

Matthew: Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection

Matthew 27-28

The Council of Chief Priests Hands Jesus Over to Pilate

27:¹ When dawn arrived, all the **chief priests** and the **elders** of the people held a **council meeting against Jesus** so as to put him to **death**. ² And when they had bound him, they led him away and **handed him over to Pilate the governor**.

Judas Returns to the Priests in Remorse

³ Then when **Judas**, the one who had **handed him over** to them, **saw that he was condemned**, he was **filled with regret** and took the thirty pieces of silver back to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴ saying, **"I sinned by handing over innocent blood."**

They said, **"What's that to us? That's your own business."**

⁵ And when he had thrown the **pieces of silver into the temple**, he departed, and he went and **hanged himself**.

⁶ But the **chief priests**, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is a **price for blood**." ⁷ But when they met in council, they bought with them **the field of the potter** as a burial place for **foreigners**. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called a **Field of Blood** to this day. ⁹ That filled up what was said through the prophet **Jeremiah** when it says that they took the **thirty pieces of silver** as the **price** of one on whom a **price** was set – the one from Israel's sons on whom they had set a **price** – ¹⁰ and they gave the silver for the field of the **potter**, "just as the Lord commanded me."

Jesus before Pilate

¹¹ Now **Jesus** stood before the **governor**. **"Are you the King of the Jews?"** the governor asked him,

"Those are your words," Jesus replied. ¹² And while charges were being laid against him by the chief priests and elders, he **answered nothing**.

¹³ Then **Pilate** said to him, **"Don't you hear all this testimony they're lodging against you?"** ¹⁴ But **he didn't answer him, not even one word**, so that the governor was quite amazed.

Jesus Barabbas

¹⁵ Now at **the feast** the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd one **prisoner** that they wanted. ¹⁶ And at that time they were holding a **well-known prisoner** named **Jesus Barabbas**. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, **"Which one do you want me to release for you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus the one called Messiah?"** ¹⁸ For **he knew** that it was **out of envy** that they had **handed him over**.

Pilate's Wife and Jesus' Innocence

¹⁹ But as he was sitting on the elevated tribunal, **his wife** sent word to him, "Don't have anything to do with that **innocent man**, because this very day I suffered so much because of a **dream** about him."

²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders **persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas** but destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"

And they answered, "**Barabbas.**"

²² Pilate says to them, "**What then shall I do with Jesus** the one called **Messiah?**"

They all say, "**Let him be crucified!**"

²³ He responded, "Why? **What evil** did he do?"

But they shouted all the more, "**Let him be crucified!**"

Pilate Betrays Justice

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was **gaining nothing**, but rather that a **uproar** was beginning, he took water and **washed his hands** before the crowd, saying, "**I am innocent** of this man's blood; this is your business."

²⁵ And all the people answered, "**His blood is on us** and on our children!"

²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and after **he had Jesus flogged**, he handed him over to be crucified.

Jesus and the Mocking Roman Soldiers

²⁷ Then the **soldiers of the governor** took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole **battalion** before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a **soldier's scarlet robe** on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a **crown of thorns**, they put it on his head and put a **reed** in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they **mocked** him, saying, "**Hail, King of the Jews!**" ³⁰ And they **spit** on him and took the **reed** and struck him on the head.

³¹ 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.**

Getting to Golgotha

³² As they went out, they found a **man named Simon, from Cyrene**. They **compelled** this man to carry his cross. ³³ When they came to a place called **Golgotha** (meaning Skull-place) ³⁴ they gave him a **drink of wine mixed with bitter gall**, but when he tasted, he didn't want to drink it.

Crucifixion

³⁵ And **when they had crucified him**, they **divided his garments** among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And **over his head** they put the charge against him as it was written: **“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”** ³⁸ Then **two insurrectionists** were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

Mockery and Insult

³⁹ And **those going by** started **blaspheming** him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, “The one who **destroys the temple** and rebuilds it in three days! **Save yourself!**” “If you are **God’s Son**, come down from the cross.”

⁴¹ So also the **chief priests mocked**, along with the **scribes** and **elders**, saying, ⁴² “He **saved others; he cannot save himself.**” “He’s **King of Israel!** Now, let him come down **from the cross**, and we’ll believe in him.” ⁴³ “He puts his trust in God! Let God deliver him now, if he wants him. For he said, ‘I am **God’s Son!**’”

⁴⁴ The **insurrectionists** who were crucified with him also **reviled him** in the same way.

Darkness, Abandon, Death

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour (noon) there was **darkness** over all the land until the ninth hour (about 3 p.m.). ⁴⁶ 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?”**

⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This fellow’s calling **Elijah.**” ⁴⁸ 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.

⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see if Elijah comes to save him.”

⁵⁰ And **Jesus cried out** again with a loud voice and **released the Spirit.**

Things are Split Apart, Opened, Given Life

⁵¹ And behold, the **curtain of the temple** was **split** in two, from **top to bottom**. And the **earth quaked**, and the **rocks were split.** ⁵² The **tombs also were opened.** And many **bodies of holy people** who had fallen asleep **were raised,** ⁵³ and when they came out of the tombs **after his resurrection**, they entered the **holy city** and were manifested to many.

⁵⁴ When the **centurion** and **those with him** guarding Jesus, saw the **earthquake** and what happened, they were filled with **fear** and said, **“Truly this was God’s Son!”**

The Women and Joseph's Tomb

⁵⁵ There were also **many women** there, watching from a distance, who **followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him,** ⁵⁶ among whom were **Mary Magdalene** and **Mary** the mother of James and Joseph and the **mother** of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ As **evening** was coming on, there came a **wealthy man from Arimathea, named Joseph,** who also was a **disciple of Jesus.** ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and Pilate ordered it to be **handed over.** ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth ⁶⁰ and laid it in **his own new tomb,** which he had **cut in the rock.** And when he had **rolled a great stone** to the entrance of the tomb, he went away. ⁶¹ **Mary Magdalene** and the other **Mary** were there, sitting opposite the **tomb.**



Sealing and Guarding the Tomb

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the **chief priests** and the **Pharisees** assembled before **Pilate** ⁶³ and said, “**Lord,** we remembered how **that deceiver** said, while he was still alive, ‘**After three days I will be raised.**’ ⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘**He has been raised from the dead,**’ and the last **deception** will be worse than the first.”

⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You may have a **guard of soldiers.** Go, make it **as secure as you can.**” ⁶⁶ So they went and secured the tomb by **sealing the stone** with the **guard of soldiers.**

The Next Week Begins: A New World

28:¹ Long after the Sabbath, as dawn was breaking of the **first day of the week,** **Mary Magdalene** and the other **Mary** went to **see the tomb.**

² And behold, there was a **great earthquake,** for an **angel of the Lord** descended from heaven and came and **rolled back the stone** and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like **lightning,** and his **clothing white** as snow. ⁴ And for fear of him the **guards** were **quaking** and became **like dead men.**

⁵ But the angel said to the women, “**You should not be afraid,** since I know that **you’re seeking Jesus who was crucified.** ⁶ **He is not here, for he was raised, just as he said.** Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Quickly, go **tell his disciples** that he was raised from the dead. **He is going ahead** of you to **Galilee;** **there you will see him.** This is my message for you.”

⁸ They quickly **left the tomb** with both **fear** and **great joy**, and ran to tell his disciples.

⁹ Right then, **Jesus met them** and said, “Greetings!” And they came and took hold of his feet and **worshiped** him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus says to them, “**Don’t be afraid!** Go, tell **my brothers** to go to Galilee, and **there they will see me.**”

On Sunday, after the Seals were Broken: An Alternative Story

¹¹ While the women were going, behold, **some of the guard** went into the city and told the **chief priests** all that had happened.

¹² And when they **assembled with the elders** and made a decision, they gave many pieces of silver to the soldiers ¹³ and said, “Tell people, ‘**His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep.**’ ¹⁴ And if this comes to the governor’s ears, we will persuade him and keep you out of trouble.” ¹⁵ So they took the silver and did as instructed. And **this story** has been told among Jews to this day.

“All Authority” – The Kingdom of Heaven is Here!

¹⁶ Now the **eleven disciples** went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

¹⁷ And when **they saw him they worshiped him**, but some **doubted**.

¹⁸ And Jesus came near and said to them,

“**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.**

¹⁹ **Go**, therefore, and **make disciples of all the nations**,
baptizing them into the name

of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**,

²⁰ **teaching** them to observe all that **I have commanded you.**

Know that **I am with you every day**, to the consummation of the age.”