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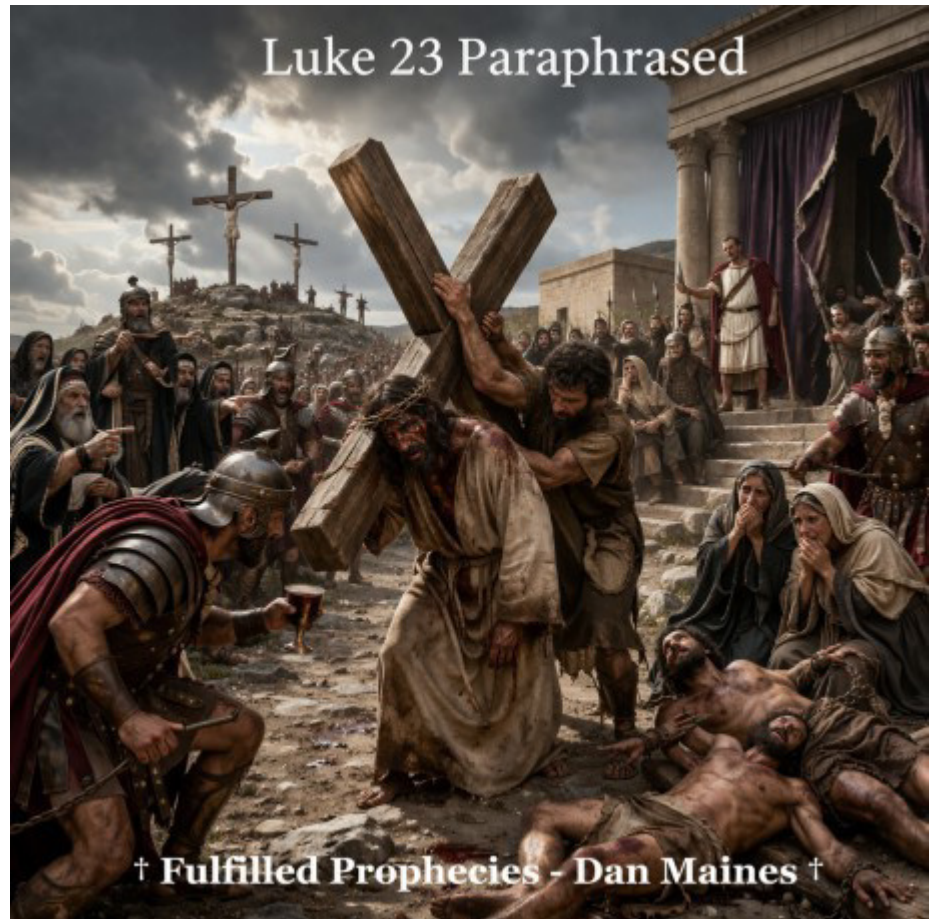
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Luke 23 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Luke 23 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Jesus is now brought before Roman authority, showing the shift from Jewish accusation to Gentile judgment.

† This chapter reveals the rejection of the Messiah by that generation and the fulfillment of what He said would happen to them.

† Everything here is leading directly to the cross, exactly as foretold in their lifetime (Luke 21:22).

Luke 23:1

The whole group stood up and brought Him to Pilate.

† The leadership acts together, showing unified rejection of Christ (Psalm 2:1-2).

† This fulfills their earlier plots against Him (Luke 22:2).

† They move from religious trial to political accusation to secure execution.

Luke 23:2

They began accusing Him, saying He was misleading the nation, forbidding tribute to Caesar, and claiming to be Christ, a king.

† They twist His words into political rebellion (John 18:36).

† This shows deliberate false testimony (Exodus 20:16).

† Their rejection is not ignorance, it's intentional distortion.

Luke 23:3

Pilate asked Him, Are You the King of the Jews? And He answered, It is as you say.

† Jesus confirms His kingship, but not in a worldly sense (John 18:37).

† This is a direct acknowledgment of His identity.

† The truth stands even in the face of accusation.

Luke 23:4

Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, I find no guilt in this man.

† A Gentile ruler declares His innocence (Isaiah 53:9).

† This exposes the injustice of the Jewish leaders.

† Even the world sees what Israel refuses to see.

Luke 23:5

They kept insisting, saying He stirs up the people, teaching all over Judea, starting from Galilee even here.

† Their accusations escalate under pressure.

† They appeal to fear of unrest.

† This shows their desperation to have Him killed.

Luke 23:6

When Pilate heard it, he asked if the man was a Galilean.

† Pilate looks for jurisdiction to avoid responsibility.

† This shows political maneuvering, not justice.

† The truth is being pushed aside for convenience.

Luke 23:7

When he learned He belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

† Jesus is passed around like a case, not treated as a person.

† This fulfills the humiliation of the Servant (Isaiah 53:7).

† Authority figures avoid truth when it costs them.

Luke 23:8

Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus, because he had wanted to see Him for a long time, hoping to see some miracle done by Him.

† Herod seeks entertainment, not truth.

† This reflects a hardened heart (Luke 13:32).

† Many want signs, not repentance.

Luke 23:9

He questioned Him at length, but He answered him nothing.

† Jesus remains silent, fulfilling prophecy (Isaiah 53:7).

† Silence becomes judgment against Herod.

† Truth isn't given to those who mock it.

Luke 23:10

The chief priests and the scribes stood there, accusing Him fiercely.

† Their hatred continues without evidence.

† This is relentless rejection of God's Messiah.

† Their zeal is against truth, not for it.

Luke 23:11

Herod and his soldiers treated Him with contempt, mocked Him, dressed Him in a robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

† Mockery replaces justice.

† The robe mocks His kingship (Psalm 22:7-8).

† This is fulfillment of prophetic humiliation.

Luke 23:12

Herod and Pilate became friends that very day, though they had been enemies before.

† Unity is formed in rejecting Christ.

† This reflects Psalm 2:2.

† The world unites against God's Anointed.

Luke 23:13

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people.

† Public decision is about to be made.

† This involves the whole leadership.

† Responsibility is shared by that generation.

Luke 23:14

He said to them, You brought this man as one who misleads the people, but I found no guilt in Him.

† Again, innocence is declared.

† This exposes their false charges.

† Truth is openly stated before them.

Luke 23:15

No, nor has Herod, for he sent Him back to us, and nothing deserving death has been done by Him.

† Both rulers confirm innocence.

† There is no legal basis for execution.

† Yet they proceed anyway.

Luke 23:16

Therefore I will punish Him and release Him.

† Compromise begins.

† Pilate tries to satisfy both sides.

† Justice is being diluted.

Luke 23:18

They cried out together, saying, Away with this man, and release Barabbas for us.

† The crowd chooses a criminal over Christ.

† This shows the depth of rejection.

† Sin is preferred over righteousness.

Luke 23:19

Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection and murder.

† The guilty is freed while the innocent is condemned.

† This reflects substitution.

† It points to the deeper meaning of the cross.

Luke 23:20

Pilate addressed them again, wanting to release Jesus.

† Pilate knows the right thing.

† Yet he lacks the courage to do it.

† This is fear of man (Proverbs 29:25).

Luke 23:21

They kept shouting, saying, Crucify, crucify Him.

† The demand becomes violent.

† This fulfills their hardened state (Acts 7:52).

† The cry reveals their true heart.

Luke 23:22

He said to them the third time, Why, what evil has He done? I have found no guilt in Him deserving death.

† Three times innocence is declared.

† The case is clear.

† Yet truth is rejected.

Luke 23:23

But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified, and their voices prevailed.

† The mob overrules justice.

† This shows the power of collective rebellion.

† Their will replaces righteousness.

Luke 23:24

Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted.

† Authority submits to pressure.

† This is failure of leadership.

† The decision seals their guilt.

Luke 23:25

He released the man they were asking for, but he delivered Jesus to their will.

† The exchange is complete.

† The innocent suffers for the guilty.

† This is the heart of redemption.

Luke 23:26

As they led Him away, they seized a man named Simon of Cyrene and laid the cross on him.

† Jesus is weakened from suffering.

† Simon becomes part of the moment.

† This shows the physical burden of the cross.

Luke 23:27

A large crowd followed Him, including women mourning for Him.

† There is sorrow among the people.

† Not all rejected Him.

† Some recognized what was happening.

Luke 23:28

Jesus turned and said, Do not weep for Me, but for yourselves and your children.

† He points to coming judgment (Luke 21:23).

† The focus shifts to their future.

† This is warning of AD 70.

Luke 23:29

For the days are coming when they will say blessed are the barren.

† This describes severe judgment.

† It connects to covenant curses (Deuteronomy 28:53).

† This was fulfilled in Jerusalem's destruction.

Luke 23:30

They will begin to say to the mountains, fall on us.

† This language matches judgment imagery (Hosea 10:8).

† It shows desperation in destruction.

† Revelation echoes this same language.

Luke 23:31

If they do these things in the green tree, what will happen in the dry?

† If the innocent suffers, the guilty will face worse.

† Israel is the dry tree.

† Judgment is certain.

Luke 23:32

Two criminals were led away with Him to be put to death.

† Jesus is numbered with transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).

† He stands among sinners.

† This fulfills prophecy exactly.

Luke 23:33

They came to the place called the Skull and crucified Him there.

† The cross becomes the center of redemption.

† This is the climax of His mission.

† It fulfills everything written beforehand.

Luke 23:34

Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.

† Jesus intercedes even in suffering (Isaiah 53:12).

† This shows mercy extended to that generation.

† Ignorance does not remove accountability.

Luke 23:35

The people stood looking on, and the rulers mocked Him.

† Mockery continues even at the cross.

† This fulfills Psalm 22:7.

† Their blindness is complete.

Luke 23:36

The soldiers also mocked Him, offering sour wine.

† Both Jews and Gentiles participate.

† This shows universal rejection.

† Yet it fulfills prophecy.

Luke 23:37

They said, If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself.

† They misunderstand His mission.

† The cross is not failure, it's purpose.

† Salvation comes through sacrifice.

Luke 23:38

There was also an inscription above Him, This is the King of the Jews.

† Truth is declared publicly.

† Even in mockery, it's accurate.

† His kingship stands.

Luke 23:39

One of the criminals mocked Him.

† Even in death, rejection continues.

† This reflects hardened hearts.

† Not all respond the same.

Luke 23:40

But the other rebuked him, saying do you not fear God.

† Recognition of guilt begins.

† Fear of God is restored.

† This shows repentance.

Luke 23:41

We are receiving what we deserve, but this man has done nothing wrong.

† Innocence is declared again.

† This time from a condemned man.

† Truth comes from unexpected places.

Luke 23:42

He said, Jesus remember me when You come in Your kingdom.

† Faith is expressed.

† He recognizes Christ as King.

† This is trust in the midst of death.

Luke 23:43

Jesus said, today you will be with Me in paradise.

† Immediate assurance is given.

† This shows presence with Christ after death.

† It confirms the reality of His kingdom.

Luke 23:44

It was about the sixth hour and darkness fell over the land.

† Creation responds to the moment.

† This reflects judgment imagery (Amos 8:9).

† The cross shakes the world.

Luke 23:45

The sun was darkened and the veil of the temple was torn in two.

† Access to God is opened.

† The old system is ending (Hebrews 10:19-20).

† This points to covenant fulfillment.

Luke 23:46

Jesus cried out, Father into Your hands I commit My spirit.

† He willingly gives His life.

† This is not taken from Him (John 10:18).

† His mission is complete.

Luke 23:47

The centurion praised God and said this man was innocent.

† A Gentile recognizes the truth.

† This shows the widening of understanding.

† Even outsiders see what Israel missed.

Luke 23:48

The crowds returned beating their breasts.

† Conviction begins to fall.

† They realize what has happened.

† This connects to later repentance (Acts 2:37).

Luke 23:49

His acquaintances stood at a distance watching.

† His followers remain present.

† They witness everything.

† This preserves testimony.

Luke 23:50

A man named Joseph, a member of the council, who was good and righteous.

† Not all leaders rejected Him.

† There were faithful among them.

† This shows division within leadership.

Luke 23:51

He had not consented to their plan.

† He stands apart from their actions.

† This shows personal accountability.

† Righteousness can stand alone.

Luke 23:52

He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

† Courage is shown after His death.

† Joseph honors Him publicly.

† This fulfills prophecy of burial (Isaiah 53:9).

Luke 23:53

He wrapped Him and laid Him in a tomb.

† Proper burial is given.

† This confirms His death.

† It sets up the resurrection account.

Luke 23:54

It was the preparation day and the Sabbath was about to begin.

† Timing is precise.

† Events align with Jewish customs.

† This shows historical accuracy.

Luke 23:55

The women followed and saw the tomb.

† Witnesses confirm location.

† This prevents later doubt.

† Their role is crucial.

Luke 23:56

They returned and prepared spices, and rested on the Sabbath.

† They follow the law even in grief.

† This shows devotion.

† The stage is set for what comes next.

Historical References

† Josephus records the destruction and suffering of Jerusalem, confirming the warnings Jesus gave about that generation.

† Eusebius writes about the fall of Jerusalem as fulfillment of Christ's words.

† Tacitus describes the brutality of Roman executions, aligning

with crucifixion accounts.

† Clement of Alexandria affirms the early understanding of Christ's suffering and fulfillment.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We see that rejecting truth leads to judgment, just as it did for that generation.

† Christ's sacrifice shows that redemption was completed, not waiting for a future age.

† We're called to recognize fulfilled prophecy and live in the reality of what He's already accomplished.

† The cross shows both justice and mercy fully revealed.

† We don't look forward to judgment on the world, we look back at what was completed.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why was Jesus declared innocent multiple times?

A: To show that His death was unjust and fulfilled prophecy of the innocent suffering (Isaiah 53:9).

Q: What does Barabbas represent?

A: The guilty being released while the innocent is condemned, pointing to substitution.

Q: What did Jesus mean about weeping for themselves?

A: He was warning of the coming destruction of Jerusalem in their generation (Luke 21:22-23).

Q: Why was the veil torn?

A: It signified the end of the old covenant system and open access to God (Hebrews 10:19-20).

Q: What does the thief on the cross show?

A: Immediate entrance into paradise with Christ, confirming presence after death.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Luke 23

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Tacitus, Annals

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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