

Skull Place

Where was Jesus Nailed Up?

(Matthew 27:33) And when they came to a place called Gol'go·tha, that is, Skull Place,

(Mark 15:22) So they brought him to the place called Gol'go·tha, which means, when translated, "Skull Place."

(John 19:17) Bearing the torture stake for himself, he went out to the so-called Skull Place, which is called Gol'go·tha in Hebrew.

Where is that "*Skull Place*"? Let's let the Bible tell us. In the Hebrew scriptures the word for skull is spelled Gulgoleth. The following verses are every instance of it used in the Hebrew text. The translated word or words are underlined.

(Exodus 16:16) This is what Jehovah has commanded, 'Each one should gather it according to how much he can eat. You are to take an omer measure for each individual according to the number of the people that each of you has in his tent.'

(Exodus 38:26) The half shekel for each individual was half a shekel by the standard shekel of the holy place for every man who was among those registered from 20 years of age and up, amounting to 603,550.

(Numbers 1:2) "Take a census of the whole assembly of the Israelites individually according to their families, according to their paternal houses, according to the count of the names of all the males (Hebrew - every male individually).

(Numbers 1:18) They gathered all the assembly on the first day of the second month, so that they might be registered individually by name, by family, and by their paternal houses, from 20 years old and up,

(Numbers 1:20) The sons of Reu'ben, the descendants of Israel's firstborn, were listed by name, by family, and by their paternal houses. All the males from 20 years old and up who could serve in the army were counted individually,

(Numbers 1:22) The descendants of Sim'e-on were listed by name, by family, and by their paternal houses. All the males from 20 years old and up who could serve in the army were counted individually,

(Numbers 3:47) you are to take five shekels for each individual, according to the standard shekel of the holy place. A shekel is 20 ge'rahs.

(Judges 9:53) Then one of the women dropped an upper millstone on A·bim'e·lech's head and crushed his skull.

(2 Kings 9:35) But when they went to bury her, they did not find anything but her skull and her feet and the palms of her hands.

(1 Chronicles 10:10) Then they put his armor in the house of their god and fastened his skull to the house of Da'gon.

(1 Chronicles 23:3) The Levites who were 30 years old and up were numbered; their number, their head count man by man, was 38,000.

(1 Chronicles 23:24) These were the sons of Le'vi according to their paternal houses, the heads of the paternal houses, by those registered who were counted and listed by their names (individually) and who carried out the work for the service of the house of Jehovah, from 20 years old and up.

As you can see, unless it is referring to an actual skull, Gulgoleth is used to refer to individual people being counted or numbered. Gulgoleth means "a skull, head, poll of persons". (Strong's)

You see, to be counted is to be numbered. And just like today, counting people is referred to as taking a "head count". Back then they referred to it as numbering skulls. In Hebrew the word for number is mipqad. (Fausset's Bible Dictionary)

Here are two verses that use mipqad with the translated word underlined. (note that the verses are about counting people)

(2 Samuel 24:9) Jo'ab now gave to the king the number of the people who were registered. Israel amounted to 800,000 warriors armed with swords, and the men of Judah were 500,000.

(1 Chronicles 21:5) Jo'ab now gave to David the number of the people who were registered. All Israel amounted to 1,100,000 men armed with swords, and Judah, 470,000 men armed with swords.

So that is the answer to where Jesus was nailed up. It was at the place where skulls were numbered, where people were counted. And where was that? Outside the Mipqad Gate, that is to say, outside the Numbering Gate. Which gate is that? This verse tells us:

(Nehemiah 3:31) After him Mal·chi'jah, a member of the goldsmith guild, did repair work as far as the house of the temple servants and the traders, in front of the Inspection (Mipqad) Gate and as far as the roof chamber of the corner.

Directly east of the temple is the Inspection Gate, which means the numbering or counting gate.

That is where the people were inspected or counted, where census were taken.

So it wasn't on a mound or hill shaped like a skull, as some think, but it was outside the gate where every skull (head) was counted (numbered), which was outside the Inspection (number) Gate east of the Temple. That is the "*Skull Place*". That is where Jesus was nailed up.

And since Jesus' sacrifice was a permanent replacement for the sacrifice of the red cow (heifer), his death also occurred outside the east gate. (see my article "Judas Iscariot")

Partially sourced from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6jKz6PBPt0o>

Here are other scriptures that add credence to this location:

(Matthew 27:50-54) Again Jesus called out with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. ⁵¹ And look! the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two, from top to bottom, and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split. ⁵² And the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the holy ones who had fallen asleep were raised up ⁵³ (and people coming out from among the tombs after his being raised up entered into the holy city), and they became visible to many people. ⁵⁴ But when the army officer and those with him keeping watch over Jesus **saw** the earthquake and the things happening, they grew very much afraid and said: "Certainly this was God's Son."

(Mark 15:37-39) But Jesus let out a loud cry and expired. ³⁸ And the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ Now when the army officer who was standing by with him in view **saw** that he had expired under these circumstances, he said: "Certainly this man was God's Son."

(Luke 23:45-47) because the sunlight failed; then the curtain of the sanctuary was torn down the middle. ⁴⁶ And Jesus called out with a loud voice and said: "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." After he said this, he expired. ⁴⁷ Because of seeing what occurred, the army officer began to glorify God, saying: "Truly, this man was righteous."

Those three verses tell us that an army officer standing guard at Jesus' location saw the curtain of the sanctuary tear in two. With Jesus being nailed up at the east gate the army officer could easily have seen the curtain of the sanctuary torn in two since the open doors of the temple faced east directly towards the east gate where the army officer was.

(Note: There is a church in Jerusalem about a quarter mile west of the temple mount called The Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It is claimed to have been built on the location where Jesus was nailed up. Of course an army officer standing at that distant location could not have seen into the east-facing open doors of the temple to see the curtain of the sanctuary tear in two.)

Many say that the east gate is not east of the temple. Their argument is based on the claim that "The Dome of the Rock", which is south of the east gate, was built on the location where the

temple was. But there is no proof of that.

Here's what we do know:

(2 Samuel 24:18) So Gad came in to David on that day and said to him: "Go up, set up for Jehovah an altar on the threshing floor of A-rau'nah the Jeb'u-site."

(2 Chronicles 3:1) Then Sol'o-mon started to build the house of Jehovah in Jerusalem on Mount Mo-ri'ah, where Jehovah had appeared to his father David, in the place that David had prepared on the threshing floor of Or'nan the Jeb'u-site.

Yes, Jehovah's temple was built on a threshing floor. Under "The Dome of the Rock" is a large protruding lumpy, bumpy portion of the original bed-rock, which of course could not have been used as a threshing floor because a threshing floor needs to be flat. Therefore the location of the Dome of the Rock cannot be where the original temple was built.

But about 70 meters north-northwest of the Dome of the Rock is a very small dome called "The Dome of the Spirits". Beneath that dome you can see a small portion of the original threshing floor upon which the first temple was built. That small dome is in-line with the east gate through which ancient Jewish tradition says the priests looked through as they splattered the red heifer's blood "*straight toward the front of the tent of meeting.*" (Nu 3:38; 19:4),

What do *you* think?

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