

BIBLICAL STORY OF CRUCIFIXION

This Is Good Friday, the Day on Which Christ Was Put to Death by Being Nailed to a Cross—The Account of the Execution, as Given in the Bible, Is Presented in the Following

FRIDAY—THE DAY OF SUFFERING

The Agony in Gethsemane.

And they came unto a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith unto his disciples, "Sit ye here, while I pray."
And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly amazed, and sore troubled. And he saith unto them, "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: abide ye here, and watch."
And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass away from him.

And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; remove this cup from me; howbeit not what I will, but what thou wilt."
And there appeared unto him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony, he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground.

And when he rose up from his prayer, he came unto the disciples, and found them sleeping for sorrow, and said unto Peter, "Simon, sleepest thou? Couldst thou not watch one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Again a second time he went away, and prayed, saying, "My Father, if this cannot pass away, except I drink it, thy will be done."
And he came again and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. And he left them again, and went away, and prayed a third time, saying the same words.

Then cometh he to the disciples, and saith unto them, "Sleep on now, and take your rest; behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners."
Arise, let us be going; behold, he is at hand that betrayeth me.

The Betrayal and Arrest.

And straightway, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.
Now he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, "Whosoever I shall kiss, that is he; take him, and lead him away safely." And when he was come, straightway he came to him, and saith, "Rabbi," and kissed him.

But Jesus said unto him, "Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?"
Jesus, therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon him, went forth, and saith unto them, "Whom seek ye?"
They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus saith unto them, "I am he."
And Judas also, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When therefore he said unto them, "I am he," they went backward, and fell to the ground.
Again therefore he asked them, "Whom seek ye?"
And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he; if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way"; that the word might be fulfilled which he spake, "Of those whom thou hast given me I lost not one."
And when they that were about him saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we smite with the sword?"

Simon Peter therefore having a sword drew it, and struck the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. Now the servant's name was Malchus.
But Jesus answered and said, "Put

up again thy sword into its place; for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Or thinkest thou that I cannot beseech my Father, and he shall even now send me more than twelve legions of angels? How then should the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? The cup which the Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

And Jesus said unto the chief priests and captains of the temple, and elders, that were come against him, "Are ye come out as against a robber, with swords and staves? When I was daily with you in the temple, ye stretched not forth your hands against me; but this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Then all the disciples left him, and fled.
And a certain young man followed with him, having a linen cloth cast about him, over his naked body; and they lay hold on him; but he left the linen cloth, and fled naked.
The Trial Before the Jewish Authorities.

So the band and the chief captain, and the officers of the Jews, seized Jesus and bound him, and led him to Annas first; for he was father in law to Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now Caiaphas was he that gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple. Now that disciple was known unto the high priest, and entered in with Jesus into the court; and the high priest asked him, and he answered him, saying, "I know not what thou sayest."
So the other disciple, who was known unto the high priest, went out and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter.

The maid therefore that kept the door saith unto Peter, "Art thou also one of this man's disciples?"
He saith, "I am not."
Now the serfs and the officers were standing there, having made a fire of coals; for it was cold; and they were warming themselves; and Peter also was with them standing and warming himself.

The high priest therefore asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I never taught in synagogues, and in the temple, where all the Jews come together, and in secret spake I nothing. Why askest thou me? Ask them that have heard me, what I spake unto them; behold, these know the things which I said."

And when he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Answerest thou the high priest so?"
If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil; but if well, why smitest thou me?"
Annas therefore sent him bound unto Caiaphas the high priest.

Now the chief priests and the whole council sought witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found it not. For many bare false witness against him, and their witness agreed not together. And there stood up certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, "We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands." And not even so did their witness agree together.

And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, "Answerest thou nothing? What is it which these witness against thee?"
But he held his peace, and answered nothing.

And the high priest said unto him, "I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell whether thou art the Christ, the Son of God."
And Jesus said, "I am; and ye shall

see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

And the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, "What further need have we of witnesses? Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye?"
And they all condemned him to be worthy of death.
Then did they spit in his face and buffet him. And they blindfolded him and smote him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophesy unto us, thou Christ: who is he that struck thee?"

The Denial of Peter.
And as Peter was beneath in the court, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest; and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked upon him and saith, "Thou also wast with the Nazarene, even Jesus."
But he denied, saying, "I neither know nor understand what thou sayest," and he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

And after a little while they that stood by came and said to Peter, "Of a truth thou also art one of them; for thy speech maketh thee known."
Then began he to curse and to swear, "I know not the man." And straightway the cock crew.

And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how that he said unto him, "Before the cock crow twice thou shalt deny me thrice."
And he went out, and wept bitterly.

And straightway in the morning the chief priests with the elders and scribes, and the whole council, held a consultation, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him up to Pilate, the governor.

The Remorse of Judas.
Then Judas, who betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned in that I betrayed innocent blood."
But they said, "What is that to us? See thou to it."

And he cast down the pieces of silver into the sanctuary, and departed; and he went away and hanged himself.
And the chief priests took the pieces of silver, and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is the price of blood."
And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. Wherefore that field was called "The field of blood" unto this day.

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was priced, whom certain of the children of Israel did price; and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me."

The Trial Before Pilate.
They led Jesus therefore from Caiaphas into the Praetorium; and it was early; and they themselves entered not into the Praetorium, that they might not be defiled, but might eat the passover. Pilate therefore went out unto them, and saith, "What accusation bring ye against this man?"
They answered and said unto him, "If this man were not an evildoer, we should not have delivered him up unto thee."

Pilate therefore said unto them, "Take him yourselves, and judge him according to your law." But the Jews said unto him, "It is not lawful for us to put any man to death"; that the word of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying by what manner of death he should die.

And they began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ a king."
And when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then saith Pilate unto him, "Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee?" And he gave him no answer, not even to one word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Pilate therefore entered again into the Praetorium and called Jesus, and said unto him, "Art thou the King of the Jews?"
Jesus answered, "Sayest thou this of thyself, or did others tell it thee concerning me?"
Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests delivered thee unto me; what hast thou done?"

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 of hence."
Pilate therefore said unto him, "Art thou a king then?"
Jesus answered, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

Pilate saith unto him, "What is truth?"
And when he said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, "I find no crime in him."
But they were the more urgent, saying, "He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Judaea, and beginning from Galilee, even unto this place."

But when Pilate heard it, he asked whether the man were a Galilaean. 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.

Jesus Before Herod.
Now when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad; for he was of a long time desirous to see him, because he had heard concerning him; and he hoped to see some miracle done by him. And he questioned him in many words; but he answered him nothing. And the chief priests, and the scribes stood, vehemently accusing him. And Herod with his soldiers set him at naught, and mocked him, and arraying him in gorgeous apparel sent him back to Pilate.

And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day; for before they were at enmity toward themselves.
The Trial Before Pilate Resumed.
And Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said unto them, "Ye brought unto me this man, as one that perverteth the people; and behold I having examined him before you, found no fault in him touching those things whereof ye accuse him; no, nor yet Herod; for he sent him back unto us; and behold, nothing worthy of death hath been done by him: will therefore chastise him, and release him."

Now at the feast the governor was wont to release unto the multitude

one prisoner, called Barabbas, lying bound with them that had made insurrection, men who in the insurrection had committed murder. And the multitude went up and began to ask him to do as he was wont to do unto them.

And Pilate answered them, saying, "Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that for envy the chief priests had delivered him up.

Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask for Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.
But the governor answered and said unto them, "Which of the two will ye that I release unto you?"
And they said, "Barabbas."

Pilate saith unto them, "What then shall I do unto Jesus who is called Christ?"
They all say, "Let him be crucified."
And he said unto them a third time, "Why do ye wish that I should release the King of the Jews?" For he perceived that they desired to crucify him.

Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.
And the soldiers led him away with in the court, which is the Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. And they stripped him, and arrayed him in a purple garment. And they platted a crown of thorns and put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand; and they kneeled down before him, and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and they struck him with their hands. And they spat upon him, and took the reed and smote him upon the head.

And Pilate went out again, and saith unto them, "Behold, I bring him out to you, that ye may know that I find no crime in him."
Jesus therefore came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple garment. And Pilate saith unto them, "Behold, the man!"
When therefore the chief priests and the officers saw him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify him, crucify him!"

Pilate saith unto them, "Take him yourselves, and crucify him; for I find no crime in him."
The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."
When Pilate therefore heard this saying, he was the more afraid; and he entered into the Praetorium again, and saith unto Jesus, "Whence art thou?"

But Jesus gave him no answer.
Pilate therefore saith unto him, "Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to release thee, and have power to crucify thee?"
Jesus answered him, "Thou wouldest have no power against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath greater sin."

Upon this Pilate sought to release him; but the Jews cried out, saying, "If thou release this man, thou art not Caesar's friend: every one that naketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar."
When Pilate therefore heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment-seat at a place called The Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha.

And while he was sitting on the judgment-seat, his wife sent him saying, "Have thou nothing to do with this righteous man; for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him."
Now it was the Preparation of the passover: it was about the sixth hour. And he saith unto the Jews, "Behold, your King!"

They therefore cried out, "Away with him, away with him, crucify him!"
Pilate saith unto them, "Shall I crucify your King?"
The chief priests answered, "We have no king but Caesar."

So when Pilate saw that he prevailed nothing, but rather that a tumult was arising, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous man; see ye to it."
And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us, and on our children."
And they were urgent with loud voices asking that he might be crucified. And their voices prevailed.

And Pilate, wishing to content the

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multitude, gave sentence that what they asked for should be done. And he released unto them Barabbas, him that for insurrection and murder had been cast into prison, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

And when they had mocked him, they took off from him the robe, and put on him his garments, and led him away to crucify him.
The Sorrowful Way.
They took Jesus therefore; and he went out, bearing the cross for himself.

And as they came out, they laid hold upon one Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was passing by, coming from the country; him they compelled to go with them, and laid on him the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.

And there followed him a great multitude of the people, and of women who bewailed and lamented him.
But Jesus turning unto them said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For behold, the days are coming, in which they shall say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the breasts that 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 the green tree, what shall be done in the dry?"

And there were also two others, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.
The Crucifixion.
And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, The place of a skull, they gave him wine to drink mingled with gall; and when he had tasted it, he would not drink.

There they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand and the other on the left.
And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."
And Pilate wrote a title also, and put it on the cross. And there was written: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

This title therefore read many of the Jews for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city; and it was written in Hebrew, and in Latin, and in Greek.
The chief priests of the Jews therefore said to Pilate, "Write not, 'The King of the Jews,' but that he said, 'I am King of the Jews.'"
Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also the coat. Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore one to another, "Let us not rend it; but cast lots for it, whose it shall be"; that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, "They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture did they cast lots."
And these things therefore the soldiers did; and they sat and watched him there.

And the people stood beholding. And they that passed by rallied on him, wagging their heads, and saying, "Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself; if thou art the son of God, come down from the cross."
In like manner also, the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, "He saved others, himself he cannot save. Let the Christ, the King of Israel, now come down from the cross, that we may see and believe. He trusteth on God; let him deliver him now, if he desireth him; for he said, I am the son of God."

And one of the malefactors that were hanged rallied on him, saying, "Art not thou the Christ? Save thyself and us."
But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this man hath done nothing amiss." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when thou comest in thy kingdom."
And he said unto him, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise."

But there were standing by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by whom he loved, he saith unto his mother, "Woman, behold thy son!"
Then saith he to the disciple, "Behold thy mother!"
And from that hour the disciple took her unto his own home.

And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani"; which is, being interpreted, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, "Behold, he calleth Elijah."
After this Jesus, knowing that all things are now fulfilled, that the

scripture might be accomplished, saith, "Thirst."
There was set there a vessel full of vinegar; so they put a sponge full of the vinegar upon hyssop, and brought it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished."

And Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"; and having said this, he gave up the ghost.

And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake; and the rocks were rent; and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints that had fallen asleep were raised; and coming forth out of the tombs after his resurrection they entered into the holy city and appeared unto many.

Now the centurion, and they that were with him watching Jesus, when they saw the earthquake, and the things that were done, feared exceedingly, saying, "Truly this was the son of God."
And all the multitudes that came together to this sight when they beheld the things that were done, returned smiting their breasts. And many women were there beholding from afar, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering unto him; among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

The Jews therefore, because it was the Preparation, that the bodies should not remain on the cross upon the sabbath (for the day of that sabbath was a high day), asked of Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

The soldiers therefore came, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other that was crucified with him; but when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs; howbeit one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and straightway there came out blood and water. And he that hath seen hath borne witness, and his witness is true, and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye also may believe. For these things came to pass, that the scripture might be fulfilled, "A bone of him shall not be broken." And again another scripture saith, "They shall look on him whom they pierced."

The Burial.
And after these things, when even was come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, a councillor of honorable estate, a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews; and he boldly went in unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead; and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he learned it of the centurion, he granted the corpse to Joseph.

He came therefore, and took away his body. And there came also Nicodemus, he who at the first came to him by night, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. So they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.

Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new tomb wherein was never man yet laid. Then there because of the Jews' Preparation (for the tomb was nigh at hand), they laid Jesus, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus beheld the tomb, and how his body was laid. And they returned and prepared spices and ointments.

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