

## MESSIANIC MILESTONES

### THE BURIAL OF THE MESSIAH

#### I. WHO BURIED HIM?

##### A. **John 12:1-7; Mark 14:9**

Mary of Bethany participated in the burial of Christ, perhaps unwittingly, and certainly in advance of the actual event, even preceding His death, when she anointed His feet with expensive oil. Her action wasn't appreciated by observers, but it was by Jesus.

##### B. **John 19:38-39; Numbers 19:11**

The actual burial was performed by Joseph of Arimathea and by Nicodemus, both of whom became unclean through their contact with a corpse, thus disqualifying them from participating in the Passover, something Jesus' accusers could not countenance.

##### 1. **Luke 23:50-52; Mark 15:42-43**

Joseph was a council member who had disagreed with the decision to put Jesus to death. It required unusual courage for a man in such a position to ask for Jesus' body to bury it honorably.

##### 2. **John 3:1-21; 7:45-52**

Nicodemus was also a ruler and teacher of the Jewish people, but one who demonstrated early interest in Jesus. Yet, he had been reluctant to be seen interacting with the Master, for he had only approached the Lord under cover of darkness. Even so, he spoke in the Lord's defense when the council intended to arrest Him.

##### C. **Matthew 27:61; Mark 16:1**

During the burial, Mary and Mary took care to observe His resting place, with the intention of returning to anoint the corpse. Of course, due to His resurrection, they were not afforded that opportunity, in favor of what they would witness!

## II. WHEN WAS HE BURIED?

### A. **Mark 15:42-45**

He was buried earlier than Pilate would have anticipated in that He died before the others who were crucified.

### B. **John 19:31-37, 42; Deuteronomy 21:22-23**

He was buried with some haste in that it was the eve of Passover because it was illegal to leave the dead out overnight.

### C. **Matthew 12:38-41**

He was buried for only three days because He rose from the dead!

### D. **1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 6:3-6**

Obviously, He was buried after He died and before He rose. If we have any appreciation for the obvious, then we will, likewise, be buried in baptism after we die to sin and before we rise to new life!

## III. WHERE WAS HE BURIED?

### A. **John 19:41-42**

He was buried in a tomb in a garden near Golgotha that belonged to Joseph.

### B. **Matthew 27:57-58; Isaiah 53:9**

Joseph, whose own tomb was furnished for the occasion, was a rich man. This was foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

## IV. HOW WAS HE BURIED?

### A. **John 19:40**

He was buried according to the custom of His people, wrapped in cloths.

### B. **Matthew 27:60**

He was buried inside a rock-hewn tomb, the entrance to which was covered by a stone.

### C. **Matthew 27:62-66**

The tomb was, moreover, sealed, and guarded.

**V. WHAT DID HE DO WHILE HE WAS BURIED?**

**A. Luke 23:39-43; 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:2, 4; Revelation 2:7**

He went immediately to Paradise, which is the third heaven, where the tree of life is.

**B. Acts 2:25-32**

Since He would not remain in Hades, however, His body did not undergo decay.

**C. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:18-21; 4:6**

A mistaken reading of this text would suggest Jesus preached to the dead to give them opportunity to be saved, but that is a misunderstanding. Souls now long dead had the gospel preached to them by Noah and others through Christ's spirit back when they were still living.

**VI. WHY WAS HE BURIED?**

**A. Ecclesiastes 6:3; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 9:10**

It would have been a disgrace to deny Him proper interment.

**B. Colossians 2:11-13; Romans 6:3-6**

He was buried as a type of baptism!