

PARALLEL CRUCIFIXION ACCOUNTS IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

See bottom of columns for highlighting key.

MATTHEW 27	MARK 15	LUKE 23
<p>¹ When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people conferred together against Jesus in order to bring about his death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate the governor.</p> <p>¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor; and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You say so."</p> <p>¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many accusations they make against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.</p> <p>¹⁵ Now at the festival the governor was accustomed to release a prisoner for the crowd, anyone whom they wanted. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So after they had gathered, Pilate said to</p>	<p>¹ As soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate.</p> <p>² Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" He answered him, "You say so."</p> <p>³ Then the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ Pilate asked him again, "Have you no answer? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵ But Jesus made no further reply, so that Pilate was amazed.</p> <p>⁶ Now at the festival he used to release a prisoner for them, anyone for whom they asked. ⁷ Now a man called Barabbas was in prison with the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection. ⁸ So the crowd</p>	<p>⁶⁶ When day came, the assembly of the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, gathered together, and they brought him to their council. ^{23:1} Then the assembly rose as a body and brought Jesus before Pilate.</p> <p>² They began to accuse him, saying, "We found this man perverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the emperor, and saying that he himself is the Messiah, a king."</p> <p>³ Then Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He answered, "You say so."</p> <p>⁴ Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no basis for an accusation against this man."</p> <p>⁵ But they were insistent and said, "He stirs up the people by teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where he began even to this place."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LUKE 23</p> <p>¹⁸ Then they all shouted out together, "Away with this fellow! Release Barabbas for us!" ¹⁹ (This was a man who had been put in prison for an insurrection that had taken place in the city, and for</p>

them, "Whom do you want me to release for you, Jesus Barabbas or Jesus who is called the Messiah?"¹⁸ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over.¹⁹ While he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that innocent man, for today I have suffered a great deal because of a dream about him."

²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus killed.²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas."

²² Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" All of them said, "Let him be crucified!"

²³ Then he asked, "Why, what evil has he done?"

But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he could do nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took some water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves."²⁵ Then the people as a whole answered, "His blood be on us

came and began to ask Pilate to do for them according to his custom.⁹ Then he answered them, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?"

¹⁰ For he realized that it was out of jealousy that the chief priests had handed him over.

¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas for them instead.¹² Pilate spoke to them again,

"Then what do you wish me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?"¹³ They shouted back, "Crucify him!"

¹⁴ Pilate asked them, "Why, what evil has he done?"

But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him!"

¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

murder.)²⁰ Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again;

²¹ but they kept shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!"²² A third time he said to them, "Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no ground for the

sentence of death; I will therefore have him flogged and then release him."²³ But they kept urgently demanding with loud shouts that he should be crucified; and their voices prevailed.

²⁴ So Pilate gave his verdict that their demand should be granted.

²⁵ He released the man they asked for,

the one who had been put in

and on our children!”

²⁶ So he released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they

gathered the whole cohort around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

²⁹ and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on his head. They put a reed in his right hand and knelt before him and mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

³⁰ They spat on him, and took the reed and

struck him on the head.

³¹ After mocking him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him.

Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they came upon a man from Cyrene named Simon; they compelled this man to carry his cross.

¹⁶ Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters); and they called together the whole cohort. ¹⁷ And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

¹⁸ And they began saluting him, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

¹⁹ They

struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him. ²⁰ After

mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹ They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

prison

for insurrection and murder, and he handed Jesus over as they wished.

²⁶ As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was

coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him, and made him carry it behind Jesus. ²⁷ A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. ²⁸ But Jesus turned to them and said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep

³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),
³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.
³⁵ And when they had crucified him,

³⁵ they divided his clothes among themselves by casting lots;
³⁶ then they sat down there and kept watch over him.
³⁷ Over his head they put the charge against him, which read,
“This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”
³⁸ Then two bandits were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.
³⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads
⁴⁰ and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and

build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God,

²² Then they brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means the place of a skull).
²³ And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but he did not take it.
²⁴ And they crucified him,

²⁴ and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.
²⁵ It was nine o'clock in the morning when they crucified him.
²⁶ The inscription of the charge against him read,
“The King of the Jews.”
²⁷ And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left.
²⁹ Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and

build it in three days, save yourself, and
come down from the cross!”

for yourselves and for your children.
²⁹ For the days are surely coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed.’
³⁰ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us’; and to the hills, ‘Cover us.’
³¹ For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”
³² Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him.

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.
³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”
And they cast lots to divide his clothing.
³⁵ And the people stood by, watching;

but the leaders

come down^N from the cross.”

⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him, saying, ⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself.

He is the King of Israel; let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he

wants to; for he said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”

⁴⁴ The bandits who were crucified with him also taunted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon on, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

⁴⁶ And about three o’clock Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ⁴⁷ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “This man is calling for Elijah.” ⁴⁸ At once one of them ran and got a

In the same way the chief priests, along with the scribes, were also mocking him among themselves and saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself.

³² Let the Messiah, the King of Israel, come down from the cross now, so that we may see and believe.”

Those who were crucified with him also taunted him.

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon.

³⁴ At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵ When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, “Listen, he is calling for Elijah.” ³⁶ And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour

scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon,

⁴⁵ while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.” Having said this, he breathed his last.

sponge, filled it with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink.⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him."

⁵⁰ Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.⁵² The tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.⁵³ After his resurrection they came out of the tombs and entered the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴

Now when the centurion and those with him, who were keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were terrified and said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"⁵⁵ Many women were also there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Jesus from Galilee and had provided for him.

⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James and Joseph, and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus.

⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus;

wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down."³⁷ Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

³⁸ And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.

³⁹ Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said,

"Truly this man was God's Son!"⁴⁰ There were also women

looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

⁴¹ These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself

⁴⁷ When the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God and said, "Certainly this man was innocent."

⁴⁸ And when all the crowds who had gathered there for this spectacle saw what had taken place, they returned home, beating their breasts.⁴⁹ But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

⁵⁰ Now there was a good and righteous man named Joseph, who, though a member of the council,

⁵¹ had not agreed to their plan and action. He came from the Jewish town of Arimathea,

then Pilate ordered it to be given to him.⁵⁹ So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock.

He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away.

⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.⁴⁴ Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time.⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the

body to Joseph.⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock.

He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid.

and he was waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God.⁵² This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

⁵³ Then he took it down, wrapped it in a linen cloth, and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb where no one had ever been laid.⁵⁴ It was the day of Preparation, and the sabbath was beginning.

⁵⁵ The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body

was laid.⁵⁶ Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

Word/Phrases are highlighted with the following pattern:

Material common to all three accounts is highlighted in blue.
Material common to Mark and Matthew is highlighted in yellow.
Material common to Mark and Luke is highlighted in green.
Material common to Matthew and Luke is highlighted in red.
