

HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL

STUDY FOUR

The Day God Answered, “Amen”

Selected Scriptures

God answered, “Amen” to Jesus’ words, “It is finished.” The penalty has been paid. The sacrifice has been taken care of. No one will ever have to die again for his or her sins. The Lamb has been slain. And now He has been raised.

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

SOME of the most wonderful moments of Jesus’ life were His most private moments. Only Peter, James, and John watched Jesus’ earthly body transfigure into its full heavenly glory. Before His death, Jesus shared a final meal with just the twelve disciples. Only a select group saw Him after His resurrection.

Yet much of Jesus’ ministry was very public, such as His teachings, miracles, and other day-to-day activities. Jesus’ identity as God’s promised deliverer was no secret. Anyone could witness this carpenter from Nazareth and walk with Him.

Some of Jesus’ most important and most public moments took place during His final week of life. Many watching the events of these few days either scratched their heads in confusion or shrugged their shoulders in indifference.

Some, however, witnessed these events and came to see Jesus as the Savior of the world. This *Searching the Scriptures* study will go back in time and stand in the crowd of those watching Jesus during His final days to better understand what it means to walk with Jesus in His life, death, and resurrection.



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PREPARE YOUR HEART

When Jesus died, the temple’s veil tore. This veil marked the entrance to the “Holy of Holies”—a small room where God’s presence dwelled and where, historically, only the high priest could enter once a year. The tearing of the veil symbolized the release of God’s presence into the world.

Now anyone—not just Israel’s high priests—has access to God’s presence through the Holy Spirit who allows believers in Jesus Christ to “come to the Father” in prayer (*Ephesians 2:18*).

Father, thank You for Your Word. As I study the life of Jesus today, help me see Him as He truly is so I can follow Him more closely than ever before. In Jesus’ name, amen.



TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

While God’s name is *Yahweh*, no Israelite called Him by that name because they took the third commandment very seriously: “You must not misuse the name of the LORD your God” (*Exodus 20:7*).

But the Israelites needed to call God *something*. So they addressed Him as *Adonai* (or “Lord,” in English)—a term of honor and respect given to those in positions of power, influence, or authority. While this term was common in ancient Israel, their God was their only *true* Lord.

The apostle Paul would later explain that Jesus was, in fact, *Adonai* in the flesh (*Philippians 2:5–11*). Jesus demonstrated His divine nature throughout His ministry, during His agonizing final hours of His life on earth, and through His glorious bodily resurrection.



Observation and Interpretation: Witnessing Jesus



Each of the following passages depicts scenes that bystanders in Jerusalem would have witnessed firsthand. As you read each passage, imagine yourself standing in the crowd. Put yourself in the sandals of a Judean—a local shopkeeper, a new mother, a youth playing in the streets—and try to read these familiar accounts with fresh eyes.

This *Searching the Scriptures* study omits correlation because it observes and interprets three passages united by one theme. The final section will develop an application based on all the passages together.¹



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Selected Scriptures

Witnessing Jesus’ Triumphal Entry Matthew 21:1–11	
<p>It’s time for Passover! Over the next several days, devout Jews from all over Judea will flood to your city, Jerusalem to celebrate the annual festival. During that time, you’ll reconnect with old friends, gather ingredients for the commemorative meal, and prepare your sacrificial lamb. One day, you hear loud shouts of joy and see a large crowd approaching one of the city’s gates.</p>	
 Observation	 Interpretation
<p>Read Matthew 21:1–11. According to 21:4–5, what prophecy did these events fulfill?</p> <p>According to 21:8, what did the crowd do when they saw Jesus approaching on the colt?</p> <p>What did the crowd shout in 21:9 as Jesus entered Jerusalem?</p>	<p>The colt, cloaks, and palms together revealed something about Jesus’ identity. Look at Constable’s Notes at netbible.org. What did these images represent to the bystanders?</p> <p>The Hebrew term <i>hosanna</i> is an expression of praise that largely means, “Save us!” How did the people in that crowd believe Jesus would save them? How would He truly save them?</p>

The crowds are talking more and more about this Nazarene who seems to have taken the city by storm. He goes right through all the religious façade, and He deals with issues that matter. He even tells the people what’s down in their own souls. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll

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Witnessing Jesus’ Crucifixion John 19:17–37	
<p>On the day of the Passover feast, you hear noise in the streets early in the morning—cries of anger and sorrow and pain. A mob follows a group of Roman soldiers, and at the center of the group is the man you saw riding a colt at the city gates a few days earlier. As you approach the mob, you notice the man is carrying a long plank of wood. That means one thing: crucifixion.</p>	
 Observation	 Interpretation
<p>Read <i>John 19:17–37</i>. According to <i>19:19</i>, what did the sign Pilate posted on Jesus’ cross say?</p> <p>According to <i>19:21</i>, what did the priests <i>want</i> the sign to say? What’s the difference?</p> <p>What final words did Jesus utter in <i>19:30</i> as He died?</p>	<p>The Jewish leaders fought hard to persuade the people that Jesus was <i>not</i> their promised Messiah. What would most people have thought about Jesus after his death?</p> <p>What would most bystanders witnessing the crucifixion have thought Jesus meant when he said, “It is finished” in <i>19:30</i>? What did He really mean?</p>

Lambs’ blood was the sacrificial atonement for forgiveness—the substitute for the cost of sin. And Jesus, God’s human Lamb, was sacrificed for the sins of the world. He paid the penalty for sin and paid it in full! —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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Witnessing Jesus’ Resurrection Luke 24:13–34	
Passover has come and gone, and you’ve returned to your day-to-day routine. Though you think you’ve said all your goodbyes, you say hello again to a friend from Emmaus. He unexpectedly arrives at your home, smiling, to tell you about his strange encounter with a man named Jesus. And in an instant, everything you watched this Jesus do over the past week starts to make sense.	
 Observation	 Interpretation
Read Luke 24:13–34 . According to 24:16 , why didn’t the travelers recognize Jesus? According to 24:25–27 , how did Jesus react to the people’s surprise that His body was gone? How did the travelers react in 24:31–33 when they discovered Jesus’ true identity?	What did the travelers likely think had happened to Jesus’ body? What timeless truth does this passage teach about how someone comes to recognize Jesus for who He truly is?

I must warn you. To remain neutral on Jesus’ resurrection is to deny the truth, which rests firmly on the inspired Word of God. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll



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Application: From Watching to Walking

During Jesus' lifetime, thousands heard His teachings and witnessed His miracles. Most, however, observed Him from a distance. Jesus called His disciples to *walk* with Him—not just to *watch* Him—and He invites us to do the same today.

Although walking with Jesus leads to the greatest destination, it is not always an easy journey. When you walk with Jesus . . .

1. *You suffer with Him.* “If the world hates you, remember that it hated me first” (*John 15:18*).
2. *You die with Him.* “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it” (*Matthew 16:24–25*).
3. *You are raised with Him.* “For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives” (*Romans 6:4*).
4. *You are honored with Him.* “And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory” (*Romans 8:17*).

In what area of your life do you feel tempted to stand with the crowd watching Jesus rather than walking with Him? What would it look like for you to step out in faith and follow His path?



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Do fears of suffering ever hinder your walk with Jesus? Fear of disapproval? Rejection? Full-blown persecution? How can knowing you are coheir with Christ encourage you in your walk with Him?

Many look at Jesus from the crowd, standing far away due to apprehension, curiosity, or fear. Few have the courage to step forward—even if they are alone—and walk with Him as a true follower. Join Him. Walk with Him in His life, death, and resurrection. Experience all the blessings He has to offer His followers.



A FINAL PRAYER

Close your study with your own prayer. Ask God to continue to transform you from a watcher to one who walks with Jesus by faith.

Father,

ENDNOTE

1. To learn about Pastor Chuck Swindoll’s *Searching the Scriptures* method of Bible study, go to the web page, “*How to Study the Bible for Yourself.*”

