



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Mocking the King of Kings!

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Matthew 27:27-31

“Then the soldiers of the Governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. 28) And they stripped Him, and put a scarlet robe on Him. 29) And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ 30) And they spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. 31) And after they had mocked Him, they took His robe off and put His garments on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.” (NASB)

“NO ONE CAN BE NEUTRAL CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST, FOR JESUS CLAIMS TO BE THE ONLY ULTIMATE KING WHETHER WE ACKNOWLEDGE OR REFUSE TO ACKNOWLEDGE HIM.”
JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

Was this mocking initiated by the soldiers or was it Pilate’s final ploy to release Jesus? How was the soldiers treatment of Jesus different than that of the leaders earlier? Had Jesus precisely prophesied this utter denial of His person? Where did Jesus get the strength and resolve to endure all this and survive until the cross? Did this final degradation acquire any mercy from His leaders or His people? How did the Jews commit a final apostasy from which they have never recovered?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- FEBRUARY 16: MATTHEW 27:32-37 **THE CRUCIFIXION OF THE ETERNAL KING!**
- FEBRUARY 23: MATTHEW 27:38-44 **THE KING SAVED OTHERS, BUT NOT HIMSELF!**

Every proof had been provided that Jesus was the Messiah King of Israel. His lineage, virgin birth, kingly

gifts by the wise men, flight into Egypt, and his life as a Nazarene (Mt. 1-2) were all prophesied of the coming King. But if they missed those first details, they could not mistake the three witnesses who proclaimed His identity: 1) His forerunner, John the Baptist, who detailed His sovereign power (3:11-12), 2) the Spirit of God who descended as a dove upon Him (3:16), and 3) the voice of the Father from heaven saying, *“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”* (Mt. 3:17). After fasting forty days and overcoming the temptations of Satan himself, He began to preach, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (4:17). His healing ministry was unlimited (4:23-24) and when He finished the Sermon on the Mount, the people were astonished at His authority (7:28-29). Jesus pours out His love and power upon them all in cleansing a leper, healing the Centurion’s servant, removing the fever, casting out demons and healing *“all who were sick”* (8:16). He even demonstrates His sovereign power over nature as He commands the wind upon the sea (8:23-27). He transforms the tax collector, and Matthew obeys His sovereign voice (9:9). He raises the dead and restores sight to the blind by His sovereign hand (9:18-30). By His authority He gave His disciples the same power over demons, sickness and disease (10:1) and even the ability to walk on water (14:29). He fed the 5000, then the 4000 and accepted those great words upon which the future Church would be built, *“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (16:16). As King of Kings, He is sovereign over every circumstance and He even perfectly predicted the precise details of His suffering and death (20:18-19).

“HE WAS DESPISED AND WE DID NOT ESTEEM HIM”
ISAIAH 53:3

I. THE REVERSED ROLE MT. 27:27

A Roman cohort was a tenth of a legion and the equivalent of a battalion – six hundred men. The

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3RD FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON –BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8TH & MAIN 2ND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

Mocking the King of Kings!

Praetorium was the Governor's official residence, probably Herod's Palace, located in the Southwest corner of the city. This elite protection unit, in full force at the time of Passover, was in Jerusalem with Pilate to quell any riot that may arise and primarily was responsible to protect the Governor. But at Pilate's request, this elite force abandons their role to protect and begins the cruel mocking of Jesus Christ as "*The King of the Jews.*"

"THE JEWS HAD MOCKED HIM AS A PRETENDED PROPHET (26:68); HERE THE ROMANS MOCK HIM AS A PRETENDED KING." JOHN BROADUS

II. THE RAW RIDICULE MT. 27:28-30

Pilate devises a final scheme which he thinks may allow him to release Jesus without arousing the wrath of the leaders. If His claim to be King is completely refuted by blatant scorn and ridicule, then maybe the leaders will relent from their riotous shouts and screams for His crucifixion. So Pilate's entire protection unit take Jesus into the Praetorium and they stripped His clothes from His bleeding back and dress Him up as a mock king. They "*put a scarlet robe on Him, and after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews.'*" And then their rowdy ridicule turned into assault and battery that no one would ever dare do to their own king as "*they spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head.*" Only one of these verbs describing their mockery is in the imperfect tense, emphasizing that they did it continually, they literally continued to "*beat Him on the head.*" Thus, with this torture were new bleeding wounds from the thorns and the powerful elite soldier's "*blows to His face*" (Jn. 19:3). As the rough soldiers continued to mar His face and drive the crown of thorns deep into His head with their merciless blows, Pilate stepped out before the

crowd of Jews and said, "*Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no guilt in Him*" (19:4). When they saw Him, they again scream, "*Crucify, crucify!*" So "*Pilate said to them, 'Take Him yourselves and crucify Him, for I find no guilt in Him'*" (19:6). Finally the truth surfaced from these deceitful leaders, "*We have a law, and by that law He ought to die because He made Himself out to be the Son of God. When Pilate heard this statement, he was the more afraid*" (19:7-8). After questioning Jesus and receiving His witness the final time, "*Pilate made efforts to release Him.*" Then the Jews pose their greatest threat: "*If you release this Man, you are no friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself out to be a king opposes Caesar*" (19:12). When his job is threatened, he "*brought Jesus out and sat down on the judgment seat*" (19:13) and there seems to be a pause as he stalls for time to decide what he will do with Jesus. While the people wait, they notice the precise day and time. It is 6:00 AM on "*the day of preparation for the Passover*" (19:14). Because there was an additional Passover Sabbath that year, the precise day can be traced back to Thursday, April 6, A.D. 30.

"OH THAT WE WERE HALF AS INVENTIVE IN DEVISING HONOR FOR OUR KING AS THOSE SOLDIERS WERE IN PLANNING HIS DISHONOR! LET US RENDER TO CHRIST THE REAL HOMAGE THAT THESE MEN PRETENDED TO OFFER HIM. LET US CROWN HIM LORD OF ALL, AND IN THE TRUEST LOYALTY BOW THE KNEE, AND HAIL HIM, 'KING.'"

C. H. SPURGEON

III. THE RABID REJECTION MT. 27:31

Pilate then presented Jesus again to the Jews, emphasizing their indictment, "*Behold, your King!*" They scream, "*Away with Him, away with Him, crucify Him!*" He says, "*Shall I crucify your King?*" The chief priests commit the ultimate apostasy, "*We have no king but Caesar!*" (19:15). Returning His clothes, He is led to be crucified.

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Have you taken the time to consider the many historical proofs that Jesus Christ is the rightful King of Kings?
- 2) Do you reject all of Christ's sufferings to redeem you from the bondage of sin or receive Him as your King?
- 3) Will you honor Him and proclaim Him as King of Kings to all the leaders and people around you?