

Golgotha: The Place of the Skull and Yeshua's Crucifixion

Matthew 27:33 – *“They came to the place that is called Golgotha, which means Place of the Skull.”*

1 Samuel 17:54 – *“David took the severed head of the Philistine, Goliath, and brought it to Jerusalem.”*

Ephesians 5:6 – *“Let no man deceive you with vain words.”*

Many have tried to convince the world that the place of the skull is a rock face that looks like a skull from a distance. But this is definitely not what scripture is saying when it speaks of the place called Golgotha. Scripture is speaking of the place where David buried the head of Goliath when he brought it to Jerusalem. **Do not be deceived.**

Fun with Greek and Hebrew

Matthew 27:33 – *“They came to the place that is called Golgotha, which means Place of the Skull.”*

Mark 15:22 – *“They brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull).”*

Luke 23:33 – *“When they came to the place called The Skull, they nailed him to a tree.”*

John 19:17 – *“They took Yeshua, bearing his own cross, to The Place of a Skull, called Golgotha.”*

The Greek word, Golgotha [G1115], is the same as the Hebrew word gulgolet [H1538]. Both mean skull. Gulgolet is found in several Older Covenant verses: Judges 9:53, 2 Kings 9:35, 1 Chronicles 10:10, 1 Chronicles 23:3 & 24, and Numbers 1:2.

Where's the Place of the Skull?

Here is what we do know:

- Golgotha means a skull (as noted above),
- Golgotha is outside the city walls of Jerusalem. This location would have had to have been outside the walls of Jerusalem, in accordance with Jewish law which would not have permitted the Philistine Giant's head to be buried inside the city walls (Hebrews 13:12),
- Golgotha is located near the city, on the way to the countryside (Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26),
- Golgotha was located in a place that was well traveled (Matthew 27:39; Mark 15:29; Luke 23:35; and John 19:25),
- Golgotha contains a garden, olive press, and tomb (Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:32; John 18:1; and John 19:41).
- Finally, Golgotha was a widely known Jewish location with a proper name. Golgotha was the place that David buried the head of Goliath of Gath in Jerusalem. The location of the Philistine Giant's buried head would have been known by all.

Where was Yeshua Crucified?

Many have given their opinion on where Yeshua was crucified. They range from Mount Scopus to the north of the Temple Mount, to the Church of the Sepulchre to the west of the Temple Mount, to the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem which is northwest of the Temple Mount, to various other locations in and around Jerusalem. Many are popular tourist destinations today.

Roman Crucifixion Factors

There were four determining factors regarding where a person was to be crucified, in order of precedence.

1. They were to be crucified at the scene of the crime.
2. They were to be crucified at the place where the person was arrested.
3. They were to be crucified at the place of the high ground.
4. They were to be crucified at the place of a busy crossroads so everyone would see.

Yeshua Factors

1. The Scene of Yeshua's Crime: He was proclaimed a king by the crowds on the Mount of Olives before he descended from the mount into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:7-9; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:37-38; John 12:15).
2. The Place of Yeshua's Arrest: Yeshua was arrested in a Garden containing a Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 27:36-47, Mark 14:32-43; Luke 22:39-47 John 18:1-3).
3. The High Ground: Mount Moriah's altitude, where the Temple Mount stands is 2428 feet. Mount Zion's altitude is 2510 feet. The Mount of Olive's altitude is 2710 feet. Therefore, the Mount of Olives is the high ground.
4. The Busy Crossroads: The Mount of Olives was the place of a busy crossroads. The north/south road from Bethany and Bethpage crossed at the top of the mount. The east/west bridge from the Temple Mount to the Mount of Olives met the north/south road at this point (Mark 11:1-4).

Other Factors

Mathew 27:59 – *“When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his own new tomb, he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulcher, and departed.”*

Luke 23:44-45 – *“It was now about the sixth hour, and a darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, the sun's light failing: and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.”*

Luke 23:47-49 – *“All the multitudes that came together to this sight, when they beheld the things that were done, returned smiting their breasts. And all his acquaintances, and the women that followed with him from Galilee, stood afar off, seeing these things.”*

John 19:41-42 – *“Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb wherein was never man yet laid. So because it was Preparation Day for the Jews, and because the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.”*

The Mount of Olives is where atonement was made and the Red Heifer was sacrificed. Yeshua fulfills the role of the Red Heifer and makes atonement for us (Numbers 19:1-10). The bridge to the Mount of Olives is also the road one would use to take the scapegoat out into the wilderness. Yeshua also fulfills the role of the scapegoat (Leviticus 16:8-10). The Passover Lamb was placed on the altar facing the Holy of Holies.

It is only from the Mount of Olives that Yeshua, our Passover Lamb, could look into the Temple and see the Veil in front of the Holy of Holies being rent! Remember, only the inside of the Temple was lit at that time by the light of the Menorah, as the entire area around Jerusalem was darkened (Luke 23:44-45).

The Mount of Olives is also a traditional place of burial for thousands of Jews. Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, and King David's son, Absalom are all said to be buried there. No doubt Joseph of Arimathea's new tomb was in this location as well (Matthew 27:57-60, Mark 15:42-46, Luke 23:50-53)!

The Empty Lot and The Israeli Flag

At the top of the Mount of Olives sits an empty lot which has an Israeli flag flying over it. Messianic Rabbi Zev Porat says it is the only place on the Mount of Olives which belongs to the Jews – all other land belongs to Arabs. The lot sits at the crossroads of the East/West and North/South roads – i.e. at the place where the busy crossroads meet. The empty lot also sits directly in line with the Eastern Gate and would therefore also line up directly with the Holy of Holies which existed at the time of Yeshua's crucifixion. Yahweh has prevented this lot from being developed or taken from the Jews. It is believed that this lot is both the burial place of Goliath's head/skull, and the place of Yeshua's crucifixion.

The Israeli Government Excavation

Rabbi Porat shows tour groups a significant, Israeli government controlled excavation site on one portion of the empty lot. “Perhaps”, he says, “The diggers (excavators) are searching for Goliath's head and/or artifacts from Golgotha.”

The Olive Trees

For nearly 2000 years many of the ancient Olive Trees around the Mount of Olives have been dormant. No Longer! Those supposedly dormant trees are now starting to bud!!!!!! I believe that they are getting ready for their Lord and King, Yeshua, to arrive

The Church of the Pater Noster and The Olive Garden

Across the street from the empty lot is a church called the Church of the Pater Noster. It was built by Constantine's wife, Helena, but has never been completed and therefore has neither idols nor icons within. Yahweh will not allow it to become yet another Roman Catholic shrine or tourist destination. Inside is a small, un-maintained olive garden which at one time had an olive press within.

The Church of the Pater Noster and The Empty Tomb

Underneath the Church of the Pater Noster is an empty tomb which at one time had a circular or rolling stone in front of it. It is believed that the empty tomb is the tomb owned by Joseph of Arimathea where Yeshua was buried (Matthew 27:57-60; Mark 15:43-47; Luke 23:50-53).

Conclusions

The Mount of Olives is the place of the crime, the place of arrest, the high ground, and the place where the busy crossroads met. According to Josephus, the Romans crucified all of the Jewish criminals on the Mount of Olives. Only from the Mount of Olives can one see the Veil being rent.

Just as David crushed the head of Goliath of Gath with a little stone, so Yeshua crushed the head of Satan on the cross. The Place of the Skull is where King David buried the decapitated head of the giant, Goliath of Gath. It was not the rock hill that today is purported to be the place of the skull – this is a deception. It was outside the city walls, located in a place that was well traveled, and a place that was known to all. ***Therefore, it is on the Mount of Olives that the cross was placed, not in some other location.***

Ephesians 5:6 – “*Let no man deceive you with vain words.*”

The Church of the Sepulchre is behind the Temple Mount to the west – no view of the Veil from there! Likewise, the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem is behind the Temple Mount to the northwest – no view of the Veil from there! These two locations may be favorite tourist attractions, but all are false witnesses to the scriptures and Yeshua's crucifixion. *The stories told at these locations depicting them as the burial place of Yeshua do not accord with the scriptures. Do not be deceived.*

Mount Scopus is where the Roman military facilities were built. The Roman Legions camped there as it gave a clear view of all things below and it was an easy place from which to mount an invasion into Jerusalem. Mount Scopus is to the north of the Temple Mount – no view of the Veil from there either! *This location, too, does not accord with the scriptures. Do not be deceived.*