

Rediscovering Jesus in the Jewish Gospels

The Crucifixion of the Lamb of God

Lesson 53 Matthew 27: 27-56

Up until this moment Jesus has been under arrest by the High Priest's Temple Guard Corp. He was delivered to "the soldiers of the Governor" (Pilate) and taken to the "common hall," Praetorian.



Centurionⁱ



Temple with Antonia with 4 towers



Jewish Herodian and Judean Roman Soldierⁱⁱ

Location 2 arguments for Antonia as the place of the Common Hall where Jesus was judged.

1. During the greatest pilgrimage feast, when hundreds of thousands came to the Temple, Pilate naturally had to be with his garrison next to the Temple Mount as a potential focus of the uprising, by national zealots.

2. According to Luke's Gospel (23:6–13), Pilate found out that Christ was from Galilee, "and when he knew that he was of Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him unto Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem in these days" (23:7). Herod Antipas, who came for the holiday from Galilee to Jerusalem, was disappointed and angry because of Jesus' silence, "sent him back to Pilate" (23:11), who then "called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people" (23:13). If the trial had taken place in Herod's castle, it seems Pilate could have simply asked Herod to come to the courtroom, as he summoned the chief priests and the leaders.^{[2]iii}

The Antonia Fortress. Herod (r. 37 – c. 4 BCE) built the fortress to protect the Temple located just outside the northwest corner of the Temple compound overlooking the whole plaza. It was located here as this was the weakest defensive area of the outer wall. Herod named it for his patron Mark Antony (83–30 BCE).^[1]

A reconstruction by Ritmeyer Archaeological best illustrates the fortress.^{iv} The fortress housed some part of the Judean garrison of Jerusalem under the Roman prefect or procurator Pontius Pilate. The troops this garrison housed were not primarily Roman citizens as in Roman Legionaries. They were often recruited from the local (in this case Judean) populace comprised of Hellenistic Syrians, from Caesaria and Hellenistic Jews who could obtain Roman citizenship upon completion of their service.^v Herod's army is estimated at 25,000 strong and would have had a significant contingent in the Antonia. The fortress became the last stronghold of the Jews in the Siege of Jerusalem (70 CE) when the Second Temple was destroyed.^[1] The Romans ousted them, destroyed the Temple, and used the stones to build a ramp into the Temple to defeat the remaining Jewish zealot troops at the Temple. In the 19th Century, "After exposing the foundations of Herod's Antonia fortress, the Roman-Catholic church covered the foundations again and erected two small chapels there. The



first is devoted to the trial and condemnation of Jesus to death. The second is where Jesus was sent from the place of trial to his place of execution. Today, thousands of devout Christian pilgrims start a ceremonial march along the **Via Dolorosa** (Latin for “Way of suffering”) from these 2 chapels,^{vi} - just inside “Stephen’s Gate (Lion’s Gate).

Footsteps of Jesus 9 pm Wednesday – 9 am Thursday

The first day of Passover/ unleavened bread John 19:14 (began at sundown on the previous eve). This was the 3rd Sanhedrin meeting in 6 months and was illegally held after sunset. (John 7:37-53; Mark 11:41-53; Luke 22:1-3) The presentation to Pilate, and scourging by Herod, and the sentencing by Pilate all took place before 9 a.m.

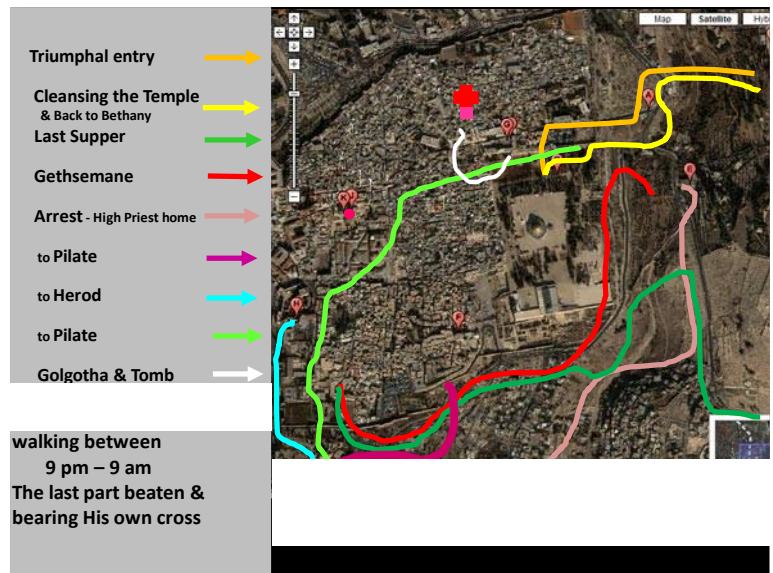
Scourging, The Roman flogging or scourging prior to Jesus’ crucifixion consisted of 39 lashes (Mark 15:15; John 19:1). The *flagrum*, consisted of braided leather thongs with metal balls and pieces of sharp bone woven into or intertwined with the braids. This beating was so severe that at times victims would not survive it.

Jesus is led to Golgotha bearing a cross and mocked by the crowd. He stops and addresses the “daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in the which they shall say, Blessed *are* the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us. For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?” Luke 23:29-31

- Jesus is crucified between two criminals. “3rd hour” (9 am), Mark 15:25, John 19, Luke 23.
- The soldiers gamble for Jesus’s garments **Matthew 23:34** (in fulfillment of Psalms 22:18).
 - First of Jesus’ seven statements “Father forgive them” **Matthew 27:35**
- The inscription, "King of the Jews" is affixed amid much scoffing.
- Soldiers taunted – “ If you are...come down” Priests taunted – “he will build the temple in 3 days”?
 - Salvation of the thief on the cross “today shalt thou be with me in Paradise.” Luke 23:43
 - Delegated his mother’s care to John “Woman, behold thy son” John 19:26,27
- Final three hours of darkness, noon – 3 pm (6th – ninth hour). Jesus remains silent. Matthew 27:45
 - At the 9th hour “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” **Matthew 27:46**
 - “I thirst” John 19:28 Sponge with gall & vinegar offered
 - “It is finished” John 19:30
 - “Father into thy hands I commend my spirit.”
- “Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice yielded up the ghost.” **Matthew 27:50**
- Death (9th hour, 3 pm)
- **Miraculous signs** prompted the centurion’s exclamation, “Truly this was the son of God.” **Matthew 27:54**

Some have said that as a pagan he was saying this was a **son of a god**. The Greek construction and syntax of the phrase will not allow that, but rather is rendered *Alaythos Theon huios ayn outos* - God’s Son was this.^{vii}

 1. Darkness from noon till 3 PM Luke 23:44,45, **Matt. 27:45**
 2. Rending of the Temple vail from the top down. **Matt. 27:51**; Heb. 10:19-21
 3. Earthquake **Matt. 27:51**
 4. Saints Resurrected and seen by many **Matt. 27:52,53**



- Breaking of the legs requested by the Jewish leadership to expedite death so that no corpses would be visible on Passover which began at sundown. It was deemed unnecessary for Jesus. John 19:31-32 Fulfilling Psalm 34:20
- Spear piercing - proof of death. John 19:34 “blood and water” – “pericardial effusion indicative of a prolonged rapid heartbeat resulting from Hypovolemic shock can cause fluid to gather in the area around the heart”^{viii}

Prophecies Fulfilled in the Psalms

Matthew 27:39-43

Psalm 22:7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, 8) He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. 12) Many bulls have compassed me: strong *bulls* of Bashan have beset me round. 13) They gaped upon me *with* their mouths, *as* a ravening and a roaring lion. 14) I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Matthew 27:34 Psalm 22:15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

Matthew 27:27,28 Psalm 22:16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

Matthew 27:35 Psalm 22:17 I may tell all my bones: they look *and* stare upon me.

Matthew 27:35 Psalm 22:18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Prophecies Fulfilled in the Prophets - Isaiah

Matthew 27:20 Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not., **Matthew 27:23**, Isa. 53:4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

Matthew 27:26, Isa. 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., **Matthew 27:24**, Isa. 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Matthew 27:12, Isa. 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 not his mouth. **Matthew 27:24-26**, Isa. 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken., **Matthew 27:57-60**, Isa. 53:9 And 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., **Matthew 27:46**, Isa. 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days., **Matthew 28:10**, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand., 11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

John 19:34, 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.

- Burial by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus John 19:38-42
- Sealing of the Tomb Matthew 27:66

Who killed Jesus? For almost 2000 years the Catholic Church has spread the dogma of the Jews as “Christ killers.” This dogma was not rejected by the Protestants and was further promoted by Martin Luther himself.^{ix} This common blood

libel permeated not only Germany, but both Western and Eastern European “Christian” thought thus paving the way for Nazism to flourish unhindered by the established Church. “Without Christian Antisemitism the Holocaust would have been inconceivable.”^x There were exceptions of which the churchman “Dietrich Bonhoeffer” is a great example.^{xi} Yet there is no evidence in the Gospel accounts of a Jew putting a nail or spear into Jesus. While it is true that the corrupt Jewish leadership of the Sanhedrin under the direction of the Roman-appointed High Priest Caiaphas insisted that Jesus be crucified and Barabas be released, there were multitudes of Jewish followers of Jesus who worshiped and proclaimed Him Messiah Son of David. To say that “the Jews killed Christ” is broad brushing all Jews of all generations of the guilt that can only be proven by the ruling religious body of the Jewish nation. The phrase “the Jews” (John 18:12, 14, 20,31, 36, 38; 19:7,12,14, 31, 38) almost always refers to the Jewish leaders of Jerusalem and rarely is used of all Jewish people of that time much less all Jews of all time. Peter the Apostle spreads the blame on two leaders and the two people groups of scripture, thus on everyone present on that day. Acts 4:27,28 “For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both **Herod**, and **Pontius Pilate**, with the **Gentiles**, and **the people of Israel**, were gathered together For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.” It was God who preordained the crucifixion. Revelation 13:8 “And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in **the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.**” It was God who determined that the redemption of man required that He in human form become the sacrificial atonement. Isa. 53:10 “It pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin.” 1 John 2:2 “And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of the whole world.*” All sinners bear guilt.

Just like Abraham offered Isaac, God offered His son.

Gen 22:7-13 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here *am* I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where *is* the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood... And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind *him* a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place **Jehovahjireh**: as it is said *to* this day, **In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.**

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

“there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment... He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God.” Hebrews 10:26-29

ⁱ <https://legxiii.com/>

ⁱⁱ Borderland Israel in the Time of Jesus, Tim Chaffey, Travis Wilson, Creation Museum, Kentucky,Getanswers.org

ⁱⁱⁱ Wikipedia Antonia Fortress

^{iv} www.ritmeyer.com

^v Borderland Israel in the Time of Jesus, Tim Chaffey, Travis Wilson, Creation Museum, Kentucky,Getanswers.org, p89

^{vi} <https://dannythedigger.com/praetorium/>

^{vii} Interlinear Greek English New Testament, Ricker Berry, Broadman Press, Nashville, TN, 1985, Matthew 27, P 85

^{viii} <https://www.compellingtruth.org/blood-water-Jesus.html>

^{ix} Our Hands Are Stained With Blood, Michael L. Brown, Destiny Image Publishers, Shippingsburg, PA, 1992, P 31

^x *Ibid.*, P 21

^{xi} encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/dietrich-bonhoeffer