 27:36*), and the centurion exclaimed his belief that Jesus was a righteous man and the Son of God (*Luke*

23:47; *Mark 15:39*; *Matthew 27:54*).

Five Wounds (*Luke 24:39*; *John 20:27*)

When Jesus was crucified, His hands and His feet were "pierced," and His side was pierced with a spear. "*But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out...And again another Scripture says, They shall look on Him whom they pierced.*" (*John 19:33-34,37*). These five wounds presented the disciples with physical evidence that Jesus was real (not a spirit or hallucination), and that He had indeed been crucified, died, and rose again. His wounds were inflicted on our behalf, for "*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*" (*Isaiah 53:5*) We enjoy spiritual healing because He was wounded for us.

Six Hours (*Mark 15:25;*
Luke 23:44)

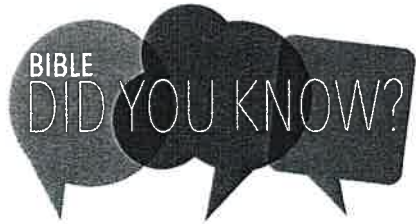
Jesus suffered on the cross for six hours. Six hours is not a very long time, but these were the six most important hours in human history--the Lamb of God was sacrificed for the sins of the world. Three of the hours were spent in midday darkness that should have arrested the minds of the witnesses to the importance of the occasion. It was a six-hour countdown to the new covenant and the opening of a new and living way to the Father and His grace (*Hebrews 10: 19-20*). Our Lord endured six hours of suffering and death so that we might enjoy an eternal habitation.

Seven Sayings

(*Luke 23:34; Matthew 27:46;*
Luke 23:43; John 19:26-27,28,30; Luke 23:46)

The words Jesus spoke from the cross were instructive. They exemplified the principles of forgiveness, trust, hope, love, obedience, and submission. Jesus was well aware of the

circumstances. He knew that He was fulfilling the prophetic Scriptures and His Father's will. As death approached, Jesus declared as complete the great work of saving mankind from sin. He died for you and me. Are you willing to submit to His will and obey Him?
– Marc Gibson



We cannot “walk in the light” and hate our brother. “The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes,” 1 John 2:9-11

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



The Cyrus Cylinder

The Cyrus Cylinder, cited as extra-biblical evidence of an Old Testament account involving the exile of ancient Jews, was scheduled to make stops at various museums in the U.S. a few years ago, before returning to its home at the British Museum. The artifact is named after the Persian king who ruled from 559-530 B.C. and is mentioned in historical and prophetic books of the Bible as having allowed Jews exiled by the Babylonians to return to their home in Jerusalem. The nearly 2,600-year-old Cylinder is viewed as inspiring modern-day political debates, cultural rhetoric and philosophy, and is also cited as an early example of sensitivity to tolerance, justice and religious freedom. "One of the goals of this exhibition is to encourage us to reflect that relations between Persians and Jews have not always been marked by the discord that disfigures the political map of the Near East today," said Julian Raby, The Dame Jillian Sackler Director of the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the Freer Gallery of Art. "Cyrus was the very image of a virtuous ruler — inspiring leaders from Alexander the Great to Thomas Jefferson — so it is apt that the first time the Cyrus Cylinder will be seen in the West is in Washington, D.C." The football-sized, barrel-shaped clay item covered in Babylonian cuneiform, believed to have been written some time after 539 B.C., tells of King Cyrus' "victory and his intention to allow freedom of worship to communities displaced by the defeated ruler Nabonidus," according to the Smithsonian museum. The item is of particular importance to archaeologists and biblical scholars, as it appears to match accounts mentioned in the books of 2 Chronicles, Daniel, Isaiah and Ezra regarding the Babylonian and Persian Empires, as well as Jewish displacement from Jerusalem. The Cyrus Cylinder was discovered in the ruins of Babylon, or Nineveh, Iraq, in 1879 by Hormuzd Rassam.

