

I. John 19:17-42 – The Crucifixion and Burial of Jesus

A. John 19:17-24 – Crucifixion details

1. John 19:17 – *They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha* . Pilate handed Jesus over, because **capital** punishment was Rome’s responsibility. From this point onward the soldiers took over.
 - a. Typically, the vertical pole for crucifixion was permanent, but the crossbeam was carried to the site by the person condemned to die. This wooden **plank** was placed on Jesus’ shoulders.
 - b. Jesus was forced to carry this plank to the execution site, which was called The Place of the **Skull** (in Hebrew, Golgotha). Tradition has it that this name came from a nearby large rock that from a distance looked like a human skull.
 - c. Although John did not mention it, Jesus, in His weakened state, was **unable** to carry the cross the entire distance. Therefore, the soldiers seized a man (Simon of Cyrene) *coming in from the country* and forced him to carry the cross the rest of the way (Lk. 23:26).
2. John 19:18 – *There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between* . Christ was lifted up on the cross was between two other criminals. They were there because they deserved death; Jesus was there to conquer death. They were there for their crimes; Jesus was there for **our** crimes.
 - a. Hundreds of years before crucifixion was ever practiced, the psalmist, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, predicted this event. Psalm 22:16 reads, “ *For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They **pierced** my hands and my feet* .”
 - b. In Isaiah 53:12 the prophet foretold, “ *Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, and He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death and was **numbered** with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many and interceded for the transgressors.*” This prophecy was literally fulfilled. Luke 23:33
3. John 19:19 – *Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, “Jesus the Nazarene, The King of The Jews.”* To place a sign naming the crime committed on a criminal’s cross was a somewhat common practice. However, Pilate had this inscription placed above Jesus’ head as an **insult** to Israel’s religious leaders.
4. John 19:20 – *Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin and in Greek* . These were the **major** languages of Jerusalem at the time. Since the site of the crucifixion was near the city, many people read Pilate’s notice, which greatly displeased the chief priests.
5. John 19:21 – *So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’; but that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’”* The religious leaders understood Pilate’s **insult** and told him not to write, “King of the Jews,” but rather, “He claimed to be the King of the Jews.” Pilate would not change his wording.
6. John 19:22 – *Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”* Pilate went back to his normal uncooperative ways and **refused** to change the sign he had placed over Jesus’ head. He was no longer concerned about the mob or a possible adverse report to Caesar.
7. John 19:23 – *Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece.* John was the **only** disciple who witnessed the crucifixion; therefore, as an eyewitness, he gave a very precise account of these events.
 - a. A tunic was an undergarment worn next to the skin. Jesus was stripped of both His outer garment and His undergarment. This means He hung on the cross **naked**.
 - b. Hebrews 12:2 says Jesus endured the cross, despising the **shame**.
8. John 19:24 – *So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be”; this was to fulfill the Scripture: “They divided my outer garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.”* Since Jesus’ undergarment was woven as **one** piece, the soldiers did not rip it up.
 - a. Casting lots for Jesus’ tunic and dividing up His outer garment were both **predicted** in the Old Testament.

Psalm 22:18 says; “ *They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots .*” This statement would have been unintelligible to Old Testament readers, but after the cross, its significance became astonishingly clear.

- b. The amazingly **accurate** fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies found in passages like Psalm 22, Psalm 69 and Isaiah 53 is nothing short of miraculous. These passages could hardly have been understood before the events actually transpired.

B. John 19:25-27 – Behold your mother!

1. John 19:25 – *Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.* This is a fulfillment of Luke 2:35 when Simeon said Mary’s **soul** would be pierced. Watching her son endure such incredible suffering surely caused Mary indescribable anguish.
 - a. Mary, the woman God chose to be the **mother** of Jesus, was at the cross when He was crucified.
 - 1) The Bible teaches that Mary was blessed among (not above) women because God **chose** her to give birth to Jesus, our Messiah. Luke 1:28, 42
 - 2) Even though she bore Jesus as a son, she is not the “mother of God.” That is a **false** idea based on the notion that Mary was a goddess, or somehow divinely eternal.
 - b. Salome, the mother of James and John, Jesus’ disciples who were sometimes called the sons of Zebedee, was also at the cross when Christ was crucified. Salome was the **sister** of Jesus’ mother, Mary.
 - c. Another Mary, believed to be Mary’ sister-in-law, was at the crucifixion. She was the wife of Clopas, whom tradition teaches was the **brother** of Joseph. She was the mother of James the younger (also called James the less). Clopas is believed to be Cleophas from Luke 24:18. Matthew 27:55-56, Mark 15:40
 - d. Mary Magdalene can be understood as Mary of Magdala, the woman out of whom Jesus had cast **seven** demons. Luke 8:2
2. John 19:26 – *When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”* Even in his suffering, Jesus was **concerned** for his mother’s well-being.
 - a. What we see in this passage makes it obvious that something had happened to Joseph. He most likely had died, leaving Mary a widow. With Joseph out of the picture, Jesus, being the oldest son, would be considered the **head** of the family. Even on the cross, Jesus took responsibility for the care of His mother. Mark 15:40
 - b. Jesus had at least four brothers and two sisters, but it may be that since they had not yet **believed** in Him as Messiah, He did not entrust Mary to them. We do not know.
3. John 19:27 – *Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour the disciple took her into his own household .* Jesus entrusted Mary’s care to John, His first cousin. From that day forward, John accepted **responsibility** for Mary, and she went to live in his home.

C. John 19:28-30 – Statements from the cross

1. John 19:28 – *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, “I am thirsty.”* At this point Jesus realized His work was basically finished. Jesus was aware of everything going on around Him, and He purposefully made sure to fulfill every **detail** of prophecy. 1 Corinthians 15:3
 - a. The last Old Testament prophecy to be fulfilled about the crucifixion was this one concerning Jesus’ thirst: *My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my **tongue** cleaves to my jaws; and You lay me in the dust of death.* Psalm 22:15
 - b. Psalm 69:21 adds, “ *They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink .*” This statement again shows the **humanity** of Jesus. On the cross, He was very thirsty. The next verse gives an actual fulfillment of this prophecy.
2. John 19:29 – *A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so, they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth.* Death by crucifixion was accompanied by great **thirst**. A jar of sour wine, or vinegar, was conveniently standing nearby. Being an eyewitness, John noticed this detail.
 - a. The **hyssop** branch mentioned here may or may not have been the exact same plant as the one used to apply blood to the doorposts during the first Passover. At any rate, it is of interest that hyssop is mentioned in connection with the first Passover and again when the last Passover lamb was sacrificed. Exodus 12:22, Psalm 69:21
 - b. Earlier Jesus refused to drink wine mixed with gall (or myrrh, Mat. 27:34, Mk. 15:23) because gall had a

narcotic effect and would have deadened the **pain**. The vinegary substance in this verse, however, was not a pain killer, so Jesus consumed some of it.

3. John 19:30a – *Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is **finished!**”* On the cross, Jesus victoriously accomplished all that was needed for our salvation. He did this through His sacrificial death. His death paid our sin debt. He died as our redemptive substitute.
 - a. Upon tasting the sour drink, Jesus said, “It is finished” or “It is complete.” Everything the Father had given Him to accomplish was finally **complete**. Nothing remained. Therefore, Jesus hung His head and died.
 - b. Psalm 22:31 prophesied, “*They will come and will declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has performed it .*” Jesus performed “**righteousness**” in His substitutional, sacrificial death on the cross, in our stead. Hallelujah!
4. John 19:30b – *And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.* Usually a person dies and then *bows* their head after dying. As an eyewitness, John wrote that Jesus first laid down **KLÍNO** His **head** and then He gave up His spirit, in that order.
 - a. Early in His ministry Jesus said, “*The Son of Man has nowhere to lay **KLÍNO** His head*” (Mat. 8:20, Lk. 9:58). On the cruel cross, after stating, “It is finished,” Jesus **finally** found a time and a place to lay down His head.
 - b. Jesus found a place of **rest** only after completing the redemptive work needed for our salvation. He was in control of His death even in the brutal hours on the cross.
5. John 19:30b – Jesus *...gave up His spirit.* This is how Jesus’ life ended. Salvation stood completed. Today we can add nothing to His **perfect** and fulfilled work. *It is finished!* Jesus controlled the timing and process of both His spiritual and physical deaths. John 10:17-18
 - a. Luke 23:46 says, “*And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit’.*” As He gave up His spirit, Jesus addressed God as His **Father**, indicating that He staked His resurrection on His Father’s willingness to raise Him from the dead. Jesus did not resurrect Himself from the dead. Hebrews 13:20
 - b. In fulfillment of Psalm 31:5, Luke quoted Jesus as saying, “*Into Your hands I commit my **spirit*** (Luke 23:46).” Mark 15:37

John 3:16 says, “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*” The greatest outpouring of God’s **love** for the world was Jesus’ substitutionary death for our sins. His sacrifice motivates us to live for His glory. 2 Corinthians 5:14, Ephesians 5:2, Hebrews 12:1-2