

The Crucifixion

Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

- The Sanhedrin questions Jesus (Mt. 27:1; Mark 15:1a; Luke 22:66-71)
- Judas' suicide (Mt. 27:3-10)
- They take Jesus to Pilate (Mt. 27:2, 11-14; Mark 15:1b-5; Luke 23:1-5; Jn. 18:28-38)
 - The Jews won't enter his headquarters (doing so would make them defiled and hinder them from eating the Passover), so he goes out to them. He tells them to judge Him themselves, but they say they have no law/right (their right to capital punishment was stripped by Rome). This fulfilled what kind of death Jesus would suffer - not stoning, but crucifixion (Psalm 22:16)
 - Then Pilate goes inside and summons Jesus. They talk inside his headquarters. He asks if Jesus is the King of the Jews? Jesus claims He is King, but His kingdom is not of this world. Jesus says He came into the world to bear witness to the truth. Those who are of truth listen to Him. Pilate asks what truth is.
 - Then he goes back outside to the Jews - Jesus seems to be innocent to him.
- Pilate learns He's from Galilee, so he sends Him to Herod (Luke 23:6-12)
 - Herod is excited to see Jesus perform a sign, but Jesus is silent.
 - They make fun of Him and send Him back to Pilate in splendid clothing.
 - Herod and Pilate become friends that day on, but had been at enmity with each other.
- Jesus is returned to Pilate (Mt. 27:15-30; Mark 15:6-20a; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:39-19:16a)
 - Pilate & Herod find no guilt in Jesus, but He offers to have Him punished and released. It is also custom, during the feast, to release a prisoner back to the people. Pilate offers Jesus or Barabbas.
 - Perhaps Barabbas was to be executed that day? An appropriate coincidence, Jesus - the Son of God - taking His place, seeing as how Barabbas' name means "the son of a father". He probably murdered/robbed in connection to opposing Roman authority. Insurrection is a reference to a revolt/uprising against the authorities. So, more likely, he killed/robbed as an act against Rome. Jesus is also crucified with two *robbers*. Were they friends of Barabbas?

- Pilate's wife warns to him to leave Jesus alone. She says He's innocent and suffered a great deal in her dreams because of Him. Meanwhile, the religious leaders stir up the crowd against Jesus. It's scary - mob/sheep mentality.
- Pilate tries a second and third time to release Jesus. Why Jesus? What wrong has He done? But the crowd cries out all the more, "Crucify Him!"
- Pilate hands Jesus over and He's flogged. The Roman soldiers have their fun with Jesus. They strip Him and place a purple/scarlet robe on Him, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" They place a crown of thorns on His head, beat His head with a staff. Spit on Him. Strike Him in the face. They fall to their knees paying homage to Him. Jesus is then presented to His people - flogged & beaten in mocking attire. Pilate claims, again, that he finds no fault in Jesus. After the mocking is completed they put His own clothes back on Him.
- Pilate speaks to Jesus again (Mt. 27:22-23; Mark 15:12-14; Luke 23:20-22)
 - Pilate encourages them to crucify Him since he finds no fault. The Jews claim He must die for claiming to be the Son of God.
 - Pilate speaks to Jesus who remains silent. Pilate reminds Jesus that he has power to release or kill Him. Jesus explains his power comes from above. The Jews are guilty of the greater sin.
- Pilate's last attempt with the Jews (Mt. 27:24-25; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:23-25; John 19:12-16)
 - He doesn't want to kill Jesus. Jews issue a political threat.
 - Pilate presents their king, but they respond "we have no King but Caesar."
 - He's getting nowhere, so he takes water and washes his hands, declaring his hands were innocent of Jesus' blood. It's on them. They say, "Let His blood be on us and on our children!"
 - Pilate releases Barabbas and hands Jesus over to be crucified.
- **Jesus is Crucified (Mt. 27:31-56; Mark 15:20b-37; Luke 23:25-46; John 19:16b-30)**
 - Jesus begins to carry His own cross to Golgotha (in Hebrew - from Latin translation we get the word "Calvary." Both mean The Place of the Skull), but Simon is eventually forced to carry it. Women weep for Jesus, but Jesus says to weep for themselves. The destruction of Jerusalem will come because of Israel's unbelief. The two other criminals are led out with Jesus.
 - Jesus is offered wine mixed with myrrh, but refuses it after tasting it. (Psalm 69:21?).
 - The first three hours.

- They crucify Him at Golgotha between two criminals (Isaiah 53:12). It is the third hour (9 AM). Jesus says, "**Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.**"
- A sign written in Aramaic, Latin & Greek stating, "THIS IS JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS" is fastened to the cross above His head. (*These signs were common and used to state the crime*). The Jews want it to say "He claimed to be King of the Jews", but Pilate responds, "What I have written, I have written." A bit ironic, isn't it? Jesus is, indeed, guilty as charged.
- The soldiers take His clothing and cast lots for them. (Psalm 22:18).
- Everyone begins to mock Him on the cross. Those who pass by. The religious leaders. Soldiers. The thieves. This all fulfills Psalm 22:7-8, 16. You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days - save yourself! You can save others, save Yourself! He's the Son of God? Come down and we'll believe in You. Ask God to help since You're His Son!
- The soldiers offer Him wine vinegar and challenge Him to save Himself. Even the robbers get in on the fun.
- Finally, one criminal has a change of heart. One criminal criticizes Jesus - save us and yourself! Then the other criminal defends Jesus. He points out that Jesus shouldn't be there. He then says to Him, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Jesus answered, "**Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in paradise.**"
- Now we have a group of women and John the apostle. The women are Mary (Jesus' mother), Mary's sister (Salome - mother of James & John), Mary, wife of Clopas (mother of James the younger & Joses), & Mary Magdalene. Jesus sees His mother and the disciple whom He loves (John) and says to His mother, "**Woman, behold, your son!**" Then He says to the disciple, "**Behold, your mother!**"
- The last three hours.
 - Darkness comes over the whole land from the sixth hour (12 noon) to the ninth hour (3 PM). The sun "stops shining".
 - At the 9th hour Jesus cries out, "**Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?**" Which means, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**" Jesus is quoting verbatim Psalm 22:1 (written 600 years before His crucifixion). Others say, "Listen, He's calling Elijah."
 - Knowing that all is completed, and in order to fulfill prophecy (Psalm 69:21?), Jesus says, "**I am thirsty.**" He is offered wine vinegar. He receives it and says, "**It is**

finished." Then He calls out with a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Then He breathes His last, bows His head and gives up His spirit.

- **Jesus' Death & Burial (Matthew 27:51-66; Mark 15:38-47; Luke 23:47-56; John 19:31-42)**

- The curtain of the temple is torn in two from top to bottom. (*This symbolizes the inevitable end of the Old Law and sacrifices as well as an invitation to come into the presence of the Lord. Its open access is through Jesus the Christ.*)
- The earth shakes and rocks split. Tombs are broke open and the bodies of the saints who had died were raised to life. They went into the holy city and appeared to many people (Matthew 27:53 seems to indicate on Sunday after His resurrection).
- Back to the cross: The centurion and guards see how Jesus dies and the earthquake and praise God. They say, "Truly this was the Son of God!"
- Since Jews can't be hung on a tree over night (especially on a Sabbath), they ask Pilate to break their legs and be taken down. The other two have their legs broken, but Jesus does not (fulfilling scripture - Exodus 12:46 with Psalm 34:20). Then Jesus' side is pierced and blood and water flowed out (fulfilling scripture Zech. 12:10).
- Joseph of Arimathea is a prominent member of the Council, (a good and upright man who did not approve to their decision and action), was waiting for the kingdom of God. He goes to Pilate and asks for Jesus' body. He is a disciple, but secretly because he fears the Jews. Pilate is shocked to hear that Jesus is dead. He grants the body to Joseph after confirming His death. This wealthy man provides a tomb for Jesus (fulfilling Isaiah 53:9).
- Nicodemus is also present (John 3) and brings 75 pounds of ointments. They wrap Jesus' body in a new linen shroud. Jesus is laid in a new tomb belonging to Joseph. A stone is rolled in front of the entrance to the tomb.
- Two of the women from Galilee who had been there the whole time follow Joseph and see where Jesus' body is buried. The women go home and prepare spices and perfumes. They rest on the Sabbath.
- The next day the religious leaders request that Pilate place guards in front of His tomb. They don't want this lie of "rising again" to be circulated, so they need to make sure someone is watching so His disciples can't steal the body at night and claim He was raised. Pilate agrees. They secure the tomb by putting a seal on the stone and posting a guard.

Jesus' Hours on the Cross

