WERE YOU THERE?

Hymn Devotion - March 21

Scripture – Luke 23:45-47

John 19:18

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?  
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.  
Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

O! Sometimes I feel like shouting glory, glory, glory!

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

Traditional spiritual

In our modern mind it is hard to believe that we had anything to do with the crucifixion but our human tragedy hasn’t changed since the fall. The human condition is what prompted the need for the sacrifice of Christ. We need to tremble at the thought of the crucifixion, the nails and the tomb. We then can glory at the resurrection of our Lord!

This study is going to be a little different -

List all the Were you there questions in the first three verses - then write a short paragraph on how this makes you “tremble“ which means involuntary movement from fear, excitement or weakness:

1.

How tremble:

2.

How tremble:

3.

How tremble:

4. Verse 4: Write the “Were you there” statement:

5. No trembling - What is the response?

6. What is your response to the risen Lord?

BEHOLD THE SAVIOR OF MANKIND

Hymn Devotion - March 22

Scripture - Luke 23:44-46

Behold the Savior of mankind  
Nailed to the shameful tree!  
How vast the love that Him inclined  
To bleed and die for thee!

Hark, how He groans, while nature shakes,   
And earth’s strong pillars bend;   
The temple’s veil in sunder breaks,   
The solid marbles rend.

“’Tis done!” The precious ransom’s paid,   
“Receive My soul,” He cries!  
See where He bows His sacred head!  
He bows His head, and dies!

But soon He’ll break death’s envious chain,   
And in full glory shine:   
O Lamb of God! Was ever pain,   
Was ever love, like Thine?

Samuel Wesley (1662-1735)

What a wonderful happening, the tearing in two of the temple veil - opening up the pathway to heaven in prayer, before this only the priests could converse with God in the Holy of Holies but now we all able to talk with Jesus! Praise God!

1. The definition of behold is to see; observe. Who are we to see?

2. Where is He nailed?

3. Lead is a synonym of incline. What inclined Jesus to go to Calvary?

4. What did He do for us?

5. Verse 2: A definition of hark is to listen attentively.

What are we to listen attentively to hear?

6. What is it called when nature shakes?

7. What happens during this time?

8. What happened to the temple’s veil?

9. Rend means to tear or wrench forcibly. What was wrenched forcibly?

10. Verse 3: What is done?

11. To whom is Jesus crying out to and to do what?

12. Where is He bowing His sacred head?

13. What happens after He bows his sacred head?

14. Verse 4: A synonym of envy is begrudge which means to give reluctantly. We as humans usually die reluctantly - not eager to die.

How did Jesus break that chain?

15. What will shine?

16. What two things did Jesus “was ever” have unlike anyone else?

COME, YE FAITHFUL, RAISE THE STRAIN

Hymn Devotion - March 23

Scripture – Matthew 28:5-7

Matthew 12:40

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

Of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought forth Israel

Into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke

Jacob’s sons and daughters,  
Led them with unmoistened foot

Through the Red Sea waters.

’Tis the spring of souls today;

Christ has burst His prison,  
And from three days’ sleep in death

As a sun hath risen;  
All the winter of our sins,

Long and dark, is flying  
From His light, to Whom we give

Laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright

With the day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts,

Comes its joy to render;  
Comes to glad Jerusalem,

Who with true affection  
Welcomes in unwearied strains

Jesus’ resurrection.

“Alleluia!” now we cry

To our King immortal,  
Who, triumphant, burst the bars

Of the tomb’s dark portal;  
“Alleluia!” with the Son,

God the Father praising,  
“Alleluia!” yet again

To the Spirit raising.

John of Damascus (eighth century)

Translated by John Mason Neale

(1818-1856)

What a wonderful comparison the Israelites yoked in the bitterness of Pharoah’s slavery and our slavery to sin both broken by God. Sin being compared to the long dark winter and then the bursting forth of Jesus from the grave to free us from sin and bestow on us peace that passes all human understanding. Praise be to God!

1. A definition of come is to be available. Who is to be available to lift up the strain?

2. What is that strain?

3. What has God done for His Israel?

4. What was loosed?

5. How is Israel referred to?

6. How were they led?

7. Where did they go through?

8. Verse 2: Where is there spring?

9. What is His prison?

10. How long was His sleep in death?

11. When did this happen?

12. What all is said about winter?

13. What is the darkness of sin doing?

14. To whom and what are we giving in the last line?

15. Verse 3: How is spring described?

16. What are celebrated?

17. List the two “comes” lines:

18. What does Jerusalem have?

19. What are the unwearied strains about?

20. Verse 4: Alleluia - means praise to God or God be praised. Who is the cry to?

21. Portal is a gate. What was triumphantly done?

22. Who all are we to sing praises with and to?

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

Hymn Devotion - March 24

Scripture – I Peter 2:23-25

Luke 23:33

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

Refrain

*So I’ll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross,  
And exchange it someday for a crown.*

O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above  
To bear it to dark Calvary.

In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,  
A wondrous beauty I see,  
For ’twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me.

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true;  
Its shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He’ll call me some day to my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I’ll share.

George Bennard (1873-1958)

When you think of this and the gravity of it - there is no way that we cannot be faithful to the cross, to Jesus and all that he suffered for us because of our sin, thus setting us free - we are pardoned and made whole. Praise God!

1. What stood on the hill far away?

2. An emblem is symbolic of something. What was this symbolic of?

3. Why would we love an old cross?

4. What was slain there?

5. Verse 2: How does the world view the old rugged cross?

6. What does it have for Christians?

7. Who left heaven?

8. To do what?

9. Verse 3: In here could be with respect to - Why do we respect the old rugged cross?

10. Because of this, what do we see?

11. What happened on the old rugged cross?

12. What was accomplished?

13. Verse 4: How can we be true to the old rugged cross?

14. What can we gladly bear?

15. What will happen someday?

16. What will happen there?

17. Chorus: A definition of cherish is to cling to and a synonym is to keep dear. What then are we to cherish or keep dear to our hearts?

18. What will we lay down?

19. What will we exchange them for?

AT CALVARY

Hymn Devotion - March 25

Scripture – Ephesians 1:5-7

Galatians 6:14

Years I spent in vanity and pride,   
Caring not my Lord was crucified,   
Knowing not it was for me He died on Calvary.

*Refrain*

*Mercy there was great, and grace was free;   
Pardon there was multiplied to me;   
There my burdened soul found liberty at Calvary.*

By God’s Word at last my sin I learned;  
Then I trembled at the law I’d spurned,  
Till my guilty soul imploring turned to Calvary.

*Refrain*

Now I’ve given to Jesus everything,   
Now I gladly own Him as my King,   
Now my raptured soul can only sing of Calvary!

*Refrain*

Oh, the love that drew salvation’s plan!  
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man!  
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!

*Refrain*

William Reed Newell (1868-1956)

We must admit to all the wasted years, even if we have been Christians all our lives, in backsliding and non-conforming to God’s Word. But, God’s Word points out our sin and then we realize the mercy and grace given by God to a guilty soul. What a burden is lifted when we know God’s love and forgiveness. What love, mercy, forgiveness is ours if we only turn to Jesus!

1. What was years spent in?

2. What was there no caring about?

3. What was not known?

4. Where?

5. Verse 2: What pointed out sin?

6. To spurn is to treat with contempt. What was treated with contempt?

7. Where do our guilty souls turn?

8. Verse 3: What must be given to Jesus?

9. What can we gladly own Him as?

10. What can our saved soul only sing of?

11. Verse 4: What was drawn by God’s love?

12. What brought it down to man?

13. What is the mighty gulf that God closed at Calvary?

14. The Chorus: What is great?

15. What is free?

16. What is multiplied to us?

17. What can a burdened soul find at Calvary?