

Week Seven: Teachers Guide

“Who is Jesus?”

[You'll notice the prompts to show slide. These are optional. However, you will notice that they will enhance the experience by placing images to words as your share certain aspects of the Bible Study]

Overview:

1. Intro
2. The Failure of Israel
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6. The Language of the “Father”
7. Going from Known to Unknown
8. The Revelation of Deity
9. Why Did Jesus Pray?
10. What About Matthew 28:19?
11. The Blood and the Cross
12. Closing

1. Intro

Brief Week Six Recap

Last time we got together we looked at how:

[Show WEEK SIX Title Slide from last week]...

"The New Testament Pattern in the Old Testament"

God delivered the nation of Israel from the land of sin and bondage in Egypt.

When they got to the Red Sea, God parted it and allowed His people to walk through on dry ground. When the Egyptians tried to follow, God returned the Red Sea to the way it was and the entire Egyptian army drowned. The Bible says, "There remained not so much as one of them."

God then gave His people the Law of Moses, which was 613 different commandments about how to live and do life as a people.

He gave the people details for His next plan for their salvation. He told them to build a Tabernacle in the wilderness, and He even told them which pieces of furniture to put where.

One of those pieces of furniture was the "Ark of the Covenant," and that was placed behind a veil in a location known as "the Holiest of Holies."

Only the High Priest could go in only one time per year with the blood of an animal sacrifice.

Scripture tells us this changed when Jesus died on the Cross and that veil that separated God from humanity was torn in two. Humanity now had access to the presence of God because God came out unto us!

Everything about the Tabernacle pointed to salvation and to Jesus Christ and the Cross. This is because without the Cross, there would be no salvation possible for any of us.

Before we start, we always want to ask God to bless the lesson and help us to draw closer to Him... PRAY!

[Show Title Slide for THIS week... "Who Is Jesus?"]...

2. The Failure of Israel

Like so many in the Bible... and yes, even us today...

The Israelites lacked faith at times.

What should have only been an 11-day journey from their exodus from Egypt to their Promised Land... Actually became a 40-YEAR time of wandering in the wilderness until the generation that lacked faith died and the new generation of Israelites arose.

Before we move into the New Testament... it's important that you understand the overview of the rest of the Old Testament (because time just doesn't permit us to cover all of the prophets and poetic books).

The children of God wanted to be like other people, so God gave them kings.

God also gave them prophets and deliverers. People who would come with messages of hope where God would call His people to repentance and change.

When they would listen and respond, God would act and deliver them.

When they would disobey and walk away from God's plans and principles, they would find themselves back in bondage and crying out to the Lord once again.

We see a continuous story of ups and downs that gives us a glimpse of God's amazing grace as He kept His covenant with Abraham and the nation that He promised to bless and keep.

They ended up having to live under the authority of other wicked nations because of disobedience, but God always sent a prophet that came with a message from God saying that He did not forget them.

As a matter of fact, the nation of Israel is the only nation in history to ever be "born again" (just like God calls for spiritually for His people).

Israel was destroyed and dispersed to the four corners of the earth.

Then on May 15th, 1948, Israel once again became a nation!

3. A Messenger from God

As we see the Old Testament end, in spite of Israel's disregard for God's covenant...

Them not keeping their part of the deal...

God still makes it clear that He will not cut off communication forever...

[Show Scripture]...

Malachi 3:1 (KJV)

1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: And the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, Even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: Behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

In addition to Malachi, the prophet Isaiah also prophesied about this coming messenger...

[Show Scripture]...

Isaiah 40:3 (KJV)

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

And after that, Israel lives without a prophetic word or message from God for more than 400 years.

We move into the New Testament, and we are introduced to this messenger that the Old Testament prophets prophesied about...

[Show Scripture]...

Matthew 3:1–3 (KJV)

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

After more than 400 years, a prophet and preacher is back on the scene with words from God to Israel.

But this was more than just a message or word from God.

Notice that these prophecies were telling us that this particular prophet would be preparing the way for God Himself!

The Need for a Savior! Humanity needed a Savior!

The blood of animals would push sin back for a time, but that process never actually **"took away"** sin. It would just kind of **"cover it"** for a time.

Humanity needed the price to be paid once and for all for sin.

God knew that no animal could ever take care of sin once-and-for-all, and He knew no human being was perfect to offer as a sacrifice.

So God said, "I am going to put on flesh, become a man, and live a sinless life so I, myself, can be the perfect sacrifice that will pay the price for the sins of all mankind!" **He loved you and I so much** that He went through the agony of the cross so we could have our debt paid for!

[Show Scripture]...

John 3:16 (KJV)

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Now does this mean that we are all automatically saved based on what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross?

This verse says because of what Jesus did we "SHOULD NOT" perish, not that we "WILL NOT" perish. That's a pretty big difference!

Jesus Christ paid for our sin once and for all with His blood that He gave on the cross, but we still have to apply that blood to our lives.

This is just like how Noah was told by God about the flood. Noah believed God and then obeyed by building the boat.

It's also like the Israelites and Egyptians. God warned His people about losing their firstborn and He told them exactly what they needed to do!

In both of these Old Testament cases, no one "SHOULD HAVE" ever died, but many still did!

Why is that? God's GRACE reached out to people!

People either chose NOT to have faith and believe what God's Word said, or they said they believed and had faith but never OBEYED what God was asking them to do!

[Show Slide with Grace, Faith and Obedience]...

God has laid a very specific plan out for us to be saved today!

GRACE: God manifested Himself in flesh and died on a cross for our sins.

FAITH: You will either make a choice to believe God and have faith in His Word, or you will choose not to believe Him.

OBEDIENCE: If you choose to obey God, then there is more that He wants you to do. Just like His people in the Old Testament, He has a very specific plan.

We are going to go over God's specific plan for our lives next week!

But today, we must first see how the Bible answers a very important question...

[Show Title Slide Again]...

4. "Who Is Jesus?"

Who Is Jesus?

The whole Bible, both Old and New Testaments, revolve around and point to this one man; Jesus Christ!

He is the reason we don't sacrifice animals anymore, and He is the reason we even have a chance to make it to Heaven!

He paid for all of our sins because He loves you and I so very much!

But who was He?

A God, A man, An angel, A little bit of all three?

There were prophecies in the Old Testament about a coming Messiah, but then when He came, the religious leaders didn't believe the things He said.

They even put him to death!

Take a look at some of the comparisons between Old Testament prophecies and Scriptures, and then the things Jesus said that we see in the New Testament:

[Show Scripture]...

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV) (PROPHECY)

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name Immanuel.

[Show Scripture]...

Matthew 1:23 (KJV) (JESUS' FULFILLMENT)

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

The prophecy states that this would happen, and then it happens hundreds of years later, exactly as prophesied!

[Show Pic of Manger]...

Jesus was born and called "Immanuel," which means "GOD WITH US!"

So Scripture is telling us that baby born was GOD!

The man Jesus Christ was GOD WITH US here on this Earth in bodily form!

As we learned with the Ark of the Covenant in the Tabernacle, God can meet with someone in one place, but still be everywhere because of His fullness and His Spirit.

This was the exact same way in the New Testament, except for instead of hanging around between the wings of the cherubim, He now was a human man!

Why is this even important though?

Well, a lot of people say that **Jesus was actually a "triune" God or part of a "Trinity."**

They say He is one God, but that He is in three co-equal and co-eternal parts.

But what does Scripture say?

You be the judge of that based on passages we read.

[Show Scripture]...

Isaiah 44:6 (KJV) (God of Old Testament)

6 Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, And his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; And beside me there is no God.

[Show Scripture]...

Revelation 1:17. (KJV) (Jesus in the New Testament)

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

The God of the Old Testament said He was the **"First and the Last,"** and then Jesus said in the New Testament, **"I am the First and the Last."**

Either one is wrong and the Bible is in error, OR that baby born was exactly who He said He is... **GOD IN FLESH!**

[Show Scripture]...

Deuteronomy 6:4-7. (KJV)

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7 was taught to the Israelite children from when they were little kids on through adulthood.

God wanted them to know this principle that He is ONE!

Take a look at a popular verse used a lot on Christmas cards...

[Show Scripture]...

Isaiah 9:6. (KJV)

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

This Old Testament prophecy literally says that the little baby born is to be called (among other things) the "EVERLASTING FATHER!"

How could the little baby be called the "Everlasting Father" unless He actually WAS the Everlasting Father!

Another verse clearly points out that IT WAS GOD that was manifest in flesh... not a separate part or co-equal being!

[Show Scripture]...

1 Timothy 3:16. (KJV)

16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

If these verses are still not clear enough for us, look at a couple more...

Even the devils believe there is only one God!...

[Show Scripture]...

James 2:19 (KJV)

19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

[Show Scripture]...

Ephesians 4:4-6. (KJV)

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Notice that God is still ONE whether He is above us, with us, or even in us! So if God chooses to place His Holy Spirit inside of us, that still doesn't mean we now have a different God.

5. The Revelation of Christ in the Gospel of John

Take a quick journey through the Gospel of John.

[Show slide with "John" in Bible]...

The book was penned by John the son of Zebedee, one of Jesus' 12 disciples.

It was most likely the last gospel written (after Matthew, Mark and Luke).

John had a very high view of Christ, and he is inspired by God to help bring clarity to who Jesus was.

John did not view Christ only as the Messiah or Son of God...

In addition to viewing Jesus as God the SAVIOR... He also viewed Him as God the CREATOR.

This is why in the Old Testament we see God identify Himself to Moses as the **"I AM"**...

[Show Scripture]...

Exodus 3:14 (KJV)

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Then when you flip to the New Testament, Jesus actually makes the same claim and John is the one who records this!

[Show Scripture]...

John 8:57–59 (KJV)

57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

They knew what Jesus was claiming there... that is why they wanted to kill Him!

Jesus was claiming to be the God of the Old Testament!

[Show Scripture]...

John 8:19 (KJV)

19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

[Show Scripture]...

John 8:24–25 (KJV)

24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.

The Bible doesn't use "Father" language to confuse us as readers.

It also does not use it to try to establish Trinity or a co-equal, co-eternal viewpoint of God.

As a matter of fact, the terminology of "Trinity" is not even found one time in Scripture.

It was a theory developed about 200 years after the time of Christ as people met trying to describe how Jesus Christ could be both man and God at the same time.

6. The Language of "Father"

"Father" language is used because in Ancient Near East civilization, who your father was meant everything.

This is why the Bible records people (even God) addressing people by their name followed by "son of."

When Jesus speaks to Peter, he is called at various points, "Simon Bar-Jona."

"Bar" means "son of."

So his name was Simon, "Son of" Jonah.

This is also why the Bible has chronologies of who begat whom.

We see at various points that people wanted to know who Jesus' dad was, and they even seemed to speak down of Him because he was the son of a carpenter named Joseph.

[Show Scripture]...

Matthew 13:55 (KJV)

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

The "Father" language was always part of crucial conversations in the Bible.

Jesus was not necessarily the one talking to people about His Father because He was pushing a theological agenda...

He was simply addressing it because people were no doubt asking all the time about who His father was and about His lineage.

Jesus knew that He was more than just a carpenter's son. His Father was God.

This means... God was the one who put life inside of Mary's body before Mary and Joseph even had a physical relationship.

This does not mean that God was sitting in Heaven as a dad, and then He kicked out a smaller and pre-existent Son to go pay a price for sin in the world because He did not want to do it Himself.

The term "right hand of God" insinuates a place of power and authority... not a literal place where a pre-existent son hangs out on His Father's hand (think of the phrase, "Right-Hand Man").

Remember the concept of the "**fulness**" of God as we discussed in the Old Testament.

[Show Pic of Ark of Covenant]...

God could meet with a High Priest between the wings of the cherubim, but still be God everywhere else.

This does not mean that there were multiple Gods.

It just meant that these were manifestations of One God.

Like that, Jesus Christ was 100% God.

Instead of hanging around between the wings of the cherubim...

He now dwelt among humanity in a body when He took on flesh.

But He never ceased being God everywhere else at the same time.

7. Going from Known to Unknown

The greatest teachers in the world work from what is **KNOWN** to what is **UNKNOWN**.

This is why high school teachers do not start with Trigonometry. Instead, there is Algebra and Geometry first. Kindergarten teachers don't start by teaching reading...They start with understanding letters first.

Jesus knew that His audience understood "Father" language. They knew the God of the Old Testament. So Jesus starts by talking about the "Father," and then talks about who HE is.

He simply moved from the **KNOWN** to the **UNKNOWN** in His teaching.

[Show Scripture]...

John 10:28–31 (KJV)

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

[Show Scripture]...

John 12:45 (KJV)

45 And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.

8. The Revelation of Deity

Understanding who Jesus is can be a revelatory moment. People don't always see it immediately. Even Jesus' own disciples took a moment to get it.

[Show Scripture]...

John 14:7–9 (KJV)

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

After Jesus dies on the Cross and then rises from the dead...

He shows up to His followers hiding out because they were afraid.

Well, at that time, one of the disciples wasn't there and he said that unless He could see the nail prints and scars for himself, he would not believe.

Today, that man is usually referred to as "Doubting Thomas."

But look at the love Jesus has for this man. He goes out of His way to prove Himself real to His follower...

[Show Scripture]...

John 20:26–28 (KJV)

26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

No doubt this was an extremely emotional and powerful moment for Thomas. I would imagine tears and hugs as this event transpires.

But it ends with Thomas making an amazingly powerful statement when He looks at Jesus and says, **"My Lord and my God."**

Essentially, what Thomas was saying here was a statement of who Jesus was to Him.

Jesus was not just his Lord and Savior... He was also His God.

Thomas was making a clear statement about the DEITY OF CHRIST.

How can we see the fulness of God? Scripture tells us that it can be done in the face of Jesus Christ!

[Show Scripture]...

2 Corinthians 4:6 (KJV)

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

[Show Scripture]...

Colossians 2:9 (KJV)

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

9. Why Did Jesus Pray?

But if Jesus was God, then why did He pray?

People have grappled with this question for ages.

This is because Jesus Christ is the most unique man in the history of humankind. There was never anyone like Him.

He was 100% God and 100% man at the exact same time.

Jesus...

Healed the sick and opened blind eyes,
But He also experienced hunger and thirst,

He commanded the seas to stand still,
But then He also bled and died.

He was God,
But then He also prayed.

Jesus prayed for a few different reasons:

- As an example to His followers so we know HOW to pray.
- And because He took on GENUINE HUMANITY and He showed us how to defeat flesh when it is tempted!

[Show Scripture]...

Hebrews 4:15 (KJV)

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus was tempted by the devil before He launched His public ministry when He was on a fast in the wilderness.

And now we read that Jesus was tempted in all manner and points like we were. Because He was willing to take on humanity, **He accepted some of the experiences that came with living in flesh.**

Temptation in itself is not sin...

Sin only occurs when we give in to temptation.

Christ showed us how to defeat temptation with prayer, fasting, and the Word of God.

So when Jesus prayed, He was praying to overcome the complete humanity that He was willing to take on when He became a child on this earth.

The prayer does not mean that we now have a smaller God or a different God in the godhead. (It means we have a man who was fully God and fully man that needed to pray both as example and as a human to pray against temptation).

10. What about Matthew 28:19?

Some confusion comes from the following Scripture:

[Show Scripture]...

Matthew 28:19 (KJV)

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

These were some of Jesus' last words after He was beat, crucified, rose again three days later, and He was now ascending into Heaven.

My question to you is this... After everything He told His followers (I and my Father are one, if you have seen me then you see Him who sent me), do you think they were confused by this?

Of course they were not!

They knew all the things He taught them and explained to them!

This verse does not say the "NAMES," it is singular when it says the "NAME!"

What is the "Name" of the "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?"

The name is "**JESUS CHRIST!**"

If I wrote out a million dollar check to you, and then signed the bottom:

[Show Pic of Check]...

"Teacher, Student, Husband, Father, Office Manager, Preacher, etc"

Would you be able to cash that check?

NO!

Because none of those things are my NAME! My NAME is _____!

When you pray and say:

"Jesus,"

"God,"

"Heavenly Father,"

You are talking to the same person, not looking around to acknowledge all the different manifestations or roles of God!

The only reason there was a human being named "Jesus Christ" was not to confuse us about who God really is, but because He came to pay the price for our salvation by becoming a sinless human being, to give himself on the cross!

Jesus Christ IS God, and He came so He might have a human body and innocent blood of a human being to shed on a cross for our sins!

11. The Blood and the Cross

This is why Scripture tells us this...

[Show Scripture]...

Acts 20:28 (KJV)

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

God is a SPIRIT.

Spirits don't have BLOOD!

So how did GOD purchase the CHURCH with His own BLOOD???

It is when He Himself TOOK ON FLESH and humanity... so that He could have human blood to shed on a Cross after living a sinless life!

Just so we could "come boldly before His throne" to receive the grace we need in our sinful state!

I would politely yet passionately disagree with anyone who says that the identity of Jesus Christ is a "Divine Mystery."

As I read Scripture, I see a Savior who goes out of His way to identify Himself to His creation.

He explains over and over again who He was because He WANTS us to have an understanding of Him! He pursues relationship with humankind.

When other accounts of Ancient Near East gods talk about the gods striking down humans for waking them from a nap...

We serve a God who, instead of being agitated with humans, He loves us so much that He takes on humanity...

12. Closing

Next week we will look at what God's plan is for us to be saved!

But tonight, I want to end with something extremely powerful.

We could talk for many lessons just on Jesus Christ, but time doesn't permit that.

So allow me to just end this lesson by reading to you the physical description of crucifixion as offered by a medical doctor...

[Show Pic of Crown of Thorns, Cross and Hammer and leave it up while I read this]...

WHAT IS CRUCIFIXION?

A MEDICAL DOCTOR PROVIDES A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The cross is placed on the ground, and the exhausted man is quickly thrown backwards with his shoulders against the wood. The legionary feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy square rot-iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flex in movement. The cross is then lifted into place. The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of

each, leaving the knees flexed. The victim is now crucified. As he slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrist, excruciating, fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain. The nails in the wrist are putting pressure on the media nerves. As he pushes himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, he places the full weight on the nail through his feet. Again he feels the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the bones of the feet.

As the arms fatigue, cramps sweep through the muscles knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push himself upward to breathe. Air can be drawn into the lungs, but not exhaled. He fights to raise himself in order to get even a small breath. Finally carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically he is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen. Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting of joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from his lacerated back, as he moves up and down against the rough timber, then another agony begins, a deep crushing pain, deep in the chest, as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the heart, it is now almost over. The loss of tissue fluids has reached a critical level; the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy thick sluggish blood into the tissues. The tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to gasp in small gulps of air. He can feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues; finally he can allow his body to die. All this and more the Bible records with the simple words, "And they crucified him..." (MATTHEW 27:35)

The Jews in the temple had commanded the Roman soldiers to take the bodies down off the crosses outside the old city wall because they didn't want to desecrate their high holidays. They didn't want naked bodies hanging along the road as they celebrated their Passover. So their soldiers came with clubs to break the bones in the legs of the victims to hasten death so they could take the bodies down. And they did beat upon the two thieves and broke them until they gave way to death and the body was crushed. But when they came to this central figure, whose visage was marred more than any man, He was already slumped in death. But that was not enough for them. One soldier took a spear and pierced his side, and the Bible says that "...forthwith came there out blood and water."

(JOHN 19:34) Medical authorities tell us that there is no way for blood and water to collect in the pericardium. It is impossible for it to get in there unless the heart ruptures or breaks open. If this is correct, then the immediate cause of the death of Jesus was that He died of a broken heart for the likes of you and me.