

**THE SLAUGHTER OF GOD'S SON**  
**MARK 15:21-26 / 9-27-17 / WED**

**I. CRUCIFIXION ACCORDING TO HISTORY.**

- A. The word "crucifixion" comes from two Greek verbs.
1. One means "to be nailed to a stake."
  2. The other means to be "impaled".
  3. Our English word for "cross" comes from the Latin word "crux" referring to a tree or other wooden structure.
- B. The purpose was two-fold.
1. The first purpose was to cause great pain and prolonged suffering to dissuade criminal activity.
    - a. The English word "**excruciating**" refers to intense pain.
    - b. It comes from a Latin word meaning "**out of the cross**".
  2. The second purpose was to provide a visual deterrent to anyone else thinking about rebelling against Rome.
- C. The shape of the cross.
1. Josephus, a contemporary Roman historian in the time of Christ, describes multiple positions of crucifixion used during Titus' siege of Jerusalem in 70 A.D. on which he crucified thousands of Jews.
  2. Seneca the Younger, a Greek Stoic Philosopher, described crosses used by Rome in the following way:

**"I see crosses there, not just one kind but made in many different ways: some have their victims with head down to the ground; some impaled..... others stretched out their arms on the gibbet" (cross piece)**
  3. The various forms of crosses used by Rome included just a vertical stake or vertical stakes with a cross piece in either an X shape, Y shape, T shape or just below the top of the stake.
  4. We cannot be sure what shape of cross Jesus was placed on, but it probably included a cross piece.

D. Nail placement.

1. Sometimes only the feet were nailed to the cross with the arms being tied to it.
2. Sometimes the feet and hands or wrists were nailed to the cross. According to John 20:25 both Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the cross—John 20:25.

E. The cause of death.

Death resulted from many different symptoms or combination.

Heart failure  
Hypovolemic shock  
Acidosis  
Asphyxia  
Arrhythmia  
Pulmonary Embolism.

II. **THE ONLY CRUCIFIXION ARTIFACT.**

- A. In 1968 while building contractors were working in a North East Jewish neighborhood, they uncovered a first century Jewish tomb.
1. The tomb contained an “ossuary” or bone box.
  2. The ossuary had the following Hebrew inscription on it: “Jehohanan The Son of Hagkol”.
  3. The grave and bones have been dated to between 7 and 70 A.D.
  4. Among the bones is part of a heel with a nail driven through it.
- B. A National Geographic Documentary titled “**Quest For Truth: The Crucifixion**” contains a brief report on this find.