

- I) V17-18 INTRO: And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull
 - a) REVIEW: Pontius Pilate has delivered Jesus to be crucified (V16)
 - 1) They did not desire Him
 - 2) Is 53:1-3 Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground; He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised *and rejected by men*, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
 - 3) Jn 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

- II) THEIR RESPONSE IS POLITICAL: He is claiming to be a king and forbidding us to pay taxes
 - a) IN REALITY: Their problem with Jesus was not political, but religious in nature (V7)

- III) THEY TOOK JESUS BEFORE THE GOVERNOR: And demanded that Jesus be put to death
 - a) Pilate did not want to condemn Jesus because he could see that the charges were not true
 - 1) He could see right through them: *Envy* was the real reason they wanted Jesus dead
 - 2) Jn 11:47-48 The chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, "What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.

- IV) AFTER INTERROGATING JESUS: Pilate was sure there was nothing he could charge Him with
 - a) He then attempted to release Jesus, but the priests and the people would not agree to it
 - 1) He even appealed to a custom that they had: During Passover a criminal would be released
 - 2) Instead of Jesus, the priests incited the mob to cry out for a robber named Barabbas

- V) SADLY: The more Pilate argued against them, the angrier they got
 - a) Pilate knew that things were getting out of hand and finally just gave up:
 - 1) Mt 27:24-26 When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it." And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children." Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.

- VI) V17 AND: He bearing His cross went out to a place called the Place of a Skull which is called in
 - a) EARLIER: Jesus had used this horrifying picture to illustrate the cost of discipleship
 - 1) Lu 9:23 He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me...

- VII) V18 WHERE: They *crucified* Him and two others with Him, one on either side and Jesus in the
 - a) Crucifixion was the Roman method of capital punishment
 - 1) Hands nailed, legs twisted and nailed, rope around the waist, sharpened iron saddle peg: Cross made up of two pieces, the post and crossbeam. Crucified person either nailed to crossbeam, or raised by cords to the crossbeam, and nailed to it. The cross was usually twice the height of the man.
 - 2) Dislocation, suffocation, bulging veins, congestion of blood in the head, lungs, and heart: head wounds already suffered, back ripped open, cramping of leg muscles, intense fever, dehydration and shock.

- I) **NOTICE:** Two others were crucified, one on either side and Jesus in the center
 - a) These two were no doubt part of a group of men following Barabbas
 - 1) Mk 15:27 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left.

- II) **INTERESTING:** Part of the reason that He was placed between them was for guilt by association
 - a) **KEY:** This did not bother Him, as He had made a habit of it throughout His ministry
 - 1) Is 53:12 He was numbered with the transgressors
 - 2) Mt 9:10-13 It happened as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice.' For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance

- III) **WHY WAS JESUS CRUCIFIED:** He did not deserve it, as these two did
 - a) **ANSWER:** It was the way God would provide salvation for man (Jn 3:16-17)
 - 1) Mt 20:28 Jesus said: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give *his life a ransom for many*.

- IV) **V19-20 NOW:** Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. And the writing was Jesus of Nazareth the
 - a) **NORMALLY:** The prisoner's crime would be written on a placard, placed around his neck
 - 1) When they were crucified, the placard would then be nailed to the post above his head

- V) **BRIEFLY:** Some begin to question the accuracy of the Bible because of apparent discrepancies
 - a) Mt 27:37 This is Jesus the King of the Jews
 - b) Mk 15:26 The King of the Jews
 - c) Lu 23:38 This is the King of the Jews
 - 1) John gave the full charge, and mentions that it was written in three languages

- VI) **V21-22 THEN:** The chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate Do not write The King of the Jews
 - a) Pilate ignored them: They had pushed the execution, but he did not have to follow their orders

- VII) **V23 THEN:** The soldiers when they had crucified Jesus took His garments and made four parts
 - a) Condemned prisoners were escorted by four soldiers: Each would keep an article of clothing
 - 1) Average Jewish man would wear 4 articles of clothing: Turban, sash, outer robe, sandals
 - 2) Jesus had a fifth article: A seamless inner robe

- VIII) **KEY:** This is important to note because the High Priest wore a seamless robe
 - a) This gives us insight into Jesus acting as our mediator to God (Jn 14:6)

- IX) **V24 THEY:** Said therefore among themselves Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it whose it shall be
 - a) As they gambled for His robe, they fulfilled another Messianic prophecy (Ps 22:18)
 - 1) This gives us a clear picture of the world's indifference to Jesus and His death
 - 2) Job 21:15 Who is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And *what profit* do we have if we pray to Him?'

- I) **AS JESUS WAS DYING:** Some passed by and mocked Him
- a) Mt 27:39-44 And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God. Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing
- II) **KEY:** This mocking of the Lord actually fulfilled prophecy concerning how He was treated
- a) Ps 22:6-8 But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"
- III) **NOTICE:** The Messiah is presented as saying I am a worm and no man
- a) When the female of the scarlet worm species was ready to give birth to her young, she would attach her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing herself so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were in this manner protected until the larvae were hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, the crimson fluid stained her body and the surrounding wood. From the dead bodies of such female scarlet worms, the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity were extracted.
 - 1) **KEY:** What a picture this gives of Christ, dying on the tree, shedding his precious blood that he might "bring many sons unto glory" (Heb 2:10)! He died for us, that we might live through him!
- IV) **V25-27 NOW:** There stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife
- a) There were four women at the cross: Mother Mary, her sister Salome (the mother of James and John) Mary the wife of Clopas (mother of James the younger and Joses) and Mary Magdalene
- V) **MARY:** Watches her Son slowly die on the cross, and her heart breaks to see this
- a) She hears the taunting, watches the soldiers gamble for His garment and stands silently
 - 1) At His dedication at the Temple she had been given a prophecy
 - 2) Lu 2: 34-35 Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."
- VI) **AS SHE WATCHED HIM DIE:** He was not thinking of Himself, but of *her*
- a) Woman, behold your son
 - 1) He is speaking of John, the disciple whom He loved as the others were not present
 - 2) He is honoring His mother: And is entrusting her into the care of a believer
- VII) **ALSO:** To John He says, Behold your mother!
- a) He was the firstborn of the family, and had the responsibility of caring for His mother
 - 1) He would not entrust her into the care of unbelievers
- VIII) **WHY DID HE DO THIS:** So that we might have a relationship with Him
- a) 2 Co 6:18 I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty."
 - b) Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.