

## THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Some may have heard about a film that made headlines 16 years ago under the title THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST. There was a mixed reaction even before this Mel Gibson film hit the movie theatres around the globe. Some found it too cruel to watch, others rejoiced because it seemed to prove that the Jews at the time of Jesus were behaving in terrible ways, some countries prohibited its public viewing, in others Muslim crowds couldn't wait to see it.

I remember watching the film with our friends in Accra, Ghana. What we saw left a deep impression on us. Here the enemy of God, the evil one was showing his ugly face in a most despicable, frightening manner. And you almost felt sick watching the brutality of the soldiers hitting their victim, the total lack of decency, fairness or compassion from both rulers and ordinary people.

Yet Jesus was totally submitted to God's will for his life and never once hit back. No, you were amazed that in the midst of all this anguish and excessive pain inflicted on him by these heartless Roman soldiers, the mocking Jewish religious leaders, and a frenzied, hysterical crowd of common people Jesus never hit back with curses or words of revenge. He forgave them all. And he never doubted that this was God's plan for his life; and committed himself into God's hands with the amazing statement: "It is accomplished." Done!

You may have been taught differently about Jesus the Anointed One (= Messiah [Hebrew], Christ [Latin]). I want to challenge you to look at it from a scientific angle. In a TED talk the speaker brought out the 3 steps to scientific thinking:

1. Questioning what we already know
2. Systematic gathering of information
3. Evaluating information in a rational way

Why not follow step 2 by reading the actual report as given in the Holy Bible by one of the most dedicated followers of Jesus. The Gospel according to John, chapter 18 – 20. You will find the word "Tetelestai" = *It is accomplished. It is finished*, in chapter 19, verse 30.

And we would be interested indeed to hear your thoughts about the passion of the Christ as you evaluate this with the information you had so far.

*Walter Eric, April 2019*