

# Study of the Gospel of Mark

## Chapter 15 (Part 1)

### Background

We are now coming to Friday morning. As the sun breaks over the horizon, the trial moves to the next stage. We have heard Mark discuss the first trial held under the cover of darkness. He mentions a second trial by the Sanhedrin briefly in the opening verse of this chapter and then moves on to record Jesus being handed over to the Romans.

1. Read Mark 15:1 and Luke 23:66-71. These verses record the second trial of Jesus before the whole Jewish Council or Sanhedrin. Of what crime was Jesus convicted by the Jews (see Mark 14:64)?

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2. Read Leviticus 24:16. According to Jewish Law, what was to happen to anyone guilty of blasphemy?

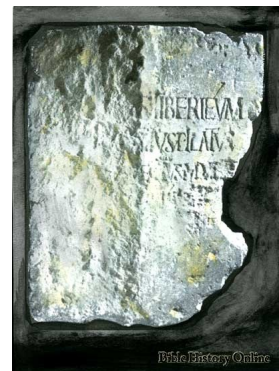
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3. Read Mark 15:2-15. The Jewish leaders had a problem. During the Roman occupation of Israel, the Jews were not allowed to carry out the death sentence against anyone. They could carry out judgments against lesser crimes, but they had to have the Romans carry out crimes involving a death sentence (see John 18:29-32). At the same time, religious laws like blasphemy were not important to the Romans, and they would not enforce them. So the charge which the Jewish leaders brought to Pilate against Jesus was different from what they had actually agreed upon in their trial. What was the charge that the Jews brought against Jesus before Pilate (see Mark 15:2,9,12; cf. Luke 23:2)?

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4. Pontius Pilate is a very important figure in the Gospel records. His name is mentioned 55 times in the New Testament, and not only in the verses that deal with the crucifixion of Jesus (cf. Luke 3:1; Luke 13:1; Acts 3:13; 4:27; 13:28; and 1 Timothy 6:13). The early church even included a reference to Pontius Pilate in their Creeds (both the Apostles' and the Nicene). But for many years, there was no historical evidence (apart from the Bible) that Pilate ever lived. Then, in 1961, a stone was found in Caesarea which named both Pontius Pilate and Augustus Tiberius! While only part of the inscription remains, it clearly names both leaders. What does such a discovery reveal about the history recorded in the Bible?



5. Pilate recognizes that Jesus is not guilty and deserving of death. Where does Mark reveal this in this section? (Compare Matthew 27:24; Luke 23:4,14,22; John 18:38, 19:6,12).

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6. Read Mark 15:16-20. If Pilate did not think that Jesus was guilty, why did he pronounce the death sentence on Jesus?

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7. Jesus had previously predicted these events to His disciples in great detail. He said: ***"Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again"*** (Mark 10:33-34). What does this tell us about Jesus?

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7. Not only did these events fulfill the prophecy of Jesus, but it also fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. Jesus was born at just the right time according to the will and plan of God (Galatians 4:4-5). The fact that the Jews weren't able to carry out the death sentence and the Romans would were according to God's plan.

The Jews carried out capital punishment by means of \_\_\_\_\_ (Leviticus 24:16).

The Romans carried out the death penalty through \_\_\_\_\_ (Mark 15:20).

This is very important. It was foretold that none of His bones would be broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:36). As we move forward into the crucifixion itself we will see numerous Old Testament passages being fulfilled in minute detail through the crucifixion of Jesus. What does this reveal?

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