

Hello, This is Dorothy -

The Gospel in a nutshell. If you had to describe where the Gospel is in a nutshell is found in the Scriptures, you would probably say, “Oh, **John 3:16 - For God so loved the world. . . wonderful verse . . . that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**” But if you asked me what was the Gospel in a nutshell, I would say: **1 Corinthians 15: 3 and 4 —**

3 . . . Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures. According to what Scriptures? In the Old Testament, the death of our Lord Jesus was also prophesied and fulfilled in the tiniest little detail. Don’t just think, “Oh, this is a story that I pick up around somewhere around the time of Easter or I hear somebody talk about it when they have seen a crucifix.” *No!*

This was shown in **Psalms 22**, for example. In **verse 14**, there is a graphic picture where we see and understand what the crucifixion was all about. It describes the **bones** of the hands, the arms, the shoulders and the pelvis being **out of joint**. The words are —

14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint:

my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. With the utter exhaustion and extreme thirst, the action of our Lord's **heart** was effected. Further on, in **Psalm 22**, we read -

16 . . . they pierced my hands and my feet. These are **hands**, dear friends, that just touched and brought healing, and **feet** that only walked to bring forth miraculous deliverance of lives like yours and mine. Yes, this **Psalm** is an irresistible proof of the inspiration of the Scriptures. When you consider **Psalm 22** and read these things of what would happen to our beloved Lord Jesus, Who became sin, He who had never sinned, for you and me, you have to remember this is talking about crucifixion. Crucifixion was not known at that time. Crucifixion was brought in by the Romans; it was not a Jewish form of execution.

Again, we read in **Isaiah 52** and **53** amazing verses:

52: 14 As many were astonished at thee . . . How terrible was His appearance! You see, they took Jesus and just about beat Him to death! What they did to just his head alone: it was like a pulp. They took Him to the whipping post and what they did there, it was a miracle He even went from there and got to the Cross. You remember He staggered and somebody carried His Cross. We read of what happened to Him at that whipping post. It says He . . . **was so marred more than any man . . .** In other words, He did not look like a man; He looked like a lump of banged meat. It says - . . . **so marred more**

than any man, and his form more than the sons of men . . . that means not even looking human. The effect of those brutalities are then described in what we read in the New Testament. In the New Testament, the death of our Lord was prophesied. In **Matthew 26:67-68**, we read -

67 Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him . . . -that means they absolutely pulverized his face - . . . and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

68 Saying, Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

In **Matthew 27:27 to 30**, we read -

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall . . . - that is where all the soldiers , these rough,brutal men, gathered - . . . and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers.

28 And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe.

29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns. . . - long, cruel, cruel thorns - . . . they put it on his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

The death of our Lord Jesus Christ was clearly demonstrated, but — but! — we read in **1 Corinthians 15** —

4 . . . he rose again the third day, according to the scriptures:

5 After that he - Jesus - was seen of Cephas - Peter -, then of the twelve: *-that is speaking of the eleven without the one who had taken our Lord and betrayed him, Judas Iscariot.*

6 After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once *- five hundred different people gathered together.*

7 After that, he was seen of James. . . *- His half brother.*

8 And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time. *- the Apostle Paul.*

What about you? Have you seen Jesus? Have you received Him? Will you today? Write for that book, *Your Quest for God.*

In Jesus' Name. Amen.