

Household of Faith fidelity



"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." - Galatians 6:10

Week of Sunday, 26th April 2026

7 Steps in Faith

Luke 18:8 puts this question to us: *"when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?"* As we are living in the last days, in 2026 it is so important that we examine where we are in our faith and make sure that it is on a firm footing. Below is the 'Faith-o-Meter' with the different levels of faith. Here are 7 levels of faith for your consideration and growth.

1. Disbelief: is right at the bottom of the scale. He does not believe - Hebrews 3:19 *"We see that they were not able to enter in because of unbelief"*. Some at this level may have believed in times past, but now no longer believe - Hebrews 3:12 *"Beware, brothers, lest perhaps there be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God"*. It is a fearful state which the Bible describes as 'an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God'.

2. Doubt: cannot accept the word of God. Mark 16:14 *"Afterward he was revealed to the eleven themselves as they sat at the table, and he rebuked them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they didn't believe those who had seen him after he had risen"*. Unlike disbelief, it is confused, but open to teaching. It could be that some who doubt may be sincere in their beliefs, but nevertheless wrong - 1 Timothy 1:13 *"Although I was before a blasphemer, a persecutor, and insolent. However, I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief"*.

3. Unbelief: is a dangerous state to remain in. Mark 9:23-24 Jesus said to him, *"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."* Immediately the father of the child cried out with tears, *"I believe. Help my unbelief!"* It is like the seed the sower sowed that fell by the wayside (Matthew 13:19). These ones are weak and must be handled with care - Romans 14:1 *"Now receive one who is weak in faith, but not for disputes over opinions"*.

4. Little faith: preoccupied with material provisions - Matthew 6:30 *"But if God so clothes the grass of*

the field, which today exists, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, won't he much more clothe you, you of little faith?" He is affected by the circumstances around him - Matthew 14:31 *"Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand, took hold of him, and said to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

5. Small faith is where all of us have been through at one time, as newborn babes in Christ - 1 Peter 2:2 *"as newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby"*. Not ready for meat - 1 Corinthians 3:2 *"I fed you with milk, not with meat; for you weren't yet ready. Indeed, not even now are you ready"*.

6. Mature faith is one that has the correct priority in life - Hebrews 11:25-26 *"Choosing rather to share ill treatment with God's people, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a time; accounting the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the reward"*. It is of full age, well-exercised and discerning in nature.

7. Great faith: Joyful, enduring to the end - Hebrews 12:2 *"Looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God"*. It is a faith that sees the invisible - 2 Kings 6:17 *"Elisha prayed, and said, Yahweh, Please open his eyes, that he may see. Yahweh opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha"*. When we attain such a faith, we will be invincible - more than conquerors. ■

BACK PAGE NEWS



Clockwise: Care teams in progress; Henry exhorting the congregation; Ramesh leading the closing prayer; Gan family enjoying lunch fellowship with Floyd, Kathy, June and Henry; Thanks to Catherine for fried noodles, prawn paste chicken, nyonya kuehs; Alfred & Phai for the fruits and Floyd for the Hawaiian chocolates.



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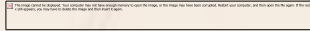


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Today's Sermon

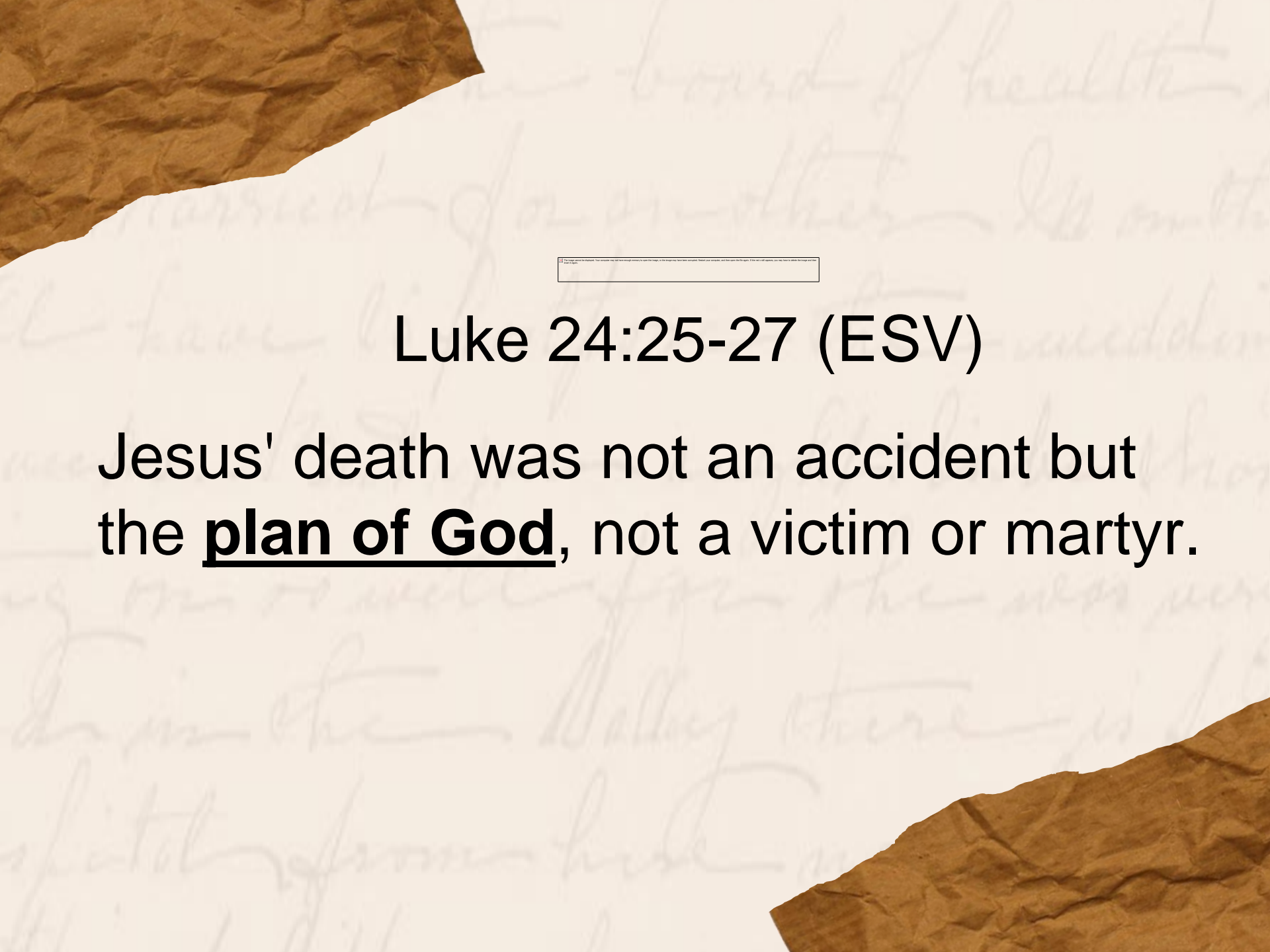


The Man on the Cross

Story


Saint Vitalis of Gaza



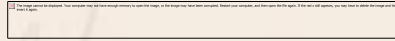


Luke 24:25-27 (ESV)

Jesus' death was not an accident but the **plan of God**, not a victim or martyr.



Today's Verse



Luke 24:25-27 (ESV)

25 And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

#1 There were >8 attempts to kill Jesus



Jesus healed on the sabbath.
Mark 2-3

Jesus claimed to be equal with God
John 5:11-18

Jesus claimed to be Jehovah.
John 8:57-58

Announcing that God's salvation is for
outsiders, not just Israel.
Luke 4:14-30

Jesus claimed Father in Him.
John 10:38-39

Claimed to have power over life.
John 11:25,53

Proclaimed Kingdom open to
Gentiles, not just Jews.
Matthew 21:33-46

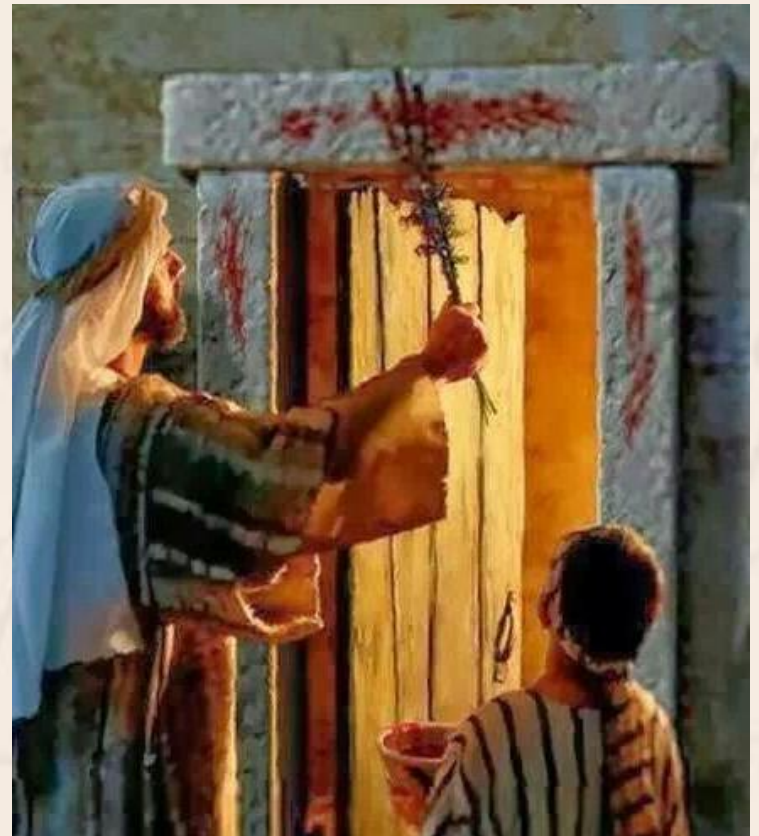
Drove merchants out of Temple
Luke 19:45-48

#2 Jesus' death had to be on the Passover

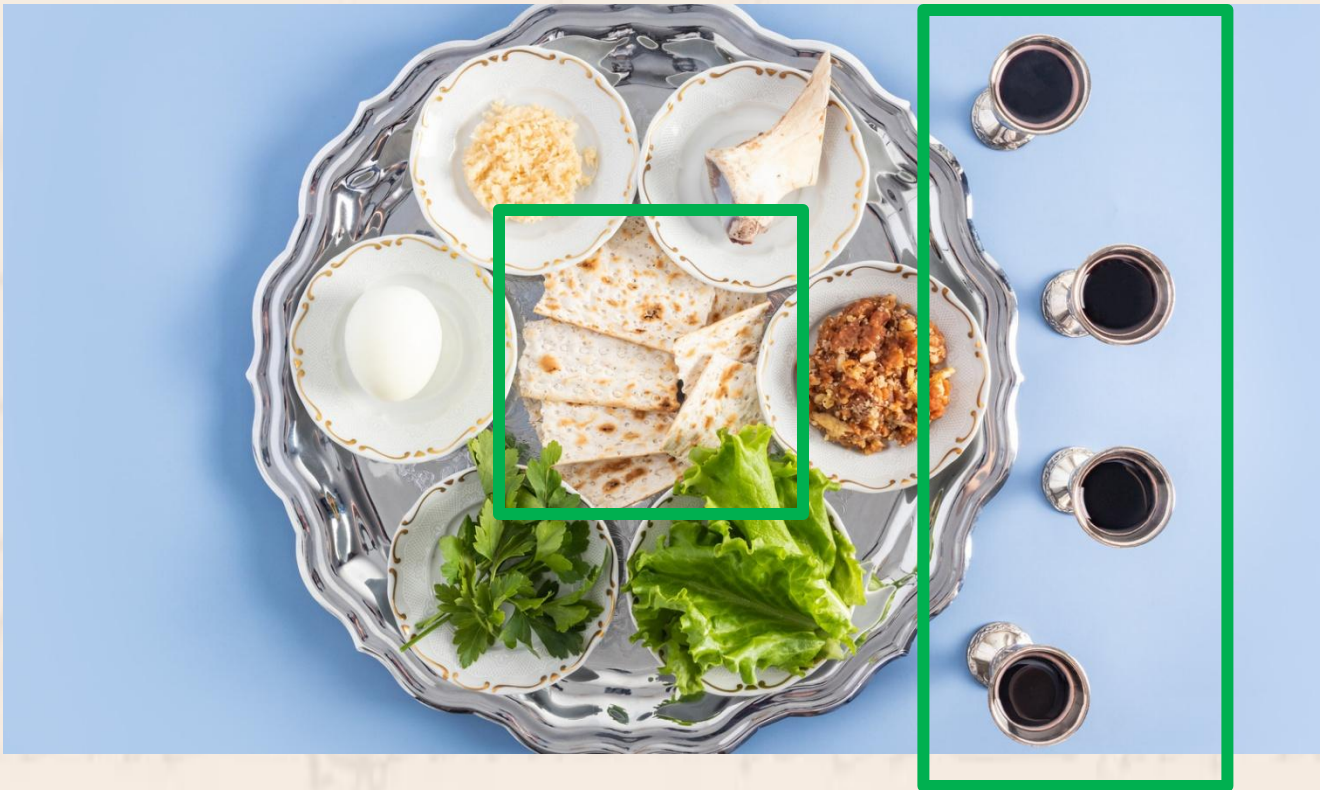


For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. – 1 Cor 5:7

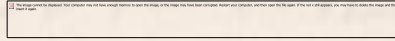
It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.—
John 19:14



#2 Jesus' death had to be on the Passover



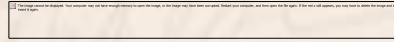
#3 Type of death: Crucifixion only



And will hand him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified – Matthew 20:19



#4 Jesus was to die 490 years after the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem

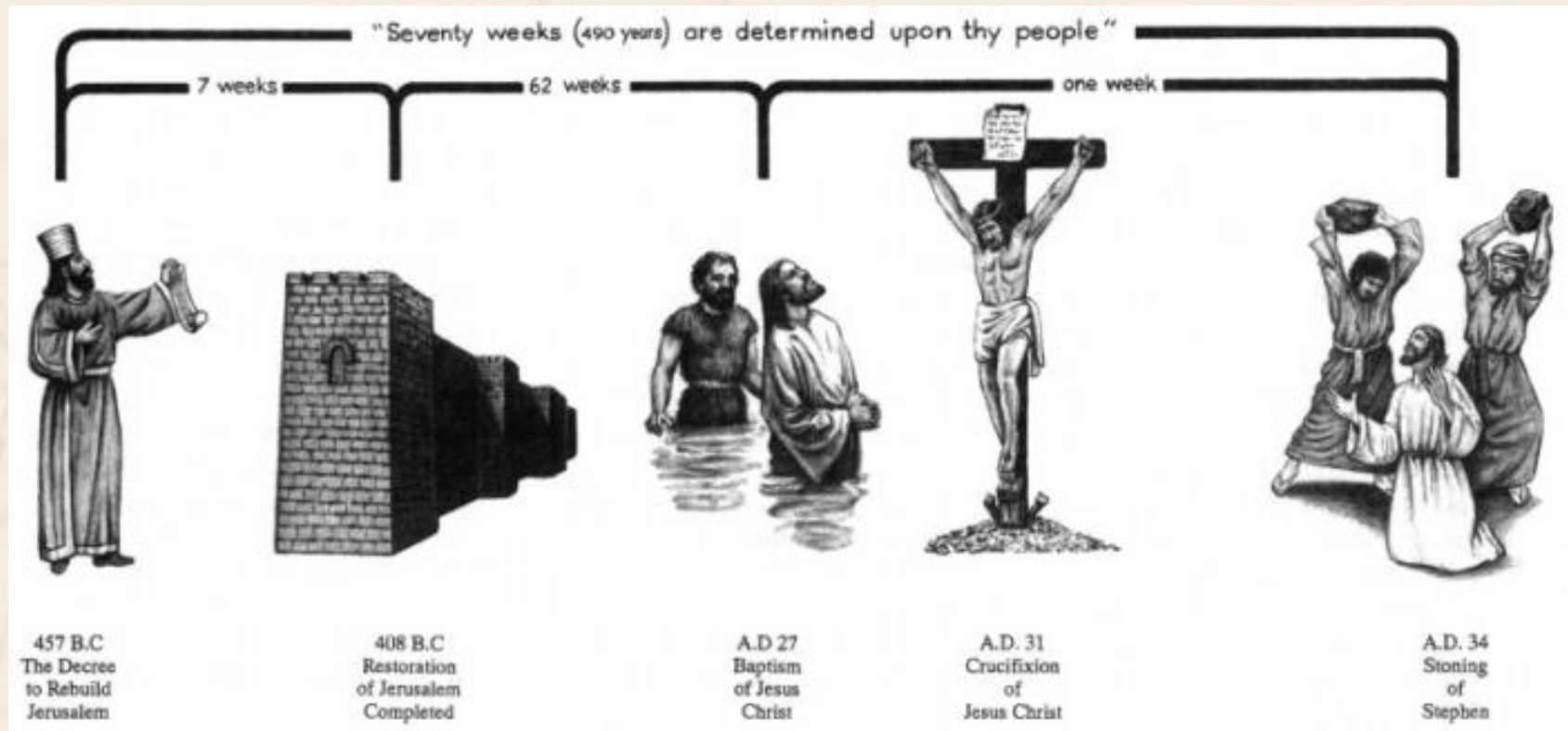


25 “Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be **seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’** – Daniel 9:25

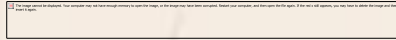
Bible scholars: The “weeks” are sets of seven years.

The prophecy foretells a period of seventy seven-year periods. $(70 \times 7 \text{ years}) = 490 \text{ years}$

#4 Jesus was to die 490 years after the rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem



#5 Sold for 30 pieces of silver



12 I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me **thirty pieces of silver**.

13 And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the **thirty pieces of silver** and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord – Zechariah 11:12-13

Raw Silver Value (Today):

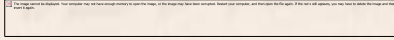
USD\$375–\$1,500 in raw silver value

Purchasing Power (Then):

Equivalent to the price of a slave
(Exodus 21:32)



#6 Betrayed by His closest friend



Even my close friend, someone I trusted, **one who shared my bread**, has turned against me. - Psalm 41:9

“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: ‘He who **shared my bread** has turned against me. - John 13:18



#7 David predicted that Christ's feet and hands would be nailed

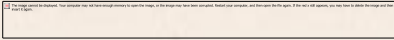


Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. - Psalm 22:16

They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. - Psalm 22:18



#8 Jesus' bones were not broken



he protects all his bones, **not one of them will be broken.** - Psalm 34:20

But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they **did not break his legs.**

Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. -

John 19:33-34



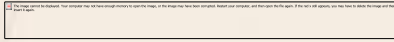
#9 Jesus would be buried with the rich

He was assigned a **grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death**, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. – Isaiah 53:9

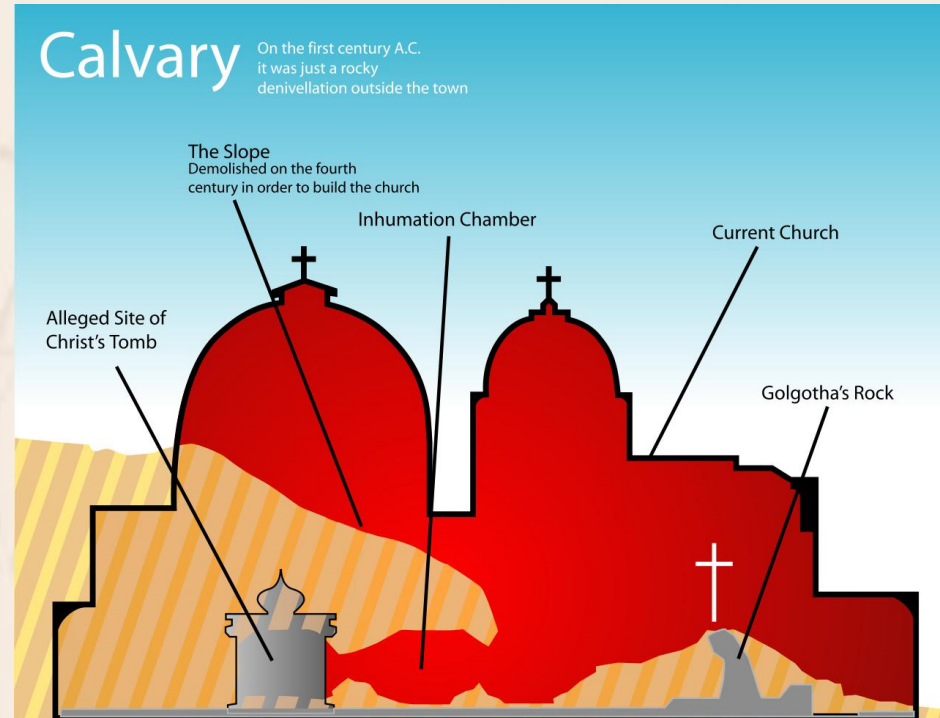
Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his **own new tomb** that he had cut out of the rock. – Matthew 27:59



#9 Jesus would be buried with the rich



Church of the Holy Sepulchre/ Church of the Resurrection/ Church of the Anastasis



#10 Jesus' body would not rot

For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor will you allow your Holy One to see **decay** – Psalm 16:10 (NKJV)

He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and **rise from the dead** on the third day – Luke 24:46



#B Application

#1 Trust God Even When Life Feels Out of Control.

>The events leading to the crucifixion look chaotic, yet they fulfilled a deliberate plan.

#2 God can cause good to come out of even the worst situations.

>Human actions like betrayal and political manipulation were real, yet God used them to accomplish redemption.

#3 God Plans With Precision.

>Specific details, timing, method (crucifixion), and circumstances, align with earlier Old Testament prophecies.

#4 Grace Is God's gift, Not Human Effort.

>The planned nature of the crucifixion emphasizes that salvation is initiated by God, not earned by people.