

900 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST...

"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest. Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You delivered them.

To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted and were not disappointed. But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people. All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, "Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him." Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb. Be not far from me, for trouble is near; For there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. They open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots." (Psalms 22:1-18)

700 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST...

"Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him."

(Isaiah 53:1-6)

700 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST...

"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living? For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due? His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth. But the Lord was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand. As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. 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."

(Isaiah 53:7-12)

500 YEARS BEFORE CHRIST...

“So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing.”
(Daniel 9:25-26)

JESUS' PREDICTION OF HIS PASSION TIMELINE

“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn Him to death, and will hand Him over to the Gentiles to mock and scourge and crucify Him, and on the third day He will be raised up.”
(Matthew 20:18-19)

OVERVIEW OF CRUCIFIXION EVENTS

HARMONY OF EVENTS AT JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

1. Jesus arrived at Golgotha (Matt. 27:33; Mark 15:22; Luke 23:33; John 19:17).
2. He refused the offer of wine mixed with myrrh (Matt. 27:34; Mark 15:23).
3. He was nailed to the cross between the two thieves (Matt. 27:35-38; Mark 15:24-28; Luke 23:33-38; John 19:18).
4. He gave His first cry from the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34).
5. The soldiers took Jesus' garments, leaving Him naked on the cross (Matt. 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23).
6. The Jews mocked Jesus (Matt. 27:39-43; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-37).
7. He conversed with the two thieves (Luke 23:39-43).
8. He gave His second cry from the cross, "I tell you the truth; today you will be with Me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).
9. He spoke the third time, "Woman, here is your son" (John 19:26-27).
10. Darkness came from noon to 3 P.M. (Matt. 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44).
11. He gave His fourth cry, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matt. 27:46-47; Mark 15:34-36).
12. His fifth cry was, "I am thirsty" (John 19:28).
13. He drank "wine vinegar" (John 19:29).
14. His sixth cry was, "It is finished" (John 19:30).
15. He drank wine vinegar from a sponge (Matt. 27:48; Mark 15:36).
16. He cried a seventh time, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Luke 23:46).
17. He dismissed His spirit by an act of His own will (Matt. 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:30).
18. The temple curtain was torn in two (Matt. 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45).
19. Roman soldiers admitted, "Surely He was the Son of God" (Matt. 27:54; Mark 15:39).

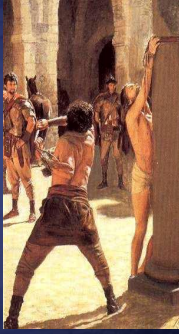
* Bible Knowledge Commentary

THE SCOURGING

"Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him."
(John 19:1)

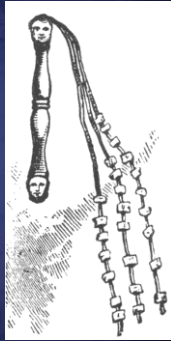
"I gave My back to those who strike Me,
And My cheeks to those who pluck out the
beard; I did not cover My face from
humiliation and spitting."
(Isaiah 50:6)

"But He was pierced through for our
transgressions; He was crushed for our
iniquities; The chastening for our well-being
fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are
healed."
(Isaiah 53:5)



THE SCOURGING WHIP OR FLAGRUM

A Roman scourging was a frightful punishment.
The whip (or flagrum) used was braided from
leather thongs and interlaced with lead balls
and metal and bone spikes. Six soldiers, lictors,
wielded these whips on the prisoner who was
usually tied to a column or stake. The severity of
the scourging was such that prisoners usually
fainted and sometimes died under it. The
whipping was applied to the back and chest.
Each stroke cut into the quivering flesh; the
flagrum's tail would often strike the face,
sometimes knocking out teeth and, on occasion,
even an eye. The victim was invariably reduced to
a bloody mass of quivering flesh, with virtually all
strength drained from his body.



"The sufferer's veins were laid bare, and the
very muscles, sinews, and bowels of the victim
were open to exposure."
Eusebius, 3rd Century Historian

“Just as many were astonished at you, My people, So His appearance was marred more than any man And His form more than the sons of men.”
(Isaiah 52:14)

THE SCARLET ROBE

“They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him.”
(Matthew 27:28)

“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord,
“Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.”
(Isaiah 1:18)



THE CROWN OF THORNS



“And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head”
(Matthew 27:29)

“Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it;’ Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you”
(Genesis 3:17-18)

JESUS AND SIMON OF CYRENE

“As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they pressed into service to bear His cross.” (Matthew 27:32)

“They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), to bear His cross.” (Mark 15:21)

“When they led Him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, coming in from the country, and placed on him the cross to carry behind Jesus.” (Luke 23:26)

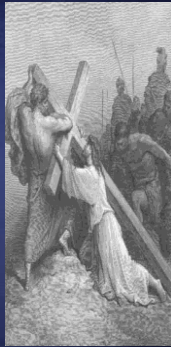
“They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.” (John 19:17)

JESUS AND SIMON OF CYRENE

Scholars differ on whether the entire cross or just the cross-beam was being initially carried by Jesus. At some point, because of the beating He received, Jesus became unable to carry it and Simon of Cyrene was pressed into service.

Cyrene was a Greek settlement located west of Alexandria on the North African coast of the Mediterranean, directly south of Greece in what is modern Libya.

Mark records that Simon was “the father of Alexander and Rufus” (Mark 15:21). As Mark was written from orations given by Peter to an elite Roman audience, Mark must have included Rufus because he was known to the church in Rome. Paul refers to Rufus in Rom. 16:13 as well as Rufus’ mother who had cared for Paul. Evidently Simon and his family became believers.



THE SON OF ABRAHAM AND THE SON OF GOD



“Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together.” (Genesis 22:6)

“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.” (John 19:17)

THE CRUCIFIXION LOCATION

“And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull,”
(Matthew 27:33)



“Calvaria” in Latin, or Calvary. No one really knows for certain where this was. According to Origen, Golgotha was named after the skull of Adam, who was allegedly buried there. It is more likely that the name derived from a rocky protuberance located there that had the shape of a skull, but other explanations have also been given. Two locations are usually given: Gordon’s Calvary, which is outside the old city walls, and then the site of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which is not.

THE CUP



“they gave Him wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink.” (Matthew 27:34)

“So Jesus said to Peter, “Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?” (John 18:11)

“They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” (Psalm 69:21)

ANCIENT HISTORIAN THOUGHTS ON CRUCIFIXION



“The very word ‘cross’ should be far removed not only from the person of a Roman citizen but from his thoughts, his eyes, and his ears. . . . It is the most horrendous torture.”

- Cicero

“It is the extreme penalty.”

- Tacitus

WHAT TIME DID JESUS GO TO THE CROSS?

"It was the **third hour** when they crucified Him."
(Mark 15:25)

"Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the **sixth hour**. And he [Pilate] said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" " (John 19:14)

Using the Jewish method of counting hours from sunrise (and sunset) Mark alone recorded that Jesus' crucifixion took place at the third hour, that is, 9 a.m. But John probably used the Roman (modern) method of counting hours from midnight (and noon); thus he put Jesus' trial before Pilate at "about the sixth hour," that is, approximately 6 a.m. The interval between 6 and 9 a.m. was filled with the soldiers' mockery (cf. Mark 15:16-20), Pilate's verdict on the two robbers (cf. 15:27), and preparations for the crucifixions.

THE KORAN ON THE CRUCIFIXION

"And their saying: Surely we have killed the Messiah, Isa son of Mariam, the apostle of Allah; and they did not kill him nor did they crucify him, but it appeared to them so (like Isa) and most surely those who differ therein are only in a doubt about it; they have no knowledge respecting it, but only follow a conjecture, and they killed him not for sure."

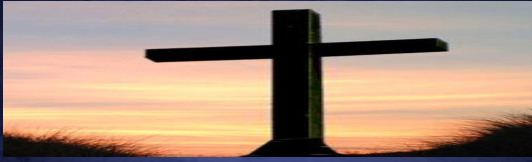
Sura 4:157

THE GOSPEL OF BARNABAS ON THE CRUCIFIXION

"Judas answered: 'Now have ye lost your senses! Ye are come to take Jesus of Nazareth, with arms and lanterns as [against] a robber; and ye have bound me that have guided you, to make me king. . . . Whereupon Judas, as though beside himself, answered nothing to the point. The high priest then adjured him by the living God of Israel that he would tell him the truth. Judas answered: 'I have told you that I am Judas [scariot, who promised to give into your hands Jesus the Nazarene; and ye, by what art I know not, are beside yourselves, for ye will have it by every means that I am Jesus. . . . So they led him [Judas] to Mount Calvary, where they used to hang malefactors, and there they crucified him naked, for the greater ignominy. Judas truly did nothing else but cry out: 'God, why hast thou forsaken me, seeing the malefactor hath escaped and I die unjustly?'"

- Chapter 217

BRIEF HISTORY OF CRUCIFIXION



Crucifixion is first attested among the Persians (cf. Herodotus Hist. i.128.2; iii.152.2, 159.1), perhaps derived from the Assyrian practice of impalement. The goal was for a person to die without touching the ground and therefore not defile the earth. It was later employed by the Greeks, especially Alexander the Great, and by the Carthaginians, from whom the Romans adapted the practice as a punishment for slaves and non-citizens, and occasionally for citizens guilty of treason. Although in the Old Testament the corpses of blasphemers or idolaters punished by stoning might be hanged "on a tree" as further humiliation (Deut. 21:23), actual crucifixion was not introduced in Palestine until Hellenistic times.

OLD TESTAMENT CRUCIFIXION REFERENCES

"And I [Persian king Darius] issued a decree that any man who violates this edict, a timber shall be drawn from his house and he shall be impaled on it and his house shall be made a refuse heap on account of this."
(Ezra 6:11)

"So they hanged Haman on the gallows [Lit. 'tree'] which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king's anger subsided."
(Esther 7:10)



"Excruciating"
from the Latin, *excruciat*, or "out of the cross."

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF CRUCIFIXION

In 1968, archaeologists in Jerusalem found the remains of about three dozen Jews who had died during the uprising against Rome in A.D. 70. One victim, whose name was apparently Yohanan, had been crucified. The scientists found a seven-inch nail still driven into his feet, with small pieces of olive wood from the cross still attached.



THE CRUCIFIXION EVENT

“When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.”
(Luke 23:33)

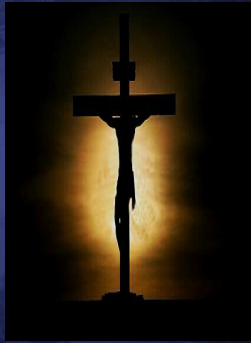


“For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.”
(Psalm 22:16)

“And was numbered with the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53:12)

THE CRUCIFIXION EVENT

“But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.”
(Luke 23:34)



“And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.” (Isaiah 53:12)

“They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.”
(Psalm 22:18)

ANCIENT HISTORIAN ON THE CRUCIFIXION

“At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good and was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly, he was perhaps the messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.”

– Josephus, Antiquities 18.3.3
(undisputed rendering)

“On the eve of Passover Yeshua was hanged ... since nothing was brought forward in his favour he was hanged on the eve of the Passover!”

– Jewish Talmud, Sanhedrin 43a.

ANCIENT HISTORIAN ON THE CRUCIFIXION

“Nero substituted as culprits and punished with the utmost refinements of cruelty, a class of men loathed for their vices whom the crowd styled Christians. Christus, from whom they got their name, had been executed by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate when Tiberius was emperor.”

– Tacitus, Annals, Book 15.

“The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day – the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites and was crucified on that account... these misguided creatures ... deny the gods of Greece and worship the crucified sage and live after his laws”

– The Works of Lucian of Samosata.

CONTEMPORARY SKEPTIC ON THE CRUCIFIXION

“One of the most certain facts of history is that Jesus was crucified on orders of the Roman prefect of Judea, Pontius Pilate.”

– Bart Ehrman
Misquoting Jesus, pg 162



THE CRUCIFIXION SIGN

"Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written, 'JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS.'"

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. 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.'"

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



THE CRUCIFIXION SIGN

It was standard practice for the condemned person to wear a placard around the neck to the place of execution, after which it would be nailed to the cross for all to see. Pilate likely used this opportunity to take a mocking revenge on the Jews who had bullied him into murdering Jesus.

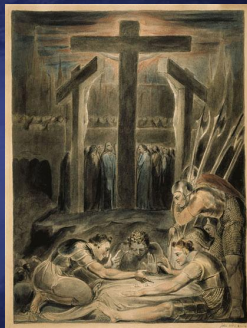
Irony is shown by John who recognized that Pilate wrote those words but that God wanted His Son to die with this proclamation on His cross. The words in another sense are a fitting judgment on the life of Pilate. He had played his part and had his moment of truth. He, a Gentile, would one day be judged accordingly by the King of the Jews.



THE GAMBLING FOR JESUS' CLOTHES

"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. 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.'" (John 19:23-24)

Jesus may have died naked (which the Romans felt accentuated the shame), but at the same time He is the last Adam who provides clothes of righteousness for sinners.



THE CRUCIFIXION MOCKING

"And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. "He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, if He delights in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' " (Matthew 27:39-43)

"All who see me sneer at me; They separate [Lit. 'make mouths at'] with the lip, they wag the head, saying, "Commit yourself to the Lord; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him. . . . Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. They open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a roaring lion." (Psalms 22:7, 13)

JESUS BECOMES A CURSE FOR US

"his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance." (Deuteronomy 21:23)



"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree." (Galatians 3:13)

THE TWO THIEVES

"When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. . . . One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? "And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." (Luke 23:33-43)

"The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words." (Matthew 27:44)

"Those who were crucified with Him were also insulting Him." (Mark 15:32)

Note: remember that, in Scripture, a partial report is not a false report...

THE TWO THIEVES



Evidently, both of the criminals began reviling Jesus, and yet later one of them repented of his abusive comments. Perhaps he recognized the righteousness of Jesus in the way He responded to those crucifying Him, but however it happened, one thief ended up saved and the other went on condemned both in this life and the next.

The same happens with us today. We all start out as enemies of Jesus and then God has mercy and sends His grace, and some believe and are saved.

THE WOMEN AT THE CROSS

"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. When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household." (John 19:25-27)



"and a sword will pierce even your own soul" (Luke 2:35)

With Joseph evidently being dead, and His half-brothers and sisters in Galilee, Jesus provides for His mother by assigning John as her provider.

"The Messiah is someone who establishes justice throughout the world, and I look out my window and I know that hasn't happened. The Messiah is someone who conquers death, conquers disease. And I know that hasn't happened. One might even say, for example, the death of the Messiah - his torture, his crucifixion - is predicted in the Old Testament. Well, in fact it's not."

-Amy-Jill Levine, Vanderbilt Divinity School

Well, in fact ... it is.
- God

SOMETIMES LIFE SEEMS SO UNFAIR...

"I was standing in the pouring rain
 One dark November night
 Fighting off the bitter cold
 When she caught my eye
 Her face was torn and her eyes were filled
 And then to my surprise
 She pulled out a photograph
 And my heart just stopped inside
 She said 'He would have been three today
 I miss his smile, I miss his face'
 What was I supposed to say?"
 - Building 429, *Always*

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

1. God predetermined and set His plan for Christ's death and our salvation from the very foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8). This being true, we can rest that He has our future also firmly in place
2. At the very pinnacle of despair and when it was the most dark, Christ was dead center in the Father's will. Although the prosperity gospel says otherwise, trials are oftentimes part of God's plan and even in the height of our storms, we may very well be exactly where God wants us



BUT GOD NEVER FAILS...

"But I believe always always
 Our Savior never fails
 Even when all hope is gone
 God knows our pain and His promise remains
 He will be with you always"
 - Building 429, *Always*