

The Crucifixion of Christ

Eph 5:30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh, and of His bones.

“Crucifixion probably began first among the Persians. Alexander the Great introduced the practice to Egypt and Carthage, and the Romans appear to have learned from the Carthaginians. Although the Romans did not invent crucifixions they perfected it as a form of torture and capital punishment that was designed to produce a slow death with maximum pain and suffering. It was one of the most disgraceful and cruel methods of execution and usually only reserved for slaves, foreigners, revolutionaries, and the vilest criminals. Roman law usually protected Roman citizens from crucifixion, except perhaps in the case of desertion by soldiers.”

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- By this then all other forms of execution pale in comparison torture wise. Electrocutions, hangings, firing squads, gas chambers, guillotines or lethal injections are all considered “humane” compared to crucifixions.

In the Garden of Gethsemane

Luk 22:44 And being in an agony (*Gk.74- a struggle, anguish*) He prayed more earnestly: and His **sweat** was as it were great **drops of blood** falling down to the ground. (*Emp. Added*)

- This is only mentioned here in Luke. Luke was a physician so he had a little more insight into Jesus’ suffering even before going to the cross.
- agony- Webster: 2. Extreme pain of body or mind; appropriately, the pangs of death, and sufferings of our Savior in the garden of Gethsemane.

Hematidrosis- bloody sweat. *“Under great emotional stress, tiny capillaries in the sweat glands can break, thus mixing blood with sweat. This process alone could have produced marked weakness and possible shock.”* Dr. C. Truman Davis

Before Pilate

Joh 18:33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto Him, Art Thou the King of the Jews? 34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of Me? 35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered Thee unto me: what hast Thou done? 36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My kingdom not from hence. 37 Pilate therefore said unto Him, Art Thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice (*understands My sayings*). 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*. 39 But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the Passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews? 40 Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber.

The Scourging

Mar 15:15 And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged *Him*, to be crucified. 16 And the soldiers led Him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band.

Mat 27:28 And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet (*Gk.2847- crimson colored*) robe. 29 And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!

- Before being crucified the condemned was usually taken into a common hall where a band of battle worn but very bored Roman soldiers were gathered. A flagellum (*short whip of several braided leather thongs with small iron balls, sharp pieces of metal and sheep bone tied in*) was used as the instrument of punishment. The condemned first was stripped of his clothing leaving the back, buttocks and legs exposed. Then after being tied by the hands to the uppermost part of a log sized post, two inflictors would begin by beating the intended victim in succession. Even though the intent was to weaken the man (*women were exempt from being crucified*) in some cases the beating would produce death depending on the disposition (*mood*) of the two soldiers. The areas receiving the constant blows by the flagellum produced “*quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh*” as though being fileted. Jesus endured all of this before going to the cross and they even yanked the hair from His beard.

Isa 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.

Mar 15:19 And they smote Him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon Him, and bowing *their* knees worshipped Him.

Joh 19:5 Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple (*Gk.4210- bluish red*) robe. And *Pilate* saith unto them, Behold the man!

Joh 19:7 The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law He ought to die, because He **made Himself the Son of God**. 8 When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid; (*Pagan religions such as Greek mythology taught that the gods interacted with humans from which offspring such as Hercules came. Pilot didn't want to tangle with any god.*) 9 And went again into the judgment hall, and saith unto Jesus, Whence (*Gk.4159- from which or what place, state, source or cause*) art Thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 Then saith Pilate unto Him, Speakest Thou not unto me? knowest Thou not that I have power to crucify Thee, and have power to release Thee? 11 Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power *at all* against Me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered Me unto thee hath the greater sin. 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: whosoever maketh Himself a king speaketh against Caesar. 13 When Pilate therefore heard that saying (*because he was more concerned with the present situation and the fact that Caesar was considered to be a god once dead [Domitian changed that by declaring himself as god while yet alive].*), he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. (*Emp. Added*)

Mar 15:20 And when they had mocked Him, they took off the purple from Him, and put His own clothes on Him, and led Him out to crucify Him.

- After the blood began to coagulate on His lacerated wounds the purple robe was torn from Jesus' back, reopening the unhealed flesh.

The Crucifixion

Gal 3:1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, **before whose eyes** Jesus Christ hath been **evidently** set forth, **crucified among you?** (*Emp. Added*)

- Even though Paul claimed no real talent in his presentation (*1 Cor 2:1*) he must have delivered quite a detailed account of the crucifixion of Christ to the Galatians.

Isa 52:13 Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

2Co 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.

Joh 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:

- After being scourged and stumbling beneath the weight of His cross, His resolve still being to finish His work as the Saviour, it became obvious in His weakened state that help was necessary if Jesus was to make it to Golgotha. Because earlier...

Luk 9:51 And it came to pass, when the time was come that He should be received up, He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem,

- His determination to save His creation from Hell highly motivated Him toward finishing His mission.

Crossbar: 75-125 lbs. Full weight of the cross: well over 300 lbs.

Mar 15:21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear His cross.

- Simon of Cyrene (currently North Africa [Tripoli])

Rom 16:13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

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- Once the 5-7" iron nails were impaled through the wrists (*the wrists were considered part of the hand*) via the median nerve (*those with carpal tunnel syndrome know this nerve well*), the feet were positioned one atop the other and a third nail positioned and driven through both feet at the second metatarsal space into a block of wood placed strategically for breathing purposes. Without this the victim would suffocate within minutes but with it even exhaling would have been labor intensive. After all, it was not intended for the victim to die quickly. Once the title with the name and crime was affixed, the cross would have been stood up and dropped into a posthole.

Mat 27:37 And set up over His head His accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Mar 15:26 And the superscription of His accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Luk 23:38 And a superscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Joh 19:19 And Pilate wrote a title, and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. 20 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. 21 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. 22 Pilate answered, What I have written I have written.

7 Last Sayings of Christ on the Cross

1

Luk 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted His raiment, and cast lots.

- What a shame, how we can have a hard time forgiving others and hold grudges even when they are sorry and admit to having had no intent in the first place.

2

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

3

Joh 19:25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister (*in-law*), Mary the *wife* of Cleophas (*Jesus' uncle, either Mary's or Joseph's brother*), and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He saith unto His mother, Woman, behold thy son (*referring to the apostle John*)! 27 Then saith He to the disciple, Behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his own *home*.

4

Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli (*Gk.2241- My God*), Eli, lama (*Gk.2982- why*) sabachthani (*Gk.4581- sab-akh-than-ee'-Thou hast left Me; a cry of distress*)? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

5

Joh 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 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.

Psa 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.

6

Joh 19:30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, It is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.

Col 2:9 For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power: 11 In Whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12 Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *Him* through the faith of the operation of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead. 13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He quickened together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and **took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross;** (*Emp. Added*)

7

Luk 23:44 And it was about the sixth hour (*noon*), and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour(3:00). 45 And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst. 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. 47 Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, Certainly this was a righteous man.

- with a loud voice-With a final gasp for air Jesus' heart gave in thus the increase in the volume of His final words on the cross. If Jesus gave up the Holy Ghost here then Who was the Spirit that hovered over Him like a dove at His baptism? There are those who espouse the idea that Jesus didn't really die on the cross and that He was revived later and was thus seen of the 500 plus (*1 Cor 15:6*) afterwards. Modern medical analysis proves otherwise.

Mat 3:16 And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.

Crucifracture- breaking of the legs in crucifixion.

Joh 19:31 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. 32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with Him.

Exo 12:46 In one house shall it (*the Passover*) be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof. 47 All the congregation of Israel shall keep it.

1Co 5:7 Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even **Christ our Passover** is sacrificed for us: (*Emp. Added*)

Psa 34:20 He keepeth all His bones: not one of them is broken.

Joh 19:33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that He was dead already, they brake not His legs:

Joh 19:36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of Him shall not be broken.

Blood and Water

Joh 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Joh 19:37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on Him whom they pierced.

Psa 22:14 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.

- The water either came from His lungs from filling up with fluid because of His state of health or from the shock absorbing sac that surrounds the heart.

Post Resurrection

Isa 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:

Luk 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs. 15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them. 16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him.

Luk 24:30 And it came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He took bread, and blessed *it*, and brake, and gave to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him; and He vanished out of their sight. 32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?

Luk 24:36 And as they thus spake, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. 38 And He said unto them, Why are ye troubled? And why do thoughts arise in your hearts? 39 Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself: handle Me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see Me have. 40 And when He had thus spoken, He **shewed them His hands and His feet**. 41 And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, He said unto them, Have ye here any meat? (*Emp. Added*)

Joh 20:27 Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into My side: and be not faithless, but believing.

Rev 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. (*Emp. Added*)

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Isa 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *His* face from you, that He will not hear.

- After knowing what Jesus did for us through His death , burial and resurrection, why would anyone think it difficult to emulate Him by following His example. He made the way easy. All we have to do is follow Him.

Mat 16:24 Then said Jesus unto His disciples, If any *man* will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.

Hear: Romans 10:17 ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: Lk 13:3 ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: Mat 10:32 "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: Acts 2:38 ..."repent and be baptized...in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"...

Remain faithful: Rom 6:4 ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

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September 26, 2025
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