

Lesson 6

Why Did God Have To Die?

heart to Heart

Lord Jesus Christ, open our hearts today to understand how you died and rose from the dead to sit at the right hand of the Father. Help us understand how this changes everything we once knew about life and death. Teach us to become your true children so that we can be who you always intended us to be and so we can know you now and forever. Amen.



A Backward Glance

1. What were two events in Jesus' life during which God the Father's voice could be heard saying "This is my son in whom I am well pleased."?

- a. baptism and presentation
- b. transfiguration and crucifixion
- c. baptism and transfiguration
- d. baptism and crucifixion

2. The Armenian Church and other Oriental Orthodox Churches split from the larger Orthodox family over the issue of

- a. the celebration of Easter
- b. the nature of Christ
- c. proper vestments
- d. whether Mary was a saint or not

3. Examples of Jesus' human feelings are well documented in

- a. every book of the Bible
- b. Matthew Mark, and Luke
- c. the Old Testament prophets
- d. all four gospels

4. An example of when Jesus was moved to tears was when

5. Who Am I? I lived in the 13th century and wrote prayers, converted pagan Armenians to Christianity, healed the sick and ended up living a quiet life of prayer.



Scenic Overlook

The Feast of the Ascension in the Armenian Church is called *Hampartzoum*. It always falls on a Thursday, 40 days after Easter. The Feast is linked to a popular Armenian custom called *vijag* (or lots), a game which may be connected to how St. Matthias was selected by lots to replace Judas. Young men and women would place items of value (a bracelet, an earring, a ring) in a bowl of water. The *vijag* interpreter would then draw out each item and predict the person's destiny.



Creed Statement #6

He suffered and was crucified and was buried and rose again on the third day and ascended into heaven with the same body and sat at the right hand of the Father.

Charcharyal, khachyal, taghyal, herrort avoor harootsyal, yelyal ee hergeenus noveen marmnovun, nusdav unt achmeh Hor.

Չարչարեալ, իսաչեալ, թաղեալ, յերրորդ աւուր յարուցեալ.
Էլեալ ի յերկինս նովին մարմնովս, նստաւ ընդ աջմէ Հօր:

He suffered

And was crucified

And was buried

And rose again on the third day

And ascended into heaven with the same body

And sat at the right hand of the Father.

The End That Was the Beginning

Prays in Gethsemane

1. Matthew 26: 36-46
2. Mark 14: 32-42
3. Luke 22: 39-46

Trial and crucifixion

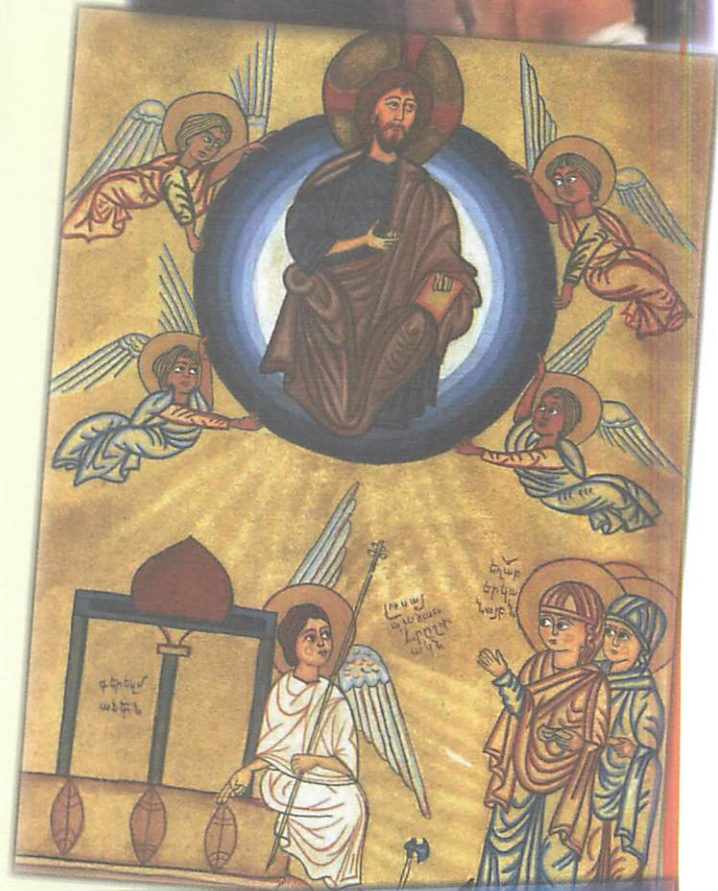
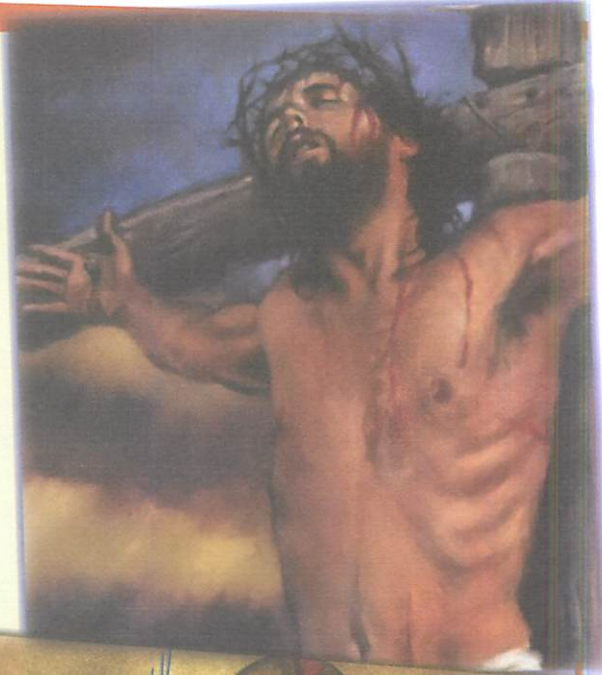
4. Mark 14: 43-15:47
5. Matthew 26: 47-27:66
6. Luke 22: 47-23:56
7. John 18
8. John 19

Resurrection

9. Matthew 28:1-10
10. Mark 16
11. Luke 24: 1-12
12. John 20

Ascension

13. Luke 24: 50-53
14. Acts 1: 1-11



On the Right Hand

Sitting at the right hand of a king meant sharing in his power and authority. Even today it is considered an honor to be seated to the immediate right of the host at a banquet or dinner. It is important to remember each time we repeat the Creed that Jesus returned to the right side of the Father to share once again in God's glory and power.

Surprise! We Died and Rose with Jesus

Do you know when *that* would have been? If you answered at your baptism, you are correct! Let's go back in time to a moment in your life you couldn't possibly remember. Think back to when you were a little baby, maybe two months old. The priest is holding you in his arms and places you into the font of water. As he does he says

“___this servant of God, coming from the state of catechumen to baptism, is now baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Saved by the blood of Christ from being a slave of sin, he (she) received adoption as a child of the heavenly father, to be joint-heir with Christ and a temple of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 6:3-4

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

