

# Jerusalem Chronicle

Jerusalem, Sunday, A.D. 33

## EMPTY!....

# Nazarene's Tomb Found

Heavy Stone Rolled From Tomb While Guards Slept

Jerusalem

Sunday A.D. 33

Shaken to its foundations by news that the tomb of Jesus, crucified prophet from Nazareth, has been found empty, this city today is seething with speculation.

Did the gentle teacher, whose words and miraculous deeds have stirred Palestine for the past three years, actually "conquer death" as his disciples insistently claim?

Or was his body spirited away, under the noses of a heavy Roman guard, as Governor Pilate and members of the Jewish Sanhedrin assert?

Jerusalem, filled with a record crowd of visitors attending the annual Passover celebration at the Temple, may be a long time finding the correct answer as to what happened to the body of Jesus.

But the fact remains the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea is open and the body gone.

## Jewish Leaders Refuse Comment

When quizzed about the crucifixion and reported resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth, the Jewish priests and members of the Sanhedrin were strictly silent. No explanation was given for the speedy trial and death sentence. When these Jewish leaders were asked to explain their actions, they stated "Comments may be forthcoming later."



EMPTY TOMB—This is the tomb near Golgotha, owned by Joseph of Arimathea, where the body of Jesus of Nazareth was placed. This morning the tomb was found empty. Followers of Jesus say the Nazarene was seen alive.

## Body Stolen from Borrowed Tomb

Jerusalem

Sunday A. D. 33

The mystery of the empty tomb is generating all sorts of rumors throughout Judea. In order to cover an embarrassing situation, leading officials are stating foul play.

It is reported that some of the soldiers assigned to guard the sealed tomb made an appearance before the chief priests. The guards rehearsed all the things that had taken place. Reliable sources revealed that the elders gave much money to these military men to lie about what happened at the tomb. They were paid well to say, "His disciples came by night and stole him away while we slept."

They were also promised if Pilate heard about them sleeping, that they would persuade the governor and see that no harm came to the guards. These soldiers have spread this falsehood far and wide throughout the city and surrounding territory.

tory.

Other reports claim that these guards were somehow drugged and the body of the crucified "Messiah" was stolen by some of his followers. This is an attempt to refute the age-old prophecy of Jesus' resurrection, and to cover themselves in the eyes of the military command.

## Betrayer's Body Found: Suicide

The body of Judas Iscariot was found burst asunder in the valley of Hinnon. A coroner's jury brought in a verdict of suicide. What led to such a ghastly death? Judas had bargained to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. The sign of betrayal was a kiss. The body of the "betrayer" of Jesus and former treasurer of the Nazarene's company of disciples was found early yesterday.

When questioned about this payoff, the only reply from officials was, "No comment."

Several citizens on the streets were interviewed. The majority felt that those in high command had been caught in a cover-up attempt and that this indeed was a fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would conquer death.

According to the chief priests and elders, Judas, half-crazed by the realization of his traitorous act last Friday, tried to return the thirty pieces of silver paid him for his service.

When he received no encouragement, he cast the blood money on the floor of the temple. The chief priests would not allow the price of blood to be put into the treasury, so it was used to buy a field to bury strangers.

## Earthquake Rends City As Prophet Succumbs

Golgotha Sunday A. D. 33

Jesus Crucified in Place of Barabbas

Governor Surrenders to Mob

This bleak suburb of Jerusalem, scene of the crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth, last Friday, became the center of excited interest today as reports of the Nazarene's alleged "resurrection" swept the Jewish capital.

Hordes of spectators, many of whom were present at the death of him who claimed to be the Jews' Messiah, roved curiously over Golgotha Hill. Strange as it may seem, Golgotha, meaning the skull, is near the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. Both

places were alive with people filled with curiosity.

They came to view the damage caused by the disastrous earthquake that accompanied the prophet's last hours, and despite efforts of the soldiers to disperse them, they gathered in clusters and discussed the gory crucifixion and the events leading up to it.

Among the crowd were visitors from distant lands, who came to Jerusalem to attend the Passover celebration.

## Report Rejected by Disciples

Jerusalem, Sunday A. D. 33

Several women visited the tomb of the crucified Nazarene early Sunday morning. They reported that they found the tomb empty. One of those women, Mary Magdalene, claims that an angel of the Lord had rolled away the stone that sealed the tomb and sat upon it.

According to the report, this angel's appearance was bright as lightning, his raiment was white as snow. As the story goes, this angel told the women not to be afraid, that he knew they sought Jesus who was crucified.

This heavenly messenger said that Jesus had risen from the dead and had gone into Galilee. Upon hearing this news, the women left the grave site immediately. They ran to bring this report to the disciples. They claimed that suddenly Jesus appeared before them. These women testified that they not only saw Jesus

but took hold of him and worshipped him.

They claimed that the Nazarene told them to go tell his followers that if they would go into Galilee he would see them there.

This one who claimed to be the Son of God, had told his followers while he was still alive, that he would be raised from the dead. Yet, when these women brought them report of the resurrection, they did not believe it.

When Mary Magdalene, a woman from whom Jesus had cast out seven demons, told the disciples the crucified one was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe her.

Reports are coming in from other witnesses, who claim that Jesus is alive and that they have seen and talked with him. The latest witnesses were from the country, the small village of Emmaus.

The Words of Jesus  
...The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

--Luke 24:7

Woodville Church of Christ  
Po Box 276 / 1805 W. Bluff  
Woodville, Tx 75979

You Tube  
Woodville Church of Christ



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## Jerusalem Chronicle Editorial

Last Friday will go down in history as one of the most atrocious in the lives of human beings! Jerusalem witnessed one of the most savagely brutal crimes ever beheld. A young prophet with a blameless record was crucified on Mount Golgotha (Calvary).

This outstanding teacher from Nazareth was known for the good deeds he performed. He gave the greatest teaching ever to fall on human ears. He performed the greatest miracles eyes had ever beheld. Because of him, many blind can now see, many maimed walk, many deaf hear and dumb speak. This remarkable prophet raised some from the dead that are still alive. The only accusations that were brought against him were those of a religious or political nature. He spoke openly of hypocrisy among religious and political leaders.

This man (Jesus) suffered an unfair trial and a felon's death on Golgotha. The only way for many citizens to avoid everlasting shame is by remembering that the only voice Pilate heard was crying, "Crucify him." That was not the voice of the masses of people and the many disciples of this young prophet. The Governor (Pilate) washed his hands before the mob and said, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man, see ye to it." Then the people cried, "His blood be on us, and on our children."

Today a mysterious sequel to that shameful murder arises to haunt his slayers and to awaken in the hearts of his followers an exultant hope. The prophet's tomb was found empty.

What does this empty tomb mean? Pilate and the religious leaders claim that the body of the Nazarene was stolen by the disciples. This explanation is too shallow for thinking men to accept. It must be remembered that after Friday's event the disciples were too dazed to plot such a scheme. They were too frightened to attempt such a hazardous venture. This venture would entail the overthrow of a small army of prized soldiers set to guard the tomb. The disciples were in mourning, their hope was lost. What good would the dead body of their King do? Too, it is well established that the disciples did not really believe that he would or could be raised from the dead. Even though their master insisted that he would be raised from the dead, they were astonished when they heard he was resurrected.

Furthermore, if indeed these soldiers did fall asleep while on duty - a military crime punishable by death - why has there been no court martial, no wholesale purge of the proud Romans' reputation as soldiers. The fact remains; the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea is open and empty! The body of Jesus is gone! To squelch the rumor of the resurrection, all that needs be done is to produce the dead body of Jesus. This the Romans, nor the Jewish leaders have done. It remains to be seen if the Nazarene prophet makes any more personal appearances.

## Wife's Pleadings Fail

It was learned today that Pilate's wife pleaded with her husband to have nothing to do with the death of Jesus. In a message sent to her husband, Claudia Procula, wife of the governor said she had suffered many things in a dream because of him.

Her words were, "have thou nothing to do with that righteous man." In spite of Claudia's pleading, Pilate gave in to the pressure of the Jewish mob and sentenced the carpenter's Son to death by crucifixion.

## Jesus Found Guilty! Alleged 'Messiah' Sentenced to Death by Kangaroo Court

Jesus Christ, the alleged "Messiah," spent Thursday night in a tennis match fashion as the Jewish authorities bounced him from one court to another in an attempt to find some official who would convict him of the charges brought against him.

After being arrested just before midnight, Jesus was brought before Annas, a High Priest, who conducted the first hearing. Annas was unable to get the prisoner to talk.

### Death Merited

Jesus was bound and sent to Caiaphas, the high priest, Annas was the father-in-law to Caiaphas. According to our report, Caiaphas was high priest and head of the council. The second hearing of the night for Jesus found that his offenses deserved the death penalty.

### Charges Requested

Finally Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate, the governor. Pilate asked the officials for the charges against the prisoner. A spokesman said he thought it was mostly Jesus' claim that he was the Messiah. Pilate turned to Jesus and asked, "Are you the King of the Jews? Jesus responded, "You have said it."

Pilate, after conferring with the priests, went to the balcony and told the multitude gathered around the court house that he found no crime the man committed. The high priest shouted back, "He has stirred up the people, teaching throughout all Judea and beginning in Galilee, even unto this place."

### Jesus a Galilean

Pilate said, "So this man is a Galilean? What have I to do with him? That's the job of Herod!"

Pilate declared a mistrial and sent Jesus to King Herod. Herod questioned Jesus but could not provoke a response from the prisoner. Finally, Herod decided to mock the "Messiah." Herod had his servants bow to the supposed "King of the Jews" and then put on his shoulders a purple robe. Then Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.

### Crowd Questioned

Pilate took Jesus out on the balcony three different times to ask the crowd for their verdict. Each time the crowd roared, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him!" Pilate then declared, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood." To that the angry crowd roared, "His blood be on us and our children."

Pilate then called for water and in the custom of the Romans washed his hands of the affair. This ritual signified that the Temple authorities could do as they wished with this man. And so with this act by Pilate, the fate of Jesus was handed over to the angry mob.

## Weather Experts Fail To Explain Quake, Darkness Jerusalem, Sunday A. D. 33

Experts were asked today to account for the disastrous earthquake and the cloak of darkness, which created such havoc in Jerusalem last Friday.

"Beyond explanation" was the only comment obtainable from the weather bureau.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

--Daniel 12:2

## Resurrection Predicted

Jerusalem Sunday A. D. 33

The report of the resurrection Jesus, the young prophet crucified Friday, has brought to light many of his predictions. The *Jerusalem Chronicle* has received information of many mystifying statements made by this young prophet from Nazareth.

One of the statements that he reportedly made was that of his being resurrected. This reported found that during a recent visit to Galilee that Jesus openly declared that "the Son of Man is delivered in to the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and ... he shall rise the third day."

On another occasion, after forcibly driving the money-changers from the temple, he said: "Destroy

this temple (speaking of his body), and in three days I will raise it up."

It is amazing to hear of so many events being fulfilled that the young prophet had foretold.

At another time, accurately foretelling the events which have just happened, Jesus said to his followers: "Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall crucify him; and the third day he shall rise again."

To deny these predictions is impossible! Many testify that they heard the Nazarene foretell these events personally. The evidence is overwhelming. It is amazing indeed!

## 'Death Now Vanquished!' Converts Cry

"Christ Lives!" shouted excited disciples of Jesus, as reports flooded the city of his resurrection. The whole area is bubbling with passionate emotion! The followers of the Nazarene prophet are claiming that he has conquered death, been victorious over the grave. Some of the disciples, those who were by his

side constantly, were heard to say: "Now we know what he meant when he said, 'when the son of man should have risen again from the dead!'"

They recalled how Jesus raised his friend Lazarus from the dead, and now they are proclaiming a general resurrection of all men as taught by this young prophet.

## Emmaus Disciples Claim Jesus Visited

Emmaus Sunday  
A. D. 33

Cleopas and a fellow resident of this village, both disciples of Jesus, the young prophet who was crucified last Friday, reported in a great excitement this morning to locals, that they had received a supernatural visit from Jesus.

According to their statement, they were walking toward their homes in EMMAUS, when a stranger joined them. The two disciples of Jesus were talking about events that took place in Jerusalem that day.

The stranger, evidently unaware of the history-making events, inquired as to what had taken place. Cleopas and his friend were astonished that he had not heard of the events. Having told the unknown person of the crucifixion and the unconfirmed resurrection of Jesus, they were astounded and amazed as he interpreted prophecies concerning the Messiah.

Upon their arrival in EMMAUS, they invited this strange fellow to stay with them for the night. As they sat down to eat, this guest gave a prayer of thanks for the food. Immediately they recognized that it was Jesus. At that moment he vanished.

At once the two astonished disciples returned to Jerusalem, a distance of almost eight miles. They found the eleven Apostles of Jesus and others. Stating that Jesus appeared unto them, they rehearsed everything that happened. It is reported that, as these disciples were

speaking, Jesus appeared to the whole assembly. Sources say that the entire group was terrified and supposed that it was a spirit.

Those present testified that indeed it was Jesus, for they saw the nail prints in his hands and feet. They claimed that they actually touched their resurrected "Savior."

## Alleged King Executed

Jerusalem Sunday A. D. 33

Pilate, Roman governor, made his final appeal to a mob of violent, determined Jewish leaders. He tried to spare the life of a 33-year-old carpenter from Nazareth. Sources report that he pled on behalf of the young prophet, even agreed to free Barabbas, a real villain.

The ruler told the fierce crowd that he found nothing to condemn the Nazarene to death. "I will chastise him and release him," said Pilate, but the throng insisted on his crucifixion. The Governor realized that envy was the cause of such hatred.

The Roman ruler acquiesced! At the insistence of the shouting mob of Jews, Pilate submitted and gave his consent to the execution. Little time was wasted. Before (9 a.m.) Jesus and two convicted thieves were being escorted by Roman guards to the hill called "the skull" overlooking Jerusalem.

According to custom, a man, when sentenced to death, was required to carry his own cross. However, because Jesus had been beaten 39 lashes with a whip, he staggered and was unable to drag the cross to the top of "Golgotha." Simon of Cyrene was compelled to carry the burden behind Jesus.

The executioners wasted no time, they quickly nailed the hands and feet of the Nazarene to the cross, raised it and dropped it into the hole dug to set it upright. In like manner two thieves were crucified one on each side of the "King of Jews." The crosses were outlined against the darkening skies. Their victims were alive and impaled, waiting only for death.

### Jesus Identified

Authorities of Jewish and Roman customs state it is customary to identify executed criminals. Pilate, the governor, ordered the sign and the wording that was nailed to the cross upon which the Nazarene was crucified. The sign read, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."

The crucifixion is the most tormenting way man has devised to put an

other human being to death. It is a frightful way to die. One cannot comprehend its destructiveness to the body as a means of torture.

Soldiers were kept busy turning back the crowds that threatened to press too close to the crosses. Only three women and one man were permitted to stand near the cross of Jesus. Of that group were the mother of Jesus and a close disciple.

What are the last thoughts of a man suffering the most agonizing form of death ever devised? What would he say? According to reliable eye witnesses, Jesus charged this male disciple to care for his mother. Then he thought of those who mocked, ridiculed and crucified him. It took great effort, but he uttered a prayer, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

### Jesus Thirsty

It is reported, that shortly before Jesus died he cried, "I thirst." Reliable sources say that a sponge full of vinegar was pressed to his lips. Almost immediately he cried, "It is finished." Those who witnessed the death of Jesus were puzzled by that statement. What was meant by "It is finished"?

Friday morning from the third hour (9 a.m.) to the sixth hour (12 noon) the sun shone brightly. But from the sixth hour (noon) until the ninth hour (3 p.m.) the sun refused to shine. The sky was almost as black as night.

It was about the ninth hour (3 p.m.) when Jesus uttered his last statement. He said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit." His head fell against his chest in death. Immediately the ground shook with a great earthquake. Graves were opened and the dead came to life and walked about the city. The veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom.

The spectacle was so frightening that one of the soldiers who had witnessed all the events during the crucifixion was terrified and said, "Truly this was the son of God."



Jesus Falling Beneath the Cross, by Gustave Doré

## Scholars Find Fulfillment

A new turn of events has come as a result of the crucifixion of the young Nazarene last Friday. Jewish scholars are now referring to many prophecies written by their prophets, and shocking as it may seem, some are saying that the self claimed "King of the Jews" has fulfilled many prophecies concerning the promised "Messiah."

Such statements have caused great disturbance among Jewish religious leaders. Could it be that their plans to destroy Jesus and his influence have backfired?

Jewish scholars are looking to their great prophet Isaiah and are amazed at how Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the prophet's prediction of the Messiah. They see a resemblance in the Messiah foretold in Isaiah, Chapter 53, and the self proclaimed "King of Jews."

Some scholars have quoted the following passage: "He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he

was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa. 53: 3-6) This quote, they say, was exactly what the Carpenter from Nazareth fulfilled.

During the trial and crucifixion of Jesus, never once did he rebuke, condemn, or curse those who tortured him. Now religious leaders are saying that the very thing their prophet Isaiah had prophesied was fulfilled by Jesus. They quoted Isaiah's words: "He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." (Isaiah 53: 7)

Many passages from the Book of Psalms were cited in connection with the crucifixion of the Nazarene. We mention just a few at this time.

When Judas, a disciple of Jesus, betrayed him, the scholars say that fulfilled the prophecy of the psalmist in Psalms 41:9: "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." The price of betrayal is

foretold in Zechariah 11:12: "So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver."

"It is too fitting to be denied," said one. "Listen to these scriptures of prophecy: They pierced my hands and feet." (Psalms 22:16)

"Notice again," said another, Psalms 22:18: "They parted my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."

"When they gave Jesus vinegar to drink that fulfilled Psalms 69:21: 'He voiced another.' That verse says, 'They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.'"

**Tomb Among The Rich**  
Another source said, "The scriptures are too plain to be denied. When Jesus was placed in the tomb of a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea, it fulfilled the prophecy in Isaiah 53:9."

When questioned as to what this passage said the informant quoted, "He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death."

**Two Outstanding Events**  
Two other outstanding events are referred to, which happened last Friday when Jesus was put to death. Well do we remem-

ber the ghastly darkness from noon until 3 p.m. when Jesus died. Amos the prophet foretold such an event: "I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day." (Amos 8:9)

### No Bones Broken

There were those who cited a passage in the Psalms that must be considered. Hundreds of years before, the psalmist foretold, "He keepeth all his bones; not one of them is broken." (Psalms 34:20) When the soldiers came to break the legs of Jesus, they found him dead and did not break a bone. "Yea! evidence that these prophecies were fulfilled cannot be denied," stated one scholar.

### Resurrection Foretold

The report came that King David foretold the resurrection of Jesus. "For thou wilt not leave my soul in Sheol; neither wilt thou suffer thy Holy One to see corruption." (Psalms 16:10) These and many other events were foretold in the Jewish Scriptures.

It appears that the plan to kill Jesus and stop his fame has backfired. It has done just the opposite! News is spreading rapidly in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria about "The Risen King." It appears that the news will soon reach the uttermost part of the earth.