

Series: John  
Title: The Inscription and Garments  
Text: John 19: 19-24  
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**John 19: 19: And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20: This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, *and* Greek, *and* Latin. 21: Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that he said, I am King of the Jews. 22: Pilate answered, What I have written I have written. 23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also *his* coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. 24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.**

Whatever Pilot's motives were, we know the Spirit of God moved Pilot to write "*Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews.*" All could see Christ. All could read these words. Many of the Jews read it because the place was near the city and it was written in three languages so all could read it. As Paul told Festus, "none of these things are hidden from [men]; for this thing was not done in a corner."

God's gospel is in this inscription--it was written by God's providence. It declares Christ's humanity, "Jesus of Nazareth"; in all points the Son of God was made like unto his brethren that he might make his people accepted of God by his obedience. It declares his glory; he is the "King of the Jews"; the King of his true spiritual Israel, the true Jews circumcised in heart. It declares the sin of the world; we crucified the Prince of Life, our Sovereign Savior. But it also declares the hope of his people all over the world; Christ crucified is the Savior of his people.

Arthur Pink pointed out something we will use our outlines. This inscription was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Hebrew was the language of the Jews who were steeped in religion. Greek was the language of the Gentiles who prided themselves on wisdom and learning. Latin was the language of the Romans who were the law of the land at the time.

**Proposition:** In all three, Christ is King.

## **THE INSCRIPTION WAS WRITTEN IN HEBREW**

This was the language of religion. In true religion, Christ is King. Christ Jesus, the Son of God, the Savior of his people, is the Substance of the Religion that is of God. The gospel is concerning Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ is the revelation of God. He is the Gospel. The entire word of God is concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and the salvation of God's elect by him.

Romans 1: 1: Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2: (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3: Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4: And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: 5: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

What is written in the first few verses of Revelation could be said of the whole bible. The word of God is:

Revelation 1: 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ...5...*who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. 8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

The Lord Jesus is the Gospel. Only when we are quickened and called to faith in Christ are we in true religion in the church of God. Paul had been in the "Jews religion". Notice, how the Spirit of God moved John to record this, verse 21 "*Then said the chief priests of the Jews...*" They were not God's chief priests. The chief Priest was on the cross.

Only God the Father chose his people and brings his child out of the Jew's religion and makes us true Jews, circumcised in heart so that we know that Christ is the Gospel, our Salvation, the preeminent King of true religion. Paul said,

Galatians 1: 13: For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it: 14: And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. 15: But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called *me* by his grace, 16 To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

Job called this the "root of the matter."

Job 19: 25: For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter *day* upon the earth: 26: And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God: 27: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; *though* my reins be consumed within me. 28: But ye should say, Why persecute we him, seeing the root of the matter is found in me?

We have the root of the matter in us when Christ is formed in us by the grace of God so that we believe and rest in him.

### THE INSCRIPTION WAS WRITTEN IN GREEK

This was the language of those who prided themselves on learning. In wisdom, Christ is King. Christ Jesus is Wisdom. He is the Wisdom of God. Until of God, Christ is made Wisdom unto us, a man has no understanding (1 Cor 1: 30). A sinner could be the most learned man in the world but until Christ is made Wisdom unto him, he knows nothing. In Christ are hid "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Colossians 2:3).

Christ is King of science. He created the world and upholds it. Christ is God the Creator. He upholds all things. "By him all things consist" (Col 1:17). He is "upholding all things by the word of his power" (Heb 1:3). Men study the heavens, creation, the creature. But they all declare Christ's glory. They are witness to us.

Romans 1: 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

Carnal wisdom is the highest the carnal mind can attain and that is limited. But it is from the depraved mind so it is corrupt and weak and selfish. It is not wisdom from above but it is earthly, sensual, devilish (Ja 3: 15). It makes men proud. The politician thinks he is the supreme ruler. The businessman heaps to himself riches and thinks himself wise and his riches are his salvation. The carnally religious finds his riches in his works. But no matter if a sinner is high or low in understanding, apart from Christ our Wisdom, all man's wisdom is carnal and temporary and shall be gone in a moment.

Christ is King of Wisdom. He is over all creation and over all his creatures. The risen GodMan, Christ Jesus, is the head of all principality and power. He is Wisdom and Power who uses all his creatures to accomplish his will and good pleasure to save his people and bring glory to his name. He is King of kings, and Lord of lords. He sets up kings and kingdoms and puts them down. By him they reign. And all only accomplish his will in the earth.

Those to whom Christ is made Wisdom have true Wisdom. We have spiritual discernment to know Christ is King of his spiritual Kingdom. He is the Wisdom and Power of God who saves us. His people were chosen of God in him, redeemed by him, quickened by the Spirit and brought to faith in him.

Christ makes a man a fool, that he may be wise. Christ is made Wisdom unto us to discover to us the deceivableness of unrighteousness in our sinful nature. Wisdom from above does not lift up a man in himself but it makes us low in our own eyes because we have been given the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. His Wisdom makes us beg God not to leave us to our own understanding.

He makes the poor, unlearned sinner abundantly wiser than the scholar. We see Christ in creation. The seed falling into the ground, broken, bringing forth fruit reminds us of Christ the Seed who laid down his life and brings us forth as fruit unto God. In the sun being the center of the universe from which all life and light comes, we see Christ Preeminent who is Life and Light to his people. In the moon getting its light from the sun, we see Christ our Light giving us light. Scientists at Nasa do not see that.

The wisdom from above makes us understand the ignorance of all other earthly wisdom apart from Christ. Christ Jesus is the manifold Wisdom of God! The Wisdom he is to his people is true, real, eternal Wisdom. The carnally wise shall be forgotten. But those Christ makes Wise unto salvation shall be had in everlasting remembrance.

### THE INSCRIPTION WAS WRITTEN IN LATIN

Latin was the language of the Romans who had the rule of law at the time. But in the law and righteousness of God Christ is King. God is the Lawgiver and Christ Jesus is the Fulfillment of the Law, the Righteousness of his people.

The laws in countries, states and cities have their origin in God our Savior giving the law at Sinai. When we remodeled this building we had to bring it up to civil code. Where did civil codes originate? From God. The children of Israel entertained guest on the flat rooftops of their homes. God gave them a city code:

Deuteronomy 22: 8: When thou buildest a new house, then thou shalt make a battlement [a low wall around the edge] for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man fall from thence.

The supreme Lawgiver puts men in office who pass laws and uphold the law of the land. But every law of the land is the law of God, the law of Christ.

Romans 13: 1: Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2: Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

If a sinner attempts to come to God in his own righteousness does he have to keep even the civil laws? We cannot have ever even broken the speed limit!

But Christ is the Fulfillment of the Law and those he calls are made the Righteousness of God in him through faith. (1 Cor 9:21). One clear way we see Christ is the fulfillment of the law is in why this inscription was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. The Lord confused men's tongues with different languages at the tower of Babel. They were trying to save themselves. Confusion of tongues was a sign of the curse (Gen 11). The whole purpose for which Christ hung upon the cursed tree--being made a curse for his people--was to redeem his people from the curse of the law, to "bring in everlasting righteousness" as our covenant Surety. By his obedience to God, he made his people righteous in him which God imputes to all who believe. He is "THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

The exaltation of Christ to God's right hand assures us of the salvation of God's elect (John 17:2). He shall call each one he purchased with his blood. And when he has called each one he redeemed then he will deliver up the kingdom to the Father and we shall be with him forever and ever.

## THE GARMENTS

In order to make this personal to each of us, look at this word concerning our Lord's garments (v23-24). The soldiers divided some of his garments into four parts. They cast lots for the seamless coat of our Lord. That seamless coat represents the perfect righteous character and holiness of our Redeemer. Our "garments" are full of holes. His robe was "without seam, woven from the top throughout."

They would take Christ's garments but not Christ. They divided some of his garments. We cannot take a part of Christ. Christ must be our only Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification and Redemption. We are complete sinners and we need the complete Savior. Christ must be all to us or he is nothing to us. Christ must be the sum and substance of our Religion. Christ must be our Wisdom. Christ must be our Righteousness. If God has made Christ all unto us then are we in true religion. Then are we wise. Then are we righteous. Then we greatly rejoice and worship Christ alone!

Isaiah 61: 10: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh *himself* with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth *herself* with her jewels.

Psalm 45: 13: The KING'S daughter *is* all glorious within: her clothing *is* of wrought gold. 14: She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. 15: With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace.

**Amen!**