

THE GREATEST WONDER OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

February 2, 2014

Matthew 27:27-50

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

I Corinthians 2:7, 8

We come to the Lord's Supper contemplating the greatest wonder of the ancient world, yea, the greatest wonder of human history. It is a wonder suggested in the brief phrase “crucified the Lord of glory.” It would be difficult to find two conceptions more opposite than these: crucifixion and the Lord of glory. Yet they were brought together in one person when Jesus of Nazareth was put to death. Consider these facts which combine to exhibit the greatest wonder of human history.

1. The cruelty and shame of crucifixion.
2. The fact that a man who was declared faultless was yet given over to crucifixion.
Luke 23:4-24; I Peter 2:22; II Corinthians 5:21
3. That this man was a guest among men; and a guest from heaven at that.
John 3:13, 31; 6:38
4. The fact that this guest was God's own Son.
John 3:16
5. He claimed to be one with His Father, God incarnate.
John 14:9-11; 10:30-33
6. That the cause of this unspeakable crime was my sin.
I Corinthians 15:3; Isaiah 56:4-6; I Peter 2:24
7. The amazing consequence: that I am thereby delivered from my sin and guilt.
Romans 3:21-26; 5:1; 8:1-3; Galatians 3:13-14
8. That no event in history has had more powerful influence upon humanity.
9. That these truths are simultaneously the most loved and most despised.