

## The Announcement of the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:8–21 (NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. <sup>1</sup>

### The Entry into Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1–9 (NIV)

“Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

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<sup>1</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Lk 2:8–21). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

“Say to Daughter Zion,  
‘See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!”  
“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”  
“Hosanna in the highest heaven!”<sup>2</sup>

### **The Betrayal, 30 pieces of Silver**

Matthew 26:14–16 (NIV)

Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests and asked, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?” So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Matthew 26:46–50 (NIV)

**Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”**

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus replied, **“Do what you came for, friend.”**

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

Matthew 27:1–5 (NIV)

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

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<sup>2</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Mt 21:1–9). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility."

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

## **Last Supper**

Matthew 26:17–19 (NIV)

On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Where do you want us to make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

He replied, "Go into the city to a certain man and tell him, 'The Teacher says: My appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.' " So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

Matthew 26:26–28 (NIV)

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

## **The Agony in the Garden**

Mark 14:32–42 (NIV)

They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible the hour might pass from him. **“Abba, Father,”** he said, **“everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”**

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. **“Simon,”** he said to Peter, **“are you asleep? Couldn’t you keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”**

Once more he went away and prayed the same thing. When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. They did not know what to say to him.

Returning the third time, he said to them, **“Are you still sleeping and resting? Enough! The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”**<sup>3</sup>

### **Denied and Condemned to Die**

Luke 22:54–62 (NIV)

Then seizing him, they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest. Peter followed at a distance. And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, **“This man was with him.”**

But he denied it. **“Woman, I don’t know him,”** he said.

A little later someone else saw him and said, **“You also are one of them.”**

**“Man, I am not!”** Peter replied.

About an hour later another asserted, **“Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean.”**

Peter replied, **“Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!”** Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: **“Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.”** And he went outside and wept bitterly.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Mk 14:32–42). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>4</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Lk 22:54–62). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

John 19:1–15 (NIV)

Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. 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.

Once 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.” When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!”

As 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.”

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. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.”

From 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.”

When 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). It was the day of Preparation of the Passover; it was about noon.

“Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews.

But 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. <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Jn 19:1–15). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

## Crowned with Thorns

Mark 15:17–18 (NIV)

They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!”<sup>6</sup>

## Crucified between two others

John 19:16–22 (NIV)

Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified.

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

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many 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. The 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.”

Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”<sup>7</sup>

Luke 23:33–43 (NIV)

When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said, “**Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.**” And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”

The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They offered him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

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<sup>6</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Mk 15:17–18). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>7</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Jn 19:16–22). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

There was a written notice above him, which read: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you fear God,” he said, “since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus answered him, “**Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.**”<sup>8</sup>

### **Casting lots for His cloak as Jesus dies**

John 19:23–25 (NIV)

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.

“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.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.<sup>9</sup>

Mark 15:33–36 (NIV)

At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice,

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<sup>8</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Lk 23:33–43). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>9</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Jn 19:23–25). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

*“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”* (which means *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*).

When some of those standing near heard this, they said, “Listen, he’s calling Elijah.”

Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to take him down,” he said. <sup>10</sup>

John 19:29–30 (NIV)

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.”* With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. <sup>11</sup>

Mark 15:37–41 (NIV)

With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, “Surely this man was the Son of God!”

Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there. <sup>12</sup>

John 19:29 (NIV)

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. <sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Mk 15:33–36). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>11</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Jn 19:29–30). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>12</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Mk 15:37–41). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>13</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Jn 19:29). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.



## Jesus' Body is Placed in a Tomb

Matthew 27:57–61 (NIV)

As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.<sup>14</sup>

## The Stone is Rolled Away for all to see

Matthew 28:1–8 (NIV)

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Mt 27:57–61). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.

<sup>15</sup> [The New International Version](#). (2011). (Mt 28:1–8). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.