

The Atonement of Jesus Blood

John 19:31:

“The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day, (for that Sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.”

The Sabbath day, only a short time remained before sunset and the coming of another day. No matter what the day, the Law required the removal of victims from the cross on the day of death (Deut 21:22-23). To disregard this law at Passover time would have been an especially serious violation of the Sabbath.

The breaking of the legs was designed to hasten death. The soldier, finding that death had cheated him of the pleasure of breaking the legs of Jesus, drove his spear into the side of the Savior; the common spear that soldiers used in war. There can be no doubt that such a stroke from the strong arm of a Roman soldier would have caused death. [Blood and water.] It may be naturally supposed that the spear went through the pericardium and pierced the heart; that the water proceeded from the former, and the blood from the latter. Some scholars represent them as the emblems of the old and new covenants. Protestants have thought them the emblems of justification, which is through the blood of the Lamb, and sanctification, which is through the washing of regeneration. The piercing appears to have taken place because his legs were not broken; and, as the law in this case stated, the criminals were to continue on the cross until they died. The side of our Lord was pierced to secure the accomplishment of the law. The issuing of the blood and water appears to be only a natural effect of the above cause, and probably nothing mystical or spiritual was intended by it. However, it affords the fullest proof that Jesus died for our sins and that atonement had thus been made for mankind