

Valley Bible Church
Sermon Notes for October 19, 2008

The One Who Conquered Death
John 19:30-37
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Christ's power over death in John 19:30 to John 20:10 was manifested in three different ways.

Christ's power over death was first of all manifested in His dying (John 19:30-37).

Christ was death's master. In other words, death could not take Christ until Christ had given permission for death to do so (John 19:30).

The Jews asked Pilate to break the legs of Christ and those crucified with Him to hasten their deaths so that their bodies could be removed from their crosses and be taken away and buried (Deuteronomy 21:22-23).

The Roman soldiers, when breaking the legs of those being crucified, would use a large mallet to shatter the bones completely.

Breaking the leg bones of those being crucified would eliminate any support that held the individual up on the cross, resulting in the slumping of the body followed by suffocation.

The reason why the soldiers probably would not have expected Christ to be dead was because death by crucifixion normally would have taken much longer.

Christ died quickly because He chose to die quickly in order to make sure that His bones would not be broken thus fulfilling Old Testament prophecy (Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20).

The Roman soldier choosing to pierce the side of Christ was significant because this action fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy (Zechariah 12:10).

The significance of the blood and water immediately coming from Christ's side when pierced with the spear was that it proved that what the soldiers had deduced was correct. Christ was dead.

The soldiers seeing Christ as dead and confirming it by piercing His side with the spear was important in order that when people later saw Christ alive they would know He had been resurrected.

The apostle in John 19:35 made it clear that he was an eyewitness of the events he recorded for us in John 19:30-34 and that his record of those events is trustworthy.

According to John it is important that his record of these events be viewed as trustworthy in order that people might come to believe.

May God give us the grace to understand that Christ does in fact have absolute power over death, and though we may die, we know, based on His promise to us, that we will live again.