

## Wednesday Evening Bible Study

July 15, 2020

### *The Crucifixion*

Text – Luke 23:32 - 56

#### Chronological Order of Events from the Last Supper through the Crucifixion:

1. The Last Supper (Matthew 26:26 – 29; Mark 14:22 – 25; Luke 22:14 – 23)
2. Contention As To Who Is Greatest (Luke 22:24 – 30)
3. Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet (John 13:1 – 17)
4. Judas is Identified as the Betrayer (Matthew 26:20 – 25; Mark 14:17 – 21; John 13:18 – 35)
5. They Sing a Hymn and Leave the Upper Room (Matthew 26:30; Mark 14:26; John 14:31)
6. The Disciples and Peter's Denial Foretold (Matthew 26:31 – 34; Mark 14:27 – 31; Luke 22:31 – 38; John 13:36 - 38)
7. Jesus Comforts the Disciples and Speaks of the Holy Spirit (John 14:1 – 30)
8. Farewell Discourse (John 15:1 – 16:33)
  - a. The True Vine
  - b. Warning of Persecution
  - c. Comfort for the Disciples
  - d. The Coming of the Comforter
9. The Real Lord's Prayer (John 17)
10. The Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:35 – 46; Mark 14:32 – 42; Luke 22:39 – 46; John 18:1)
11. Jesus Arrested (Matthew 26:47 – 56; Mark 14:43 – 52; Luke 22:47 – 53; John 18:2 – 11)
12. Jesus Is Brought Before Annas (John 18:12 – 14, 19 - 23)
13. Jesus Is Brought Before Caiaphas (Matthew 26:57, 59 – 68; Mark 14:53, 55 – 65; Luke 22:54, 63 - 65; John 18:24)
14. Peter's Denials (Matthew 26:58, 69 – 75; Mark 14:54, 66 – 72; Luke 22:55 – 62; John 18:15 – 18, 25 – 27)
15. Jesus Condemned By the Sanhedrin (Matthew 27:1 - 2; Mark 15:1; Luke 22:66 – 71)
16. Suicide of Judas (Matthew 27: 3 – 10)
17. Jesus First Appearance Before Pilate (Matthew 27:11 – 14; Mark 15:2 – 5; Luke 23:1 – 5; John 18:28 – 38)
18. Jesus Appears Before Herod (Luke 23:6 – 12)

19. Jesus Second Appearance Before Pilate and Release of Barabbas (Matthew 27:15 – 26; Mark 15:6 – 15; Luke 23:13 – 25; John 18:39 – 40)
20. Jesus Mocked and Beaten and Final Sentence Pronounced (Matthew 27:27 – 31; Mark 15:16 – 19; John 19:1 – 16)
21. Journey to Golgotha (Matthew 27:32 – 34; Mark 15:20 – 23; Luke 23:26 – 32; John 19:17)
22. The Crucifixion (Matthew 27:35 – 44; Mark 15:24 – 32; Luke 23:33 – 43; John 19:18 – 27)
23. The Last Hours (Matthew 27:45 – 50; Mark 15:33 – 37; Luke 23:44 – 46; John 19:28 – 37)
24. Miraculous Occurrences at the Cross (Matthew 27:51 – 56; Mark 15:38 – 41; Luke 23:47 – 49)
25. Jesus' Burial (Matthew 27:57 – 61; Mark 15:42 – 47; Luke 23:50 – 56; John 19:38 – 42)
26. Pilate Seals the Tomb (Matthew 27:62 – 66)

## Introduction

We will attempt to put the events of the crucifixion in a chronological order, using Luke's Gospel as our foundation; and then inserting pertinent information from the other three Gospel accounts. My personal belief is that the events in Luke's gospel are in the correct chronological order:

*"Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth **in order** a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us," - (Luke 1:1)*

*"And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death." (Luke 23:32)*

Matthew and Mark call them thieves; Luke calls them malefactors (κακοῦργος – *kakourgos* – In 1 Timothy 2:9, the word is translated "evil doers")

*"And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors." (Mark 15:28)*

The prophecy mentioned here is from Isaiah 53:

*"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: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Isaiah 53:12)*

In our study of the crucifixion you will notice that there are several references to fulfilled Old Testament prophecies. Everything that happened to Jesus was exactly as it was prophesied centuries earlier. Everything was going to go according to God's plan.

*"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left." (Luke 23:33)*

*"And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:" - (John 19:17)*

It is interesting that Luke calls the place "Calvary", but the same Greek word (kranion) is used for both skull and Calvary. Golgotha is the Hebrew word for skull. Calvary is apparently the Latin word for skull.

The place of crucifixion may have been named thus because it was shaped like a skull; or perhaps it may have been named thus because of the connection with death.

*"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."* (Luke 23:34)

The "Father, forgive them" statement is exclusive to Luke's gospel account. Luke also tells us about Stephen's "Lay not this sin to their charge" statement (Acts 7:60). Jesus sought the forgiveness of those that were crucifying Him, as did Stephen when he was being stoned to death by people who hated him. There is an old saying, "to forgive is divine." That is a true statement. It is not natural to forgive people who are hating on you. Yet, it is possible if God lives within you. Forgiveness is a characteristic of Christian maturity:

*"Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."* – (Matthew 5:43-48)

*"And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God."* (Luke 23:35)

*"And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,"* (Luke 23:36)

*"And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not."* - (Mark 15:23)

Mark tells us that the wine was mixed with myrrh, which was used as a fragrance, and as a narcotic. It would deaden the pain (Proverbs 31:6 strong drink to those who are ready to die); but Jesus refused it. It is interesting that at His birth, He was given myrrh, which foreshadowed His death.

Matthew tells us that it was vinegar mingled with gall, which means it was very bitter and referred to the myrrh. It was definitely fermented.

*"And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself."* (Luke 23:37)

*"Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout."* (John 19:23)

*"They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for*

*my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did."* (John 19:24)

This prophecy is from Psalm 22:18. According to Wiersbe:

Of course, the soldiers had to be there; that was their job. At most Roman executions, a centurion would be assigned with four soldiers to assist him. Since Jesus was a popular teacher with many followers, Pilate may have assigned more guards to Golgotha. It was the privilege of the soldiers to share whatever personal belongings the victims had; so they divided up all that Jesus owned—His personal clothing. He would have had a turban, a pair of sandals, an undergarment (the seamless robe), an outer garment, and a girdle. The four men each took a piece of clothing, and then they gambled for the seamless robe. This fulfilled Psalm 22:18.<sup>1</sup>

The inner, seamless robe was a picture of Christ's flawless humanity. This robe would not be torn apart. The high priest's ripped his own robe when Jesus was brought before him (Matthew 26:65), subtly picturing his failure as God's representative. So, too, was the veil of the Temple, which represented the failure of Judaism to heal the rift between God and man.

*"And sitting down they watched him there;"* (Matthew 27:36)

*"And a superscription also was written over him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS."* (Luke 23:38)

According to McGee:

Greek was the language of intelligence, of education, of literature, and of science. Latin was the language of law and order, of the military and of government. Hebrew was the language of religion. When Christ returns to set up His kingdom, He will be the political ruler, the educational ruler, and the spiritual ruler of this universe. How accurate the superscription was!<sup>2</sup>

*"And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS."* - (John 19:19)

*"This 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."* - (John 19:20)

*"Then 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."* (John 19:21)

*"Pilate answered, What I have written I have written."* (John 19:22)

*"And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,"* (Matthew 27:39)

*"And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross."* (Matthew 27:40)

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<sup>1</sup> Warren W. Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary*, vol. 1 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1996), 383.

<sup>2</sup> J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary*, electronic ed., vol. 4 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997), 353.

*"Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said," (Matthew 27:41)*

*"He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him." (Matthew 27:42)*

If Jesus had come down from the Cross, the Scriptures would not have been fulfilled, and the sins of man would not have been atoned for.

*"He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God." (Matthew 27:43)*

*"The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth." (Matthew 27:44)*

*"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." (Luke 23:39)*

*"But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?" (Luke 23:40)*

*"And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." (Luke 23:41)*

*"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." (Luke 23:42)*

*"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43)*

The account of the salvation of the thief on the cross is unique to Luke's Gospel. Notice the word, "paradise" here. We will take note of it again a little later in the study.

*"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene." (John 19:25)*

Notice that there are three women named Mary here along with Jesus' aunt. According to Matthew 27:56, there were two women named Mary present, besides the Lord's mother; but it also mentions that the mother of Zebedee's children was there. Could it be that John and James were Jesus' first cousins? Mark 15:40 mentions a woman named Salome. Could she be the mother of John and James?

*"When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, Woman, behold thy son!" (John 19:26)*

*"Then saith he to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own home." (John 19:27)*

The account of Jesus' discussion with John regarding His mother's future is unique to John's Gospel.

*"And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour." (Luke 23:44)*

Mark tells us that the crucifixion began at the third hour.

*"And it was the third hour, and they crucified him." - (Mark 15:25)*

Explain "hours" referred to in the Bible:

Third Hour – 9 AM – He was put on the Cross

Sixth Hour – Noon – darkness, veil ripped

Ninth Hour – 3 PM – he died before sundown

The Nighttime was divided into watches.

*"And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst." (Luke 23:45)*

*"And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34)*

*"And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias." (Mark 15:35)*

*"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst." (John 19:28)*

*"Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth." (John 19:29 KJV)*

*"And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down." (Mark 15:36)*

*"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." (Luke 23:46)*

The drinking of the vinegar was a fulfillment of Psalm 69:21; which meant that every last detail of Old Testament prophecy had been fulfilled by Christ.

*"When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: **and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.**" (John 19:30)*

"It is finished" (Τετέλεσται) means "the debt has been paid."

Some believe that after Jesus died on the Cross that He went into Hell and suffered there. However, this verse tells us that the sin debt was paid on the cross. Jesus did go into the lower parts of the earth, but he went there to bring the saints to Heaven:

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

Before the resurrection, the Saints were in Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22) where there was a great gulf fixed between those that were comforted and those that were tormented in hell (Luke 16:23 – 24).

Remember the word "paradise" from back in verse 43. The thief that repented, Jesus said He was

going to take him to Paradise, which at that time was in the heart of earth (Abraham's bosom). But Jesus then took all of those in Paradise up into the third Heaven, Paul said:

*"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."* (2 Corinthians 12:2-4)

*"And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;"* (Matthew 27:51)

*"And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,"* - (Matthew 27:52)

*"And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."* (Matthew 27:53)

*"Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God."* (Matthew 27:54)

*"Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man."* (Luke 23:47)

*"The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away."* (John 19:31)

*"Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him."* (John 19:32)

*"But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:"* (John 19:33)

*"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."* (John 19:34)

*"And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe."* (John 19:35)

*"For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken."* (John 19:36)

According to Exodus 12:6 and Numbers 9:12, the Passover Lamb could not have a broken bone.

*"And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."* (John 19:37)  
Zechariah 12:10:

*"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for [his] only [son], and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for [his] firstborn."* (Zechariah 12:10)

They looked upon the pierced Jesus at the Cross, but they will not mourn for Him until they come to believe in Him as their Messiah, which will not happen until the Great Tribulation. At that same time they will realize that they were wrong about the Antichrist when he breaks his covenant with them.

*"And all the people that came together to that sight, beholding the things which were done, smote their breasts, and returned."* (Luke 23:48)

*"And all his acquaintance, and the women that followed him from Galilee, stood afar off, beholding these things."* (Luke 23:49)

*"And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just:"* (Luke 23:50)

*"(The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them;) he was of Arimathaea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God."* (Luke 23:51)

*"This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus."* (Luke 23:52)

*"And after this Joseph of Arimathaea, 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."* (John 19:38)

*"And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead."* (Mark 15:44)

*"And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph."* - (Mark 15:45)

*"And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about an hundred pound weight."* - (John 19:39)

*"Then took they the body of Jesus, and wound it in linen clothes with the spices, as the manner of the Jews is to bury."* - (John 19:40)

*"And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid."* (Luke 23:53)

*"Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid."* - (John 19:41)

*"There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand."* - (John 19:42)

*"And that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on."* (Luke 23:54)

Remember that this "preparation" was "the preparation of the Passover" (John 19:14). The



sabbath referred to here was the Passover sabbath. It was not Friday at sundown; it was Wednesday evening.

*"And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid." (Luke 23:55)*

*"And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment." (Luke 23:56)*

*"Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate," - (Matthew 27:62)*

*"Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again." - (Matthew 27:63)*

*"Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first." - (Matthew 27:64)*

*"Pilate said unto them, Ye have a watch: go your way, make it as sure as ye can." - (Matthew 27:65)*

*"So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch." (Matthew 27:66)*

