

Matthew Chapter 27

These verses seem to put this chapter in perspective in many ways:

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 ³“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

Acts 2:22-23 ²²“Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: ²³Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:”

- All part of God’s plan from the beginning of time.
- Whenever God wants to express, describe, or prove His love for us, He always points to the cross.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Romans 5:7-8 ⁷“For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. ⁸But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

- None of the Gospel accounts describe the actual scourging or crucifixion, only the people and events surrounding it.

V: 1 **Matthew 26:57** They held their deliberations and trial in the nighttime, in darkness, contrary to the law.

Isaiah 29:15 “Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, and their works are in the dark; they say, who sees us? And who knows us?”

- The Sanhedrin reconvened in the morning, in daylight, to give the trial a legitimate appearance and deliver the “official” verdict.
- The Jewish day begins at sun down, thus this was the beginning of the Passover.

V: 2 The Jews were determined to deliver Jesus to Pontius Pilate because they specifically wanted Jesus to be crucified. They wanted Jesus to suffer and be an example for others who would think twice about crossing them.

Leviticus 24:16 “And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the Lord, shall be put to death.”

- The legitimate penalty for blasphemy was stoning. Later when Stephen aroused the anger of the Jews, they dragged him out and stoned him; which they could have done with Jesus, but that would not have satisfied their desire for vengeance.
- Critics argued for years that Pontius Pilot never existed, that his name was all part of a make believe scenario. Discovery of the “Pilot stone” in the archeological excavations in Caesaria proved them to be wrong, and that once again the Bible was accurate.
- Pilot had a palace in Jerusalem even though his HQ was in Caesarea. During the Passover the governor usually stayed in Jerusalem due to the crowds and the likelihood of trouble. Passover was a time of national pride and is when most of the previous rebellions had been started.

V: 3 Verses 3-10 are a parenthetical break concerning Judas Iscariot.

- Judas “saw” that Jesus was condemned, their paths may have crossed one coming in, One being led out.
- “Remorseful” NKJV / “repented” KJV (#G3338), the word used is more like someone who regretted at having been caught. He didn’t ask for forgiveness, even when he might have had a last chance when passing Jesus in the Temple.

2 Corinthians 7:10 “For Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

- Earlier with Peter we saw Godly sorrow working repentance to salvation, true repentance. That is not what Judas demonstrated, nor what is described.
- Judas demonstrates the end of this verse; death.

Luke 22:3-5 “³Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. ⁴and he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him unto them. ⁵And they were glad, and covenanted to give him money.”

- These verses describes how Satan had entered into Judas, there were no noble intentions here.

- Judas dealt directly with the “chief priests & elders”, they are the ones who should have known.

Romans 6:23 “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- Sin cannot be taken back or reversed, it can only be paid for. The only question is who will pay?

V: 4 Acknowledging that he had betrayed “the” innocent blood.

Luke 18:19 “... why callest thou Me good? None is good, save one, that is, God.”

- Judas declared that Jesus was “innocent”. Judas had been with Jesus for 3 years and would know, having seen Him in so many different situations.
- The chief priests and elders implied confirmation of Jesus’ innocence by their statement as well. “*What is that to us?*” Or, “so?”
- How would Matthew come to know this information since he wasn’t there? Either Judas or the priests had to have told him. Judas died shortly thereafter, many of the priests came to receive Jesus.

John 12:42 “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue.”

- Had they truly feared God Jesus’ innocence would have been everything to them.

Psalms 51:6 “Behold, thou desireth truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom,...”

Proverbs 11:3 “The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.”

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doeth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

- Jesus was declared “innocent” or “just” by 7 witnesses.

1. Judas Iscariot **Matthew 27:4**
2. Priests & elders **Matthew 27:4**
3. Pilot’s wife **Matthew 27:19**
4. Pilot (7) **Matt. 27:24, Lk. 23:4, 14, 22; Jn.18:38, 19:4, 6.**

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| 5. Herod | Luke 23:14-15. |
| 6. Thief | Luke 23:41 |
| 7. Centurion | Luke 23:47 |

V: 5 Apparently they wouldn't take the money back, so Judas threw it on the floor and left.

- Judas then went and "hanged himself"

Acts 1:18-19 ¹⁸Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. ¹⁹And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, the field of blood."

- These are two descriptions of the same event. First he hung himself, committing suicide. Then he probably hung there long enough to begin to decompose to some extent, finally something gave way, the rope, the branch, or his neck. He could have been cut down by a good Samaritan. Falling in a decomposed state he broke open upon impact. Both statements about his end are true.

[Judas' betrayal was prophesied:](#)

Psalm 41:9 "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me."

2 Samuel 17:23 "And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died, and was buried in the sepulcher of his father."

- Ahithophel, David's counselor and friend also hung himself after betraying David, after being rejected by the enemy. ("Brother of folly" & Bathsheba's grandfather)

Deuteronomy 19:18-19 ¹⁸And the judges shall make diligent inquisition: and, behold, if the witness be a false witness, and hath testified falsely against his brother; ¹⁹then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you."

- False witnesses were to receive the same punishment that had been intended for the person lied against.
- Jesus hung on a tree, so did Judas.
- Had Judas truly known Jesus, had he truly been repentant, he could have humbled himself and gone to Jesus to ask for forgiveness – and received it – but he didn't.

V: 6 “*Not lawful*” - no tainted money in the Temple.

Deuteronomy 23:18 “Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog, into the house of the Lord thy God for any vow: for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God.”

- Define hypocrite:

Mark 7:6-9 “⁶... well hath Isaiah prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, this people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. ⁷Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. ⁸For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. ⁹And he said unto them, full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.”

Forgot the weightier matters of the law:

Matthew 23:23-24 “²³Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye pay tithes of mint, and anise, and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone. ²⁴Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.”

- “price of blood” = tacit admission.

V: 7-8 They used the money to purchase a potters field, that doesn't mean that Judas hung himself at that location.

V: 9 Quoting from both **Jeremiah 19:1-13** and **Zechariah 11:12-13**.

- Jeremiah refers to the “potter's earthen bottle”, going “forth unto the valley of Hinnom”, and having “filled this place with the blood of innocents.”
- Matthew may be referring to the more prominent prophet instead of both. The other possibility is that “Jeremiah” is a copyist error.
- (Barnes notes) There are various possibilities, the one that seems probable is that there was a mistake made by ancient transcribers, writing the name Jeremiah instead of Zechariah; and it is observed that this might be done by the change of only a single letter. It was often the custom to abridge words in writing them, thus, instead of writing the name of Jeremiah in full, it would be written in Greek *Iriou*. So Zechariah would be written *Zriou*. By the mere change of **Z** into **I**, therefore, the mistake might easily be made. Probably this is the correct explanation.

V: 10 We are the broken vessels (crack pots!), broken lives tossed into that field. The price paid for our Slave / Jesus, was used to purchase this field.

2 Corinthians 4:7 “But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”

Judges Ch. 7 – Gideon used torches, pitchers, trumpets to obtain victory. Actually the victory was gained by the breaking of the vessels.

V: 11 Parallel accounts: **Mark 15: 1-25, Luke 23: 1-26, John 18: 28- 19:19.**

- *Subject change: Back to Jesus.*

1 Timothy 6:13 “I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;”

- Jesus made a good confession before Pilot.
- **There is no denying who Jesus is, especially not from Jesus Himself.**

2 Timothy 2:13 ¹²If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him: if we deny Him, He also will deny us: ¹³If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: He cannot deny Himself.

Luke 23:1-12 After questioning Jesus, Pilot sends him to Herod. Herod questions Jesus and sends Him back to Pilot.

[Back ground – Politics in Judea, Pilot's situation.](#)

- Pilot is in the midst of a political dilemma: He's stumbled through 3 significant political blunders and has been told by Caesar that one more blunder and he's out.
1. When he first entered Jerusalem and the Temple area with his troops and their respective Roman standards and regalia, the Jews rioted at having foreign idols brought into the Temple area. In the ensuing face off between the Romans and the Jews, Pilot backed down giving the Jews a victory, which angered Tiberias Caesar.
 2. Two years later Pilot tries to make amends with the Jews by building an aqueduct into Jerusalem bringing in fresh water from the area of Caesarea. This was a great engineering achievement but a bad miscalculation. To complete this project he raided the Temple treasury, a riot ensued and a lot of people were killed.
 3. A couple of years later Pilot ordered new shields for his soldiers, 2-3 months prior to the crucifixion they arrive, each with the image of Caesar on the front, which when paraded through town caused another riot.

- So now we have Pilot sitting on the judgment seat, which is getting warmer by the minute, trying very hard to avoid another incident which would be reported back to Caesar.

V: 12-14 Again, the fulfillment of prophecy.

Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth onto his mouth.”

- Jesus simply submitted, he didn’t threaten or retaliate.

1 Peter 2:23 “Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously:”

- The fulfillment of prophecy wasn’t the only reason that Jesus didn’t answer the accusations:
- Jesus wasn’t going to the cross for Himself, He was there to die for our sins not His own.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- Jesus was innocent and had a valid defense if He wanted to exercise it, we however were / are guilty, and there is no response apart from Jesus taking our place on the cross.
- Pilot marveled greatly at the quiet confidence and the peace that Jesus manifested.

Jesus lived and demonstrated God’s word:

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Be careful / anxious for nothing, but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Isaiah 30:15 “For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength:...”

- Pilot is not used to this, it had to be unsettling to some degree.

V: 15 Speaking of the Passover feast. No one knows for sure how the tradition got started, but it appears to be a measure of appeasement.

- A mob is never appeased, neither are terrorists or bullies.

V: 16 Barabbas was a robber, a murderer, an insurrectionist, and a notorious criminal.

Mark 15:7 “And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection.”

Luke 23:19 “Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.”

John 18:40 “Then cried they all again, saying, not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.”

V: 17 Pilot is appealing to and counting on their “goodness”, because deep down we’re all good...Wrong!

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”

- Pilot was also counting on the apparent contrast between Jesus and Barrabas. The crowd chose poorly and generally still does.
- “*Which is called Christ*” by who? The People? Common knowledge? Pilate had probably heard about Jesus and how the people referred to Him.

V: 18 The true motivation of the Priests and elders, envy and greed; and Pilot knew it.

The religious leaders speaking of Jesus said:

John 11:48 “If we let Him thus alone, all men will believe on Him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.”

Colossians 3:5 “⁵Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence (sexual desires & lust), and covetousness, which is idolatry: ⁶For which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.”

Exodus 20:17 (10th commandment) “Thou shalt not covet...”

V: 19 Declared a “just man” by Pilot’s wife. (Refer back to V: 4)

- Many interesting but unverifiable stories surround this woman.
- Said to be a Jewish proselyte, later converted to Christianity, and canonized by the Roman Catholic Church, St. Claudia Procula.

- Tradition is that Pilot and his wife had a child who was dying, she brought the child to Jesus who healed him / her, his wife becomes a believer who is grieved at Jesus' treatment at the Judgement seat.

V: 20 The best friends and leaders are the ones who will point us, direct us, and lead us to Jesus. The worst leaders will do just the opposite.

Isaiah 9:16 “For the leaders of this people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed.”

Speaking of the scribes and Pharisees:

Matthew 15:14 “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

Luke 12:48 “... For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”

Matthew 18:6 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

James 3:1 “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”

- From Adam until now, we keep making the wrong choices!

V: 21 The choices were limited, right & wrong. One who would take life or the One who would give life.

Deuteronomy 30:19 “I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live;”

V: 22 “What do we do with Jesus” – same question today.

This was the question that Jesus asked His disciples:

Matthew 16:13 “... whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

- We are always forced to make a choice:

Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.”

Joshua 24:15 “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

- “*Let Him be crucified*” - they chose death...

V: 23 What are the charges? Are there any actual charges?

Luke 23:2, 14-15 “²And they began to accuse Him, saying, we found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ a King.”

“¹⁴... ye have brought this Man unto me, as one who perverteth the people: and, behold, I, having examined Him before you, have found no fault in this man touching those things whereof ye accuse Him: ¹⁵No, nor yet Herod: for I sent you to him; and, lo, nothing worthy of death is done unto Him.”

John 18:38 “Pilate saith unto Him, what is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in Him no fault at all.”

John 19:4, 6. “⁴Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, behold, I bring Him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in Him.” – “⁶When the Chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, crucify Him, crucify Him. Pilate saith unto them, take ye Him, and crucify Him: for I find no fault in Him.”

- Regardless of the truth all they wanted was for Him to be crucified!

2 Thessalonians 2:7 “For the mystery of iniquity / lawlessness doth already work: only He who now letteth will let, until He be taken out of the way.”

V: 24 Pilot was trying to maneuver, but failing this he was finally forced into a corner by the Jews who questioned his allegiance to Caesar.

John 19:12 “And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release Him: but the Jews cried out, saying, if thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar’s friend: whoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.”

- Pilot makes an expedient decision:
- Pilot washed his hands, adopting a Jewish practice, attempting to proclaim his innocence in the matter. **Deuteronomy 21:1-7**

Nice try:

Deuteronomy 21:6-7 “⁶And all the elders of that city, that are next unto the slain man, shall wash their hands over the heifer that is beheaded in the valley: ⁷And they shall answer and say, our hands have not shed this blood, neither have our eyes seen it.”

- Pilot declares Jesus a “just person.”

V: 25 *“Then answered all the people and said, His blood be on us, and on our children”*

- It was and it is upon all of us.

V: 26 “Scourged”, the Gospel accounts record that Jesus was scourged, but don’t actually describe the process or event any more than that.

- We learn from other Old Testament accounts, and from secular history exactly what scourging amounted to.

Scourging:

- Often used to illicit confessions, a method of interrogation. Men don’t lie under such circumstances.
- The reason that Pilate scourged Jesus was to find out what He had done to irritate the Jews.
- Prisoner, hands tied up and apart to posts.
- Stripped with back to the guard with the whip.
- Cat of nine tails: Short handle, wrapped in leather. 9 leather strands several feet long with bits of rock, bone, and glass embedded into it.
- When the Jews lashed a prisoner they were given 40 lashes, minus one (39), in an attempt to fulfill the Law. The Romans had no such limitation, the purpose was to extract information.
- The strokes from the whip cut and tore flesh as it struck the victim causing loss of skin, muscle tissue, and large amounts of blood. The prisoner often died from this interrogation. That is why it wasn’t lawful to scourge a Roman citizen.
- “Flogging” and “chastisement” were less severe forms of punishment.

1 Peter 2:24 *“Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”*

- All of this was in fulfillment of Messianic prophecies:

Isaiah 50:6 *“I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”*

Isaiah 53:5 “But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

V: 27-30 “band of soldiers” – cohort, 1/10th of a legion = 600 men.

- Rome drafted soldiers from all over the empire, not just Romans. In essence Jesus suffered at the hands of all, crucified by all, for all.
- Describing the things done to Jesus.
 1. Stripped.
 2. Scarlet robe put on him.
 3. Crown of thorns. **Genesis 3:17-18** ground cursed.
 4. Mocked.

Psalm 22:6-7 ⁶“But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ⁷And they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head saying.”
 5. Spit upon Him.

Job 30:10 “They abhor Me, they flee far from Me, and spare not to spit in My face.”
 6. Used a reed and smote Him repeatedly. Just read **Isaiah 50:6**
Isaiah 52:14 “As many were astonished at thee; His visage was so marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men:”
- The Romans played a game called “hot hand”. The Roman soldiers would each one at a time show the prisoner his fist. The prisoner would then be blindfolded and each soldier would strike the prisoner one time in a contest to see who could knock him out or down, all except one. After each soldier had taken a turn, the prisoner would be un-blind folded and told to guess which soldier had not struck him, then the process would be repeated.
- Add to that sleep deprivation / fatigue, blood loss from scourging.

V: 31 Jesus did not retaliate or threaten.

Matthew 5:38-39 ³⁸Ye have heard that it hath been said, an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: ³⁹But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.”

1 Peter 2:23 “who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;”

Hebrews 12:2 “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Psalms 69:7 “Because for your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face.”

V: 32 Jesus started out with His cross but at some point Simon of Cyrene was drafted by the Roman soldiers to carry the cross for Jesus.

John 19:17 “And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,”

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come unto Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

Mark 8:34 “... whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.”

- It would appear that Simon became a believer as did his family. His family was known to the church in Rome.

Romans 16:13 “Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.”

Mark 15:21 “Then they compelled a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, as he was coming out of the country and passing by, to bear His cross.”

V: 33 Golgotha / Calvary / Mt. Mariah

- **Genesis 22:1-14:** The same mountain that Abraham offered Isaac. Moriah, 3rd day, “**My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:**”
- When Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac on Mt. Moriah, it was one hill or mountain. During the time of the building of the Temple (**2 Chronicles 3:1**), and subsequent building projects Mt. Moriah was cut up or hewn to utilize the stone for the projects creating a ravine / valley between the Temple mount and what was eventually Calvary.
- Picture’s:

V: 34 gall = myrrh = wormwood = hemlock

Prophecy fulfilled:

Psalms 69:21 “They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”

- Used for embalming & pain killer, narcotic.
- A deadly liquor substance, bitter, causes drunkenness, a poison used in the right mixture.

Revelation 8:11 “And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter / poisonous.”

- A curse from God for their disobedience.

Jeremiah 9:13-15 “¹³And the Lord said, because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice, neither walked therein; ¹⁴but have walked after the imagination of their own heart, and after Baalim, which their fathers taught them: ¹⁵Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; behold, I will feed them, even this people, with wormwood, and give them water of gall to drink.”

Deuteronomy 29:18-21 “¹⁸Lest there should be among you a man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; ¹⁹And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: ²⁰The Lord will not spare him, but then the anger of the Lord and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the Lord shall blot out his name from under heaven. ²¹And the Lord shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the Law:”

Hosea 10:4 “They have spoken words, swearing falsely in making a covenant: Thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.”

- These verses describe the “curse” that would / did result from man’s disobedience – and Jesus took that curse upon Himself.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

- He wouldn’t drink: He wouldn’t allow the narcotic to dull the pain, He took all the pain, suffering, the fullness of God’s wrath so there wouldn’t be any left for us.

1 Peter 2:24 “Who his own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

Titus 2:13-14 ¹³“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

V: 35 They crucified Jesus (**Mark 15:2**) at the “third hour” / 9:00 AM.

Specific fulfillment of prophecy:

Psalms 22:16-18 ¹⁶“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. ¹⁸They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”

Deuteronomy 21:22-23 ²²“And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be to be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: ²³His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; for he that is hanged is accursed of God; that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.”

Galatians 3:13 “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

- No description of this event just a simple statement “*and they crucified Him*”. No description would be sufficient, any description would be too much for us to handle.
- Possibly left out as a private matter between a Father and his only Son.
- Our description of the crucifixion comes from a combination of Old Testament prophecies and secular history / accounts.

Crucifixion:

1. Invented by the Persians approximately 400 years before the birth of Christ.
2. Later refined by the Romans in 100 BC as a method of prolonging the death process while at the same time increasing the pain inflicted.
3. Creating a terrifying execution, intended to be a deterrent.

4. The criminal would be forced to carry his cross from the trial location to the place of crucifixion.
 5. The criminal would be stripped naked and forced to lay down upon the cross.
 6. Spikes / nails were then driven through each wrist between the radius and ulna bones, not the palms. This would support the body weight of the man and pierce straight through the Median Nerve causing increased pain.
 7. The feet would be placed one over the other, knees slightly bent. Another spike would be driven through both feet into a block fixed to the upright post. The spike driven between the bones of the feet would support the body weight and give the criminal something to push off of, but not allow him to lock his knees or stand up right and support his weight.
 8. Once nailed to the cross, it would be lifted into a vertical position and dropped into a post hole. Dropping into position, along with the body weight created a jolt / jarring action causing extreme pain and tearing at the limbs.
 9. As muscle fatigue set in, the various muscles and tendons would begin to slowly stretch out and tear causing extreme pain as the various joints began to dislocate.
 10. As the body weight collapsed upon the diaphragm breathing would become increasingly difficult. The fatigued criminal would allow his body weight to hang down upon his wrists, then to take air into his lungs would have to push up upon his nail pierced feet to take the weight off his diaphragm until he could no longer do that.
 11. All during this time the prisoner was dehydrating rapidly.
 12. This process was very slow, sometimes so slow that it would have to be accelerated by breaking the prisoner's legs. The final cause of death was usually asphyxiation.
- Jewish men wore 5 articles of clothing:
 1. Headband
 2. Sandals
 3. Inner cloak / night shirt
 4. Belt
 5. Outer tunic / robe
 - Parted His garments: **Psalm 22:18**
 - Jesus' outer tunic was a very nice garment, "without seem", which is why the soldiers gambled for it. **John 19:23-24**

V: 36 Watched, as in guarded, dispassionately doing their job, watching Jesus die.

V: 37 They put a sign over his head in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Part of the deterrent so that all would know.

John 19:19-22 “¹⁹And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, **JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS**. ²⁰This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. ²¹Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, write not, the King of the Jews; but that he said I am King of the Jews. ²²Pilate answered, what I have written I have written.”

- Hebrew was listed first, the religious language.
- The sign said “Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews. Because of space limitations is actually read “Jesus – Nazareth – King – Jews”. In Hebrew reading from right to left this created an acronym “**Y H W H**”, the tetragrammton of the unspeakable name of Jehovah. This was the true basis of their objection.
- The sign was also written in **Greek**: the intellectual language of the day, and in **Latin**: the political language of the day.

V: 38 An issue of convenience to the Romans, a fulfillment of prophecy to us.

Isaiah 53:9, 12 “⁹And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.” – “¹²Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

V: 39 Wagging their heads, again fulfilling prophecy.

Psalms 22:6-8 “⁶But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ⁷All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ⁸He trusted on the Lord that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him.”

V: 40 The blasphemy in this was that He is the Son of God, and they were denying that and mocking Him for saying it.

- Praise God that He didn't “prove” to them who He is by coming down off that cross! We'd all be toast! He was dying for our sins.

V: 41-42 The chief priests and scribes; the leaders and teachers of Israel set the tone for the nation.

“*He saved others*” – testifying of the miracles and ministry of Jesus.

- There is a big difference between cannot and will not, and they missed it!

John 10:17-18 “¹⁷Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

- The nails aren’t what held Jesus to the cross.

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

- They said we will believe him – liars!

Jesus spoke about Lazarus and the rich man:

Luke 16:29-31 “²⁹Abraham saith unto him, they have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. ³⁰And he said, nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. ³¹And he said unto him, if they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

- We see this very thing lived out:

John 12:9-11 “⁹Much people of the Jews therefore knew that he was there: and they came not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might see Lazarus also, whom he had raised from the dead. ¹⁰But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; ¹¹because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.”

- It comes down to our willingness to believe, to trust in Him – or not.

Hebrews 11:6 “... without faith it is impossible to please Him.”

Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

V: 43 “He trusted in God”, these supposed men of God make it seem as though it were foolish to trust in God. Incongruent value statement.

- Mocking Jesus because He trusted in God, some things never change.

1 Corinthians 1:18 “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”

- Again fulfilling prophesy.

Psalm 22:6-8 ⁶“But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ⁷All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ⁸He trusted on the Lord that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him.”

V: 44 While the two thieves started out like everybody else, insulting Him – that is not how it ended.

Luke 23:39-43 ³⁹“And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on Him, saying, if thou be Christ, save thyself and us. ⁴⁰But the other answering rebuked him, saying, dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. ⁴²And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³And Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.”

- There are so many lessons to be learned from this reference: The thief said “Lord” as opposed to “Savior” – did he get baptized to get saved? What good works did he do?

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

V: 45 6th hour = 12:00 PM; 9th hour = 3:00 PM.

- Darkness over the “land” = “ge” (G-093) = “world”
- Jesus is the light of the world.

John 8:12 “I am the light of the world” = “cosmos” (G2889)

- Similar to the darkness that preceded the 1st Passover in Egypt.

Exodus 10:21-23 3 days of darkness prior to the plague of the firstborn.

- Again fulfilling prophesy.

Amos 8:9-10 ⁹“And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day: ¹⁰And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.”

V: 46 In agony and seeming despair, the question: *“why have you forsaken me?”*“

The answer:

Psalm 22:1-3 *“¹My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me? Why art thou so far from helping Me, and from the words of My roaring? ²O My God, I cry in the day time, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. ³But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”*

- This is the moment, the struggle, the reality that Gethsemane was all about.
- As Jesus took our sins upon himself and became sin for us, God the Father who is Holy and Righteous had to withdraw.

2 Corinthians 5:21 *“For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”*

Habakkuk 1:13 *“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: ...”*

Isaiah 59:1-2 *“¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.”*

Isaiah 53:5 *“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.”*

- Gethsemane comes into focus a little better. (**Matthew 26:38-42**)

Hebrews 12:2 *“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

V: 47 Some that that Jesus was calling upon Elijah.

- “Eli” is a compound word “El” = God, the suffix of “I” makes it personal as in “my” so “Eli” means “my God”. As opposed to Elijah.

V: 48-49 Another fulfillment of prophesy:

Psalm 69:21 *“They gave me also gall for My meat; and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.”.*”

V: 50 Jesus “yielded” up the Ghost. Allowed to leave, dismissed, willingly.

Isaiah 53:12 “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death:...”

John 10:17-18 “¹⁷...I lay down My life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

Luke 23:46 “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend My spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the ghost.”

- What did Jesus say?

John 19:30 “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, it is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.”

- It is finished: “tetelistaí”, paid in full.
- Crucifixion was gruesome, but the actual cause of death was actually asphyxiation, which if Jesus had died of asphyxiation – He could not have cried out or yelled out, or even just talked. He didn’t die of asphyxiation – He dismissed His Spirit.

- Jesus is describing physical death, separation of the spirit and the soul from the body.
- Spiritual death is separation of the soul / consciousness from God, separation of the Spirit from the man.
- **Inferior trinity / incomplete trinity: believer vs: non-believer.**

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

- All this was necessary:

Hebrews 9:22 “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”

Leviticus 17:11 “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”

V: 51 – 53 It is the 9th hour – Jesus dismisses His Spirit.

- At the same moment a shophar is blown at the top of the Temple signifying that the Passover lamb has been slain. This would be heard all around Temple area, Jerusalem, and over to Calvary.
- As the Lamb is slain, the shophar is blown, and the veil is torn – all at the same time.
- The bride of Christ will also step into eternity with the shout of a trumpet.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 “¹⁶For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

V: 51 The veil:

Exodus 26:31,33 “³¹And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made.” – “³⁴And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.”

1. 60 feet tall.
 2. 30 feet wide.
 3. 10 inches thick.
 4. Made of 72 braids, each braid consisting of 24 chords.
 5. Took 300 priests to put it up or move it.
- The purpose of the veil was to separate man from God, lest we die. That is no longer necessary.

John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.”

John 10:9 “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

Romans 5:1-2 “¹Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

- The removal of this barrier signified victory over sin.

Hebrews 10:19-22 “¹⁹Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh; ²¹And having an high priest over the house of God; ²²Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

Isaiah 59:1-2 “¹Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

- This is no longer the case, the thing that separates has now been removed, the barrier has been taken down.
- Torn from the top to the bottom. Not by man, but by the hand of God.
- There must have been a little piece left at the bottom to know the difference.
- Earthquake: victory over the Law. **Exodus 19:18** the earth shook when God gave Moses the law, now the conditions of the law have been met.

Exodus 17:6 “Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink”

- Previously when the rock was split, living water was released. As these rocks were split, living water was also released. Jesus is that living water.
- Verses 52-53 are seen as being somewhat out of context, or parenthetical. They are here to convey a lesson that is consistent with the previous verse, illustrating Jesus’ victory over sin, the Law, and death.

V: 52 & 53 The dead were raised back to life. Victory over death! The captives were free, the gates of Hell did not prevail.

1 Corinthians 15:55 “O Death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;”

Matthew 16:18 “And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter ^(Cephas), and upon this rock ^(petra) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

- “After His resurrection” understanding of timing is important. This occurred after Jesus’ resurrection, because Jesus is the first fruits, all others came later.

1 Corinthians 15:23 “But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ’s at His coming.”

Colossians 1:17-18 ¹⁷“And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. ¹⁸And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence.”

- What actually happened when Jesus descended to hell?

Ephesians 4:8-10 ⁸“Wherefore He saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.”

V: 54 The centurion is making observations; he had probably seen many men die. Hearing Jesus’ statements and his behavior on the cross, along with the earth quakes and rocks splitting, and he is drawing a conclusion from them.

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Luke 23:34, 47 ³⁴“Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...” – ⁴⁷“Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, certainly this was a righteous man.”

- Conclusion: Jesus is righteous, Jesus is the Son of God.
- There was no other conclusion to reach, either Jesus was lunatic, or a heretic, or He is who He said He was – the Son of God.

V: 55-56 The faithful, just couldn’t leave Jesus.

John 19:25 “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.”

- Matthew names 3 of the women who were at the cross. John adds Mary the wife of Cleophas to the women, and adds the Apostle John to the list, rounding it out to 5 witnesses.

1. Mary Magdalene: Lived a miserable life in Magdala on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, until Jesus drove the 7 demons out of her and restored her.

Luke Ch. 7 – Jesus has been invited to the house of a Pharisee who's name was Simon. During the course of the dinner a woman described as a sinner, possibly a harlot approached Jesus and began to anoint Him with oil, eventually using her hair to wipe his feet, which she kissed repeatedly.

- Simon observed this act of adoration and summarized that Jesus couldn't be the Messiah because He had allowed a sinner to touch Him, to defile Him, which from Simon's viewpoint was something that the Messiah would never allow to happen.
- Jesus ended this discussion with a parable depicting degrees of forgiveness and He told Simon:

Luke 7:47 “Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”

- Those who are forgiven much love much, thus Mary Magdalene – from whom Jesus had driven out 7 demons was present at His crucifixion.

2. *“Mary the mother of James and Joses”* / Jude – who was also the mother of Jesus.

- John lists her as Mary the mother of Jesus:
- Mary was the mother of Jesus, but that isn't what saved her. She was saved because she was a believer:
- “Mary” = Greek, Hebrew = Miriam, Mariam = bitter, defiant, rebellion.

Magnificat:

Luke 1:46-47 “⁴⁶And Mary said, my soul doth magnify the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.”

Luke 2:35 “Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also, that the thought of many hearts may be revealed.”

- **Luke 1:46-47** “Magnificat” – believer.
- No co-redemptress / co-mediatrix, no perpetual virginity, no glorious assumption.

3. *“... the mother of Zebedee's children.”* Meaning James and John; speaking of Salome.

- John lists her as His mother's sister: **Salome**, the mother of James & John, His cousins.
4. Mary the wife of Clophas: possibly the wife of one of the disciples whom Jesus met on the road to Emmaus. **Luke 24:13-31**

John 19:26-27 “²⁶When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto His mother, woman, behold thy son! ²⁷Then saith He to the disciple, behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his home.”

5. John: the disciple Jesus loved.
-

V: 57 Joseph of Arimathaea had help from another secret disciple who now came out in the open for Jesus, Nicodemus, a ruler in the synagogue.

Mark 15:43 “Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable / prominent council member, which also waited for the Kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.”

John 19:38-39 “³⁸After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. ³⁹And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of aloes, about an hundred pound weight.”

V: 58 Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus may have been secret disciples up to this point, but the cat is out of the bag now in a public way, by their actions both men testified of their faith.

Matthew 10:32-33 “³²Whoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. ³³But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

Matthew 12:30 “He that is not with Me is against Me; and he that gathereth not with Me scattereth abroad.”

James 1:22, 2:18 “²²But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” – “¹⁸Yea a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.”

V: 59 Both these men humbled themselves to do the work of women and servants.

Isaiah 57:15 “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”

Matthew 18:4 “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Micah 6:8 “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

- After His death, only loving hands touched Jesus.
- I thought they would be “unclean” and unable to celebrate the Passover, but not so, God made a provision for them.

Numbers 9:1-10 “¹⁰Speak to the children of Israel, saying: If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is far away on a journey, he may still keep the Lord’s Passover.”

- Either way it didn’t matter anymore, Jesus was the end of all the sacrifices.

Hebrews 10:10 & 26 “¹²But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.” – “²⁶... there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.”

V: 60 New sepulchre again fulfilling prophesy.

Isaiah 53:9 “And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death,...”

- Garden tomb:
- *Before sunset on Thursday*

V: 61 The two women sitting near the grave site.

V: 62 Friday.

- This was the Sabbath day – how far did they travel? Did they enter into his residence? Did they defile themselves?

V: 63 Jesus' enemies remembered His promise better than the disciples did.

- “Deceiver” = derogatory term, another prophesy fulfilled.

Psalm 2:1-2 “¹Who do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?
²The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed...”

V: 64 The Pharisees are concerned that the disciples will do something sneaky at night like they did.

V: 65 The priests and scribes had a “watch” at their disposal, this was a group of 50 soldiers.

- Pilot resigned his position one year later. He went to Gaul in the area of modern Germany, and according to secular history committed suicide.

V: 66 The priests and scribes simply added to the testimony of Jesus by making the tomb secure by human standards and placing an official Roman seal upon it, and witnesses all around, eliminating the possibility of theft.

- The seal consisted of a rope being stretched across the entrance of the tomb, then a wax seal bearing the official Roman seal pressed into it. Anyone who touched or disturbed the seal did so under penalty of death.
- **They couldn't keep Him from the cross, and they couldn't keep Him in the grave!**