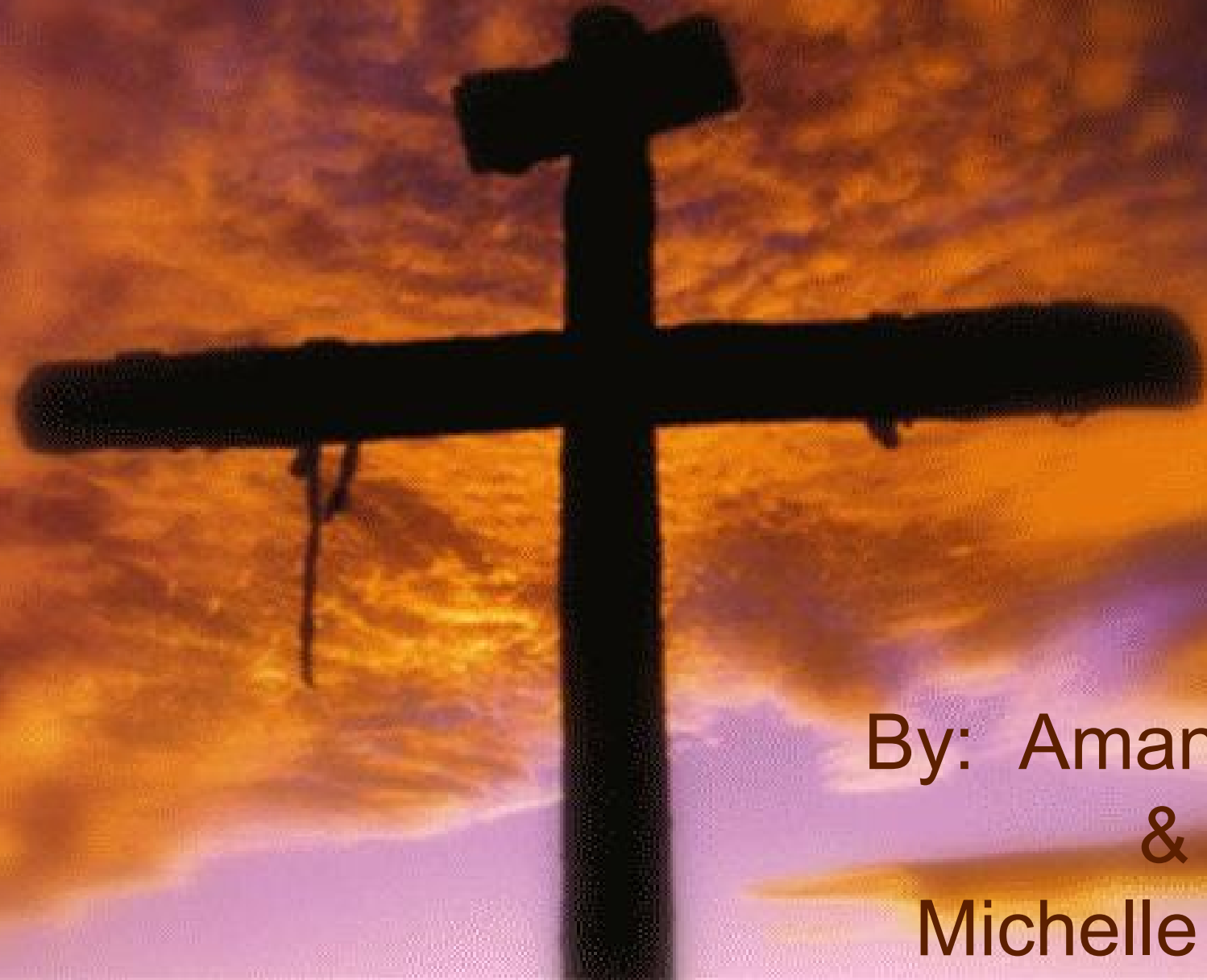


Crucifixion



By: Amanda Cox
&
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Jesus Had No Sleep

- By the time he was crucified Jesus had been awake for thirty-six hours.
- He likely arose that morning, spent his day praying and subsequently had dinner with the disciples that night - the last supper in the upper room.
- He was then taken prisoner in the Garden of Gethsemane, was led all about the old city of Jerusalem and was tried at least twice.
- The next day at about daybreak he was actually hung on the cross, and hung there throughout that day.

How Far Did Jesus Actually have to walk?

- He was led from the chief priest's house to Herod's to Pilot's during the time that he was being tried, and we know he was led all around the old city of Jerusalem.
- If you add it all up, he walked about two and one half miles that last night.
- Jesus carried his cross about a third of a mile before he collapsed and wasn't able to carry it anymore.
- These are some physical exertions that added up, and placed stress on a person.

HEMATHIDROSIS

- A very rare medical phenomenon that's been reported about twelve to fourteen times in world medical literature and is only seen in people who are under tremendous stress and agony.
- In hemathidrosis, a person actually exudes blood from every sweat gland in their body.

- Each sweat gland has a small capillary that surrounds it, and in hemathidrosis, that small capillary ruptures. As it bursts, a person actually bleeds into their sweat glands. Instead of perspiring sweat, if you will, they actually perspire blood.
- The Bible gives an excellent description of this phenomenon, saying that the Lord's sweat became as great drops of blood. Indeed, every pore of Jesus' body oozed and drained blood.

A MAN like anyone else

- He knew the job he had come to this earth to do, the mission he had to fulfill, and I believe the man part of Christ dreaded this agonizing death and torture that lay a few hours ahead of him just as much as any one of us would
- We know he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, saying 'Father, if it be your will, let this cup pass from me'
- There in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was under about as much anxiety and physical stress from an emotional standpoint that a human could experience, knowing that in a few hours he would be delivered into one of the most agonizing and brutal deaths ever recorded in history.

Why Didn't the Lord bleed out of every sweat gland in his body?

- cool night air that probably cause the Lord's damp skin, covered with sweat and blood, to chill, causing the capillaries to constrict and stop the bleeding.
- It causes the blood vessels to constrict and causes the blood loss to be minimal.
- But by the time Jesus was taken by the soldiers from the garden of Gethsemane, he probably had a mixture of sweat and blood over his entire body surface.

SCOURGING

- It was one of the worst punishments the Romans had to inflict on a human body.
- The victim was stripped completely naked and tied by his wrists to a post or wall with his back exposed.
- He was then whipped from the back of his arms, down his shoulders and back, across his bare buttocks, down the back of his legs and calves, all the way down to his heels by two Roman legionnaires, one on either side, alternating blows.
- Historical accounts tell us that the traditional scourging consisted of thirty-nine lashes.



- Imagine two large, strong, burly Roman legionnaires (someone that we would equate to say, a pro football player today) with a wooden handled whip about eighteen inches long that had nine leather thongs, something similar to what we would call a cat-of-nine tails.
- The nine leather thongs were about six to seven feet long, and at the end of each thong was some lead shod, like a sinker you'd use to go fishing. Attached to the lead shod were pieces of sheep and cattle bone.
- The idea of those small pieces of bone was that, as the Roman legionnaire would beat his victim, snapping his wrist would cause the weight of the metal shod to dig into the back, while the sheep/cattle bone cut the skin.

- As the sheep/cattle bone lacerated the skin and actually dug in under the surface of the skin, the skilled and trained legionnaire could whip his wrist and literally lift small shards of skeletal muscle out through the skin, leaving small ribbons of muscle, about two inches long, hanging through the skin."
- One lash with this whip - one thong - would make a cut about two inches long and about three quarters to an inch deep.
- To put that into medical terms, that's a cut that takes about twenty stitches to close.
- So with one lash, one swing of the whip, a total of nine lacerations could be inflicted on the victim. One blow could inflict enough wounds to take one hundred eighty stitches to close.

The idea of the lead weight was to lift the skeletal muscle out.

- ❑ Imagine having a cut on your skin with an inch of muscle pulled out through the cut, exposed to the night air.
- ❑ The purpose this served in the scourging was, that as the victim hung on the cross in the heat of the day, birds could light on him and actually peck and pull at these pieces of muscle, just like a robin trying to pull a worm out of the ground. Frequently, how long a person actually survived on the cross during the crucifixion was determined by how severely he was scourged.
- ❑ The scourging was intended for public humiliation and embarrassment, because it was such an inhumane method of torture.

Jesus was beaten in the face and head as he was mocked.

- By the time the Lord was crucified after his beatings, it's almost certain that both of his eyes were swollen shut and no doubt his nose was pouring blood.
- When people are struck in the mouth with a fist, the first thing that happens is that the lower teeth come right through the lip.
- If Jesus was tied and held and beaten in the face by these strong legionnaires his lips were tattered like paper and some of his teeth were knocked loose or maybe even knocked out.

A close-up painting of Jesus Christ's face, showing him wearing a crown of thorns. The thorns are sharp and brown, woven into a crown-like structure around his head. His expression is somber, with his eyes looking slightly down and to the side. The background is dark and indistinct.

A crown of thorns was plaited and placed on his head.

- This was done to mock him as being King of the Jews.
- The thorns are about an inch and one half to two inches long, and they're as sharp as an ice pick.
- The custom was to take a small three or four foot long reed and slap the thorns on top of the head of the victim in order to drive the thorns into the skull.

- Those thorns laid upon someone's head and then tapped down with a reed were hard enough to penetrate the outer table or the outer bone of the skull.
- Imagine the bleeding from three or four hundred puncture wounds in the scalp and around the forehead from these thorns

The Lord did not die from shock secondary to blood loss

- There is nothing that Jesus said on the cross and nothing in the description of the crucifixion in any of the gospels that gives us any idea that Jesus was in shock before he died.
- There's nothing in the description of his trials, his scourging or his time on the cross that tells us he was incoherent mentally or lost consciousness.

PHYSICAL STRESS

- ◆ Everything the Bible tells us about the life of Jesus is that he was a healthy, early thirties male who lived a rough life.
- ◆ He didn't have a home, he probably slept outside, and he walked everywhere he went.
- ◆ Jesus was a hardy young man, very strong and stout physically, and that there was nothing weak or puny about him from a medical standpoint, prior to the crucifixion.

- ◆ As far as emotional stress, Jesus didn't have any kind of nervous breakdown.
- ◆ He was certainly under stress in the Garden of Gethsemane, but nothing that he said on the cross gave any indication whatsoever that he was decompensating mentally, even during his gravest hours on the cross.

Cardiac Arrhythmia Debate

- If it's ventricular tachycardia or some of the other types of cardiac arrhythmia's, one of the first things that happens is that the heart, even though it beats fast or funny, doesn't function very well as a pump.
- When it doesn't function well as a pump, your blood pressure drops, and you lose consciousness.
- There are no accounts of Jesus losing consciousness in the Bible until he died.

THE CROSS

The background of the slide features a warm, orange-hued sunset sky. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of three crosses are visible, standing on a hill. The central cross is the largest and most prominent, while two smaller crosses are positioned to its left and right.

- Crosses were usually in two parts according to Roman and Corinthian History.
- First, the cross bar, that from very good historical accounts can be estimated to have a weight of 125 to 150 pounds, and to be about the size of a cross tie.
- This was a rough, unplanned, unfinished piece of wood with splinters and spikes and rough places in it.


- When the victim's final trial and condemnation had taken place, to maximize the shame and suffering, the custom was to tie the cross bar to the victim, and have him carry it through the city from his point of condemnation to his point of execution.
- Part of the custom was that many times these people would be forced to stagger through the streets after being scourged and beaten, with the cross bar tied to their arms, and to add to the ultimate humiliation, the victim had to bear the cross naked

The other part of the CROSS

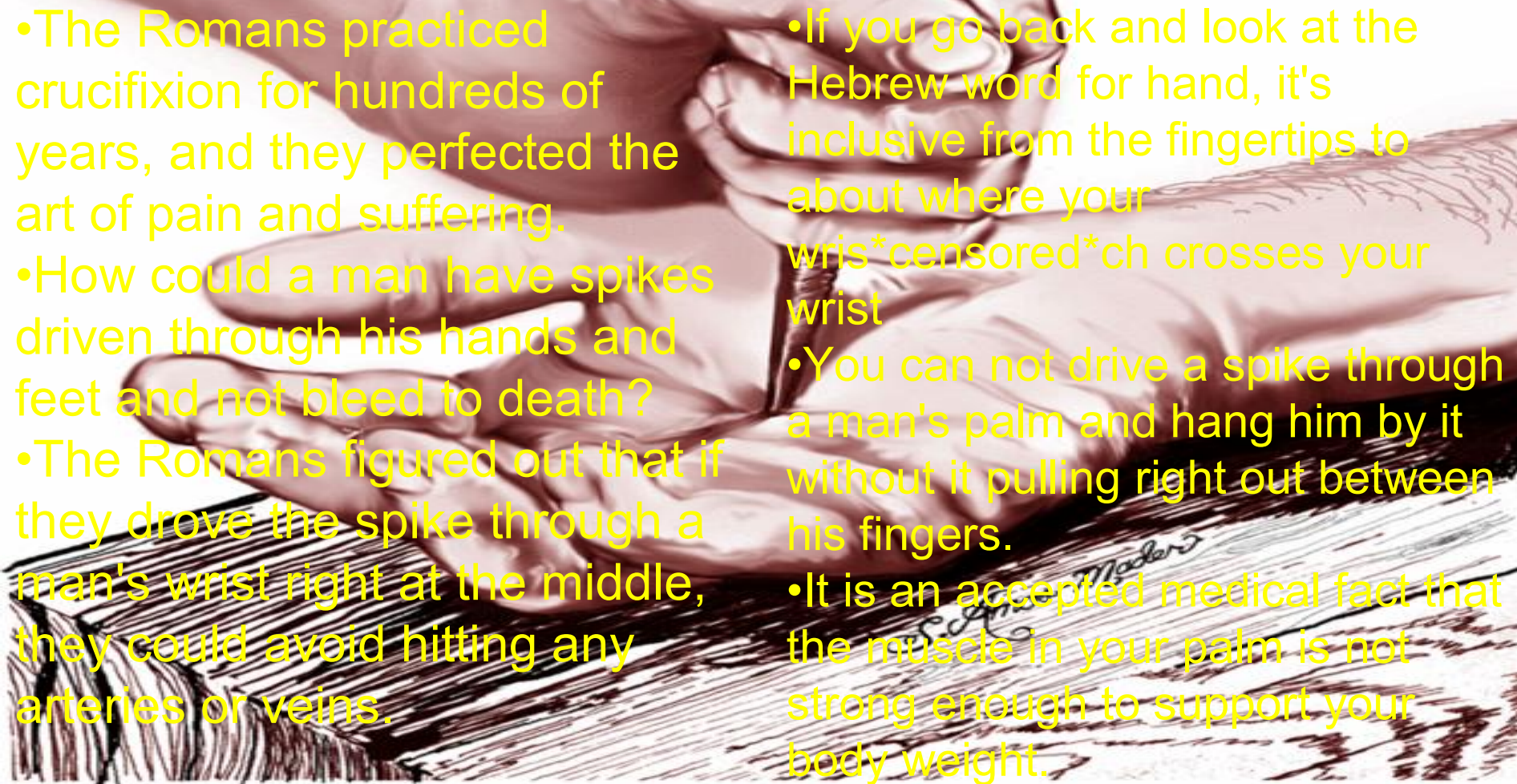
is an upright part

a post in the ground

- It was really not only a form of execution, but of entertainment as well.
- Many of the major cities had areas outside their walls where they would have three or four of these upright posts that were permanent fixtures
- Someone condemned to crucifixion would bear the cross bar through the streets to the point of crucifixion, and once there, would be thrown onto the ground.
- Nails would then be driven through their hands into the cross bar

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- Then two forks, something similar to pitch forks, would be placed around each end of the cross bar, and they would be boosted up and the cross bar hung on top of the upright post.
 - Once they were braced on the upright post, both feet would then be nailed to the foot piece.

THE NAIL WOUNDS....

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- The Romans practiced crucifixion for hundreds of years, and they perfected the art of pain and suffering.
 - How could a man have spikes driven through his hands and feet and not bleed to death?
 - The Romans figured out that if they drove the spike through a man's wrist right at the middle, they could avoid hitting any arteries or veins.
 - If you go back and look at the Hebrew word for hand, it's inclusive from the fingertips to about where your wri*sensored*ch crosses your wrist
 - You can not drive a spike through a man's palm and hang him by it without it pulling right out between his fingers.
 - It is an accepted medical fact that the muscle in your palm is not strong enough to support your body weight.

THE SPIKES

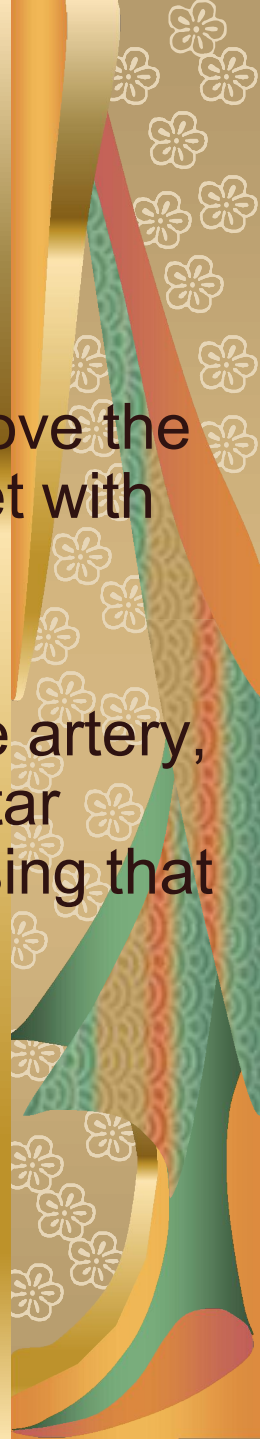


- In order to be able to drive spikes through the Lord's hands, they had to drive them through at the wrists
- There's a very strong ligament, called the transverse carpal ligament, that's strong enough to support the body weight.
- The Romans figured out that if they came about where the crease in the wrist is and drove the spike through this area, they would miss the radial artery (the artery people cut when they try to kill themselves by cutting their wrist - right where the doctor takes your pulse), and they would also miss what we call the ulnar artery over on the little finger side.

- What they would do though, is drive the nail right through the biggest nerve in the hand, called the median nerve.
- When the median nerve is transected, it gives about the sensation of having an electric cattle prod stuck to your wrist and a constant electrical shock going through your hand, and causes the fingers to claw
- Romans devised a way they could drive a spike through a man's hand and not lose one drop of blood, while maximizing the amount of pain and suffering that man would endure.

THE FEET

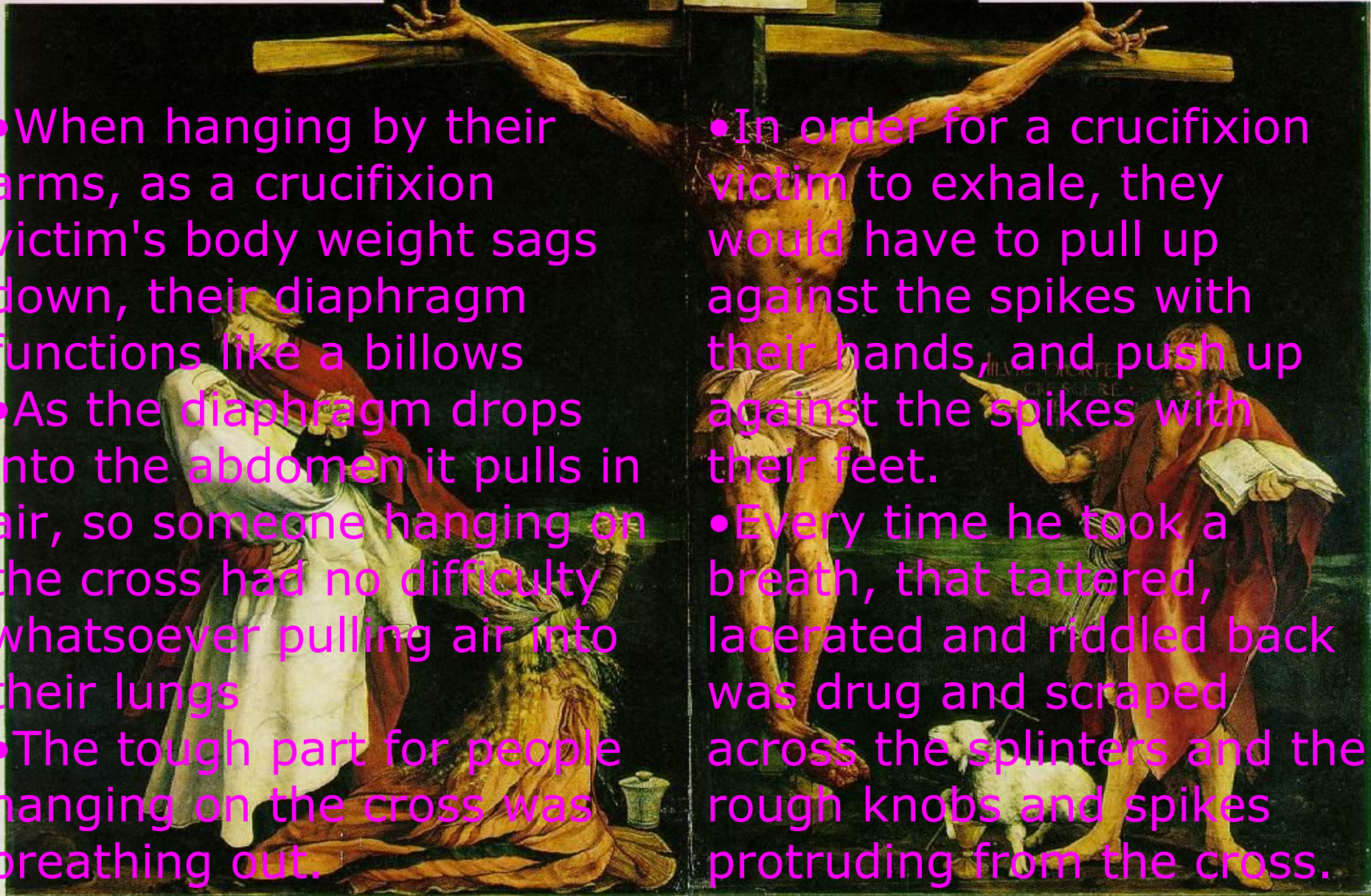
- The Romans did the same thing with the feet.
- They calculated where they could drive a spike through both a man's feet and not cause blood loss that would cause the victim to bleed to death.
- The spike would have been placed between the first and second metatarsal bones, missing the dorsalis pedis artery.
- There again, they drove the spike through the feet with no blood loss.
- The spike misses the artery, but does hit the plantar nerves, thereby causing that same horrible shock sensation.



HANGING ON THE CROSS

- When hanging by their arms, as a crucifixion victim's body weight sags down, their diaphragm functions like a billows
- As the diaphragm drops into the abdomen it pulls in air, so someone hanging on the cross had no difficulty whatsoever pulling air into their lungs
- The tough part for people hanging on the cross was breathing out.

- In order for a crucifixion victim to exhale, they would have to pull up against the spikes with their hands, and push up against the spikes with their feet.
- Every time he took a breath, that tattered, lacerated and riddled back was drug and scraped across the splinters and the rough knobs and spikes protruding from the cross.



- Each time he breathed out, each time he uttered a word, he would have to pull up with his arms and push up with his legs
- He couldn't say more than three or four words at a time
- Every word Jesus spoke on the cross was spoken as he was pulling up against the nails and dragging his back across the cross
- That's why what the Lord tells us - what he spoke from the cross - is very precious
- What did he say?
- He said, 'Behold your son.'
- Then he said 'Behold your mother'
- Finally, when he had done all of that, he said, 'It is finished.' And when he said 'It is finished', that's the last time he pulled up with his hands and pushed up with his feet, dragging his back across the cross as he hung there naked before the city of Jerusalem in total shame and humiliation. Convicted and tortured and condemned for something of which he was not guilty.

A LOOK BACK



- Find that people actually lived on the cross, crucified, for up to six days.
- If you can, imagine a man hanging on a cross outside the gates of a city with the birds pecking at his eyes and roosting on his head, as he hangs there naked as a spectacle for the whole city.
- The idea was to make him suffer as much as possible.
- *Crucifixion was never intended to kill anybody.*
- It was only intended to make a human being suffer as much as could be inflicted upon him before killing him by breaking his legs.

JESUS DIDN'T DIE FROM CRUCIFRACTURE OR FROM EXHAUSTION ASPHYXIA



- Crucifracture is what they would do when they simply grew tired of watching this agony and suffering or when they had something better to do and wanted to end a crucifixion.
- Many times they would have to beat the legs for five or ten minutes until they finally could break the shin bones - it takes a lot of force to break your shin bone.
- They would take a spear and swing it like a ball bat and hit the victim in the shins to break his shin bones
- With the shin bone broken, the victim could no longer push up to breathe.
- They'd break the tibia and the fibula bone

WHY DIN'T THEY BREAK JESUS' LEGS?

PSALMS 34

“Not a bone of his body was broken”

- This is why Jesus' nose and jaws and cheekbones should have been broken but couldn't have been.
- That's why the Roman centurion didn't break his legs, because the Bible says "Not a bone of his body was broken."
- This was totally uncharacteristic of the crucifixion, because that's how crucifixion victims died.
- When they grew tired of you and got bored with the situation they'd break your legs and in about four to six minutes you'd smother to death, because you could no longer push up with your legs.
- You laid there sagging, unable to breathe out, and you were asphyxiated in about four to six minutes. That's how the two thieves died. But Jesus was dead already.

Why would a young strapping, healthy man be dead after being on the cross for six hours?



- There's absolutely no medical explanation for it at all. The Lord had no business being dead. He should have been alive just like the other two.
- He wasn't beaten to the point of death, his blood loss was minimal and we know he wasn't in shock, because everything he told us from the cross made sense.
- He identified his mother standing at some distance from the foot of the cross.
- He was able to see enough to identify her and to identify one of the disciples
- And everything he said was coherent.
- He was not out of his mind and he was not having a nervous breakdown, and he wasn't even in shock from blood loss
- The Lord was perfectly coherent and sane up to the moment he died."



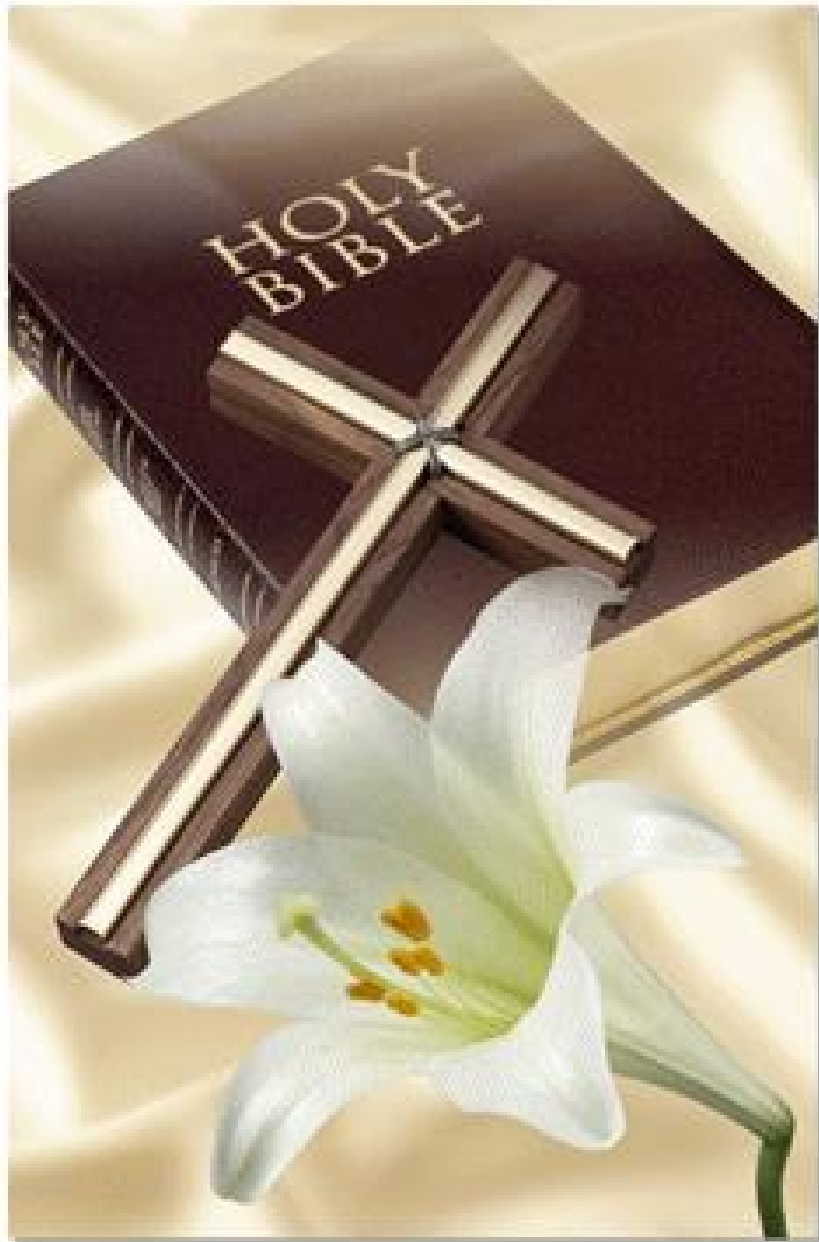
The Spear wound to the Lord's side
was not the cause of his death either.

- When the centurion saw that Jesus was dead already, he thrust a spear into Jesus' side.
- The Bible says in Zachariah that they may look upon him who they've pierced.
- The spear thrust was biblical prophecy fulfilled.
- That was one of the reasons why Jesus was already dead; God had a plan that we were to look upon the one they had pierced - Zachariah had to be fulfilled.

Roman centurions were trained killers.

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- They were taught how to deliver death blows that would take a man's life in a matter of seconds.
 - A person can take a .22 through the left side of the heart and likely come in sitting up talking to you
 - However, if you're stabbed or shot on the right side of the heart, where the inferior and superior vena cava are emptying into the right side of the heart, you're unconscious and pretty close to dead in about twenty to thirty seconds.
 - This blow to Jesus was no doubt delivered from the right side through the right lung into the heart and on into the spine
 - It would have penetrated somewhere between the seventh and eighth intercostal space probably on the right
 - But the Bible says that blood and water came out of Jesus' side after the spear was thrust in.

- Now if you take a unit of blood, drain it out of a human being's body, put it in a quart jar and set it on top of a desk, in about thirty minutes the red blood cells begin to settle out and the plasma rises to the top.
- The plasma separates from the red blood cells.
- When the soldier thrust the spear into the Lord's side, Jesus had already been dead for thirty or forty-five minutes
- The spear wound did not take the life of the Lord Jesus; he was dead already when they thrust the spear into his side.



What we think!!!

We think there's a very good description of the crucifixion in the Bible and there's very good medical evidence that can be pulled out of that description that tells us that the Lord did not die in the manner that most crucifixion victims die. When the Roman centurion went to him to break his legs, he was dead already. They couldn't break his legs because the Bible said in Psalms, "Not a bone of his body shall be broken." Why then would the soldier thrust a spear into his side? Because Zachariah told us hundreds of years before that we'd look upon him that we'd pierced. And what came out? Blood and water –We think there's enough medical evidence there that the Lord was dead at least a half an hour.

So WHAT took the Lord's Life?

- No man did!
- No man, no Roman centurion, no cross took Jesus' life.
- He was able to do something I've never seen another human being do - he laid down his life.
- When it was finished and with a loud voice, he gave up the ghost.
- **"Jesus gave his life."**

"The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life - only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father."
(NIV) John 10:17,18



*And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.
Matthew 20:19*

The End