

City of Jerusalem in an Uproar over Claims of the Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth

Exclusive!
Eyewitness Interview
of Mary Magdalene!

Recorded by Staff Writer Alexandra
of Jerusalem

"I was having the most mournful day of my life, and with a heavy heart, I headed out. Two days ago, the Romans crucified Jesus, my Savior. It was a very unnerving scene that I sadly can't seem to dis-remember. A sudden shock quickly sent me hurdling out of my vivid day-dreams about Jesus. I could barely decipher what my eyes were seeing. I had to inform someone immediately of this confusing phenomenon, and I scurried off to reveal this unimaginable occurrence. After ten minutes, I arrived at Simon Peter's house. He let me in after knocking twice. He and another disciple were inside, and I joined them at the table. "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him," I blurted out, with hints of anxiety creeping into my voice. The disciples glanced at each other. The look was so fast that I could have missed it entirely. Then, in unison, they stood up and bolted for the door. They ran and ran until they had reached Jesus' tomb. A couple seconds later, I arrived, my chest heaving, longing for air. Scattered inside the tomb were linen cloths. Peter's friend noticed them first, but never entered the tomb. Then Peter noticed, and I watched his eyes widen. Both of them just stood there for a few minutes, trying to decipher what they were see-



Above: Staff Artist Jacob of Joppa's rendering of a the cross upon which criminals are hung, cleaned and painted white

ing. The stone was rolled away from the tomb's entrance, Jesus had been taken, and the linen cloths discarded! Even I, who had known of these happenings for way longer than they had, was still enamored by this

occurrence. But, by that time, the disciples had begun to reluctantly trudge back home. I was also beginning to weep. The tears rolling down my face kept coming faster and faster. I was just so sad, confused, and

just straight out wondering, "Why?" I decided to sit down because my vision was still continuing to cloud up because of my weeping."

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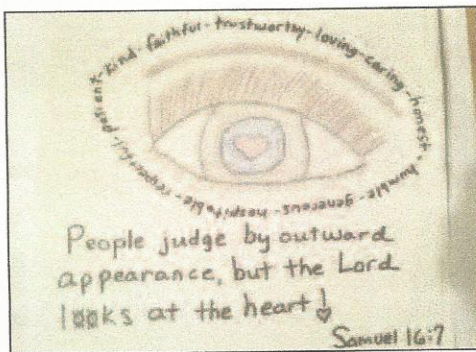
Mary the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth Shares Her Thoughts

By Susan of Cana

Today, Mary the mother of Jesus of Nazareth has been unavailable. She has been in the care of John the son of Zebedee, and he has asked that the press respect her privacy. Mary has been emotionally tried, and she is reportedly now rejoicing that her Son is now alive! On Friday, during Jesus' crucifixion, the Jerusalem Daily News did receive exclusive permission to interview Mary. We have done our best to explain what she said, although we cannot be exactly sure of her lamentations, being intermingled with sobs as they were. Nevertheless, we believe that we have gotten the sense of her emotion.

"Oh, my Son and my Savior, you have perished! You were betrayed by your friend, Judas, for thirty pieces of silver. You were beaten, scourged, kicked, spit on. They pierced Your hands and feet with nails as they nailed you to the cross. You were betrayed by your own people, who you loved and lived with. How can this be? My beautiful Baby whom I had the privilege and honor to raise until He became a wonderful Man, son, brother, neighbor, and friend."

(Continued on Page 2)



Above: Jerusalem Youth Art Contest Winning Entry, For Age Group 10-12, 30 AD

Know the Facts Beforehand This Week's Guest Column

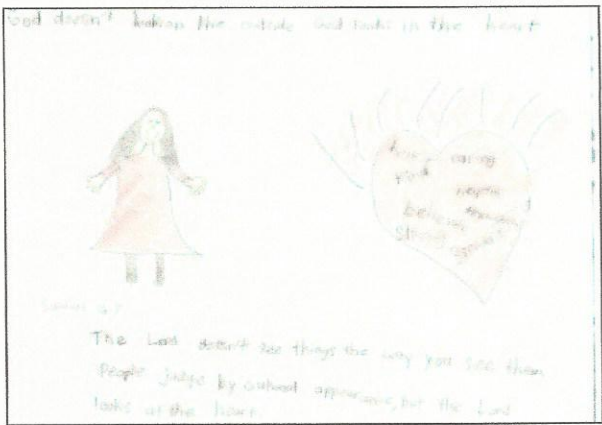
By Ime'a Baleeva

Many of you know that I am a local accountant. Part of my job in serving my clients is knowing the facts. Knowing the laws. And to be the best of the best, knowing them beforehand. To make life easier and more palatable for my clients, I need to know tax laws and accounting. How can I make life easier for them? My family has been in this business for generations. From the early days, we have been able to work

in the system - and work with folks just like you. As you know, our Jewish clients have used bars and rings of gold and silver as money prior to using coins. Today, Syrian, Roman, and Jewish coins are used. And despite what is already confusing to many, the Roman government imposes a tremendous tax burden upon its subjects. Not only that, but you also have to pay a tax to the temple. I have helped many

because of my knowledge of the facts beforehand. Which leads me to why I am writing this news article. Recently, many of us witnessed the death of Jesus of Nazareth. Many also heard about the resurrection. Evidently, despite guards at the tomb throughout the day, when the sun rose, the tomb was empty and there have been sightings of this man by many.

(Continued on Page 8)



Above: Jerusalem Youth Art Contest Winning Entry, For Age Group 7-9, 30 AD

Mary the Mother of Jesus Shares Her Thoughts (Continued from Page 1)

By Susan of Cana

"All these things were written in the Law and the Prophets, and now they have come to fruition. My heart is buried with grief. How can I go on? Yes, I know how I can continue this life on earth. I know I will be with my Son and my Savior. Someday, I will live with Him in eternity. Yes, I can go on and hold that joy of seeing Him again! Jesus wants me to forgive these murderers, and so I shall, but this will be very hard. I pray the Lord softens my heart, so I may do as He commands. Ah, I miss Him so, and I know I will continually through these days ahead. Now, I must continue to do service for His kingdom, but what should I do? I will seek out Jesus' friend and confidant. He is right here, Yes, he will know what I should do to continue my Son's work on earth. Yes, I must go on. I must pray for healing of my grief, the ability to forgive His murderers, and continue the work for His glory. Yes, I must find John. Yes, he is right here, He'll know what must be done. Oh, my Son, my Son!"

After this manner spoke Mary of Nazareth Friday as she witnessed the death of her son Jesus by crucifixion on what is almost universally understood to be trumped up charges.

Wait! A runner has arrived. This looks like the running of Jason the Tanner's boy. And he has a message. I do not have time to revise this article, because the time is short. He says that Mary speaks after this manner, being convinced that her Son Jesus is now risen from the dead. He gave His life willingly to save all who believe in Him. That was His act of obedience. Our sins have been washed away by Jesus' blood. Let us be thankful each day, beginning today! The sinless Man, this sinless Son of mine, suffered death on the cross so we can live. Because He lives, we can live! Amen and Amen. How amazing is this!

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The Jerusalem Daily News is a fictional paper, and the contributors are pseudonymous, sometimes based on actual people of that day. And of course, we know that the printing press was not invented until 1440 AD! Notwithstanding, we hope this special Easter Edition of the New England Christian Bulletin inspires you the reader to find true saving faith in God through Jesus Christ.

Letter to the Editor: Weather Report Inaccuracies

By Tanya of Bethsaida

Dear Editor,
I've been reading the weather forecast in this newspaper and it hasn't been very accurate. Today the forecast was full sunshine, but what strange weather we had. There was darkness, I mean pitch black darkness, in the middle of the day. We also had an earthquake and the veil of the temple was torn in two. What do you make of these things? I am quite old and have never witnessed such things. I believe that it really was the Son of God that was crucified up on that hill. People are talking, some agree with me, some don't. What do you think? Whether you agree with me or not, I hope the future forecasts are a little more accurate.

Editor's Note: I have forwarded this off to our contact at the Cyrenian Press. Please be aware that he is a devout Jew and by no means a believer of Jesus of Nazareth.

From the Desk of Meteorologist Thaddeus Bartholemew Bar Christopher: Dear Madame Tanya of Bethsaida, I make nothing of the darkness and earthquake, except as perhaps evidences of God's displeasure at views such as yours. I am a devout Jew, raised in the best rabbinic schools in Alexandria, knowledgeable of the Torah, and a son of Abraham. I still await the coming of Messiah, as do the other Pharisees, with whom I keep exclusive company. You are a Galilean and a woman, and therefore I shall not accept such criticisms from you. Good day.

The Jesus Story (From the Eyes of a Nine Year Old)

By Arianna of Jerusalem

First you have to know that I'm a very curious kid. One day I saw a huge crowd with a beaten up man with blood all over him from getting whipped. He was holding a tree, I could tell he was struggling. I followed the crowd all the way up to Calvary's mountain. There were two men already beaten and tied up to trees. I heard someone cry, "Jesus" in the background of all the screaming. When Jesus was nailed to the tree (looking away a few times), I saw He started to talk to the two men hanging near him. I could hardly hear Him but I did hear, "You will be with me in paradise." I rushed back home before my parents got worried. When Jesus died they laid Him in a tomb with a very heavy stone rolled in front of it to block the opening. Three days later, I went there to play with my pet donkey. I was having so much fun playing but I finally noticed that the stone was rolled away. I was speechless. When I finally unfroze I walked with my donkey inside the opening of the tomb. The cloths were put aside in the empty tomb. I was talking to my donkey and told him "Jesus arose from the dead, now He lives."

JERUSALEM WEATHER, SEVEN DAY FORECAST

TODAY, SUNDAY, 16 NISAN, 70 DEGREES, BRILLIANT SUNSHINE
MONDAY, 17 NISAN, 62 DEGREES, MOSTLY SUNNY
TUESDAY, 18 NISAN, 61 DEGREES, SLIGHTLY OVERCAST
WEDNESDAY, 19 NISAN, 64 DEGREES, CHANCE OF SHOWERS
THURSDAY, 20 NISAN, 68 DEGREES, SUNNY
FRIDAY, 21 NISAN, 62 DEGREES, WINDY WITH STRAY SHOWERS
SATURDAY, 22 NISAN, 62 DEGREES, SUNNY

Weather Forecast Courtesy of the Cyrenian Press

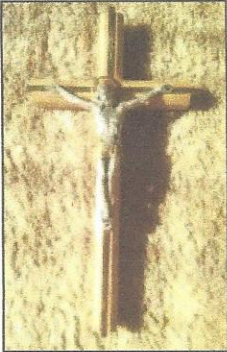
"then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit" (Leviticus 26:4)

Obituaries from Friday, 14 Nisan, AD 30



Jesus of Nazareth:

Jesus died Friday afternoon outside Jerusalem. He was in his early to mid-thirties. His death was sudden and tragic, and he leaves behind His mother Mary, his brothers James, Joses, Judas, and Simon, and his sisters. Jesus, born in Bethlehem of Judah, came from humble beginnings. By trade, He was a carpenter. Jesus had spiritual wisdom and knowledge beyond His years. A humble and compassionate Man, Jesus loved teaching God's Word with its truths and life lessons to His friends. It has been said that Jesus' death was most horrible. He was beaten until He was unrecognizable, and then hung on a cross beside two criminals. He died with conviction for what He believed in.



Some say He is the Son of God

His followers believe that He was without sin, yet "He was numbered with the transgressors" (Isaiah 53:12). Jesus' last words were said to be, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Joseph of Arimathea provided an empty tomb as a burial place for Jesus, and He was buried there Friday night. No flowers please, at this time.

The writer of this obituary is His disciple, and humbly offers for the reader something to consider: On Sunday morning, we have an empty tomb. Jesus is gone. Decide for yourself. Is this Jesus only a man, or is He also God? Could He be the Messiah that we Jews have been waiting for?



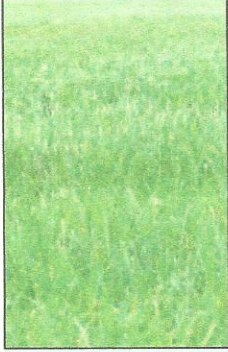
Jacob the Benjamite

Jacob the Benjamite, 28, was found guilty of insurrection against Rome, and put to death by crucifixion this past Friday. Jacob leaves behind his wife Hannah, and four children. Jacob is of the lineage of Saul son of Kish, and was also called the Canaanite. He was affiliated with the Zealot party, which seeks to be overthrow the yoke of Roman bondage. Because of his deeds, even by his own admission, Jacob deserved to die. In the end, however, he placed his faith in Jesus of Nazareth as his Savior and Messiah. If he placed his faith in the correct One, then he is assuredly in Paradise now.



Jonathan of Bethany

Jonathan of Bethany, 32, was found guilty of murder and treason against the Roman authorities, and put to death Friday. His family has requested that their names not be included in this notice, either for fear of arrest, or because of the bad name that he had brought on the family through the years. Jonathan has become both a hero and laughingstock among the locals because of his continual mocking of Jesus of Nazareth even as he was also crucified with him. He was buried in an ancient family tomb just outside Bethany. A service was held Friday evening in his memory, but nobody attended.



Judas Iscariot

Judas Iscariot, 33, of Kerieth, Judah, died Friday just outside Jerusalem city limits of self inflicted wounds. He was the treasurer of the group of men who accompanied Jesus of Nazareth, who also died that day. Judas has no known family. Since nobody claimed his body, and he had no family tomb, Judas was buried in the field which was bought with his money for thirty pieces of silver.

Barabbas Celebrates the Passover at his Home in the Second Quarter

By Levi the Scribe

According to custom, during the Passover Feast, the Roman governor pardons one criminal who is condemned to death. This year, a man named Barabbas, who was found guilty of committing murder in the insurrection, received pardon. This happened in the most extraordinary

Fun Fact: Barabbas means "son of the father." Jesus, who was condemned to die instead of Barabbas claims to be the "Son of the Father."

manner. Pilate the governor had actually wanted to release Jesus of Nazareth, whom he believed to be innocent. However, fearing the mob and another possible

insurrection, he acceded to the wishes of the crowd and condemned Jesus.

Therefore, Barabbas is not among those for whom we are printing obituaries today, because Jesus literally died in his place.

Barabbas and his associates in the Zealot party celebrated the Passover with much rejoicing at

his family home in the Second Quarter of the city of Jerusalem. Some claim that the celebration was followed by further plots of insurrection, but those rumors have not been confirmed. Roman authorities have expressed concern over this, but the Jewish authorities are far more concerned about the

small band of men calling themselves "Nazarenes" infiltrating the group, claiming that Jesus of Nazareth not only physically died in Barabbas' place, but that He (they say that Jesus is God) also died for his sins.

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Artwork to the Right Drawn in the Garden of Gethsemane in Remarkable Detail by Alexandra of Jerusalem



The Trials of Jesus of Nazareth: A Transcript

Recorded by Yochanan the Scribe

"Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. And they led Him away to Annas first, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas who was high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people. The high priest then asked Jesus about His disciples and His doctrine. Jesus answered him, "I spoke openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet, and in secret I have said nothing. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who have heard Me what I said to them. Indeed they know what I said."

And when He had said these things, one of the officers who stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying, "Do You answer the high priest like that?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?" Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium, and it was early morning. But they themselves did not go into the Praetorium, lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you." Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him and judge Him according to your law." Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, called Jesus, and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself about this, or did others tell you this concerning Me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me. What have You done?"

Jesus answered, "My king-

dom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?" Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all."

"But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?" Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.

Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."

Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

Therefore, when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid, and went again into the Praetorium, and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to

you has the greater sin."

From then on Pilate sought to release Him, but the Jews cried out, saying, "If you let this Man go, you are not Caesar's friend. Whoever makes himself a king speaks against Caesar."

When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus out and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the Preparation Day of the Passover, and about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold your King!" But they cried out, "Away with Him, away with Him! Crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?"

The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar!" Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away."

***NECB Editor's Note: This record of the trials of Jesus of Nazareth later found its way into the inspired Scripture (John 18:12-19:16).

A Report of Jesus of Nazareth on the Road to Emmaus

By Luke the Disciple

***This is late breaking news, just came in as we go out to print today!

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened

there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be con-

demned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter

into His glory?" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

***NECB Editor's Note: This report later made it into the inspired Scriptures (Luke 24:13-35).

(Report of the Risen Jesus)

Senator Ericus Meets with the Sanhedrin

By Phinehas the Scribe

Roman Senator Ericus met with the Sanhedrin last week to discuss further funding from Roman financiers for further beautification of the Temple Mount. Jairus, the ruler of the synagogue was also in attendance for the meeting of the council.

The eminent Senator has been instrumental in maintaining the peace of Jerusalem. Although such efforts have been vehemently opposed by the Jewish Zealot sect, they have gone forward with the support of the Herodians and the diplomatic efforts of the Sadducees.

Tensions arose, however, because of reports that Senator Ericus has now indicated that he believes in the resurrection of the dead, something that the

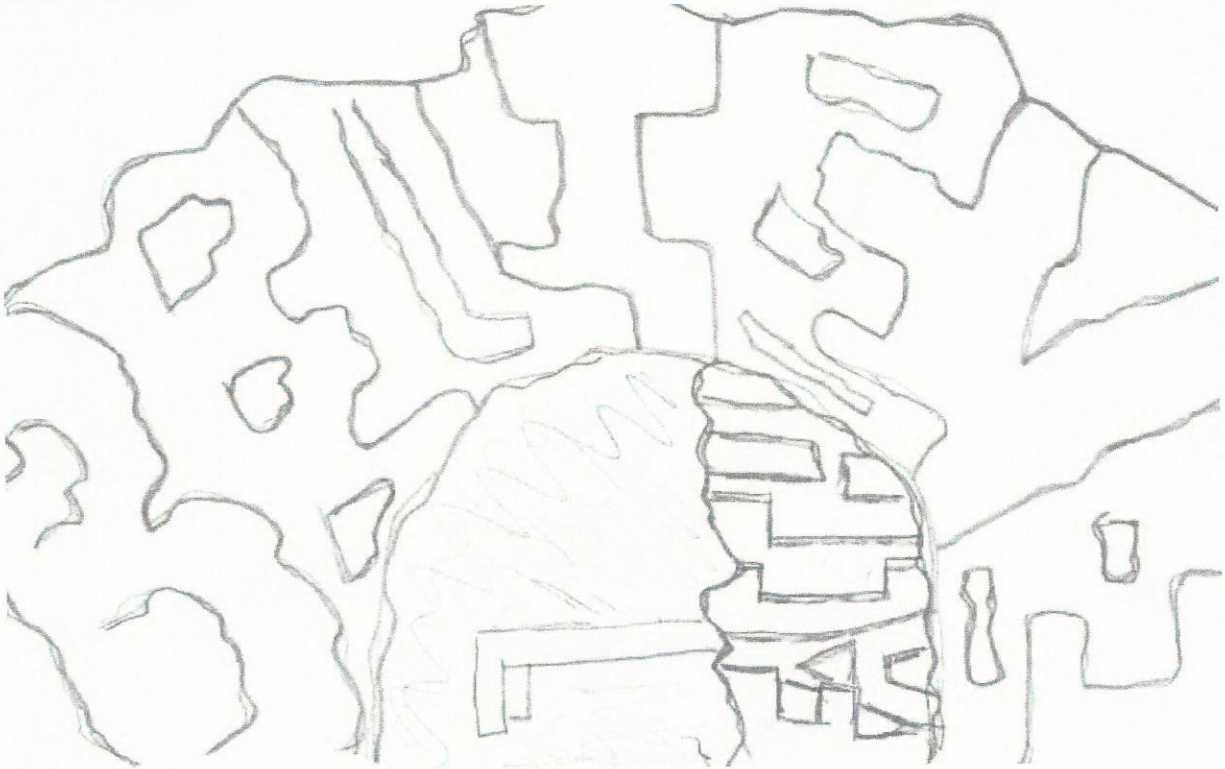


Above: An Artist's Portrait of the rocky coastline at Rosh HaNikra in Northern Israel

Pharisees affirm and the Sadducees deny. This has caused a split in the council, and the funding from Roman sources may now be in jeopardy.

As of this printing, it has now been reported that Senator Ericus has become a believer in Jesus Christ as the Messiah, and that his wife and five children have also affirmed the

same. If that is true, this may be the end of the arrangement. The Daily News has reached out to our sources for comment, and will provide timely updates as we receive them.



"Believe...Faith...The Empty Tomb", Artwork by Albie of Capernaum

"I started to navigate my way down the road, determined to tell the world that the Savior lives!"

Interview with Mary Magdalene (Continued from Page 1)

Recorded by Staff Writer Alexandra of Jerusalem

"I stared into the tomb and saw two angels sitting there. Wait! Angels? I thought and quickly wiped the tears out of my eyes to be sure of what I was really truly seeing. And Yes! Two angels sat on Jesus' burial table. One was at the head of where He had laid and the other was at the foot of where He used to be. They had noticed me looking at them as more tears filled my eyes to the brim. They said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" I replied between sobs, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." Before I could hear what they were going to say next, I heard footsteps behind me and turned around to see the person to whom the footsteps belonged. It was a man, and I assumed it was the gardener. "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?", He asked me. And I replied with, "Sir, if

You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." What He said next really blew me out of the water. "Mary!", He exclaimed as my jaw dropped. "Rabboni!", I praised, for I had realized that this Man was not a gardener that had taken Jesus from His tomb, but Jesus risen from the dead! I was so elated, so filled with joy, that I could burst with happiness! Truly though, I wanted to cling to Him and remain by His side, for Jesus lives! But next He relayed this to me: "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father, but go to My brethren and say to them, "I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God."" This statement made me start weeping again, but this time I cried happy tears. Through my clouded vision, I started to navigate my way down the road, determined to tell the world that the Savior lives!"

Jerusalem Department of

Public Works

Public Notice

Volunteers are still needed to assist with the cleanup of palm branches and other items from the streets of the city of Jerusalem. To help with the cleanup, please meet Rabbi Ben Samuel at the entrance to the Court of Women following the morning hour of prayer.

Was Psalm 22 fulfilled in very specific detail this past Friday? (You Be the Judge)

Psalm 22 has long been considered a Messianic Psalm. Many people have picked up on the idea that specific details have been fulfilled in Jesus of Nazareth. Some call it coincidence, but others call it fulfillment of age old prophecy, which was written a thousand years ago! Here is the text of Psalm 22. You be the judge.

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?
Why are You so far from helping Me,
And from the words of My groaning?
O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;
And in the night season, and am not silent.
But You are holy,
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.
Our fathers trusted in You;
They trusted, and You delivered them.
They cried to You, and were delivered;
They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.
But I am a worm, and no man;
A reproach of men, and despised by the people.
All those who see Me ridicule Me;
They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,
"He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him;
Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"
But You are He who

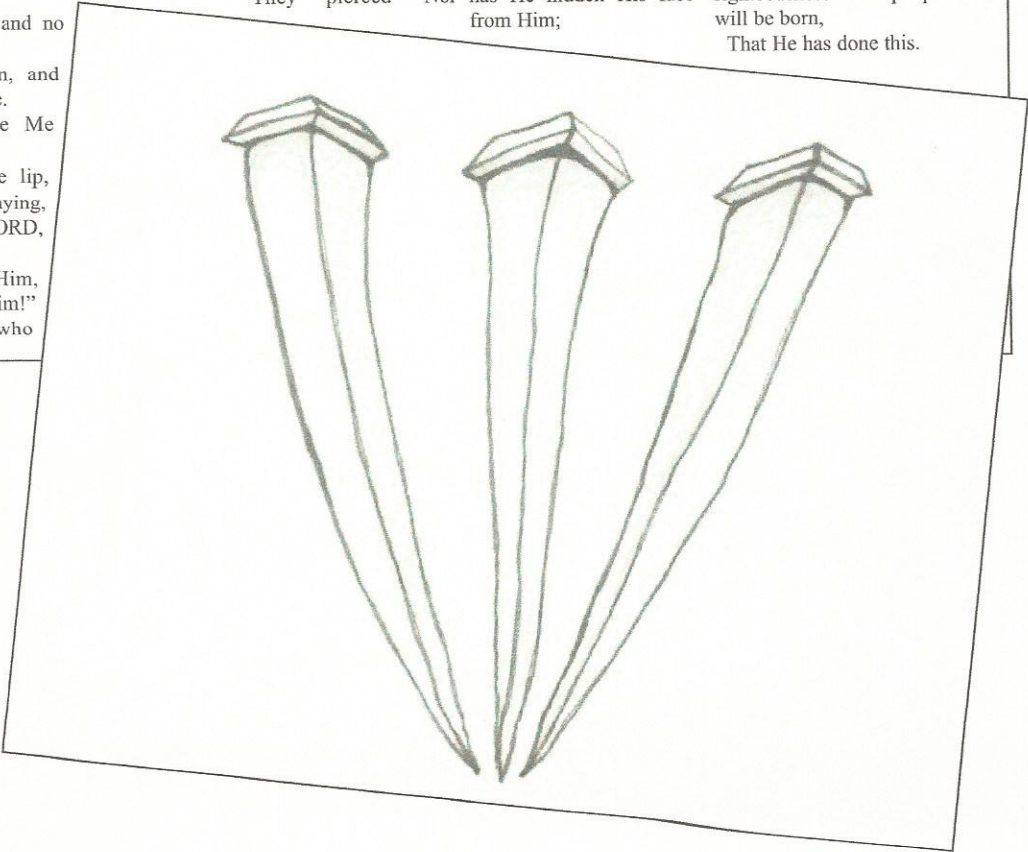
took Me out of the womb;
You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.
I was cast upon You from birth.
From My mother's womb You have been My God.
Be not far from Me,
For trouble is near;
For there is none to help.
Many bulls have surrounded Me;
Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.
They gape at Me with their mouths,
Like a raging and roaring lion.
I am poured out like water,
And all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax;
It has melted within Me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death.
For dogs have surrounded Me;
The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.

They pierced

My hands and My feet;
I can count all My bones.
They look and stare at Me.
They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.
But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me;
O My Strength, hasten to help Me!
Deliver Me from the sword,
My precious life from the power of the dog.
Save Me from the lion's mouth
And from the horns of the wild oxen!
You have answered Me.
I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.
You who fear the LORD, praise Him!
All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,
And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!
For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;
Nor has He hidden His face from Him;

But when He cried to Him, He heard.
My praise shall be of You in the great assembly;
I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.
Let your heart live forever!
All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD,
And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.
For the kingdom is the LORD's,
And He rules over the nations.
All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship;
All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him,
Even he who cannot keep himself alive.
A posterity shall serve Him.
It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,
They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born,
That He has done this.

"They pierced My hands and My feet" (Psalm 22:16)



Know the Facts Beforehand (This Week's Guest Column), By Ime'a Baleeva

Some of us are believers. Some are unbelievers. But if you knew the facts beforehand, you would know that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. While there are many more, I will list some of my favorites. Who do you think they were talking about when they said: He would be born of a virgin; Isaiah 7:14, Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

He would be rejected by the Jews; Isaiah 53:3, He is despised and rejected by men. A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

His triumphal entry was foretold; Zechariah 9:9, Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation. Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

I also confirmed he was betrayed by one of his very own friends, also foretold; Psalm 41:9, Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

Since I know money, this one stuck out to me, also exactly as foreseen. Zechariah 11:12, Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out my wages thirty pieces of silver.

And as much as I would like to say I was stunned and shocked to have wit-

nessed what they did to Jesus, the Messiah, well, I guess I should have known since the facts were laid out beforehand.

Truth: False witnesses accused Him; Prophecy: Psalm 27:12, Do not deliver me to the will of my adversaries; For false witnesses have risen against me, And such as breathe out violence.

Truth: He was silent when accused; Prophecy: Isaiah 53:7, He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

Truth: He was beaten and spit upon; Prophecy: Isaiah 50:6, I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Reality was, He was hated without a cause. Also foretold in Psalm 69:4, Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still

must restore it.

Who would have ever guess his hands and feet would be pierced. The Psalms did. Psalm 22:16, For dogs have surrounded me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet.

He was mocked and insulted and given sour wine and vinegar. Psalm 22:6-8, But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see ME ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the LORD, Let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" Psalm 69:21, They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Seriously, as an accountant I ask you – shall I go on? For I know 1 and 1 makes 2! There is no arguing the facts.

And if you were able to even get close enough to the tree they nailed Him to, you would have heard him praying for those who did this. Also prophesied in Psalm 109:4, In return for my love they are my accusers; But I give myself to prayer.

even those who had never read the Psalms must be surprised to be a part of it because they were when they did what Psalm 22:18 said they would do: They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

Assuredly I say to you, this actually happened.

And despite the brutality and beatings, the nail holes and the spear piercing, despite all that, another prophecy that came to fruition: Psalm 34:20, He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

And lastly, He defeated death as not only He said He would do but also as the Psalmist promised: Psalm 16:10, For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Knowing the facts and laws beforehand make me a better accountant and a true accountant. My question to you is – even if you did not know these facts beforehand about the Messiah and you were not a better believer and true believer, then hopefully, I pray, you are one now.

Sincerely,

A n d Ime'a Baleeva

