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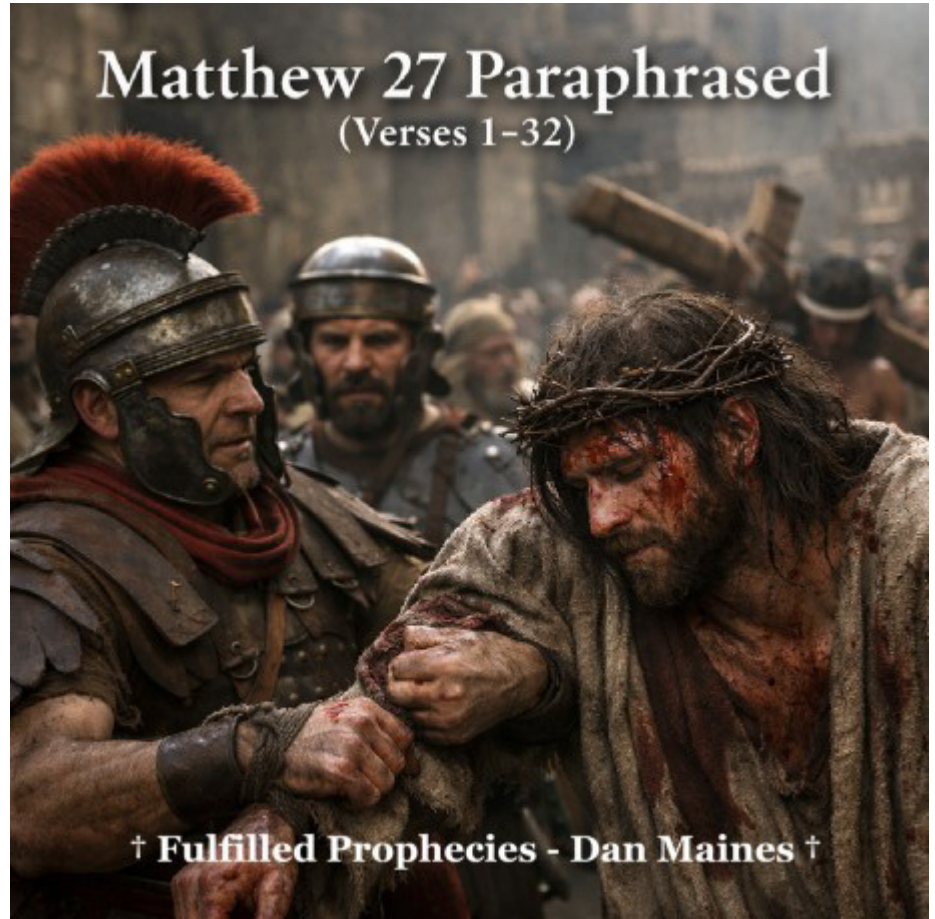
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## Matthew 27 Paraphrased (Verses 1-32)



By Dan Maines

## Matthew 27 Paraphrased (Verses 1-32)

### Introduction

† Matthew 27 records the final phase of Jesus' trial and the events that led directly to His crucifixion. The religious leaders had already decided the outcome during the night. When morning came, they moved quickly to bring Jesus before the Roman governor so the execution could legally take place.

† Everything unfolding here is exactly what Jesus had already told His disciples would happen. He said He would be delivered to the chief priests, condemned, handed over to the Gentiles, mocked, scourged, and crucified (Matthew 20:18-19).

† These verses also show the complete rejection of the Messiah by the leadership of that generation. Yet even through their rejection, the scriptures were being fulfilled exactly as foretold.

## **Matthew 27:1**

When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus to put Him to death.

† The decision had already been reached during the nighttime trial, this meeting simply formalized their plan so they could present Jesus to the Roman governor (Matthew 26:59-66).

† Jewish authorities did not have legal authority to carry out executions under Roman rule, which is why they brought Jesus to Pilate (John 18:31).

† Jesus had already told His disciples that He would be condemned by the religious leaders and delivered to the Gentiles (Matthew 20:18).

## **Matthew 27:2**

And they bound Him, and led Him away, and handed Him over to Pilate the governor.

† Binding Jesus symbolized their authority over Him, yet it was ultimately part of God's predetermined plan (Acts 2:23).

† Pontius Pilate governed Judea under the Roman Empire during the reign of Tiberius Caesar.

† This fulfilled Jesus' words that He would be delivered to the Gentiles (Luke 18:32).

### **Matthew 27:3**

Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.

† Judas experienced regret over his actions, but scripture distinguishes regret from true repentance that leads to life (2 Corinthians 7:10).

† The thirty pieces of silver matched the prophetic price placed on the rejected shepherd (Zechariah 11:12-13).

† Judas now saw the outcome of the betrayal he had set in motion.

### **Matthew 27:4**

Saying, I have sinned by betraying innocent blood. But they said, What is that to us? See to that yourself.

† Judas openly declared Jesus to be innocent.

† The religious leaders showed no concern for justice.

† Their response revealed the hardness of their hearts despite the admission of innocence.

### **Matthew 27:5**

And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and left, and he went away and hanged himself.

† Judas' tragic end shows the weight of guilt without true repentance.

† The temple itself became the place where the betrayal money was rejected.

† The field later purchased with the money became known publicly as the Field of Blood (Acts 1:18-19).

### **Matthew 27:6**

The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood.

† The leaders were concerned about temple regulations but ignored the injustice they had committed.

† Jesus had previously rebuked these leaders for focusing on minor laws while neglecting justice (Matthew 23:23).

† Their reasoning exposed their hypocrisy.

### **Matthew 27:7**

And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers.

† Potter's fields were areas where clay had been removed and the land could no longer be farmed.

† The purchase fulfilled prophetic language about the rejected shepherd's payment (Zechariah 11:13).

† The land became a burial place for foreigners.

## **Matthew 27:8**

For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

† The name preserved the memory of Judas' betrayal.

† The location was known publicly in the early church (Acts 1:19).

† Matthew records this as historical evidence recognized by the people.

## **Matthew 27:9**

Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel.

† Matthew identifies the prophetic fulfillment connected to Judas' betrayal.

† Israel's leadership placed a price on the Messiah.

† The rejected shepherd imagery in the prophets pointed forward to Christ.

## **Matthew 27:10**

And they gave them for the Potter's Field, just as the Lord directed me.

† Even the final use of the silver fulfilled the prophetic message.

† What the leaders thought was a simple financial decision actually fulfilled scripture.

† God's plan was unfolding through these events.

### **Matthew 27:11**

Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor questioned Him, saying, Are You the King of the Jews? And Jesus said to him, It is as you say.

† The accusation presented to Pilate was political.

† Claiming kingship could be interpreted as rebellion against Rome.

† Jesus acknowledged His kingship but His kingdom was not political in nature (John 18:36).

### **Matthew 27:12**

And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He did not answer.

† Jesus' silence fulfilled the prophecy of the suffering servant (Isaiah 53:7).

† He allowed the accusations to proceed without defending Himself.

† This showed His willing submission to the Father's plan.

### **Matthew 27:13**

Then Pilate said to Him, Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?

† Pilate expected the accused to defend himself.

† Jesus' silence surprised the governor.

† The accusations continued without response.

### **Matthew 27:14**

And still He did not answer him in regard to even a single charge, so the governor was quite amazed.

† Pilate was surprised by the composure of Jesus.

† Jesus did not act like someone fearing execution.

† His silence revealed complete control over the situation.

### **Matthew 27:15**

Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted.

† This custom was likely intended to maintain peace during the Passover celebration.

† Jerusalem's population increased dramatically during the feast.

† Pilate attempted to use this custom to release Jesus.

### **Matthew 27:16**

At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.

† Barabbas was known for violent rebellion (Mark 15:7).

† Rome treated such criminals harshly.

† Pilate believed the crowd would choose Jesus instead.

### **Matthew 27:17**

So when the people gathered together, Pilate said to them, Whom do you want me to release for you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?

† Pilate placed the decision directly before the crowd.

† The contrast between Jesus and Barabbas was obvious.

† Pilate expected Jesus to be chosen.

### **Matthew 27:18**

For he knew that because of envy they had handed Him over.

† Pilate recognized jealousy as the true motive behind the accusations.

† Jesus' influence threatened the authority of the religious leaders.

† The governor understood this was not a legitimate criminal case.

### **Matthew 27:19**

While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, Have nothing to do with that righteous Man, for last night I suffered greatly in a dream because of Him.

† The message from Pilate's wife increased his hesitation.

† Even outside the Jewish leadership Jesus' innocence was recognized.

† The dream warning added pressure on Pilate.

### **Matthew 27:20**

But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to put Jesus to death.

† The leaders stirred the crowd against Jesus.

† Public opinion was manipulated by those in authority.

† The same city that welcomed Jesus earlier in the week now rejected Him.

### **Matthew 27:21**

But the governor said to them, Which of the two do you want me to release for you? And they said, Barabbas.

† The crowd chose the violent criminal.

† This moment symbolized the rejection of the Messiah.

† The influence of the religious leaders had turned the people.

### **Matthew 27:22**

Pilate said to them, Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ? They all said, Crucify Him.

† Crucifixion was one of the most brutal punishments used by Rome.

† The demand revealed the hostility stirred by the leaders.

† The rejection of Jesus reached its final declaration.

### **Matthew 27:23**

And he said, Why, what evil has He done? But they kept shouting all the more, saying, Crucify Him.

† Pilate acknowledged that no crime had been proven.

† The crowd continued shouting louder.

† Mob pressure forced the final decision.

### **Matthew 27:24**

And when Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd, saying, I am innocent of this Man's blood, see to that yourselves.

† Washing his hands symbolized an attempt to remove responsibility.

† Yet Pilate still authorized the execution.

† Political stability was placed above justice.

### **Matthew 27:25**

And all the people replied, His blood shall be on us and on our children.

† The crowd accepted responsibility for the decision.

† Within that generation Jerusalem would face destruction in AD 70.

† Jesus had already warned that the blood of the prophets would come upon that generation (Matthew 23:36).

### **Matthew 27:26**

Then he released Barabbas for them, but after having Jesus flogged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

† Roman scourging was extremely brutal.

† The suffering fulfilled the prophecy concerning the Messiah (Isaiah 53:5).

† Jesus was then delivered to the soldiers for execution.

### **Matthew 27:27**

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him.

† The Praetorium was the governor's headquarters.

† A Roman cohort could contain hundreds of soldiers.

† The soldiers gathered to mock Jesus before execution.

### **Matthew 27:28**

And they stripped Him and put a scarlet cloak on Him.

† The cloak mocked the claim that Jesus was a king.

† Roman soldiers often ridiculed condemned prisoners.

† The act intensified the humiliation.

## **Matthew 27:29**

And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand, and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews.

† The crown of thorns symbolized mock royalty.

† The reed acted as a fake scepter.

† The soldiers mocked the title associated with Jesus.

## **Matthew 27:30**

And they spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head.

† Spitting was a sign of deep humiliation.

† The beating added to the suffering caused by the scourging.

† These events fulfilled prophetic descriptions of the suffering servant (Isaiah 50:6).

## **Matthew 27:31**

And after they had mocked Him, they took the cloak off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

† The mockery ended as the execution procession began.

† Roman crucifixions were carried out publicly as warnings.

† Jesus was led toward the place of execution.

## **Matthew 27:32**

As they were coming out, they found a man of Cyrene named Simon, whom they forced to carry His cross.

† Simon was likely a Jewish pilgrim visiting Jerusalem for Passover.

† Roman soldiers had the authority to compel civilians to carry burdens.

† Jesus had been severely weakened from the scourging and abuse.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records that Pontius Pilate governed Judea during the reign of Tiberius and frequently dealt with unrest in Jerusalem during the festivals.

† Tacitus confirms Roman crucifixion as a standard punishment used against those considered enemies of the state.

† Early Christian writers such as Justin Martyr and Irenaeus affirmed that the suffering of Jesus fulfilled the prophetic writings concerning the Messiah.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† These events remind us that Jesus willingly endured suffering to accomplish redemption.

† The rejection of Jesus by the leadership shows how religious systems can become blind when power and tradition take priority over truth.

† Believers today are called to remain faithful to Christ rather than follow the pressure of crowds or institutions.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q** Why did the Jewish leaders bring Jesus to Pilate?

**A** Because under Roman rule they did not have authority to carry out capital punishment (John 18:31).

**Q** Why was Barabbas offered for release?

**A** Pilate used the Passover custom of releasing a prisoner in an attempt to free Jesus (Matthew 27:15-17).

**Q** Why did Jesus remain silent during the accusations?

**A** His silence fulfilled prophecy and showed His willing submission to the plan of God (Isaiah 53:7).

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

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## **Source Index**

† Matthew 20:18-19; Matthew 23:36; Matthew 26:59-66; Matthew 27:1-32; Luke 18:32; John 18:31; Acts 2:23; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Isaiah 50:6; Isaiah 53:5; Zechariah 11:12-13

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews; Tacitus, Annals; Justin Martyr; Irenaeus

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