

1137 Jesus' Crucifixion and Apparent Contradictions - John(19)1-42
(Verses refer to those in NASB95 unless otherwise specified, and by Whirlwind.)

First, we looked at the mockery Jesus suffered before Pilate and Herod, and pointed out and discussed an obvious contradiction. Thus, we see that the inerrancy of the Bible does not refer to the literal meaning, but to what God tells us through the Bible is consistent. And we should not deceive ourselves and lie. Second, we look at the fact that Pilate originally intended to conduct a trial that was not a death sentence, and point out and discuss another apparent contradiction. Third, we described the process of Pilate handing Jesus over to the Jews to be crucified. Fourth, we described the details of Jesus' crucifixion. Fifth, from the fact that Jesus entrusted His mother to John on the cross, we can see that He also fulfilled His human obligations and became our role model. We can also see that His death began salvation, and that the plan of salvation would not be fully completed until His resurrection. Sixth, we see how the Old Testament prophecy that not a bone of Jesus would be broken was fulfilled. Finally, we briefly mentioned Jesus' burial and resurrection. After He was resurrected, the plan of salvation was fully completed.

1. Mocking Jesus and an apparent contradiction

"Pilate then took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and put a purple robe on Him; and they began to come up to Him and say, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and to give Him slaps in the face."(John 19:1-3)

We have shared before that during Pilate's trial of Jesus, He was sent to Herod. Therefore, He was not only mocked by Pilate's soldiers, but also by Herod and his soldiers. As the scripture says, "And Herod with his soldiers, after treating Him with contempt and mocking Him, dressed Him in a gorgeous robe and sent Him back to Pilate."(Luke 23:11) Therefore, the fact that Jesus was mocked by Pilate's soldiers is recorded in the other three Gospels, but here it is only recorded that Jesus was mocked by Herod, which is not recorded in the other three Gospels. In short, all four Gospels record the mockery of Jesus after His arrest.

In the Book of Matthew it says, "Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. 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!" They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him."(Matthew 27:27-31)

In the Gospel of Mark it is recorded, "The soldiers took Him away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium), and they called together the whole Roman cohort. They dressed Him up in purple, and after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him; and they began to acclaim Him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him, and kneeling and bowing before Him. After they had mocked Him, they

took the purple (G4210) robe off Him and put His own garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him."(Mark 15:16-20)

If we compare the scarlet robe used in the Book of Matthew with the purple robe used in the Books of Mark and John, we can see an obvious contradiction. If we truly believe that the Bible is inspired by God, we should not think that this is an error in the Bible, but would think about why God would inspire such an obvious contradiction? We thus clearly see that the inerrancy of the Bible does not refer to the literal meaning, but rather to the consistency of what God tells us through the Bible. When we do not discount the words of the Bible, we will naturally see why there is such an obvious contradiction in God's inspiration. We have discussed this in detail before in "1111 The True Meaning of Biblical Inerrancy." Please go to the website "<https://a-christian-voice.com/>" and click on "Understanding of Spiritual Life" to find this article. Thanks.

In a church that believes that the Bible is literally inerrant, which says that there are no obvious contradictions, is to deceive oneself and to lie. One should know that "...the devil...speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."(John 8:44) In other words, such a church is recognizing the devil as its father. In contrast, David simply "...despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon."(2 Samuel 12:9) "However, because by this deed you have given occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, ..." (2 Samuel 12:14) Doesn't this kind of recognition of the devil as father give God greater opportunity to be blasphemed by Satan? As the result, they will also distort the interpretation of the Bible as Peter said, "...our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction."(2 Peter 3:15-16)

Here we can notice that both scarlet and purple are noble colors, and purple was even used by kings, "...the crescent ornaments and the pendants and the purple robes which were on the kings of Midian, ..." (Judges 8:26) So even though the soldiers were mocking Jesus, they were actually kneeling down and mocking Him like a king. Doesn't this fit with what He said to Pilate, "...“You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”(John 18:37) Those who mocked Him were obviously not people of the truth.

2. Pilate's original intention and another obvious contradiction

"Pilate came out again and said to them, “Behold, I am bringing Him out to you so that you may know that I find no guilt in Him.” Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple(G4210) robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold, the Man!” So when the chief priests and the officers saw Him, they cried out saying, “Crucify, crucify!” Pilate said to them, “Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him.” 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.” Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was even more

afraid; and he entered into the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. So Pilate said to Him, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above; for this reason he who delivered Me to you has the greater sin." As a result of this Pilate made efforts to release Him, but the Jews cried out saying, "If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar."(John 19:4-12)

Since Pilate could not find any crime in Jesus, Pilate originally meant, "Therefore I will punish Him and release Him."(Luke 23:16) The Scripture here clearly explains how the Jews instigated him, and also shows why he really wanted to release Jesus. "For he knew that because of envy they had handed Him over."(Matthew 27:18) Especially because they spoke the Law of the Jews, he was afraid in his heart. But since Jesus' time had come, he could still crucify Him even though He was the Son of God. Therefore, the "from above" here not only refers to the administrative authority of Rome, but also means that in order to accomplish salvation, God must allow Satan to do this, like what describes at the beginning of the Book of Job. Here we also see how terrible it would be for the Jews to keep the law to the letter! So when Jesus said, "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."(Matthew 5:18) This means that we must keep the true meaning of the Law, just like the example Jesus set for us. He kept the true meaning of the Sabbath, not the time specified in the Law. If we obey the Holy Spirit, we will automatically keep the true meaning of the Law.

Here we see another obvious contradiction. In the Gospels of Matthew it says, "After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him."(Matthew 27:31) In the Gospels of Mark it says, "After they had mocked Him, they took the purple robe off Him and put His own garments on Him. And they led Him out to crucify Him."(Mark 15:20) But in the Gospel of John it says, "Jesus then came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, "Behold, the Man!"(John 19:5) Some people may ask, what kind of clothes did He wear when He came out? This apparent contradiction is to draw our attention to the fact that John was the only one who went through the entire process, and that the Gospel of John was written last, thus correcting the original erroneous record. This also explains the reason why we had this apparent contradiction in inspiration. One thing you may have noticed is that obvious contradictions are usually so easy to see, and often in unimportant places, just like what we are talking about now is what clothes Jesus wore when he came out. It is really unimportant, but this obvious contradiction will make us pay attention to the things we should pay attention to!

3. Pilate handed Jesus over to the Jews for crucifixion

"Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The 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 cried out, “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 but Caesar.” So he then handed Him over to them to be crucified.”(John 19:13-16)

"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.””(Matthew 27:19) Even so, "But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail."(Luke 23:23)

Finally, "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.” And all the people said, “His blood shall be on us and on our children!” Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.”(Matthew 27:24-26) Pilate washed his hands, but he could not wash away his sin, because he still made such a decision against his conscience!

4. Details of Jesus’ crucifixion

"They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. 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, for 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 that He said, ‘I am King of the Jews.’” Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.” Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be”; this was to fulfill the Scripture: “They divided My outer garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.” Therefore the soldiers did these things. ...”(John 19:17-25)

Jesus initially carried the cross Himself, then Simon of Cyrene carried it later (see Matthew 27:32, Luke 23:26), and finally He was crucified on the Place of a Skull (Golgotha). There were two criminals crucified with Him. We have previously discussed the situation at "5. A prisoner ascended to paradise without being baptized" in "1084 The process of Jesus’ crucifixion and the robber who ascended to paradise – Jesus (36)." Please go to the website "<https://a-christian-voice.com/>" and click on "Understanding of Spiritual Life" to find this article.

We can see that although Pilate crucified Jesus against his conscience, judging from the inscription written on the sign, he wrote "The King of the Jews" in three languages. It would have been quite easy for him to rewrite it, but he did not do so. He must have been afraid that others would not see that the Jews chose to crucify their own king. How ironic!

As for the soldiers' decision to divide His garments, it was a very reasonable choice, but the prophecy of the Old Testament was fulfilled because of it: "They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots." (Psalm 22:18)

5. Entrusted His mother to John and salvation accomplished

"...But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus then saw His mother (G3384), and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman (G1135), behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household. After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty." A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon 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." (John 19:25-30)

We see that John was the only apostle who stood before the cross and entered the government office. We also see that Jesus entrusted His mother to John, fulfilling the filial duty that should be performed in this world. "For God said, 'Honor your father and mother,' ..." (Matthew 15:4) Please note that the Bible always uses the word "Honor" in this case and never talks about observing the Chinese style of filial (piety) obedience. Here He was our example, but He knew very well that she was not His Mother in heaven, for He specifically used the word woman (G1135) and spoke of mother (G3384) to John.

Regarding the accomplishment of salvation, we have discussed before, "He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification." (Romans 4:25) So after His resurrection, the plan of salvation was fully accomplished.

He was truly "...pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) He has suffered the punishment for us and was crucified on the cross, so that we can have spiritual and temporal peace. And He has been scourged for us, so we can be sure that we have been healed spiritually, but in fact not every worldly illness can be healed. The Triune God will not lie to us, so this refers to spiritual healing. As for worldly diseases being healed at times, this demonstrates His absolute sovereignty. Do not deceive yourself into thinking that because He has been wounded, our worldly diseases will definitely be healed.

6. Not a bone of Jesus shall be broken

"Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might 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 coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. But one of the

soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. 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 came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.” And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.””(John 19:31-37)

This refers to the Passover, "...nor are you to break any bone of it (lamb)."(Exodus 12:46) Because Jesus is the true Passover Lamb, as the Scripture says, "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"(Hebrews 9:14) Here it is clearly stated why His legs were not broken. As for looking at the one they had pierced, it was saying in this verse, "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; ..." (Zechariah 12:10)

Finally we see, "This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not with the water only, but with the water and with the blood. It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement."(1 John 5:6-8) Isn't that the case? The scripture says, "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."(John 19:34)

In fact, we can also see an example of what God tells us through the Bible is consistent. Why? Jesus must have been very weak at the time, otherwise the Roman soldiers would not have forced Simon of Cyrene to help Him carry the cross. On the other hand, the soldiers probably did not expect Him to be dead, because they broke the legs of the two criminals who were not dead yet. But in order to make sure that He was dead, His side was pierced, and blood and water flowed out. Obviously, His weakened physical strength caused His death, so all the descriptions are consistent.

7. Jesus' burial and resurrection

"After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked 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 pounds 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."(John 19:38-42)

Here it is mentioned that there were at least two people who were disciples in secret, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. After the death of Jesus, they had great courage to declare their identity as disciples. We also see that the location of His tomb seems to be a

coincidence, but everything had been arranged long ago, fulfilling what the prophet said about Him in the Old Testament: "His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth." (Isaiah 53:9) His tomb was in Joseph's "...own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away." (Matthew 27:59-60) Who would have prepared such a new tomb in advance if he had not been rich?

He also resurrected in this tomb, as the scripture says, "Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. ...The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying." (Matthew 28:1-6) The plan of salvation was fully accomplished after His death and resurrection.