

The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ

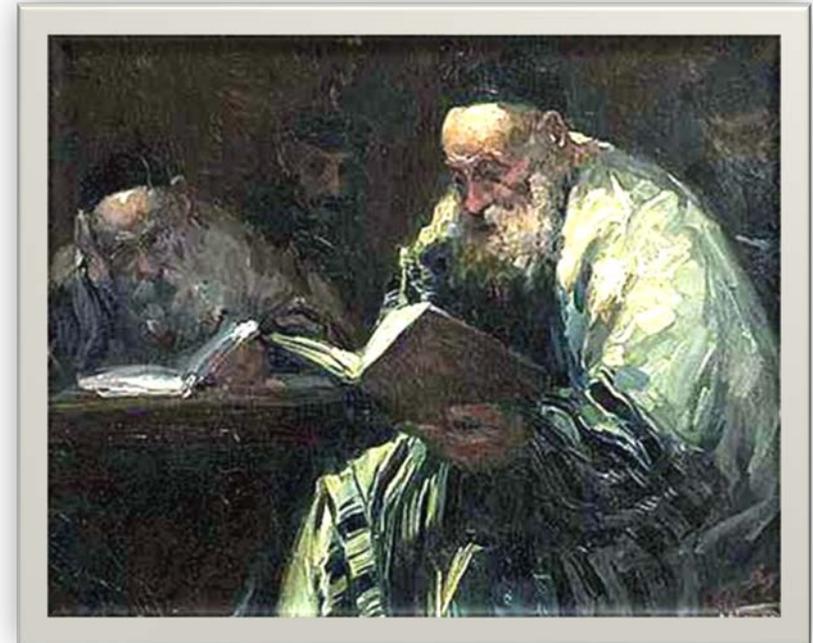
MEN OF THE BIBLE – MATTHEW 27

PASTOR STEVE HOLLEY

An Appeal Lawyer's Dream (Matthew 26 Recap)

Violations of the Jewish Traditions and Codes

- ▶ Jesus' arrest took place after sunset
- ▶ Jesus' arrest took place by way of a bribe from a traitor
- ▶ Jesus' arrest had those who would judge him present
- ▶ Jesus' trial hearings before Annas, Caiaphas, and the Sanhedrin occurred at night
- ▶ A trial could not be held on the eve of a Sabbath
- ▶ The witnesses at Jesus' trial could not agree
- ▶ No witnesses were called on behalf of Jesus
- ▶ Caiaphas attempted to get Jesus to incriminate Himself
- ▶ Caiaphas unduly influenced the Sanhedrin by tearing his High Priest vestments
- ▶ Capital offense trials required two days (24 hour period between trial and sentence)
- ▶ If a verdict is rendered as unanimous, the defendant is acquitted
- ▶ A death sentence by the Sanhedrin may only be given at their appointed meeting place
- ▶ "There must not be on the judicial bench either a relation, or a particular friend, or an enemy of either the accused or the accuser"



Good Friday A.M. (Matthew 27:1-2)

¹ When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death.

² And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

Why? Why didn't they just stone him to death?

Genesis 37:18; Psalm 94:21

Judas: The Consequences of a Traitor

(Matthew 27:3-5)

³ Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, **he changed his mind** and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders,

⁴ saying, **“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”**

They said, “What is that to us? See to it yourself.”

⁵ And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, He departed, and he went and **hanged himself**.

**“Cursed be anyone
who takes a bribe to
shed innocent blood.”**

Deuteronomy 27:25

²² “And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, ²³ his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance.

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

Judas: The Fulfillment of Scripture (Matthew 27:6-10)

⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." **Zechariah 11:12,13**

⁷ So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers.

⁸ Therefore that field has been called **the Field of Blood** to this day.

⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "*And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel,* ¹⁰ *and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.*" **Jeremiah 18:1-4; 19:1-3; 32:6-15**



Jesus Before Pilate (Matthew 27:11-14)

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him,

“Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus said, **“You have said so.”**

¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:7

¹³ Then Pilate said to him, **“Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?”**

¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹²Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of ruin and meditate treachery all day long. ¹³But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear, like a mute man who does not open his mouth.

Psalms 38:12-13

A Possible Option : Barabbas or Jesus (Matthew 27:15-18)

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted.

¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner called **Barabbas**.

¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them,

**“Whom do you want me to release for you:
Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?”**

¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up.

Why is this episode important? Similar to the Day of Atonement in which the High Priest gives an offering for the sins of the people and releases a scapegoat into the wilderness.

Leviticus 16

A Family Concern: Pilate's Wife (Matthew 27:19)

¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, **his wife** sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with **that righteous man**, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream."



Pilate, The Priests & The Mob (Matthew 27:20-23)

²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to **ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus.**

²¹ The governor again said to them, **“Which of the two do you want me to release for you?”**

And they said, “Barabbas.”

Isaiah 53:3a

³ “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; ...”

²² Pilate said to them, **“Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?”**

They all said, “Let him be crucified!” **Psalm 22:6**

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

²³ And he said, **“Why? “What evil has he done?”**

But they shouted all the more, “Let him be crucified!”

Isaiah 53:3b

³ “... as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

Pilate Delivers Jesus (Matthew 27:24-25)

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying,

“I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves.” Deuteronomy 21:6-8

²⁵ And all the people answered,

“His blood be on us and on our children!” Joshua 2:19

April 30 AD

Execution of
Jesus



40 Years Later

August 70 AD

The Fall of
Jerusalem

Pre-Crucifixion Activities: Scourging (Matthew 27:26)

²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus,

³ The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows." Psalm 129:3

he delivered him to be crucified.

²⁰ Can wicked rulers be allied with you, those who frame injustice by statute? ²¹ They band together against the life of the righteous and condemn the innocent to death. Psalm 94:20-21

⁶ I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. Isaiah 50:6a



Roman Crucifixion: Historically Speaking

"He was whipped until his bones showed"

- **Josephus**, *War of the Jews* 6.5.6.

"Each criminal who goes to his own execution must carry his own cross."

- **Plutarch**, *Sera* 5.5.4.

"Some hang their victims upside down."

"Some impale them through the private parts."

- **Seneca**, *To Marcia on Consolation* 20.3

"Other stretch out their arms on forked poles."

"Nero blamed the fire that destroyed much of Rome on a group of people he found so disgusting that he ordered them tortured in horrifying ways."

- **Tacitus**, *Annals of Imperial Rome*

Roman Crucifixion: Preliminary

Scourging

The “legal preliminary” to every Roman execution.

The instrument:

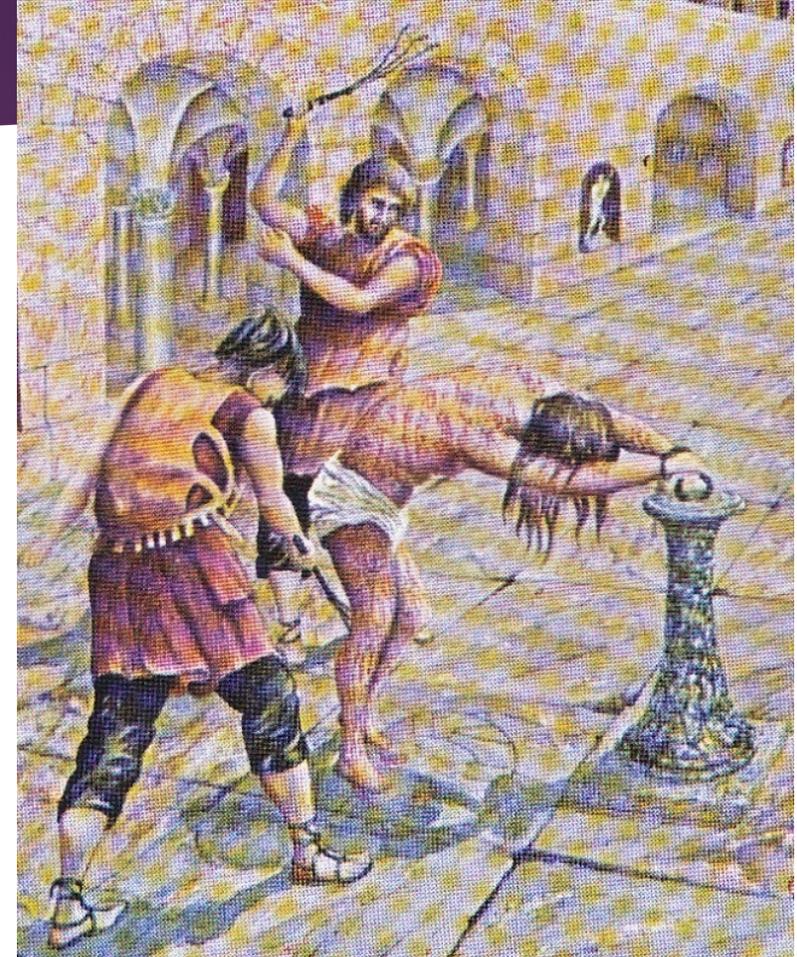
- Short whip (*flagrum*) with several single or braided leather tongs
- Small iron balls and/or sharp pieces of bone tied at intervals

Procedure

The victim is stripped, their hands tied to a post, with the back, buttocks, and legs are beaten by two soldiers in alternating positions applying the punishment

Result

Body turned into a bloody mass of bone & muscle. The victim suffers shock from blood loss, they become weakened, and is covered from head to foot in wounds and welts that bleed



Pre-Crucifixion Activities: Mocking (Matthew 27:27-31)

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.

(Public Humiliation)

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

(Mock Coronation)

²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying,

“Hail, King of the Jews!”

² “Surely there are mockers about me, and my eye dwells on their provocation.” Job 17:2

⁷ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;...” Psalm 22:7

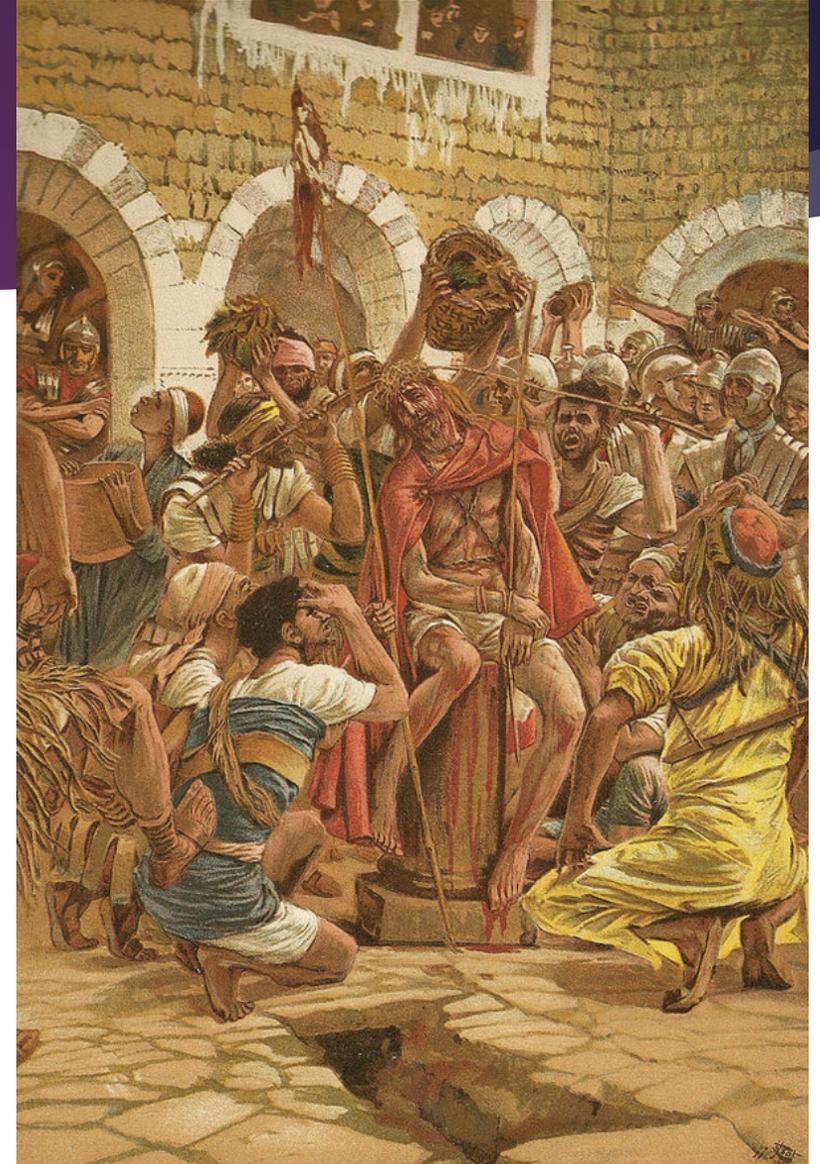
³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

(Physical Abuse)

³¹ And when they had mocked him,

they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

⁶ I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. Isaiah 50:6c



Roman Crucifixion: Preliminary

Additional Mocking & Beating

Zizyphus Spina Christi = 1" thorns

Placed on Jesus' head

Beard pulled out **Isaiah 50:6**

Did not look like a human being

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you — his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind — ..." **Isaiah 52:14**

Physical Condition

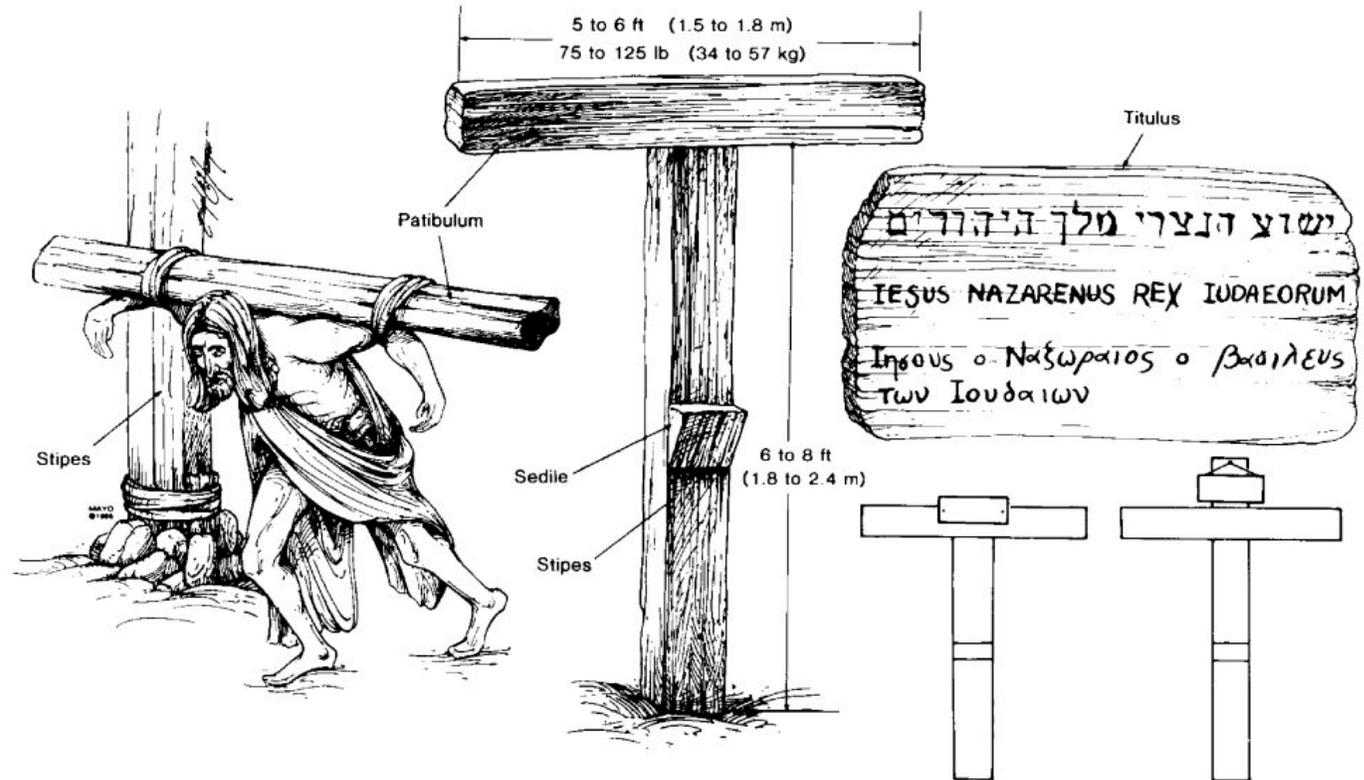
Hypovolemic shock – bleeding, cold, clammy, sweaty



The Cross

▶ The Cross Structure

- ▶ *Stipes* – an upright post
- ▶ *Patibulum* = beam – 75-125 lbs.
- ▶ *Sedile/sedulum* = seat
- ▶ Because of Jesus' condition, Simon of Cyrene was recruited to carry the beam
- ▶ Jesus was offered wine mixed with myrrh (gall) as an analgesic pain reliever, but refused it in order to bear the full weight of suffering for our sin



The Nails

Hands Nailed to the Cross

- ▶ 5-7" Iron Spikes
- ▶ Driven through palms or wrist
- ▶ Damaged the median nerve = causalgia
- ▶ Between the bones – none broken – increased pain
- ▶ Arms not pulled tightly, but shoulders and elbows dislocated upon lifting into place (**Psalm 22:14**)

Feet Nailed to Cross

- ▶ Through feet and/or ankles
- ▶ Damage to the personal nerve and/or lateral peroneal nerve
- ▶ Knees flexed and rotated laterally
- ▶ Nails driven between bones



The Crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27:32-38)

³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.

Matthew 5:41

³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means **Place of a Skull**),

³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, **Psalm 69:21**

but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.

³⁵ And when they had crucified him, **Psalm 22:16; Isaiah 53:8c**

they divided his garments among them by casting lots.

Psalm 22:18

³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there.

³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, **"This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."**

³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.



Mocking From All Sides (Matthew 27:39-44)

³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, **Job 16:4b; Psalm 22:8; 109:25; Lamentations 2:15**
wagging their heads **Psalm 35:15, 26**

⁴⁰ and saying,

“You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” Psalm 42:10; 71:11

⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, **Psalm 22:12-13, 17; 102:8**

⁴² **“He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. Psalm 3:1-2; 31:14-15**

⁴³ **He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”**

⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also **reviled him in the same way. Job 30:7-9; Psalm 22:6-8**

Psalm 22

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴ In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸ "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹² Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³ they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—¹⁷ I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; ¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹ But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²² I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.

Isaiah 53

¹ Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

⁹ And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

¹¹ Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

The Darkest Hours (Matthew 27:45-50)

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was **darkness over all the land** until the ninth hour.

Psalm 2:2; Isaiah 50:3; Amos 8:9

⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, *“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?”* that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” **Psalm 22:1**

⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, **“This man is calling Elijah.”**

⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. **Psalm 69:21**

⁴⁹ But the others said, **“Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”** **Psalm 17:10**

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit. **Isaiah 53:8; Daniel 9:26c**

Miracles and Declaration (Matthew 27:51-54)

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, **Exodus 26:31-37**

from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. **Psalm 18:6-7; Nahum 1:5**

52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised,

53 and **coming out of the tombs after his resurrection** they went into the holy city and **appeared to many**.

54 When **the centurion** and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said,

“Truly this was the Son of God!”

Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 72:12; 86:9; 117:1; Isaiah 60:3



The Women as Witnesses (Matthew 27:55-56,61)

⁵⁵ There were also **many women** there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him,

⁵⁶ among whom were **Mary Magdalene** and **Mary** the mother of James and Joseph and **the mother of the sons of Zebedee**.

* * * * *

⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and **the other Mary** were there, sitting opposite the tomb.



Jesus Is Buried

(Matthew 27:57-60)

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came **a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph**, who also was a disciple of Jesus. **1 Samuel 1:1**

⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and **asked for the body of Jesus**. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. **Deuteronomy 21:23**

⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in **a clean linen shroud**

⁶⁰ and **laid it in his own new tomb, Isaiah 53:9a**

which he had cut in the rock. And he **rolled a great stone** to the entrance of the tomb and went away.



One Last Request of Pilate (Matthew 27:62-66)

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate [On the Sabbath]

⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise.' Psalm 2:1-6

⁶⁴ Therefore **order the tomb to be made secure until the third day**, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, 'He has risen from the dead,' and the last fraud will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can."

⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.



³² "When he is carried to the grave, watch is kept over his tomb." Job 21:32

Harmony of the Crucifixion

1. Jesus arrived at Golgotha (Matt. 27:33; Mark 15:22; Luke 23:33; John 19:17).
2. He refused the offer of wine mixed with myrrh (Matt. 27:34; Mark 15:23).
3. He was nailed to the cross between the two thieves (Matt. 27:35–38; Mark 15:24–28; Luke 23:33–38; John 19:18).
4. He gave His **1st cry** from the cross: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34).
5. The soldiers took Jesus’ garments, leaving Him naked on the cross (Matt. 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23).
6. The Jews mocked Jesus (Matt. 27:39–43; Mark 15:29–32; Luke 23:35–37).
7. He conversed with the two thieves (Luke 23:39–43).
8. He gave His **2nd cry** from the cross, “I tell you the truth; today you will be with Me in paradise” (Luke 23:43).
9. He spoke the **3rd time**, “Woman, here is your son” (John 19:26–27).

Harmony of the Crucifixion

10. Darkness came from noon to 3 P.M. (Matt. 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44).
11. He gave His **4th cry**, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46–47; Mark 15:34–36).
12. His **5th cry** was, "I am thirsty" (John 19:28).
13. He drank "wine vinegar" (John 19:29).
14. His **6th cry** was, "It is finished" (John 19:30).
15. He drank wine vinegar from a sponge (Matt. 27:48; Mark 15:36).
16. He cried a **7th time**, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46).
17. He dismissed His spirit by an act of His own will (Matt. 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30).
18. The temple curtain was torn in two (Matt. 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45).
19. Roman soldiers admitted, "Surely He was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54; Mark 15:39)

The Gospel

1 Corinthians 15:1-3

¹ “Now I would remind you, brothers, of

the gospel I preached to you,

which you received, in which you stand,

² and **by which you are being saved**, if you hold fast to

the word I preached to you—

unless you believed in vain.

³ For **I delivered to you** as of first importance **what I also received:**

that Christ died for our sins

in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that

he was buried, that

he was raised on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures,...”