

John 19

March 18, 2018

Summary

- Begins in middle of Jesus's trial
- Flogging of Jesus by Romans
- Sentencing
- Crucifixion
- Death and burial
- One of most unique chapters in the New Testament
- Two huge understatements
- One of the biggest ironies in history
- Heavy in prophesies (with Cliff notes)



One Stands Alone...

John 19 is different than almost all chapters in the New Testament in that it contains no theology. What is told and said is generally accepted by all enlightened denominations of Christianity, agnostics and atheists. It is well documented historical writers of the period, both Christian and non-Christian.

Two Few Words

John gives two verses that are huge understatements:

John 19:1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged.

John 19:18 There they crucified him...

Using only 12 words, John mentions two events that cannot be described with a thousand. We know that flogging was performed by Roman "experts" to wreck a body with maximum pain to the point of death. Many who were flogged did not survive or, at best, were maimed for life.

Crucifixion was not a means of execution. It was a method of torture and humiliation that prolonged and maximized both to the point of death.

Day of Preparation

John mentions the Day of Preparation 3 times.

John 19:14 It was the day of Preparation of the Passover;

John 19:31 Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath.

John 19:42 Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation...

John also says in chapter 18:

John 18:28 Then the Jewish leaders took Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness they did not enter the palace, because they wanted to be able to eat the Passover.

So...if the trial was on the day of preparation of the Passover and the Jewish leaders had not eaten the Passover, did Jesus eat the Passover feast on the wrong day or did all four Gospel writers get the timing wrong? First of all, what IS Preparation Day?

Mark 15:42 It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath).

Explanation: the Passover was a weeklong festival beginning with a ceremonial feast. Day of Preparation of the Passover would have been the Friday falling during the Passover week and the leaders would have eaten one of the seven meals that day. The Sabbath was special because it was the one during Passover week.

Ezekiel 45:21 In the first month on the fourteenth day you are to observe the Passover, a festival lasting seven days, during which you shall eat bread made without yeast.

Testify!!!

John again returns to one of his favorite topics – witnesses.

John 19:34-35 Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.

This was obviously important to John (writing under God's inspiration). This is John's proof that Jesus died on the cross. We know John was a witness so it probably referred to John himself but it could have been another witness well-known to the disciples of the time.

Wine Vinegar

The wine vinegar mentioned in verse 29 was simply the wine of the common people. Today we would refer to it as "jug wine."

Life's Ironies

John 19:7-11 The Jewish leaders insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God." When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?" Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above."

The irony is often missed because the focus tends to be on Jesus's answers and the Jewish leaders and not on Pilate. But why was Pilate afraid? And why did this comment make him "more afraid?" The answer is in the preceding verse and his first question to Jesus. Romans, including Pilate, were quite familiar with demigods which were the sons of a God and a human. The more familiar ones were Romulus and Remus (the founders of Rome), Hercules and Bacchus. When Pilate was told Jesus claimed to be the Son of God suddenly Pilate was afraid and was interested in where Jesus was from and questioned him. Jesus's manner also was different because he did not show fear in the face of Pilate – a mark of a Demigod. The irony is that after hundreds of years Jesus could not convince the Jewish leaders that he was the Son of God but placed the plausibility in Pilate's mind in just a few minutes.

Prophecies

The following table shows the prophecies fulfilled in John 19. It is not intended to cover all the prophecies of Jesus or even of the events covered by this chapter. John even mentions four of the events as fulfilling scripture.

<p>John 19:36 These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,</p>	<p>Psalms 34:19-20 The righteous person may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.</p> <p>Exodus 12:46 It must be eaten inside the house; take none of the meat outside the house. Do not break any of the bones.</p>
<p>John 19:28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.”</p>	<p>Psalms 22:15 My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.</p>
<p>John 19:37 and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”</p>	<p>Psalms 22:16 Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.</p>
<p>John 19: 23-24 When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did.</p>	<p>Psalms 22:18 They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.</p>
<p>John 19:18 There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.</p>	<p>Matthew 16:24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.</p>
<p>John 19:29-30 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.</p>	<p>Psalms 69:20-21 Scorn has broken my heart and has left me helpless; I looked for sympathy, but there was none, for comforters, but I found none. They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.</p>
<p>John 19:2-3 They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.</p>	<p>Isaiah 50:6 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face</p>

Now the questions: did Jesus say “I am thirsty” to fulfill scripture or did he just say it? Furthermore, did God cause the events to happen to fulfill scripture or did they just happen?

Time and Beyond Time from Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis (Paraphrased)

How can God listen to the prayers of several million people at the same time? The problem is “at the same time.” We handle things one at a time but God is not in time. God is not hurried along the time stream of this universe any more than an author is hurried by his imaginary novel. For God, every minute since the beginning of the universe is the present. Likewise, Jesus’s time in Palestine is not a period of his life because he has no history and no future. He has only now.

This has been a problem for people with God foreseeing the future. If God knows what you are going to do, how can you help but do it? You have now free will. But God doesn’t see the future because there is no future for God. He doesn’t foresee you doing something, he just sees you doing it – of your own free will.

This answers several important questions:

1. How did Jesus die for YOU? – you were just as real to Jesus then as the people around the cross because the 21st century was just as real to him then as the 1st century.
2. How can God love YOU? – God has all the time he needs to know you and your problems because he is not constrained by time. You do not compete with others for his attention.
3. Did God cause the prophecies to be fulfilled? – No. Once it was decided that Jesus would come as a man and would die, there was no agenda, checklist or timetable. God just saw it and had it written.

Now the disturbing part – If Jesus or God sees our future just as we see the present, Jesus would have seen his death and everything that went along with it. Something not easy to step up to.

19 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³and went up to him again and again, saying, “Hail, king of the Jews!” And they slapped him in the face.

⁴Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.” ⁵When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” ⁶As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.”

⁷The Jewish leaders insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” ⁸When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, ⁹and he went back inside the palace. “Where do you come from?” he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰“Do you refuse to speak to me?” Pilate said. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”

¹¹Jesus answered, “You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” ¹²From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free, but the Jewish leaders kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

¹³When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). ¹⁴It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. ¹⁵But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

“Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. ¹⁶Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. ¹⁷Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

¹⁹Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. ²⁰Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. ²¹The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.” ²²Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.” ²³When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴“Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did.

²⁵Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman, here is your son,” ²⁷and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

²⁸Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” ²⁹A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. ³⁰When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³²The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: “Not one of his bones will be broken,” ³⁷and, as another scripture says, “They will look on the one they have pierced.”

³⁸Later, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. Now Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he feared the Jewish leaders. With Pilate’s permission, he came and took the body away. ³⁹He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. ⁴⁰Taking Jesus’ body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs. ⁴¹At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. ⁴²Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.