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By Dan Maines

John 19

John 19:1-3

So Pilate then took Jesus and had Him flogged. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and placed it on His head, and put a purple cloak on Him; and they repeatedly came up to Him and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and slapped Him in the face again and again.

† Roman flogging was brutal, often fatal. The crown of thorns and mockery highlighted Rome's cruelty, but also fulfilled messianic prophecy.

† Philo (Flaccus 6.36) records similar Roman cruelty and mock coronations, mocking kingship.

John 19:4-6

And then Pilate came out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing Him out to you so that you will know that I find no grounds at all for charges in His case." Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold, the Man!" So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they shouted, saying, "Crucify, crucify!" Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and crucify Him; for I find no grounds in His case!"

† Pilate's declaration of innocence contrasted with the crowd's demand for death. "Behold, the Man" unintentionally revealed Christ as the Second Adam.

John 19:7-8

The Jews answered him, "We have a law, and by that law He ought to die, because He made Himself out to be the Son of God!" Now when Pilate heard this statement, he became even more afraid.

† The charge escalated from political treason to blasphemy. Pilate, already uneasy, feared divine judgment.

John 19:9-11

And he entered the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and that I have authority to crucify You?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all, if it had not been given to you from above; for this reason the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin."

† Jesus declared divine sovereignty even over Pilate's authority. Responsibility lay greater on those with fuller revelation, namely the Jewish leaders.

John 19:12-15

As a result of this, Pilate made efforts to release Him; but the Jews shouted, saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar!" Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Stone Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Behold, your King!" So they shouted, "Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar."

† In rejecting Christ, the leaders pledged allegiance to Caesar, denying Israel's true King.

† Josephus (Wars 2.17.2) notes the Jewish people's hatred of Caesar's rule, showing their hypocrisy here.

John 19:16-18

So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified. They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, carrying His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which in Hebrew is called, Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between.

† Crucifixion fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 53:12). Bearing His own cross revealed His willing submission.

John 19:19-22

Now Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was written: "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS." Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city;

and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and in Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; but rather, 'He said, I am King of the Jews.'" Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

† The trilingual inscription declared His kingship universally, despite Jewish protest. God used Pilate's words to proclaim truth.

John 19:23-24

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to each soldier, and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be." This happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: "They divided My garments among themselves, and they cast lots for My clothing." Therefore the soldiers did these things.

† The seamless tunic symbolized Christ's perfect unity. Psalm 22:18 was fulfilled literally.

John 19:25-27

Now beside the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

† Even in death, Jesus cared for His mother. He entrusted her to John, showing covenant family surpasses blood ties.

John 19:28-30

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture would be fulfilled, said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they

put a sponge full of the sour wine on a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

† His final cry declared the work of redemption complete. The hyssop recalled the Passover lamb's blood (Exodus 12:22).

John 19:31-34

Now then, since it was the day of preparation, to prevent the bodies from remaining on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews requested of Pilate that their legs be broken, and the bodies be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man, and of the other who was crucified with Him; but after they came to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Yet one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

† The unbroken bones fulfilled Psalm 34:20. The blood and water symbolized cleansing and new covenant life.

† Early church fathers saw the blood and water as symbols of baptism and communion.

John 19:35-37

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. For these things took place so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: "Not a bone of Him shall be broken." And again, another Scripture says, "They will look at Him whom they pierced."

† John's eyewitness confirmed prophecy from Exodus 12:46 and Zechariah 12:10.

John 19:38-42

Now after these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of

Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, requested of Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred libra weight. So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.

† Joseph and Nicodemus, once secret followers, boldly cared for Jesus' body. The garden tomb fulfilled Isaiah 53:9.

How it applies to us today

† The cross is the triumph of Christ, not His defeat.

† His finished work secures salvation, leaving nothing to be added.

† We are called to stand boldly with Him, as Joseph and Nicodemus did at the end.

† The blood and water from His side testify to cleansing and life in the new covenant.

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

Source Index

† Philo, Flaccus 6.36 – Roman cruelty and mock coronations

† Josephus, Wars 2.17.2 – Jewish hatred of Caesar

† Chrysostom, Homilies on John – Peter's rashness contrasted with Christ's patience

† Psalm 22:18 – prophecy of garments divided

† Zechariah 12:10 – prophecy of the pierced one

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