


Day 1

 Please pray for holy guidance and insight before you begin today’s study.

The Crucifixion

¹⁷ So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).


Q1. Describe Jesus’ back. Was carrying a cross (or the crossbeam) an easy thing to do?

¹⁸ Here they crucified him, and with him two others – one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

Matthew 27:38

Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Q2. What kind of message did it send to the people – the crowd – that Jesus was crucified with criminals?

 The following describes crucifixion in some detail. Please, skip over this note if a detailed description would be upsetting. The source of this article, which was published on April 06, 2023, is a Seattle, WA (KIRO-TV) television station website. Excerpts from that article follow:

“Crucifixion is a gruesome mode of execution, and that’s why the Romans in Jesus’ day used it. A method of control and intimidation, Roman authorities used crucifixion to rid their cities of slaves, heinous criminals and, most important to the empire, insurgents. . .

“The Romans did not lack for ways to kill their enemies, but crucifixion allowed for two things — humiliation and a slow, painful death. The punishment was a method of intimidation that the Romans raised to an art form. . .

”Crucifixion followed a bloody script of sorts that maximized suffering and prolonged death. It began when the one being crucified was stripped of his clothing and then beaten with a flagrum, a short-handled whip made with lengths of leather that had bone and iron balls woven into the strips.

“The person was beaten savagely with the whip, which tore flesh then muscle, weakening the victim through blood loss and shock. While the aim was to inflict maximum injury, [this] part of the process was not intended to kill.

“After the beating — where ribs were often broken from the repeated blows — the victim would be forced to pick up and carry the beam of the cross he was to be hanged on.

Lesson 26: John 19:17-42

“While we read in the Bible of Jesus’ hands and feet being nailed to the cross, that wasn’t always the case, either. When the hands were attached to the cross, it was usually done with spikes being driven [through] the wrists, not the hands, to better support the weight of the victim. Most victims, according to the writing of historians of the day, had their hands tied to the cross with rope, their feet nailed into the sides near the bottom of the cross.

“The victim’s knees would be bent at around 45-degrees before their feet were nailed to the cross. The position eventually makes it impossible to hold one’s self upright, and the person would begin to sag on the cross. The body’s weight would eventually pull the shoulders out of the socket, thrusting the chest forward where it would become impossible to take in a breath. . .


“The Royal Society of Medicine [RSM] in 2006 published an article that centered on Jesus’ crucifixion, chronicling nine possible causes of death. And while suffocation from the weight of one’s body dangling from a cross has long been believed to be the cause of death in crucifixion, others think the process is a more complicated chain reaction of events.

“The researchers from the RSM study believed death came to those crucified by one or more of the body’s failing processes.

“The study suggested that as the person suspended on a cross struggles to breathe, that lack of oxygen would trigger damage to tissue and veins, causing blood to leak into the lungs and the heart. The lungs would stiffen and the heart would become constricted from the pressure, making it difficult, then impossible to pump blood throughout the body. The lack of oxygenated blood would eventually cause each body system to fail and death would follow.

“It could take hours, or, in some cases, days, but it was only a matter of time before death would come. [©2023 by Cox Media Group. Written by Debbie Lord. Source: <https://www.kiro7.com/news/trending/how-did-crucifixion-kill-jesus/RJGGT5KMLPVOQYAKECVBJC43KQ/>]

Day 2

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¹⁹ Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰ Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

²¹ The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews."

²² Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

Q3. It seems to be a small matter of wording; why were the Jews upset with Pilate’s ‘notice’?

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Q4. Who might read Pilate's 'notice'?

²³ When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.


²⁴ "Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it."

This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So, this is what the soldiers did.

Psalm 22:16-18


¹⁶ Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me; they have pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. ¹⁸ They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

Q5. How would you define "cast lots"?

 NOTE: Cast lots: "The primary reason for casting lots was to render an impartial, unbiased decision on important matters. Once they were cast, no one could argue that the decision was the result of human intervention like nepotism, politics, favoritism, and so on. . . . What is particularly significant is the fact that, in ancient Israel, the High Priest did use from time to time the tradition of casting lots for important, uncertain decisions. It amounted to consulting God for the answer, as Proverbs states "The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord" (Proverbs 16:33)." (<http://www.biblestudy.org/question/what-is-casting-lots.html>)


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Day 3

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²⁵ Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

Q6. What do you think the three women were thinking? Were they doubting Jesus' divinity?

 The following is an excerpt from Matthew's account of the Crucifixion. Two eye-witnesses (the Apostles John and Matthew) wrote about the same event. However, both chose to focus on different aspects of the Crucifixion of our Lord.

Matthew 27:27-44 [The Message (MSG)]


²⁷⁻³¹ The soldiers assigned to the governor took Jesus into the governor's palace and got the entire brigade together for some fun. They stripped him and dressed him in a red robe. They plaited a crown from branches of a thornbush and set it on his head. They put a stick in his right hand for a scepter. Then they knelt before him in mocking reverence: "Bravo, King of the Jews!" they said. "Bravo!" Then they spit on him and hit him on the head with the stick. When they had had their fun, they took off the robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they proceeded out to the crucifixion.

³²⁻³⁴ Along the way they came on a man from Cyrene named Simon and made him carry Jesus' cross. Arriving at Golgotha, the place they call "Skull Hill," they offered him a mild painkiller (a mixture of wine and myrrh), but when he tasted it, he wouldn't drink it.

³⁵⁻⁴⁰ After they had finished nailing him to the cross and were waiting for him to die, they killed time by throwing dice for his clothes. Above his head they had posted the criminal charge against him: THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Along with him, they also crucified two criminals, one to his right, the other to his left. People passing along the road jeered, shaking their heads in mock lament: "You bragged that you could tear down the Temple and then rebuild it in three days — so show us your stuff! Save yourself! If you're really God's Son, come down from that cross!"

⁴¹⁻⁴⁴ The high priests, along with the religious scholars and leaders, were right there mixing it up with the rest of them, having a great time poking fun at him: "He saved others — he can't save himself! King of Israel, is he? Then let him get down from that cross. We'll all become believers then! He was so sure of God — well, let him rescue his 'Son' now — if he wants him! He did claim to be God's Son, didn't he?" Even the two criminals crucified next to him joined in the mockery.

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 Doctor Luke, a trained physician of the time, became a close companion of the Apostle Paul. While it can be successfully argued that Luke was not an eye-witness to our Lord's life and ministry, he used his education and training to research, interview eye-witnesses, and then provide an account of Jesus' ministry through the Gospel of Luke; Luke followed-up his Gospel by writing the Acts of the Apostles.

Luke 23:32-46 [The Message (MSG)]

³² Two others, both criminals, were taken along with him for execution.

³³ When they got to the place called Skull Hill, they crucified him, along with the criminals, one on his right, the other on his left.

³⁴⁻³⁵ Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing."

Dividing up his clothes, they threw dice for them. The people stood there staring at Jesus, and the ringleaders made faces, taunting, "He saved others. Let's see him save himself! The Messiah of God — ha! The Chosen — ha!"

³⁶⁻³⁷ The soldiers also came up and poked fun at him, making a game of it. They toasted him with sour wine: "So you're King of the Jews! Save yourself!"

³⁸ Printed over him was a sign: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging alongside cursed him: "Some Messiah you are! Save yourself! Save us!"

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ But the other one made him shut up: "Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same as him. We deserve this, but not him — he did nothing to deserve this."

⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you enter your kingdom."

⁴³ He said, "Don't worry, I will. Today you will join me in paradise."

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours — a total blackout. The Temple curtain split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, "Father, I place my life in your hands!" Then he breathed his last.


²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son,"
²⁷ and to the disciple, "Here is your mother."
From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

Q7. Since it is recorded in Scripture, why is it important that Jesus 'gave' His mother to the "disciple whom he loved"? (Was Jesus the firstborn in His earthly family?)

Q8. Who was the "disciple whom he loved"?

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Day 4

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The Death of Jesus


²⁸ Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

Q9. What does the phrase "to fulfill the Scripture" mean to you?

Q10. If it hasn't been said already, why is the phrase "to fulfill the Scripture" important?

²⁹ A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. ³⁰ When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Q11. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished"?

 NOTE: We don't know how Jesus voiced, "It is finished". It could have been a barely audible croak. That said, one commentator suggested that it was Jesus' final cry, the cry of a victor. He ran the race and was victorious! "IT IS FINISHED!!!!"

Q12. What does it mean "He . . . gave up his spirit"?


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Psalm 69:21 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

Psalm 22:15 [NIV-1984]

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

 Jesus was perfect. All people sin, whether they are Believers or non-believers. Period. The just consequence for one sin or many sins is death. Period. End of story. Yet, Jesus willingly took punishment for my sins upon Himself. The sins of all Believers upon Himself! Again, the just consequence for my sins is my death – I should die for my sins. Jesus demonstrated the greatest example of agapé love – the greatest gift to all humanity – when He allowed Himself to be crucified. He took my sins, your sins, the sins of all Believers (present and future to Him) upon Himself and, when He died, He descended into Hell and – figuratively speaking – dumped all of those sins at Satan’s feet. Three days later God the Father raised Him from the dead! Jesus overcame death!

 Matthew’s account continued.

Matthew 27:45-56 [The Message (MSG)]

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ From noon to three, the whole earth was dark. Around mid-afternoon Jesus groaned out of the depths, crying loudly, “*Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ Some bystanders who heard him said, “He’s calling for Elijah.” One of them ran and got a sponge soaked in sour wine and lifted it on a stick so he could drink. The others joked, “Don’t be in such a hurry. Let’s see if Elijah comes and saves him.”

⁵⁰ But Jesus, again crying out loudly, breathed his last.

⁵¹⁻⁵³ At that moment, the Temple curtain was ripped in two, top to bottom. There was an earthquake, and rocks were split in pieces. What’s more, tombs were opened up, and many bodies of believers asleep in their graves were raised. (After Jesus’ resurrection, they left the tombs, entered the holy city, and appeared to many.)

⁵⁴ The captain of the guard and those with him, when they saw the earthquake and everything else that was happening, were scared to death. They said, “This has to be the Son of God!”

⁵⁵⁻⁵⁶ There were also quite a few women watching from a distance, women who had followed Jesus from Galilee in order to serve him. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the Zebedee brothers.

 Luke’s account continued.

Luke 23:44-56 [The Message (MSG)]

⁴⁴⁻⁴⁶ By now it was noon. The whole earth became dark, the darkness lasting three hours — a total blackout. The Temple curtain split right down the middle. Jesus called loudly, “Father, I place my life in your hands!” Then he breathed his last.

⁴⁷ When the captain there saw what happened, he honored God: “This man was innocent! A good man, and innocent!”

⁴⁸⁻⁴⁹ All who had come around as spectators to watch the show, when they saw what actually happened, were overcome with grief, and headed home. Those who knew Jesus well, along with the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a respectful distance and kept vigil.


⁵⁰⁻⁵⁴ There was a man by the name of Joseph, a member of the Jewish High Council, a man of good heart and good character. He had not gone along with the plans and actions of the council. His

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hometown was the Jewish village of Arimathea. He lived in alert expectation of the kingdom of God. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Taking him down, he wrapped him in a linen shroud and placed him in a tomb chiseled into the rock, a tomb never yet used. It was the day before Sabbath, the Sabbath just about to begin.

⁵⁵⁻⁵⁶ The women who had been companions of Jesus from Galilee followed along. They saw the tomb where Jesus' body was placed. Then they went back to prepare burial spices and perfumes. They rested quietly on the Sabbath, as commanded.

Day 5

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Jesus' Side Is Pierced

³¹ Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down.


Q13. Why was it important to the Jews that the bodies be removed from their crosses?

Deuteronomy 21:22-23

²² If a man guilty of a capital offense is put to death and his body is hung on a tree, ²³ you must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance.

Q14. Why did the soldiers break the legs of those crucified?

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 “It was customary among the Romans to let the bodies of persons who had been executed continue on the crosses, or stakes, till they were devoured by birds or beasts of prey. But the law of Moses expressly prohibited the Jews from suffering the bodies of those who were hanged to remain all night on the trees, Deuteronomy 21:22 (↑); for that reason, as well as because the sabbath was at hand, which would have been profaned by their remaining, especially as that sabbath was a day of peculiar solemnity, being the second day of the feast of unleavened bread, (from whence they reckoned the weeks to Pentecost,) and also the day for presenting and offering the sheaf of new corn; therefore, the Jews besought Pilate that the legs of the three crucified persons might be broken, to hasten their death; and Pilate consented, and gave the order they desired.” [©about 1800, *Commentary of the Old and New Testaments* by Joseph Benson. Text Courtesy of BibleSupport.com. <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/john/19-31.htm>]

³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.


Psalm 34:19-20, & 22 [NIV-1984]

¹⁹ A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all; ²⁰ he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. . . . ²² The Lord redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.

Q15. What is the Jewish sacrificial system? And why did God institute it?

Exodus 12:3, 5-7, 11-14, 46 [NIV-1984]

³ Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month each man is to take a lamb for his family, one for each household . . . ⁵ The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats. ⁶ Take care of them until the fourteenth day of the month, when all the people of the community of Israel must slaughter them at twilight. ⁷ Then they are to take some of the blood and put it on the sides and tops of the doorframes of the houses where they eat the lambs. . . ¹¹ This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Lord 's Passover. ¹² "On that same night I will pass through Egypt and strike down every firstborn both men and animals - and I will bring judgment on all the gods of Egypt. I am the Lord. ¹³ The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt. ¹⁴ "This is a day you are to commemorate; for the generations to come you shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord - a lasting ordinance. . . . ⁴⁶ "It must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones.

 You – the student of the Holy Bible – are encouraged to read Exodus 12 in its entirety.

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Q16. What is the 'Passover lamb'?

Q17. How could Jesus be considered a 'Passover lamb'?

Romans 3:25-26 [NIV-1984]

²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

Hebrews 9:24-26 [English Standard Version (ESV)]

²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Hebrews 10:1-4, 11-12, 14 [NIV-1984]

¹ The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming – not the realities themselves. For this reason, it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴ because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. . .

¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest [^{Jesus}] had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God. . . ¹⁴ because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy [^{Believers}].

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³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.

Q18. Were Roman soldiers accustomed to death? Would they be able to recognize the death of a prisoner?

Yes? }
No? } Why?

Yes? }
No? } Why?


Q19. Why do you think the soldier speared Jesus?

Zechariah 12:10 [NIV-1984]

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

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Day 6


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³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

Q20. Verse 35: is this 'attestation' important?

Yes? } Why?
No? }

 at·test (ə-tĕst') [© 2003-2023 Farlex, Inc. <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/attestation>]

1. To affirm to be correct, true, or genuine.
2. To certify. . .
3. To supply or be evidence of. . .
4. To put under oath.

Psalm 34:19-20, & 22 [NIV-1984]

¹⁹ A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all; ²⁰ he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. . . ²² The Lord redeems his servants; no one will be condemned who takes refuge in him.

Zechariah 12:10 [NIV-1984] [Duplicated from above]

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

Revelation 1:7 [NIV-1984]

Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

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Jesus Is Buried

³⁸ Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jews. With Pilate's permission, he came and took the body away.

Q21. Why was Joseph of Arimathea afraid of the Jews?

³⁹ He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰ Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹ At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴² Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

Q22. Thinking back on this week's lesson – chapter 19:17-42 – did anything stand-out to you?

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