

A SOLDIER'S STORY
MARK 15:39, 44-45 / 1:8-18 / WED

I. WHO WAS HE?

- A. report that Rome's normal practice was to station a Legion of 5,000 soldiers in a country under their control.
- B. A Centurion was a non-commissioned officer similar to something like a sergeant-major.
- C. There are three other Centurions mentioned in the N.T.
 - 1. One from Capernaum who had a sick servant—Mat. 8:5-10.
 - 2. One in Caesarea who Peter led to the Lord—Acts 10:1-2.
 - 3. One who took Paul to Rome while under arrest—Acts 27:1, 42-44.

II. WHAT DID HE SAY?

- A. The Synoptics record his words.
- B. What did the Centurion mean by what he said?
 - 1. The Greek text of both Matthew and Mark's statement does not have the definite article "the". Instead it literally reads "a" son of God.
 - 2. So perhaps this Centurion was just saying that Jesus was a godly man not the Son of God.
 - 3. As much as we would like to think this Centurion said Jesus was "the" Son of God, unfortunately, he didn't.
- C. There have been many unsubstantiated stories about this Centurion.
- D. What happened that might have caused this Centurion to say what he did about Jesus—Matt. 27:45 and Matt. 27:50-51 and 54.

