The Centurion Believed

(Mt. 27:54; Mk.15:39; Lk.23:47)
Good Friday Service (3/28/97)

*** Who was that One who was crucified nearly two millennia ago?**

When Jesus was crucified…

"The Centurion said…truly this was the Son of God" (Mt.27:54; Mk.15:39)
And he said…"certainly this was a righteous man" (Lk.23:47)

What did the Centurion experience that compelled him to arrive at such a conclusion?

I. The <u>WORDS</u> he heard, *when Christ was crucified led him to believe*

Jesus in His last 7 words (statements) expressed:

A. **<u>PARDON</u> for His crucifiers** (Luke 23:34)

B. **<u>PARADISE</u> for the thief on the cross** (Luke 23:43)

C. **<u>PROVISION</u> for His mother Mary** (John 19:26-27)

D. **<u>PAIN</u> for the suffering He endured** (Matthew 27:46; John 19:28)

E. **<u>PERFECTION</u> in His atonement for sin** (John19:30; Luke 23:46)

II. The <u>EVENTS</u> he saw, *when Christ was crucified led him to believe*

A. **Sign # 1** **<u>DARKNESS</u>** (Matthew 27:45)

B. **Sign # 2** **<u>EARTHQUAKE</u>** (Matthew 27:51-52)

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*** Who was that One who was crucified nearly two millennia ago?**

A centurion who witnessed the crucifixion of Christ came to realize who Jesus really was.

This centurion no doubt had witnessed hundreds, if not thousands of crucifixions; yet this one was like no other (it was totally different in every way)

> *Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying,* ***Truly this was the Son of God****. (Matthew 27:54)*
>
> *And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said,* ***Truly this man was the Son of God***
> *(Mark 15:39)*
>
> *Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying,* ***Certainly this was a righteous man.*** *(Luke 23:47)*

When Jesus was crucified…
"The Centurion said…truly this was the Son of God" (Mt.27:54; Mk.15:39)
And he said…"certainly this was a righteous man" (Lk.23:47)

This man was moved (stirred; shaken up) in his heart to believe that Jesus was both righteous and the Son of God!

What did the Centurion experience that compelled him to arrive at such a conclusion?

I. The WORDS he heard, *when Christ was crucified led him to believe*

What didn't he hear?
The Centurion didn't hear words of self-defense, retaliation, or bitterness

When "afflicted…he openeth not his mouth" (Isaiah 53:7)

> *He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet* ***he opened not his mouth:*** *he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb (silent), so* ***he openeth not his mouth.***

When "reviled (Mk.15:32)…(He) reviled not again" (I Peter 2:23)

> *Who,* ***when he was reviled, reviled not again****; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself* to him that judgeth righteously:

Jesus in His last 7 words (statements) expressed:

A. <u>PARDON</u> for His crucifiers

Luke 23:34 - *Then said Jesus,* ***Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do***

B. <u>PARADISE</u> for the thief on the cross

Luke 23:43 - *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee,* ***To day shalt thou be with me in paradise***

C. <u>PROVISION</u> for His mother Mary

John 19:26-27 - *When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!*
Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour ***that disciple took her unto his own home****.*

D. <u>PAIN</u> for the suffering He endured

Matthew 27:46 - *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying,* ***Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*** *that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*
John 19:28 **-** *After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith,* ***I thirst.***

E. <u>PERFECTION</u> in His atonement for sin

John19:30 - *When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said,* ***It is finished****: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

Luke 23:46 - *And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said,* ***Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit****: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.*

II. The <u>EVENTS</u> he saw, *when Christ was crucified led him to believe*

A. Sign # 1 <u>DARKNESS</u>

Matthew 27:45 - *Now from the sixth hour there was* ***darkness over all the land*** *unto the ninth hour.*

B. Sign # 2 <u>EARTHQUAKE</u>

Matthew 27:51-52 - *"and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; And the graves were opened"*

Now when the <u>centurion</u>, and they that were with him,

watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, ***Truly this was the Son of God****.*
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(Mark 15:39)
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