

Fact Sheet for **“Crucified!”**  
**Matthew 27:31-56**

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Jesus has stood trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin, has been condemned by them and delivered to Pilate. Pilate's hand has been forced, and he has delivered Jesus over to be crucified. Today we start from this point, and will be weaving the four gospel accounts together around Matthew's account (Matthew 27:31-56; Mark 15:20-41; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:16-30).

**ESV <sup>31</sup> And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. <sup>32</sup> As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.**

John 19:17 records that Jesus began by carrying his own cross. Mark records that Simon was the father of Alexander and Rufus, two who were apparently known to the early church. At this point Luke adds some additional information (Luke 23:27-30). In verse 30 Jesus quoted from Hosea 10:8... but look at what will actually happen in the end times (Revelation 6:12-17).

Read Luke 23:31. This is speaking of freshly cut firewood vs. seasoned firewood. In other words the rejection of Christ would get worse later. And remember, end times is already in the context of the previous verse. So Jesus may be referring to the end times here.

**<sup>33</sup> And when they came to a place called Golgotha<sup>1</sup> (which means Place of a Skull), <sup>34</sup> they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.**

Mark identifies “gall” as myrrh. In Jesus' day they used to infuse myrrh into wine to give it a more agreeable fragrance and flavor. But it also would dull pain, and Jesus refused to drink it. Myrrh would also be used in Jesus' burial (John 19:29). *Remember, this was one of the gifts from the Magi at Jesus' birth.*

**<sup>35</sup> And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. <sup>36</sup> Then they sat down and kept watch over him there.**

Read John 19:23-24. Verse 24 is a fulfillment of Psalm 22:18.

Mark 15:25 records that it was the third hour when they crucified Jesus. Mark was using Jewish time, reckoned from sunrise (about 6am). So the third hour is 9am. Roman time, used by John, was reckoned from midnight (see John 19:13).

**<sup>37</sup> And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."**

Read John 19:19-22.

**<sup>38</sup> Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.**

Read Luke 23:34a.

**<sup>39</sup> And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup> and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."**

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<sup>1</sup> In Aramaic (John 19:17).

Jesus never said he would destroy the temple. This was a talking point used by the Jewish leaders to accuse and mock Jesus. Jesus' actual quote is found in John 2:19-22.

**<sup>41</sup> So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, <sup>42</sup> "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup> He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'"**

Read Luke 23:35-37.

**<sup>44</sup> And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.**

Apparently, one of the two robbers had a change of heart (Luke 23:39-43).

Read John 19:25-27

**<sup>45</sup> Now from the sixth hour<sup>2</sup> there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour<sup>3</sup>.**

**<sup>46</sup> And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"**

Jesus quoted here the first half of Psalm 22:1 in Aramaic. The huge question here is "How can the first person of the Trinity turn away from the second person of the Trinity?" I have always found a different perception of Jesus' words as I read the first 19 verses of Psalm 22. In this Psalm David is pouring out his heart to God about his circumstances, yet in trust. I have always viewed Jesus as doing the same on the cross, echoing the thoughts of King David.

**<sup>47</sup> And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah (*from Eli*)."**

**ESV John 19:28** After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture<sup>4</sup>), "I thirst."

**<sup>48</sup> And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. <sup>49</sup> But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." <sup>50</sup> And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.**

Read Luke 23:46 and John 19:30.

**<sup>51</sup> And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split.**

What is the significance of the curtain being torn from top to bottom? Here is a quote from one commentator... "It symbolizes the destruction of the temple and the invalidation of the sacrificial system on the one hand and the opening of the way to God to all people on the other. It suggests the abrogation of the old covenant with Israel. The same idea is found in Heb 6:19-20; 9:8-15; 10:19-22."<sup>5</sup>

Read Matthew 27:52-56.

As you read through your Bible you very soon come to the book of Leviticus, and read of the Mosaic sacrificial system. The temple services were filled with blood sacrifices, not just ceremony. Read Hebrews 9:22 and 10:4. The whole Old Testament sacrificial system pointed to the cross. Jesus is our complete sacrifice for sin!

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<sup>2</sup> Noon.

<sup>3</sup> 3pm.

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 69:21.

<sup>5</sup> James A. Brooks. The New American Commentary, Mark, p. 262.