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Images from

EASTER WEEK

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Church Magazines

There are many important truths contained in the record of the last week of Jesus Christ’s mortal life—truths about the Savior, His kingdom, and how we can follow Him.

Here are some of those truths, illustrated by images of physical objects that were part of the last week of the Savior’s life.

“MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD”

(John 18:36).



1

MONEYCHANGERS’ TABLES

See *Matthew 21:12-16*; *Mark 11:15-19*; *Luke 19:45-48*.

What are they? The tables where people would (for an outrageous fee) exchange other currencies for the Jewish half-shekel coin, which was accepted in the temple sanctuary. The priests and other temple officers allowed people to sell items that the law of Moses demanded for various temple sacrifices. Through greed and extortion, these leaders took advantage of those coming to worship God.

Early in His last week, Jesus Christ drove the moneychangers out of the temple. The sounds of clinking coins and barking salesmen echoing off of the temple walls must have been distracting and offensive to the spirit of worship and devotion that the Lord’s house deserves. The Savior said, “It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves” (Matthew 21:13). They had allowed the things of the world to intrude upon the sacred space of His Father’s house. But He showed that the place where we are meant to seek His Father’s kingdom should be free from the distractions of the world.



2

SWORD

See **Matthew 26:51-55; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:49-51; John 18:10-11.**

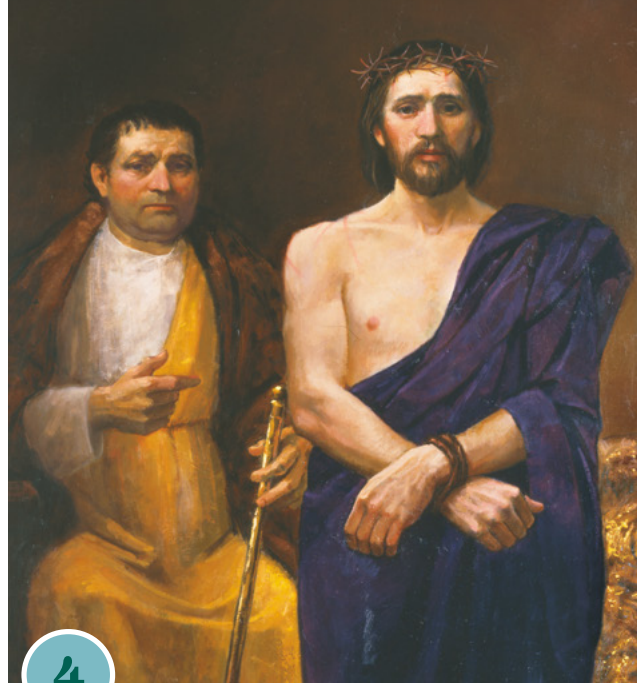
While the Savior was at the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas Iscariot came with a group of armed men to arrest Him. Peter impulsively drew a short sword and cut off the ear of one of the men. The Savior immediately told Peter to put his sword away and said, “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:53). As a further manifestation of His power and mercy, He also healed the man’s ear (see Luke 22:51).

3

CROWN OF THORNS

See **Matthew 27:29; Mark 15:17; John 19:2.**

The Roman soldiers placed a crown of thorns on the Savior. “Perhaps this cruel act was a perverse attempt to mimic the placing of an emperor’s laurel upon His head. Thus, there was pressed down upon Him a crown of thorns. He accepted the pain as part of the great gift He had promised to make. How poignant this was, considering that thorns signified God’s displeasure as He cursed the ground for Adam’s sake that henceforth it would bring forth thorns. But by wearing the crown, Jesus transformed thorns into a symbol of His glory” (President James E. Faust [1920-2007], Second Counselor in the First Presidency, Apr. 1991 general conference).



4

PURPLE ROBE

See **Matthew 27:28; Mark 15:17; John 19:2.**

Purple was a kingly color, and the soldiers mockingly put this robe on Jesus Christ because He had claimed to be the king of the Jews. Of course, in reality He is much more than that—He is the “King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15; Revelation 19:16).

5

WIDOW’S MITE

See **Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4.**

What is it? A very small coin (a *lepton*), probably made of copper or brass, worth less than all others.

While at the temple that week, the Savior saw a poor widow throw two of these tiny coins into the temple treasury. He gathered His disciples and said that this woman’s offering, though of the smallest amount, was greater than anyone else’s, for “she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living” (Mark 12:44).

What mattered to Him was her willingness to give, not the size of her offering. He showed yet again that “the Lord seeth not as man seeth; ... the Lord looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7) and that “my ways [are] higher than your ways” (Isaiah 55:9).



“DESTROY THIS TEMPLE, AND IN THREE DAYS I WILL RAISE IT UP”

(John 2:19).



6

BOX OF OINTMENT

See *Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8.*

What is it? Some kind of vessel made of alabaster, a soft gypsum compound often used for intricate ornamental carvings. It was used to store spikenard, a perfumed ointment made from Asian plants and quite valuable because of its rarity.

Early in the Savior's last week, Mary poured this box of ointment on Him. He said that it foreshadowed His death because perfumed ointments were also used to prepare bodies for burial (see John 19:39).



7

TEMPLE VEIL



See *Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45.*

What is it? The temple veil was a curtain found in the Holy of Holies, the temple's innermost and most sacred room, which represented the presence of God. Only the high priest could go through the veil, and only once a year.

When Jesus Christ died, the veil of the temple was “rent in twain from the top to the bottom” (Matthew 27:51). “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, . . . by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us” (Hebrews 9:11-12; see also verses 13-14). Through His death and Resurrection, He rent the veil separating us from God's presence (see Hebrews 10:19-22).

“BLOOD COMETH FROM EVERY PORE, SO GREAT SHALL BE HIS ANGUISH”

(Mosiah 3:7).

8

OLIVE PRESS

See **Matthew 26:36; Mark 14:32; Luke 22:39-40; John 18:1.**

“[Jesus Christ’s] agony in Gethsemane and on the cross was greater than any mortal could bear. Nevertheless, because of His love for His Father and for us, He endured, and as a consequence, He can offer us both immortality and eternal life.

“It is poignantly symbolic that ‘blood [came] from every pore’ [Mosiah 3:7] as Jesus suffered in Gethsemane, the place of the olive press. To produce olive oil in the Savior’s time, olives were first crushed by rolling a large stone over them. The resulting ‘mash’ was placed in soft, loosely woven baskets, which were piled one upon another. Their weight expressed the first and finest oil. Then added stress was applied by placing a large beam or log on top of the stacked baskets, producing more oil. Finally, to draw out the very last drops, the beam was weighted with stones on one end to create the maximum, crushing pressure. And yes, the oil is bloodred as it first flows out” (Elder D. Todd Christofferson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Oct. 2016 general conference).



“HE WAS WOUNDED FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS, ... AND WITH HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED”

(Isaiah 53:5).



9

SCOURGE

See *Matthew 27:26*.

What is it? A Roman *flagrum* or *flagellum*, a whip with multiple leather strands that had several small pieces of metal or bone attached to them, and sometimes with a hook at the end. The scourge was designed to quickly remove skin and flesh.

As was customary, after He was condemned, Jesus Christ was taken by the Roman soldiers to be scourged. “They scourge him, and he suffereth it; and they smite him, and he suffereth it. Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because of his loving kindness and his long-suffering towards the children of men” (1 Nephi 19:9).

10

NAILS

See *John 20:25*.

The crucifiers drove nails through the Savior’s hands, wrists, and feet to secure Him on the cross. “[Jesus Christ] has, he reminds us, ‘graven thee upon the palms of my hands’ (1 Nephi 21:16). Considering the incomprehensible cost of the Crucifixion, Christ is not going to turn his back on us now” (Elder Jeffrey R. Holland of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, “Come unto Me,” *Ensign*, Apr. 1998, 19).



11

CROSS

See *Matthew 27:32; John 19:17*.

What is it? The beam placed horizontally near the top of a tall upright post used by the Romans for public execution by crucifixion. These were probably made of a durable wood so that they could be reused. The beam, or cross, was separate from the post, and victims were made to carry it themselves to the place of crucifixion. They were then attached to the cross and lifted up onto the post. A man named Simon was asked to help Jesus Christ carry His cross (see *Matthew 27:32*).

The Savior said, “My Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, that I might draw all men unto me, that as I have been lifted up by men even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works” (3 Nephi 27:14).

He also taught that each of His disciples should “take up his cross” (*Matthew 16:24*), which means “to deny himself all ungodliness, and every worldly lust, and keep my commandments” (*Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 16:26 [in the Bible Appendix]*).

“HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN”

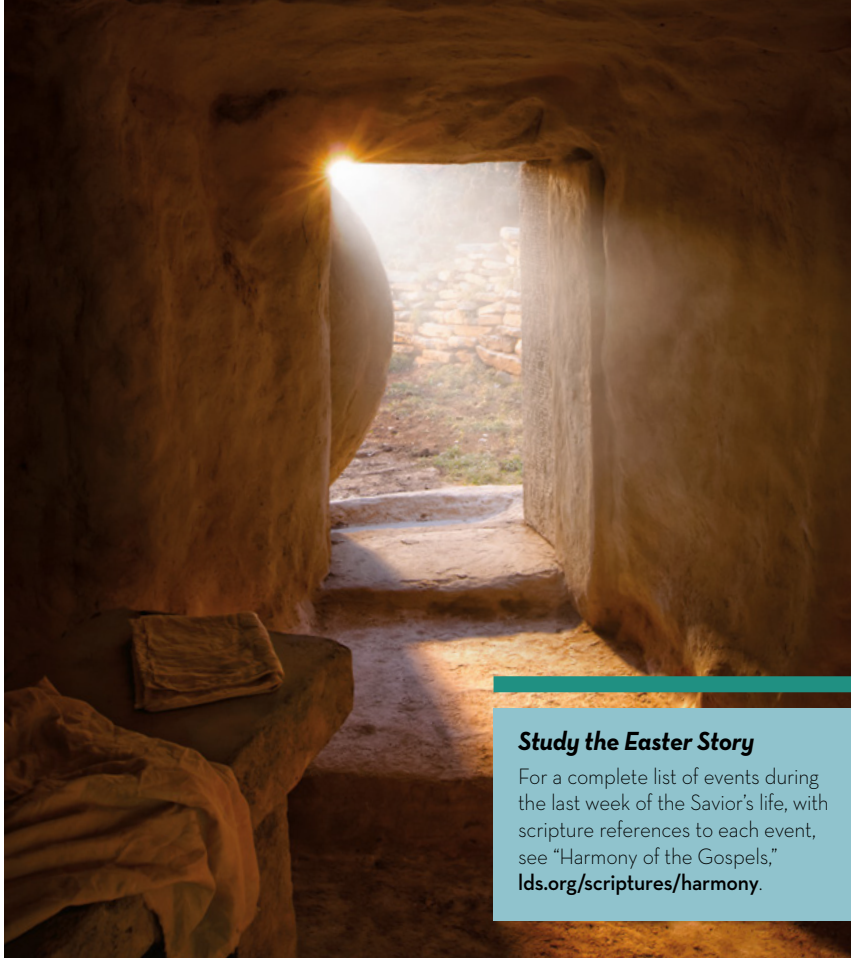
(Luke 24:6).

12

EMPTY TOMB

See **Matthew 28:1-8**; **John 20:1-18**.

“The empty tomb that first Easter morning was the answer to Job’s question, ‘If a man die, shall he live again?’ [Job 14:14]. To all within the sound of my voice, I declare, If a man die, he shall live again. We know, for we have the light of revealed truth” (President Thomas S. Monson (1927-2018), “He Is Risen,” Apr. 2010 general conference).



Study the Easter Story

For a complete list of events during the last week of the Savior’s life, with scripture references to each event, see “Harmony of the Gospels,” [lds.org/scriptures/harmony](https://www.lds.org/scriptures/harmony).



“FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON”

(John 3:16).

If you had to summarize all of Easter in a single word, you might choose the word *love*.

We see the love of God the Father and His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in the central act of the Father’s plan, the Savior’s atoning sacrifice. The images of Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross of Calvary are images of deep and eternal love. **NE**