

Mark Chapter 15

V: 1 The priests, elders, and scribes hold a council:

- Again, Mark is a somewhat abbreviated rendering of the account – filling in some of the gaps.
- Jesus is arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, He's taken to Caiaphas who is referred to as the "high priest" – which the Jews hold him as the high priest, but he's really the power behind the Roman appointed high priest which is Annas, Caiaphas's son in law.
- So Jesus goes from Caiaphas' house where the decisions are made, then He goes to Annas' house where the decision is proclaimed or endorsed, then from there Jesus is taken to the Antonia fortress where He is condemned by Pontius Pilate
- The power of capital punishment had been taken from the Jews about the time of Jesus' birth. Many of the Jews in that time mourned because of this in that it appeared that God hadn't kept his word.

Genesis 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between His feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be."

- The scepter, the power of capital punishment, the end of their kingdom – taken by the Romans and Shiloh hadn't come.
- Yet right under their noses in the town of Bethlehem a child born of a virgin – another sign that they missed.
- Not having the power of capital punishment, they had to go to the Romans to have Jesus executed.

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- Over view maps 1 -2 -1 sequence of travel Gethsemane, Caiaphas's, Annas', Antonia fortress / Pilate, Calvary.
 - Perspectives from Caiaphas' house to Temple Mount, Aceldama / Gehenna, towards Gethsemane.

V: 2 Here Mark takes us forward to the scene at the Antonia Fortress:

- Are you the King of the Jews? "Thou sayest it." – "Yes".
- Pilate is aware that Herod was the king of the Jews and that his son's reigned in his "divided" kingdom – but he was probably also aware that the Jews were also on the look out for the "true king of the Jews" who would be their deliverer much like Moses had been.

V: 3-5 Pilate doesn't seem to react to this information, but the Jews certainly did.

- They began accusing Him of many things, but Jesus didn't respond.
- Pilate begins to try to prompt Jesus – aren't you going to answer back?
- As Jesus kept His peace, Pilate marveled.
- Pilate must have seen many men in a similar situation who had sought heartily to defend themselves, knowing that their lives were on the line, yet Jesus didn't speak a word in His own defense.
- Actually it was our sin for which He was about to die, and we were guilty – in a sense there was no defense.

All of this fulfills scriptures:

Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.”

V: 6-10 Their tradition is that the Governor would release a prisoner to them of their choice. This was a good will gesture at the Passover. Pilate now seeks to use that to his advantage and release Jesus who he knows to be innocent.

- Barabbas (G-912) Barabbas, bar-ab-bas'; son of Abba; son of the father.
- According to early church historians Barabbas' full name was Jesus Barabbas.
- Jesus, son of the father – God is salvation, son of the father.

V: 11 the Chief priests are using their influence upon the people / mob to manipulate Pilate.

Jeremiah 50:6 “My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray...”

Matthew 15:14 “Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”

V: 12-14 The people are crying out for Barabbas so Pilate asks “what about Jesus?”

- That is the universal question that every man must face.

Matthew 10:32-33 ³²“Whosoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. ³³But whosoever

shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

- Their response: (rejection) “Crucify him!”
- When it came down to a choice of choosing the Law / Jesus, or Lawlessness / Barabbas, they chose lawlessness.
- The Jewish form of capital punishment was stoning but when the Priests went to Pilate to obtain capital punishment by the Romans, their form of capital punishment for non-Romans was crucifixion.
- So the priests and everyone involved were actually fulfilling the Messianic prophecies that had already determined how the Messiah would be killed. (Psalm 22, Isaiah 49, 52-53)

V: 15 Pilate was more interested in appeasing the mob than doing what was right or just. In V: 14 when he asked “why, what evil hath he done?” – He’d already lost control, he was at that point arguing with the peanut gallery when he should have been acting like a judge.

- Barabbas is released, Jesus is scourged.
- In actuality Jesus had already been scourged, which wasn’t a punishment, it was a form of interrogation.
- The suspect was stripped and tied somewhat bent over so as to fully expose the back. The whip or cat of nine tails had pieces of bone, glass, and metal embedded into it.
- Often times the prisoner died in the process, there are records of the chords wrapping around a prisoners face and ripping their eyeballs out of their head and many other gruesome accounts. Extreme pain, extreme blood loss, and physical damage – many died this way.

Here in our account the mention of scourging seems almost casual or cavalier and you might ask what does the scourging of Jesus have to do with our salvation.

Isaiah 53:4-5 “⁴Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”

V: 16-20 They took Jesus into the Praetorium: which means the courtroom. All of the proceedings with Pilate has thus far taken place at the gates of the Fortress, the Jews wouldn't enter into the fortress / courtroom so as not to be defiled for the Passover.

- Now Jesus is taken back into the inner courtyard and abused by the Romans who put a crown of thorns upon Him. The thorns remind us of the curse:

Genesis 3:17-18 ¹⁷“And unto Adam He said, because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; ¹⁸thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field.”

- Going to the cross to die for our sins, crowned with thorns.

Isaiah 50:6 “I gave my back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not My face from shame and spitting.”

- They beat Him, spat upon Him, and mocked Him – then led Him away to crucify Him.

V: 21 Jesus was forced to carry his cross or at least the cross beam to the place of execution. He was unable due to the physical abuse and fatigue that He had suffered – so they Shanghaied Simon of Cyrene to carry it for Him.

- It would appear that Simon became a believer as did his family. His family was known to the church in Rome.

Romans 16:13 “Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.”

V: 22 The place of execution, Golgotha, Calvary – the place of the skull, Mt. Mariah

- **Genesis 22:1-14:** The same mountain that Abraham offered Isaac. Moriah, 3rd day, ⁸“My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering:”
- When Abraham attempted to sacrifice Isaac on Mt. Moriah, it was one hill or mountain. During the time of the building of the Temple (**2 Chronicles 3:1**), and subsequent building projects Mt. Moriah was cut up or hewn to utilize the stone for the projects creating a ravine / valley between the Temple mount and what was eventually Calvary.
- **Picture's:** There are debates about some locations, but not about this one.

V: 23 No mitigating the effects, he drank the cup of God's wrath to the full.

- gall = myrrh = wormwood = hemlock
- Used for embalming & pain killer, narcotic.

- A deadly liquor substance, bitter, causes drunkenness, a poison used in the right mixture.

Prophecy fulfilled:

Psalm 69:21 “They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”

- He wouldn't drink: He wouldn't allow the narcotic to dull the pain, He took all the pain, suffering, the fullness of God's wrath so there wouldn't be any left for us.

V: 24 No description of this event just a simple statement “*when they crucified Him*”. No description would be sufficient, any description would be too much for us to handle.

Specific fulfillment of prophecy:

Psalm 22:16-18 “¹⁶For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. ¹⁷I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. ¹⁸They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”

Crucifixion:

1. Invented by the Persians approximately 400 years before the birth of Christ.
2. Later refined by the Romans in 100 BC as a method of prolonging the death process while at the same time increasing the pain inflicted.
3. Creating a terrifying execution, intended to be a deterrent.
4. The criminal would be forced to carry his cross from the trial location to the place of crucifixion.
5. The criminal would be stripped naked and forced to lay down upon the cross.
6. Spikes / nails were then driven through each wrist between the radius and ulna bones, not the palms. This would support the body weight of the man and pierce straight through the Median Nerve causing increased pain.
7. The feet would be placed one over the other, knees slightly bent. Another spike would be driven through both feet into a block fixed to the upright post. The spike driven between the bones of the feet would support the body weight and give the criminal something to push off of, but not allow him to lock his knees or stand up right and support his weight.
8. Once nailed to the cross, it would be lifted into a vertical position and dropped into a post hole. Dropping into position, along with the body weight created a jolt / jarring action causing extreme pain and tearing at the limbs.

9. As muscle fatigue set in, the various muscles and tendons would begin to slowly stretch out and tear causing extreme pain as the various joints began to dislocate.
10. As the body weight collapsed upon the diaphragm breathing would become increasingly difficult. The fatigued criminal would allow his body weight to hang down upon his wrists, then to take air into his lungs would have to push up upon his nail pierced feet to take the weight off his diaphragm until he could no longer do that.
11. All during this time the prisoner was dehydrating rapidly.
12. This process was very slow, sometimes so slow that it would have to be accelerated by breaking the prisoner's legs. The final cause of death was usually asphyxiation.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

V: 25 Jesus was crucified at the 3rd hour which is 9 AM on Thursday morning.

- With all that has taken place it is easy to lose track of time. Most of what took place happened through the night, then Jesus is taken to Pilate what to us would be early in the morning.

V: 26 The accusation always followed the “criminal” so that people would know why they were being crucified and know what not to do – all part of the deterrent effect.

Matthew 27: 37 “And set up over His accusation written, ***THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.***”

Luke 24:38 “And a superscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, and Latin, and Hebrew, ***THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.***”

- John's gospel give us the most complete rendering of the superscription over Jesus' cross, and it gives us the most detailed account of the response of the priests and scribes.

John 19:19 “And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, ***JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS.***”

John 19:20-22 “²⁰This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. ²¹Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, write not, the King of the Jews; **but that He said**, I am the King of the Jews. ²²Pilate answered, what I have written I have written.”

- The priests were getting what they wanted, Jesus was being crucified. Why would they care what the accusation stated why did they want it changed?
- Hebrew was listed first, the religious language.
- The sign was also written in **Greek**: the intellectual language of the day, and in **Latin**: the political language of the day.
- The sign said “Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews. Because of space limitations is actually read “Jesus – Nazareth – King – Jews”. In Hebrew reading from right to left this created an acronym “**Y H W H**”, the Tetragrammaton of the unspeakable name of Jehovah. This was the true basis of their objection.

V: 27-28 Jesus was crucified with two thieves one on the right and the other on the left.

- An issue of convenience to the Romans, a fulfillment of prophecy to us.

Isaiah 53:9, 12 “⁹And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; because He had done no violence, neither was any deceit in His mouth.” – “¹²Therefore will I divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

V: 29-32 Wagging their heads, reviling Him: again fulfilling prophecy.

Psalms 22:6-8 “⁶But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. ⁷All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ⁸He trusted on the Lord that He would deliver Him: let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him.”

V: 30 Save yourself! Come down! – Himself He cannot save – not!

- There is a big difference between cannot and will not, and they missed it!

John 10:17-18 “¹⁷Therefore doth My Father love Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

V: 31 “*He saved others*” – testifying of the miracles and ministry of Jesus.

- The nails aren't what held Jesus to the cross.

Mark 10:45 “For even the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

V: 32 They are mocking him, the tone of their statement:

- “*Let Christ the King of Israel descend now...*” These are words being uttered by non-believers.

“And they that were crucified with Him reviled Him.”

- While the two thieves started out like everybody else, insulting Him – that is not how it ended.

Luke 23:39-43 ³⁹And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on Him, saying, if thou be Christ, save thyself and us. ⁴⁰But the other answering rebuked him, saying, dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? ⁴¹And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. ⁴²And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³And Jesus said unto him, verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with Me in paradise.”

- There are so many lessons to be learned from this reference: The thief said “Lord” as opposed to “Savior” – did he get baptized to get saved? What good works did he do?

Ephesians 2:8-9 ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

V: 33 6th hour = 12:00 PM.

- Jesus has been on the cross since the 3rd hour (0900) – now for 3 hours.
- From the 6th hour to the 9th hour (3:00 PM) there is darkness over the “whole land”.
- Darkness over the “land” = “ge” (G-093) = “world”
- Jesus is the light of the world.

John 8:12 “I am the light of the world” = “cosmos” (G2889)

- Similar to the darkness that preceded the 1st Passover in Egypt.

Exodus 10:21-22 ²¹And the Lord said unto Moses, stretch out thine hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt. ²²And Moses stretched forth his hand toward heaven; and there was a thick darkness in all the land of Egypt three days.”

- Again fulfilling prophesy.

Amos 8:9-10 ⁹“And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day: ¹⁰And I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; and I will bring up sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness upon every head; and I will make it as the mourning of an only son, and the end thereof as a bitter day.”

V: 34 In agony and seeming despair, the question: *“why have you forsaken me?”*“

The answer:

Psalms 22:1-3 ¹“My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me? Why art thou so far from helping Me, and from the words of My roaring? ²O My God, I cry in the day time, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. ³But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.”

- This is what the moment, the struggle, the reality that Gethsemane was all about.
- As Jesus took our sins upon himself He became sin for us, and God the Father who is Holy and Righteous had to withdraw.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

Habakkuk 1:13 “Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: ...”

Isaiah 59:1-2 ¹“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ²But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that He will not hear.”

- Gethsemane comes into focus a little better. (**Matthew 26:38-42**)

V: 35-36 Some thought that Jesus was calling upon Elijah.

- “Eli” is a compound word “El” = God, the suffix of “I” makes it personal as in “my” so “Eli” means “my God”. As opposed to Elijah.
- Another fulfillment of prophesy:

Psalms 69:21 “They gave me also gall for My meat; and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.”.

V: 37 Jesus “gave up” / dismissed His Spirit.

Matthew 27:50 “Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, “yielded” up the ghost.”

Luke 23:46 “And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend My spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the ghost.”

John 19:30 “When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said, it is finished: and He bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.”

- It is finished: “tetelistai”, paid in full.
- Jesus was in full control of that moment.

Isaiah 53:12 “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death:...”

John 10:17-18 “¹⁷...I lay down My life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father.”

V: 38 Cause & effect: Jesus dies on the cross & the veil is torn in two.

- The purpose of the veil was to separate man from God, lest we die. Since Jesus died on the cross that is no longer necessary.

Exodus 26:31, 33 “³¹And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made.” – “³⁴And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.”

The veil in the Temple during the time of Herod the Great.

1. 60 feet tall.
2. 30 feet wide.
3. 10 inches thick.
4. Made of 72 braids, each braid consisting of 24 chords.
5. Took 300 priests to put it up or move it.

John 10:9 “I am the door: by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

Romans 5:1-2 “¹Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: ²By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

- The removal of this barrier signified victory over sin.

Hebrews 10:19-20 “¹⁹Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh;”

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

- Torn from the top to the bottom. Not by man, but by the hand of God.
- There must have been a little piece left at the bottom to know the difference.

V: 39 The centurion is making observations; he had probably seen many men die. Hearing Jesus’ statements and his behavior on the cross, along with the earthquakes and rocks splitting, and he is drawing a conclusion from them.

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Luke 23:34, 47 “³⁴Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do...” – “⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, certainly this was a righteous man.”

- Conclusion: Jesus is righteous, Jesus is the Son of God.
- There was no other conclusion to reach, either Jesus was a liar, a lunatic, or He is who He said He was – the Son of God.

V: 40-41 There is always a faithful remnant, those who just can’t leave Jesus.

1. Mary Magdalene.
2. Mary the mother of James the less & Joses, James & Jude the ½ brothers of Jesus, meaning Mary the mother of Jesus.

Luke 2:35 “Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also, that the thought of many hearts may be revealed.”

3. Salome, the mother of James & John, Jesus’ Apostles.

John 19:25 “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene.”

4. Mary the wife of Cleophas.

John 19:26-27 “²⁶When Jesus therefore saw his mother, and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he saith unto His mother, woman, behold thy son! ²⁷Then saith He to the disciple, behold thy mother! And from that hour that disciple took her unto his home.”

5. John: the disciple Jesus loved.

V: 42-47 Still the day of preparation / Thursday.

John 19:38-39 “³⁸After this, Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but secretly, for fear of the Jews, besought Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus: and Pilate gave him leave. He came therefore, and took the body of Jesus. ³⁹And there came also Nicodemus, which at the first came to Jesus by night, and brought a mixture of aloes, about an hundred pound weight.”

- Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus may have been secret disciples up to this point, but the cat is out of the bag now in a public way, by their actions both men testified of their faith.

Matthew 10:32-33 “³²Whoever therefore shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. ³³But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.”

- Both these men humbled themselves to do the work of women and servants.
- They probably thought that they would be “unclean” and unable to celebrate the Passover, but not so, God made a provision for them.

Numbers 9:1-10 “¹⁰Speak to the children of Israel, saying: If anyone of you or your posterity is unclean because of a corpse, or is far away on a journey, he may still keep the Lord’s Passover.”

- Either way it didn’t matter anymore, Jesus was the end of all the sacrifices.

Hebrews 10:10 & 26 “¹²But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God.” – “²⁶... there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins.”

Matthew’s Gospel tells us that it was a new sepulcher which again fulfills prophesy.

Isaiah 53:9 “And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death,...”

- Garden tomb, *before sunset on Thursday*

V: 47 leads us into the next chapter.