

**WHERE IS CALVARY?
MARK 15:22 / 9-20-17 / WED**

INTRODUCTION

- A. All four gospels give the name of the place Jesus was crucified.
1. Three call it “Golgotha”—Mark 15:22 (Matt. 27:33; John 19:17)
 2. All four say it was “the place of the skull.”
 - a. “Golgotha” is an Aramaic word for “a bare skull”.
 - b. Our English version is a transliteration of this Aramaic word.
 - c. Only Luke calls it “Calvary” in the KJV.—Luke 23:33 KJV
- B. What other clues does the Bible give?
1. First, it was outside the city—John 19:20 and Hebrews 13:12.
 2. Second, it was near a well-traveled road—Matt. 27:39; Mark 15:21, 29-30.
 3. Third, it was probably on a hill because it was visible from a distance—Mark 15:40.
 4. Fourth, it was near a garden that had a new tomb—John 19:41.
- I. THE TRADITIONAL SITE IS THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.**
- A. This church has a long standing tradition dating back to the time of Constantine, the first Roman Emperor to profess Christianity (A.D. 325).
 - B. According to that tradition, Constantine sent his mother, Helena, to Jerusalem in A.D. 326 to locate holy sites of the Christian faith.
 - C. In 135 A.D. Christians in Judea revolted against Roman rule. The Emperor at that time was Hadrian. He subsequently ordered a temple to Venus also known as Aphrodite be built over Golgotha. This is where Helena was told that Calvary was.
 - D. She ordered the pagan temple demolished and uncovered a tomb said to be that of Christ. In addition a rocky outcrop was also uncovered and identified as Golgotha.
 - E. A church was built over this site in 335 A.D. and is the forerunner of The Church of the Holy Sepulchre.
 - F. The church today is inside the walls of Jerusalem and scripture says Jesus was crucified outside the city. However, many archeologists believe in Jesus’ day the church was outside of the city walls and a second wall was later built enclosing it inside the city.

Cleve Haley 9/19/2017 6:25 AM

Comment [1]:

II. GORDAN'S CALVARY IS THE OTHER POSSIBLE SITE OF GOLGOTHA.

- A. In 1842 a German theologian named Otto Thenius declared that the rocky knoll north of the Damascus Gate leading out of Jerusalem was the actual Golgotha.
- B. In 1882 or 1883, British Major General Charles George Gordon endorsed this view and the site now bears his name.
- C. The location, sometimes called "Skull Hill" is beneath a cliff which contains two large sunken holes, which Gordon identified as resembling the eyes of a skull.
- D. Nearby is an ancient rock-cut tomb known today as "The Garden Tomb" which Gordon proposed was Jesus' tomb.
- E. The problem with the Garden Tomb is that scripture says Jesus was buried in a new tomb (John 19:41), but The Garden Tomb has been dated to the 8th or 7th century B.C. whereas the tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre is said to be from the time of Christ.
- F. Another controversy is the definition of "skull" in the word Golgotha and Calvary.
 - 1. Does it refer to a face?
 - 2. Does it refer to the top of a skull?