

OUS INTEREST TO THE WHOLE WORLD— AND PAGAN.



The Exact Spot Where Christ Was Crucified and Buried Discovered and Proven by Christian Explorers.

THE Palestine Exploration Society, the greatest authority in the world on Jerusalem and its holy places, where it has been conducting excavations and researches for over a score of years, has just decided a question of profound importance to all Christendom. It has located the exact spot on which Christ was crucified and buried. The final researches on the subject have lately been completed by Dr. Conrad Schick, the representative of the society, and his report has been made. This places the seal of scientific approval on the present Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the tomb of Christ. Dr. Schick's report will be presented to Emperor William of Germany when he visits Jerusalem.

THE coming pilgrimage of Emperor William, of Germany, to Jerusalem next October is to decide finally one of the greatest religious questions of all ages, the true spot of the Holy Sepulchre. Dr. Conrad Schick, of the Palestine Exploration Society has recently made a careful examination of Calvary, or Golgotha, in Jerusalem upon which the church of the Holy Sepulchre stands, and now reports on its genuineness.

His recent research was made at the request of German officials and his report is to be presented to the Emperor at the time of his visit there. It is believed that Dr. Schick's report will be accepted as final and that the seal of the highest scientific authority of the Nineteenth century will be placed upon the church of the Holy Sepulchre. This site of the most famous church in the world for a thousand years, was fixed by the mother of Constantine before the middle of the fourth century and this church erected over it.

For over fifteen centuries it has been a place of reverence and worship of millions of Christian pilgrims. They have come from the farthest parts of the earth during more than a millennium.

Scientists quibbled about exact identity of the spot—but even they could not but reverence a place which multitudes of devotees have consecrated for ages.

Now science itself in the person of such a man as Dr. Conrad Schick, the great authority on Jerusalem antiquities comes forward to verify the genuineness of the Holy Sepulchre.

Calvary, where the cross stood and the tomb of Christ and the other spots made sacred by the crucifixion are all contained under one vast, irregular roof in a series of churches and chapels called the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Here the Romans, Catholics, the Greek Christians, the Copts and the Syrians each have a separate portion for their places of worship. But the Protestants have no place in its precincts and Hebrews are never allowed to enter by the Mussulman guards.

As the pilgrim enters the church he comes to the Stone of Unction, upon which the body of Christ is said to have been laid and prepared for burial. Nearby is the Pillar of Flagellation.

A little beyond is the cave in which Christ was confined immediately before His death. There is also the seat on which it is said He sat when He was derided and crowned with thorns and was hailed King of the Jews.

Within these same sacred precincts there is shown the spot upon which He stood when He showed Himself to His Mother after the resurrection, and the spot where He appeared to Mary Magdalen, and also the rock that was rent in two in the convulsion of nature at the final hour.

Within this great church the one spot above all others is the tomb of Christ. It is in the centre of the large rotunda. Over it a separate chapel, a church, within a church, has been built. Upon the face of this are the richest carvings, the costliest paintings. It is covered with gold and silver and gems. It represents the treasure and tribute of the Christian world.

There have been various theories about the place of the crucifixion and the tomb. It has been claimed that the Mosque of Omar was erected over the spot where the cross stood.

Others have said that Golgotha, the Place of the Skull, as the Bible describes Calvary, was outside the walls of Jerusalem and near St. Stephen's gate, and again that the hill north of the Damascus Gate, with the cave of Jerehah, is the true Place of the Skull.

But the light of modern research is converging to the site of the present Church of the Holy Sepulchre as the spot described in the Bible as the scene of the crucifixion and burial.

The paper just prepared by Dr. Schick, the noted German savant, is generally regarded as supplying the last proof necessary on the genuineness of the place now revered as Calvary.

It is interesting to compare the Biblical description of the place of the crucifixion and burial with what Dr. Schick has found in going over the ground recently. Here are the passages referring to it in the Gospel of St. John:

And they took Jesus and led Him away. And He, bearing His cross, went forth into a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha, where they crucified Him. . . .

And after this Joseph, of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, besought Pilate that He might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate gave him leave. . . .

Now, in the place where He was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus therefore, because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.—St. John xix, 16-42.

Pastor C. Mommert, of Schweinitz, has made a study of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for twenty years. He has lately made a drawing from the wonderful mosaic map at Madaba, unearthed a few years ago.

This drawing in stone is supposed to have been made about 515 to 565 A. D. Crude as this mosaic outline appears at first sight, it is full of meaning. Rev. Mommert points out that the circular line at the top indicated the great dome of the church. The pointed lines below show the roof of a wing or annex. Below these are markings to represent entrances or doors, and still further down are lines showing successive stories, indicating that the structure was built upon a hillside.

Flat and without perspective as is this outline, it is regarded as the most remarkable architectural sketch in the world, having existed for over thirteen hundred years. But aside from being a curiosity, it is of immense historical value. It shows that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre has existed in practically the same form as it is at the present day since about the fifth century.

turned from its course, the countless treasure and his favorite horse and 25,000 slaves were or was then turned back into its course.

AD SCHICK, Exploration Society.

about the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on the rock of Calvary. Some have tion was an imitation. To satisfy research. In the Chapel of Adam, rock can be seen. I paid a visit to him of my doubts and asking per- hurch of the Holy Sepulchre under

ned to me. It contained a fine and re so plastered that I could see no what was behind the plaster, as he n the plastering was done, several

ch once led on this side to Calvary, chapel at the top of the stairs. So or dining hall, of the Greek portion side. The wall upstairs between the ry thin, and as there are cupboards

way there is a short passage a little me large stones, hewn square like pillar shafts which form parts of the etween the Greek choir and Calvary. factory by a number of steep semi- aratively narrow and short passage locked door, but as the altar here who pass leave the door untouched

and I found at the bottom a sink or alk on the brink of it, and I found ure fissure in it going eastward for le door like a cistern hewn in a rock, e by its covering being of rock. The fissure is thirteen feet three inches. water from it is drawn up in to the

e in the Court of the Abyssinians on the rock. So the rock from Calvary rd, it seems, as far as the Russian t the same level. We may conclude length of the rock bench, which the cross had stood was free around it, which was altered when made.

I have been able to trace the rock a of the ground as it was originally

leader of her armies, the dictator of her policy. Therefore he demanded from the Court at Ravenna the post of Master-General of the Italian provinces and an independent command in Dalmatia, Venetia and Noricum. The moderation of his demand was attributed by the Ministers of Honorius to cowardice. The fool Emperor dismissed the Barbarian embassy with an insulting refusal.

Stung to fury, Alaric determined to conquer by force what had been denied his peaceful request. He again turned his army toward Rome, but this time, instead of taking the capital itself, he seized upon Ostia. The latter was a seaport at the mouth of the Tiber, where the Emperor Claudius had built a magnificent harbor, to which the grain of Africa was brought and stored away in readiness to be shipped down the Tiber. Possession of Ostia meant starvation to Rome. The people did not care a second time to face the horrors from which they had just escaped.

A deputation from the Senate signified its willingness to accept any terms that Alaric might dictate. He commanded that they should depose Honorius from the Empire and put in his place a Senator named Attalus, who had been friendly to the Barbarians and upon whom he thought he could depend. The Senate did as it was told. The new Emperor readily conferred upon Alaric all the titles which had been refused by Honorius.

Alaric conducted his imperial puppet in triumph through Italy, and almost to the gates of Ravenna. Honorius was terrified. He dispatched an embassy, offering to divide his empire with Attalus. But Alaric would only be content with his absolute resignation. So desperate were the straits to which Honorius was reduced that Jovius and another of his officers named Valens went over to the side of his rival. He himself had made up his mind to flee to the Eastern Court. But just at this juncture a body of four thousand men landed in Ravenna. These, with the natural advantages of the place, were sufficient for a while for its defence.

If the men Attalus had given shameless proofs of his utter incapacity, and at last the enraged Alaric in sight of the whole army stripped him of the sceptre and the diadem, which he sent to Honorius as a sign of reconciliation. But the infatuated Honorius had learned nothing from experience. He felt himself safe for the moment, and he issued an insane proclamation that under no circumstance would he consent to a peace with the insolent invader of Italy.

Alaric saw that he could never hope to be a leader in the Roman Empire. But he could be its conqueror. A third time he directed his march toward the capital (A. D. 410). All his former moderation had

given place to a stern and cruel resolve. The Senate and the people knew that they could no longer expect mercy at his hands and they prepared themselves for the worst. For a time the walls of Aurelian proved a sufficient defence. But famine and pestilence crept into the city. At last some unknown hand threw open the Salarian gate, and the Goths were admitted. That was at midnight on August 24, 410.

When the Barbarians entered the greater part of the citizens, unconscious of treachery, were asleep in their beds. The bare of trumpets, the shouts of the victors, the clash of arms, the tramp of horses' feet upon the pavements awoke them to the horrid truth. Seen sheets of flames shot upward from all sides, and clouds of smoke rolled slowly to the skies. The pillage had begun. For six days and nights the mistress of the world was exposed to the furious greed of the Barbarians.

Men, women and children were slain in the houses and in the streets. Gold and silver, jewels, statues and precious fabrics of all kinds were piled up in Gothic wagons and transported to the camp outside. Alaric and his Goths took all that was worth taking.

Alaric himself wished only to take the Roman property. He was out for the spoils. He told his soldiers that the plunder of the city was theirs, but that no man was to be killed who was not in arms. Even of the soldiers, all were to be spared who took refuge in the churches of the two great apostles, St. Peter and St. Paul. All the churches and their property were to be held sacred.

But it was impossible to restrain the furious passions of such a vast multitude of conquerors. The streets, we read, were heaped with dead. Men, and women, too, were cruelly tortured to make them disclose the places where their wealth was hidden, and many thousands of people were sold into slavery.

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CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE WHICH MARKS THE SPOT OF THE CRUCIFIXION AND BURIAL OF CHRIST

