

AFTER THE PASSION

Answering Questions People Have After Seeing
Mel Gibson's movie: *The Passion of the Christ*

Pt. 5

“PIERCED!”

Why did Blood and Water Gush From the Side of Christ?

I. THE PHYSICAL DEATH OF CHRIST

A. The Usual Way Crucified Victims Died

- A. During crucifixion, the victim was provided with a partial seat, called a *sedile*, a simple board or wooden peg nailed to the cross.
- B. However, if he chose to use the *sedile* his torso would then slump, with painful results.
- C. When he wasn't futilely seeking relief by sitting on the *sedile*, the weight of his sinking body would cause his knees to bend sharply, stretching out his upraised arms to an unnatural extent¹.
- D. It was in this strangely contorted sitting position in the form of a sciatic twist, the victim could inhale, but he could not relax the muscles of the rib cage sufficiently to exhale². Thus, to exhale, he had to push himself up, using mainly his legs³. In time, overcome by weakness, he was not able to raise himself for another breath, and quickly afterward died.⁴
- E. Under the varied kinds of sufferings as the dying on the cross-experienced, there was no "moment" of death per se. Mostly, it was **a sliding towards death** for three and half days, while the victim's family and friends gathered around the site...⁵
- F. The actual cause of death by crucifixion was a combination of things, and these varied somewhat with each case, but **the two most prominent causes probably were hypovolemic shock and exhaustion asphyxia**.⁶
Other possible contributing factors included

¹ Blaiklock, 62; McDowell, 47.

² McDowell, 47-48; Kiehl, 130.

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Lawrence Attard Bezzina The History of Crucifixion; Mar 15, 2004, 09:23 CET

⁶ Lumpkin R: The physical suffering of Christ. "J Med Assoc Ala" 1978;47:8-10,47; Johnson CD: Medical and cardiological aspects of the passion and crucifixion of Jesus, the Christ. "Bol Assoc Med PR" 1978;70:97-102; 7. Davis CT: The crucifixion of Jesus: The passion of Christ from a medical point of view. "Ariz Med" 1965;22:183-187; DePasquale NP, Burch GE: Death by crucifixion. "Am Heart J" 1963;6:434-435.

dehydration,⁷ stress-induced arrhythmias,⁸ and congestive heart failure with the rapid accumulation of pericardial and perhaps pleural effusions.⁹

- G. **Crucifracture** (breaking the legs below the knees), if performed, led to an **asphyxic death** within minutes.
- H. Some victims fought off death for a number of days. Others died sooner, depending on the severity of the Roman scourge. Either way, the agonies of the victim, as he desperately struggles minute by minute to raise himself and continue breathing were prolonged and ghastly.¹⁰
- I. This usual way of dying from crucifixion was not how Jesus died.

B. The Two Aspects of Jesus' Controversial Death

- 1. The nature of the wound in his side
- 2. The cause of his death after only several hours on the cross.

C. The Nature of the Wound in Christ's Side

- 1. John 19:31-37 describes the events leading to the piercing of Jesus' side and emphasizes the sudden flow of blood and water.

³¹Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. **³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.** ³⁵The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be

⁷ Davis CT: The crucifixion of Jesus: The passion of Christ from a medical point of view. "Ariz Med" 1965;22:183-187. 16. Cooper HC: The agony of death by crucifixion. "NY Med J" 1883;38:150-153.

⁸ Johnson CD: Medical and cardiological aspects of the passion and crucifixion of Jesus, the Christ. "Bol Assoc Med PR" 1978;70:97-102.

⁹ 2. Lumpkin R: The physical suffering of Christ. "J Med Assoc Ala" 1978;47:8-10,47.

¹⁰ Bible Studies at the Moorings; THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS; Barbet P: "A Doctor at Calvary: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ as Described by a Surgeon", Earl of Wicklow (trans). Garden City, NY, Doubleday Image Books, 1953, pp 12-18, 37-147, 159-175, 187-208; 7. Davis CT: The crucifixion of Jesus: The passion of Christ from a medical point of view. "Ariz Med" 1965;22:183-187.

broken,”³⁷ and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

- J. Some authors have misinterpreted what flowed out of Jesus side to be urine, believing that the guard accidentally pierced Jesus’ abdominal midline, thus perforating his bladder.¹¹ However, John uses a very specific Greek word, ***pleura***¹² which precisely indicates a lateral wound, and implies thrust under the ribs.¹³ John tells us plainly, then, that the spear thrust was away from the abdominal midline and entered from the side of Jesus.
- K. Although John never specified on which side the wound was inflicted, it traditionally has been depicted on the right side.¹⁴
- L. There is a medical reason supporting this tradition as well, in that a large flow of blood would more likely gush out of the right side of the heart where the wall of the pericardial lining/atrium/ventricle is the thinnest and most distended. The left side atrium has the thickest membrane and contracted left ventricle. So a right-sided piercing wound is the most natural and practical side to pierce.
- M. Other controversy centers on some minor skepticism from some in accepting John’s testimony concerning what flowed out of Jesus’ side. The debate has arisen due to the difficulty in explaining, with medical precision, the flow of both blood and water. Part of this difficulty has been based on the assumption that the blood appeared first, then the water. However, in the ancient Greek, the order of words generally denoted prominence and not necessarily a time sequence.¹⁵ Therefore, it seems likely that John was emphasizing the prominence of blood rather than its appearance preceding water.

¹¹ Clark CCP: What was the physical cause of the death of Jesus Christ? *Med Rec* 1890;38:543.

¹² Wuest KS: Wuest Word Studies From the Greek New Testament for the English Reader. Grand Rapids, Mich, WB Erdmans Publisher, 1973, vol 1, p 280; Arndt WF, Gingrich FW: A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature. University of Chicago Press, 1957, p 673. Brown F, Driver SR, Briggs CA: *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament With an Appendix Containing the Biblical Aramaic*. Oxford, England, Clarendon Press, 1953, 1953, pp 841, 854.

¹³ Mikulicz-Radecki FV: The chest wound in the crucified Christ. *Med News* 1966; 14:30-40. Hatch E, Redpath HA: *A Concordance to the Septuagint and the Other Greek Versions of the Old Testament (including the Apocryphal Books)*. Graz, Austria, Akademische Druce U Verlagsanstalt, 1142.1975

¹⁴ Whitaker JR: The physical cause of the death of our Lord. *Cath Manchester Guard* 1937;15:83-91.

¹⁵ Robertson AT: *A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in Light of Historical Research*. Nashville, Tenn, Broadman Press, 1931, pp 417-427.

- N. Therefore, the water probably represented **serous pleural** and **pericardial fluid**¹⁶, and would have naturally flowed out before the blood. Perhaps in the setting of **hypovolemia** and impending acute heart failure, **pleural and pericardial effusions** may have developed and would have added to the volume of apparent water.¹⁷ The blood, in contrast, may have originated from the ruptured right atrium or the right ventricle or perhaps from a hemopericardium.¹⁸

D. What is the Pericardium?

1. The pericardium is the thin sac or bag (membrane) that surrounds the heart.
2. It normally contains a small amount of pericardial and pleural fluid or serous which lubricates the movement of the heart against the pericardial sac.
3. If this surrounding bag becomes inflamed the condition is called Pericarditis. The pericardium has an inner and outer layer and contains a small amount of lubricating fluid between the layers (around 20 cc). When the pericardium is inflamed, it may cause these layers to become more sticky and for more fluid to accumulate. Your doctor may hear a rubbing sound when he listens to your heart as the two sticky layers of your pericardium rub off each other. Sometimes a large amount of fluid may accumulate in the pericardial sac.

E. The Messianic/Prophetic Psalms Point to a Ruptured Heart

1. The Prophets and Psalmists foretold that Jesus the Messiah would die of a broken, or ruptured, heart.
2. In the Messianic Psalm - **Psalm 40:12**, in speaking of the troubles that would encompass Him, climaxing in His death, we are told, "**Therefore My heart fails within Me.**"
3. **Psalm 69:20-21** tells us the very thoughts of Jesus on the cross, in which is a forecast of the cause of His death:
"Reproach hath broken My heart; and I am full of

¹⁶ Bucklin R: The legal and medical aspects of the trial and death of Christ. *Sci Law* 1970; 10:14-26. Mikulicz-Radecki FV: The chest wound in the crucified Christ. *Med News* 1966; 14:30-40. Davis CT: The crucifixion of Jesus: The passion of Christ from a medical point of view. *Ariz Med* 1965;22:183-187.

¹⁷ *Ibid*

¹⁸ Bucklin R: The legal and medical aspects of the trial and death of Christ. *Sci Law* 1970; 10:14-26; Barbet P: *A Doctor at Calvary: The Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ as Described by a Surgeon*, Earl of Wicklow (trans). Garden City, NY, Doubleday Image Books, 1953, pp 12-18, 37-147, 159-175, 187-208.

heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They gave Me also gall for My meat; and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink. "

4. **Psalm 22:14**, another Messianic Psalm, specifically addressed the rupturing of Jesus heart as if it melted away within him – ***"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me."***
5. From the Biblical account of the death of Jesus it is evident that His sudden death resulted from a ruptured heart.

F. The Spear Thrust Confirms the Cause of Death was a Broken Heart

1. Lets line up the Gospel narratives and harmonize the last moments of Jesus
2. From **Matthew 27:50** we read that immediately following his dereliction,

"And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit."

3. **Mark 14:37** gives a similar account of this mysterious last cry of Jesus before He dies,

"With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last."

4. **Luke 23:44-46** tells us

"It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, ⁴⁵for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last."

5. **John 19:28-37** adds,

"Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit."

“Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” ³⁷and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

6. From these scriptures we can deduce that, according to Matthew and Mark, the death of Jesus immediately followed a loud and piercing cry. Usually, at the time of death, the voice is the first organ to fail. It grows weaker and fainter until it becomes inaudible. The loud and piercing cry of Jesus indicated great physical strength, which could suddenly be terminated only by the rupture of the heart. This last loud cry, after Jesus spoke his last words “It is finished!” Lets us know two things: he wasn’t dying from asphyxiation, or his voice would have been weaker and almost silent, and he would not be strong enough to cry out loudly; and secondly, a shout or crying out would fit with a massive heart rupture scenario. For death to happen immediately afterward would support this assumption.
7. This led Dr. William Stroud to make the following conclusion: "***The cause now assigned for the death of Christ, namely, RUPTURE OF THE HEART FROM AGONY OF MIND, has been proved to be the result.***"¹⁹
8. Luke tells us it was precisely the 6th hour, or 3pm when this happened. At that moment a ram’s horn was blown from the temple signaling the time to begin sacrificing the approximately 250,000 spotless lambs throughout Jerusalem. It was a signal also to Jesus that it was time for

¹⁹ Dr. William Stroud, The Physical Cause of the Death of Christ, pages 155-156.

him, the ultimate Lamb of God, to die as well. He cried out three times, two times saying words as he did, the last time, a shout of pain as his heart exploded within him, rupturing the right atrium, sending a gush of blood into the pericardial sac. There would have been a bulge protruding a little from the right side of his chest. This is where the soldier approaches, and taking the thrusting spear called the Hasta, he thrusts the point up through the lower right side of Jesus chest crossing under the sternum, and pierces his pericardial sac and heart. The pericardial become filled to bursting with 500 cc's of blood and pericardial serous, which immediately gushed out of him for all to see, a sure, certain, unmistakable sign of unsurvivable physical death. No one can survive a ruptured heart. And no one can survive a punctured heart. If Jesus hadn't died **before** the spear thrust, he would have died from it. **The reason we know he was already dead was the sign of gushing blood and water exiting the wound.** The water and the blood served as two witnesses that he truly died.

C. The Testimony of the Roman Centurion and Contingent

1. Mark 15 reports the incident this way,

*“And when **the centurion**, who stood there in front of Jesus, heard his cry and saw how he died, **he said**, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”*

2. Luke 23 says the same thing only has the centurion praising God first,

*⁴⁷**The centurion**, seeing what had happened, **praised God and said**, “Surely this was a righteous man.”*

3. However, Matthew 27:54 reports the incident in such a way that it appears the whole Roman contingent that was there at the cross till the end, came to believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

*“When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, **they** were terrified, and **exclaimed**, “Surely he was the Son of God!”*

D. Further Events Following the Death of Jesus

1. Matthew 27:51-66 gives us this account,

⁵¹At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵²The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁵Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. ⁵⁶Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

⁵⁷As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. **⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.**

⁶²The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³"Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵"Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

2. Mark 15:40-47 gives us a little more,

⁴⁰Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, **and Salome. ⁴¹In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.**

⁴²It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, **⁴³Joseph of Arimathea**, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, **went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance**

of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

3. Luke 23:48-56 gives us a little more,

“When all the people who had gathered to witness this sight saw what took place, they beat their breasts and went away. ⁴⁹But all those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁵The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how his body was laid in it. ⁵⁶Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

II. THE LEGEND OF THE HALLOWS OR HOLY GRAIL²⁰

A. The Legend’s Core

1. As the legend goes, there are four holy grails or hallows: the platter Jesus used at the last supper; the cup or grail itself; the spear of Longinus used to pierce his side, and the sword of king David, used to kill Goliath.
2. Joseph of Arimethea plays a prominent role in the legend, for it is said that he was the one who paid for the Last Supper, and kept the bowl or cup Jesus used while reinterpreting the Passover emblems. He later used this same cup or grail to catch the blood that flowed from Jesus’ pierced side, so that none of it fell on the ground.
3. He is then said to have taken the cup to Britain as the first Christian missionary to that country, where it became the core theme for the Arthurian legends and historical intrigue and conspiracy theories.
4. As to the spear that pierced the side of our Lord, also called by a variety of names such as The Spear of Destiny, the Spear of Longinus, and the Holy Lance — is looked upon by some as one of the most important Christian relics of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

²⁰ I have included this information because of it’s relevance in light of the current fascination in the Mary Magdalene myth being fomented by such books as Dan Brown’s best seller - *The DaVinci Code*, and *Holy Blood, Holy Grail* (Baigent, 1982), and the recent ABC deconstructionist News special *Jesus, Mary and DaVinci*.

5. The mention of this spear in John 19:31-37, was embellished by the grail legend so that it was understood to be used by a Roman soldier by the name of Gaius Cassius, later called Longinus.
6. The Spear, being bathed in the blood of the Lamb played a significant role in the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and as a result, was believed by some to have acquired tremendous mystical and magical powers. The first sign of that power was the purported healing of Gaius Cassius's failing eyesight when some of the blood from Jesus' pierced side splashed in his face. The centurion later became an early convert to Christianity.
7. The Spear subsequently passed through a multitude of hands, coming into the possession of many of Europe's most important political and military leaders, including Constantine Frankish general Charles Martel, Charlemagne, Frederick of Barbarossa, and Frederick II, even Napoleon. A leader who possessed the Spear was said to be invincible; Charlemagne and Frederick of Barbarossa were undefeated in battle until they let the Spear fall from their hands. A legend arose that whoever claimed the Spear "holds the destiny of the world in his hands for good or evil."
8. The Spear of Destiny caught the attention of a young man by the name of Adolf Hitler, who used to spend hours staring at it in its display case at the Hofsburg museum in Vienna, Austria in 1909. Hitler had been made aware of the spear's legend, and his fascination with the spear served sparked his interest into the Occult, and spawned his ideas about the German superman, and his own destiny as a world conqueror.
9. On October 12, 1938, not long after the German annexation of Austria, Hitler's S.S., under direct orders from Hitler himself, seized the Spear and other sacred artifacts from Vienna. They were taken by train to Nuremberg, where they were stored in St. Katherine's Church. The Spear remained in St. Katherine's until 1944, when it was moved to a specially constructed vault beneath the church, built in secret and at great expense, intended to protect it and the other stolen relics from Allied bombs. Nuremberg was captured by Allied troops in April of the following year. The vault was subsequently discovered by American Army officers. The Spear was confiscated by American forces on the afternoon of April 30, 1945, less than two hours before Hitler's suicide in his underground bunker in Berlin. Like the Spear's previous owners, Hitler perished after the relic was taken from him.²¹

²¹ As found in an article entitled Legends of the Spear. Alas, I could not find anything that told me the author of this article.

B. Was the Spear “Real”?

1. Like much of the history of holy relics, it is hard to authenticate the spear of Longinus, Grail of Christ, etc...
2. There are in existence many such spear heads claiming to be the Spear of Destiny that pierced Jesus side. The Hapsburg spear is one of many.
3. There is a Biblical principle here, that needs to govern the Christian’s attitude toward such things. There were two “grail-like” sacred artifact in the OT; one was known as the serpent on a pole, used by Moses to cure those who suffered from the bite of the fiery red serpents during the wilderness wanderings in the book of Numbers, and the other was the King David’s sword, which had belonged to the Giant Goliath before David killed him; the other has to do with the remains of Moses in the OT, and Mary, the mother of our Lord in the NT.
4. In Deuteronomy 34 we are told that Moses climbed Mt. Nebo above the Plains of Moab, and was shown a panorama of the promised land, and then died. We are told simply, that the Lord was responsible for Moses body, burying it somewhere in the valley opposite Beth Peor,

“...but to this day no one knows where his grave is.”

5. But more details surface in the NT about the circumstances surrounding the death and burial of Moses. Jude 9 tells us that God sent the Arch-angel Michael to take care of Moses body, and that Michael had to battle the devil for it. Now why was the devil interested in the body of Moses?
6. In one incident among many in the book of Numbers regarding the Jewish pilgrimage to the Promised Land, we read in chapter 21 that the people began to complain yet again, and the Lord, to punish them, sent fiery serpents amongst them, and many were dying from the bites. Moses intercedes for the people before the Lord, and the Lord answers him by telling him to make a bronze or brass serpent, and raise it up on a pole, so that who ever looks at it in faith, would be healed of snake bite. All well and good. But after this incident is over, we are never told what they did with the serpent on the pole.
7. Until we come to the book of records of the history of the Kings. In 2 Kings 18:4, we read about the faithful king Hezekiah, who

“...did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. ⁴He removed the high places,

smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.)

8. Because man is prone to idolatry, God does not dispose Himself to leaving behind tangible evidence of His presence and power, because, if He did, we would worship it or impose upon it superstitious beliefs, magical powers, resident force of power, etc...
9. This was most likely on the mind of the devil when disputing with The arch-angel Michael about the body of Moses.
10. What if we found the real grail or the real holy lance? It would be awesome and should be considered a sacred artifact made so because God used it, but that is it. We would need to be absolutely sure people did not worship it, attribute power to it, or otherwise consider it more than a piece of sanctified metal touched by Jesus, the same as we would do if we were able to touch one of the over 3000 year old olive trees still growing in the Garden of Gethsemane. Being that old, it is certain they were there when Jesus prayed there, and that makes them different than any other tree because of who He is, not what they are.
11. This is why little is mentioned in scripture about Mary the mother of Jesus after Pentecost. She passes quietly away into obscurity, the same as the secret burial of Moses. Same with Jesus other brothers and sisters.

III. WHY THE BLOOD AND WATER GUSH OUT OF JESUS SIDE

A. So we Might Know For Sure Jesus Really Died Physically So that We Can Be Faithful Guardians of the Real Holy Grail (The Gospel)

1. There is a whole new attempt to make these ancient superstitions believed today
2. The current attempt is to discredit the resurrection of Jesus, the deity of Jesus, and the integrity of Jesus by bringing up yet another grail legend that has to do, not with the Cup of Christ, or the Spear of Longinus, but the womb of Mary Magdalene.
3. In this current heresy/blasphemy, an old heresy that finds non-canonical support in such Gnostic writings

as the Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Mary Magdalene and The Gospel of Philip, Jesus did not die on the cross but fainted. After being buried in the cool tomb of a secret disciple, Joseph of Arimethea, Jesus rested and revived. Later that evening, Joseph, who belonged to a secret sect called the Essenes, with whom Jesus was also a member, moved the stone from the entrance of the tomb, helped Jesus escape the tomb and took him secretly to the Essenes who kept him hidden from the Jews. Later, Jesus is said to have married Mary Magdalene and had children by her. Later, both Mary M. and her children are also called the Holy Grail, among other things. Mary is called the holy grail because her womb is perceived as the container or chalice of Jesus blood, which coursed through the veins of her children.²²

4. An aside: “Holy Grail” can be spelled different ways, and whichever one you use determines what you mean by “*Holy Grail*.” The word “grail” could be derived from the word “*graal*” which means cup or shallow dish, and the word “*san*” means holy.²³
5. Secret societies like the Free Masons and the Illuminati prefer to think it comes from the word “*gredalis*” which means gradually, as in gradual steps toward enlightenment.
6. Some like to think that the early manuscripts have “*Sang raal*”.²⁴ *Sang* means *blood*, and *raal* means royal, again pointing to the alleged lineage of Jesus.
7. Certain members of the Essene community became guardians of Magdalene’s children, considered to be the royal bloodline not only of Jesus, but of king David, aka- holy seed or bloodline, from which all the future European kings emerged, and from whom a future great king that we know from the word of God will be the Anti-Christ, will emerge.
8. Later, Jesus and Mary divorce because they had differing beliefs, and Jesus supposedly dies a natural death, and when the Romans besieged Jerusalem in 70 A.D, Mary fled with her children to France, where

²² Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln, HOLY BLOOD, HOLY GRAIL (New York: Dell, 1983), p.358

²³ J.R. Church, GUARDIANS OF THE GRAIL, 1989, p. 34

²⁴ Ibid

she sought refuge in a Jewish community. Later, several of her children married into the royal Frankish family, and by the fifth century, produced a king by the name of Merovee, the first in a series of kings called the Merovingian bloodline. The offspring of Merovee were noted for an unusual birthmark above the heart – a small red cross. This symbol eventually became the emblem of the guardians of the grail.

9. This renewed old heresy has gained a fast growing following due to David Brown's book, The DaVinci Code, and from the book Holy Blood, Holy Grail, and the documentary-like ABC televised special, Mary, Jesus and the DaVinci Code.
10. The theme of the DaVinci Code is that DaVinci was one of the secret guardians of the grail conspiracy that emphasizes goddess worship. In his painting of the last supper, he gives some clues to the secret he is guarding: there is no chalice on the table, hinting at the idea that the holy grail is not the material cup of Christ, but symbolizes the womb of Mary Magdalene; and on Jesus left, instead of John the beloved, it is suggested that the effeminate looking person is actually a woman, none other than Mary M. The secondary premise of Brown's novel is that Jesus was not divine, not God's Son, didn't die on the cross, but was resuscitated in the tomb and went on to marry Mary M. and have 3 idolatrous and occult dabbling children, divorce Mary M., abandon his children, and marry again!
11. Although supposedly just a novel, Brown alleges that the premise that forms the theme of the novel was not only well researched by him, but rests securely on historical fact, which made the book spiritually troubling for those Christians worldly enough to read it. It is blasphemous, ill-researched, misguided, pagan-friendly, bigoted against Christianity, and falsely portrays historical events, processes, and conclusions. And yet has been received as gospel truth by over 6 million readers.
12. Both Moslems and Mormons believe that Mary M. was Jesus' wife, and that he had children by her. It is the bedrock tenet of faith in the most blasphemous of secret Occult societies. Numerous anti-Christian conspiracies and sects, and many world leaders and

royal houses and not a few US Presidents, have built their entire existence on the idea that Christ's bloodline through Mary M. runs through their family, and have made it their ambition to possess and guard the grail, in it's various forms.

13. As faithful servants of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, we must be students of the word, of Christian history and of Christian doctrine, able to correct these blasphemous myths and heresies when they dare to raise their ugly heads.

B. So we Might Know that Crucifixion Didn't Kill Him, the Roman Guards Didn't Kill Him, No-one Did Anything to Him that Wasn't Predetermined in Scripture So that We Might Know that God was Always in Control, the Mission was Never in Peril, and Jesus Death was Totally Voluntary – “He Gave His life for us” “He laid down His Life” “No one took it from Him”

John 10:18 “No man takes my life from me, but I voluntarily lay it down. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”

Philippians 2:8 “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

C. So that We Can Know the Height, the Width, the Length and Depth of the Love of God and the Satisfaction of the Justice of God as Seen On the Cross in the Wounded Side and Broken Heart of Jesus Christ His Son, who Suffered on our Behalf and who Paid our sin Debt in Full.

D. Let it Suffice Every Faithful Christian here Today to Confess with the Ancients: “Christ Died, Christ Arose, Christ is Coming Again!”

DRAW ME NEARER

William H. Doane

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.

Refrain

Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine.

O the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend,
When I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend!