

THE CRUCIFIXION

**A compilation from the 4 Gospels
with added commentary from "The Desire of Ages"**

Compiled
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This can be done as a one man reading or each separate voice can be assigned to different readers.

Now when the even was come, he sat down with the twelve. And as they did eat, he said,
Jesus: Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.

And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? And another said, Is it I? And He answered and said,

Jesus: He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said,

Judas: Master, is it I?

He said unto him,

Jesus: Thou hast said. ...That thou doest, do quickly...

He then...went out: and it was night. And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said,

Jesus: Take, eat; this is my body.

And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying,

Jesus: Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. Then saith Jesus unto them,

Jesus: All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.

Peter answered and said unto him,

Peter: Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.

Jesus said unto him,

Jesus: Verily I say unto thee, verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

But he spake the more vehemently,

Peter: If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise.

Likewise also said they all. And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane:

And he saith to his disciples,

Jesus: Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them,

Jesus: My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said,

Jesus: Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter,

Jesus: Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying,

Jesus: O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying,

Jesus: Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me:

D.A.: Three times has He uttered that prayer. Three times has humanity shrunk from the last, crowning sacrifice. But now the history of the human race comes up before the world's Redeemer. He sees that the transgressors of the law, if left to themselves, must perish. He sees the helplessness of man. He sees the power of sin. The woes and lamentations of a doomed world rise before Him. He beholds its impending fate, and His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself. He accepts His baptism of blood, that through Him perishing millions may gain everlasting life. ...His prayer now breathes only submission:

Jesus: ...nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.

And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow, And said unto them,

Jesus: Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them,

Jesus: Whom seek ye?

hey answered him,

Soldier: Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus saith unto them,

Jesus: I am he.

And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he,...

D.A.: ... the angel who had lately ministered to Jesus moved between Him and the mob. A divine light illuminated the Saviors face, and a dovelike form overshadowed Him. In the presence of this divine glory, the murderous throng could not stand for a moment. They staggered back. Priests, elders, soldiers, and even Judas, fell as dead men to the ground.

Then asked he them again,

Jesus: Whom seek ye?

And they said,

Soldier: Jesus of Nazareth.

Jesus answered

Jesus: I have told you that I am he; If therefore ye seek me, let these go their way.

Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign saying,

Judas: Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said,

Judas: Hail, master; and kissed him.

Jesus: And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?

Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him. When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him,

Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, [saying]

Peter: Lord, shall we smite with the sword?

..and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Jesus: And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far.

And he touched his ear, and healed him. Then said Jesus unto Peter,

Jesus: Put up thy sword into the sheath: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? ... the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

Then Jesus said unto the chief priests, and captains of the temple, and the elders, which were come out to him...

Jesus: Are ye came out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness. ...the scriptures must be fulfilled.

Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled. And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled.

And Simon Peter followed Jesus, and so did another disciple: that disciple was known unto the high priest, and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter,

Maid: Art not thou also one of this man's disciples?

Peter: And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest.

And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

The high priest then asked Jesus of his disciples, and of his doctrine. Jesus answered him,

Jesus: I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing. Why askest thou me? ask them which heard me, what I have said unto them: behold, they know what I said.

And when he had thus spoken, one of the officers which stood by struck Jesus with the palm of his hand, saying,

Soldier: Answerest thou the high priest so?

Jesus: Jesus answered him, If I have spoken evil, bear witness of the evil: but if well, why smitest thou me?

And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter sat down among them to see the end. But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said,

Maid: This man was also with Jesus of Nazareth.

Peter: And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death: But found none: yea, though many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, Witness: This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

But neither so did their witness agree together. And the high priest arose, and said unto him,

Caiaphas: Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?

But Jesus held his peace, and answered nothing. And the high priest answered and said unto him,

Caiaphas: I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus saith unto him,

Jesus: Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying,

Caiaphas: He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. What think ye?

And they all condemned him to be guilty of death.. Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, Saying,

Person: Prophecy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

Now Peter sat without and...about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying,

Person: Did I not see thee in the garden with him? Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilean. Thy speech bewrayeth thee.

Then began he to curse and to swear, saying,

Peter: Man, I know not what thou sayest! I know not the man.

And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew. And the Lord turned, and looked upon Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And the men that held Jesus mocked him, and smote him. And Peter went out, and wept bitterly.

And when they had blindfolded him, they struck him on the face, and asked him, saying,

Person: Prophecy, who is it that smote thee?

And many other things blasphemously spake they against him.

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, and D.A. "Suddenly a hoarse voice rang through the hall, sending a thrill of terror to all hearts:

Judas: He is innocent; spare Him, O Caiaphas!

D.A. "The tall form of Judas was now seen pressing through the startled throng. His face was pale and haggard, and great drops of sweat stood on his forehead. Rushing to the throne of judgment, he threw down before the high priest the pieces of silver that had been the price of his Lord's betrayal. Eagerly grasping the robe of Caiaphas, he implored him to release Jesus declaring that He had done nothing worthy of death. Caiaphas angrily shook him off, but was confused, and knew not what to say....

Judas: "I have sinned," again cried Judas, "in that I have betrayed the innocent blood.

D.A.: But the high priest, regaining his self possession, answered with scorn,
Caiaphas: "What is that to us? see thou to that.

D.A.: Judas now cast himself at the feet of Jesus, acknowledging Him to be the Son of God, and entreating Him to deliver Himself. ...Jesus spoke no words of condemnation. He looked pityingly upon Judas, and said,
Jesus: For this hour came I into the world.

D.A.: A murmur of surprise ran through the assembly. With amazement they beheld the forbearance of Christ toward His betrayer. Again there swept over them the conviction that this Man was more than mortal. But if He was the Son of God, they questioned, why did He not free Himself from His bonds and triumph over His accusers?

Judas saw that his entreaties were in vain, and he rushed from the hall exclaiming,

Judas: It is too late! It is too late!

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said,

Priest: it is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

And they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

Jeremy: And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,

Caiaphas: Art thou the Christ? tell us.

And he said unto them,

Jesus: If I tell you, ye will not believe: And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

Then said they all,

Caiaphas: Art thou then the Son of God?

And he said unto them,

Jesus: Ye say that I am.

And they said,

Priest: What need we of any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.

And the whole multitude of them arose, when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. Pilate then went out unto them, and said,

Pilate: What accusation bring ye against this man?

Caiaphas: They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

Pilate: Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law.

Caiaphas: The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death:

That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die. And they began to accuse him, saying,

Caiaphas: We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King.

Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him,

Pilate: Art thou the King of the Jews?

Jesus: Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

Pilate: Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what has thou done?

Jesus: Jesus answered My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Pilate: Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then?

Jesus: Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

Pilate saith unto him,

Pilate: What is truth?...

- ...and when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews and saith unto them,

Pilate: I find in him no fault at all.

And they were the more fierce, saying,

Caiaphas: He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.

When Pilate heard of Galilee, he asked whether the man were a Galilean. And as soon as he knew that he belonged unto Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who himself also was at Jerusalem at that time.

And when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad: for he was desirous to see him of a long season, because he had heard many things of him; and he hoped no have seen some miracle done by him.

D.A. At the command of the king, the decrepit and maimed were then called in, and Christ was ordered to prove His claims by working a miracle.

Herod: "Men say that Thou canst heal the sick, said Herod. I am anxious to see that Thy widespread fame has not been belied.

Jesus did not respond, and Herod still continued to urge:

Herod: If Thou canst work miracles for others, work them now for Thine own good, and it will serve Thee a good purpose....Show us a sign that Thou hast the power with which rumor hath accredited Thee.

But Christ was as one who heard and saw not. Herod promised that if Christ would perform some miracles in his presence, He should be released. Christ's accusers had seen with their own eyes the mighty works wrought by His power. They had heard Him command the grave to give up its dead. They had seen the dead come forth obedient to His voice. Fear seized them lest He should now work a miracle. Of all things they most dreaded an exhibition of His power. Such a manifestation would prove a deathblow to their plans, and would perhaps cost them their lives. Again the priests and rulers, in great anxiety, urged their accusations against Him. Raising their voices, they declared,

Priests: He is a traitor, a blasphemer. He works His miracles through the power given Him by Beelzebub, the prince of the devils.

The hall became a scene of confusion, some crying one thing and some another. Then he questioned with him in many words; but he answered him nothing. And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused him.

...[Herod] ...now threatened Jesus, declaring repeatedly that he had power to release or to condemn Him. But no sign from Jesus gave evidence that He heard a word. ...Christ's silence was the severest rebuke that He could have given. ...Not a word had the Majesty of heaven for him. That ear that had ever been open to human woe, had no room for Herod's commands. Those eyes that had ever rested upon the penitent sinner in pitying, forgiving love had no look to bestow upon Herod. Those lips that had uttered the most impressive truth, that in tones of tenderest entreaty had pleaded with the most sinful and the most degraded, were closed to the haughty king who felt no need of a Savior.

Herod's face grew dark with passion. Turning to the multitude, he angrily denounce Jesus as an impostor. Then to Christ he said,

Herod: If you will give no evidence of Your claims, I will deliver You up to the soldiers and the people. They may succeed in making You speak. If You are an impostor, death at their hands is only what you merit.; if You are the Son of God, save Yourself by working a miracle.

No sooner were these words spoken than a rush was made for Christ. Like wild beasts, the crowd darted upon their prey. Jesus was dragged this way and that, Herod joining the mob in seeking to humiliate the Son of God. Had not the Roman soldiers interposed, and forced back the maddened throng, the Savior would have been torn in pieces.

"And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and mocked him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe." The Roman soldiers joined in this abuse. All that these wicked, corrupt soldiers, helped on by Herod and the Jewish dignitaries, could instigate was heaped upon the Savior. Yet His divine patience failed not.

and [Herod] sent him again to Pilate.

Pilate was disappointed and much displeased. When the Jews returned with their prisoner, he asked impatiently what they would have him do. He reminded them that he had already examined Jesus, and found no fault in Him; he told them that they had brought complaints against Him, but they had not been able to prove a single charge. He had sent Jesus to Herod, ...but he also had found in Him nothing worthy of death.

"I will therefore chastise Him and release Him."

D.A.: [But] even now Pilate was not left to act blindly. A message from God warned him from the deed he was about to commit. In answer to Christ's prayer, the wife of Pilate had been visited by an angel from heaven, and in a dream she had beheld the Savior and conversed with Him. ...as she looked upon Jesus in her dream, she had no doubt of His character or mission. She knew Him to be the Prince of God. She saw Him on trial in the judgment hall. She saw the hands tightly bound as the hands of a criminal. She saw Herod and his soldiers doing their dreadful work. She heard the priests and rulers, filled with envy and malice, madly accusing. She heard the words, "We have a law, and by our law He ought to die." She saw Pilate give Jesus to the scourging, after he had declared, "I find no fault in Him." She heard the condemnation pronounced by Pilate, and saw him give Christ up to His murderers. She saw the cross uplifted on Calvary. She saw the earth wrapped in darkness, and heard the mysterious cry, "It is finished." Still another scene met her gaze. She saw Christ seated upon the great white cloud, while the earth reeled in

space, and His murderers fled from the presence of His glory. With a cry of horror she awoke, and at once wrote to Pilate words of warning.

While Pilate was hesitating as to what he should do, a messenger pressed through the crowd, and handed him the letter from his wife, which read:

Wife: Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him.

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