

LUKE 23:

The Death of Death In the Death of Christ

1

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

1. Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate
2. Luke 23:6-16: Jesus Before Herod
3. Luke 23:18-25: Pilate Delivers Jesus
4. Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion
5. Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus
6. Luke 23:50-56: Jesus Is Buried

2

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

During the Jewish phase of Jesus' trial (in ch. 26)
Luke had emphasized Jesus' IDENTITY.

Luke 22:67-69:
"If you are the Christ, tell us."

But he said to them:
"If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will
not answer. But from now on *the Son of Man shall be seated
at the right hand of the power of God.*"

3

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Daniel 7:13-14:

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of
heaven *there came one like a son of man*, and he came to
the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to
him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all
peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his
dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass
away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

4

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Psalms 110:1:
The LORD says to my Lord:
"Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool."

5

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Whatever the expectation of the Jewish leaders may have been, the biblical expectation was of a divine Messiah.

Isaiah 9:6:
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(See also Isa. 11:1, 10.)

6

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 22:70-71:
So they all said, "Are you the Son of God, then?"

And he said to them, "You say that I am."

Then they said, "What further testimony do we need?
We have heard it ourselves from his own lips."

7

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

During the Jewish phase of Jesus' trial (in ch. 26)
Luke had emphasized Jesus' IDENTITY.

Now, during the Roman phase of Jesus' trial,
Luke is emphasizing Jesus' INNOCENCE.

8

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

Pontius Pilate (governor in Judea, AD 26-36)

- Luke 13:1-3.
There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.
- Charged with “misleading our nation” by:
 1. “Forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar.”
 2. “Saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

9

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

“Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You say that I am.” (*Su legeis.*)

Some irony at work here:

Pilate has spoken the truth, even if unwittingly!

10

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

“Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You say that I am.”

“I find no guilt in this man.”

A very compressed dialogue, isn't it? Why?

First, let's note that Luke has omitted a good portion of what actually transpired in the back-and-forth between Jesus and Pilate. Note these 3 lines and see John 18:28-40.

11

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

John 18:28-38

Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover.

12

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

John 18:28-38 (cont'd)

So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered him over to you." Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death he was going to die.

13

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

John 18:28-38 (cont'd)

So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?"

14

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

John 18:28-38 (cont'd)

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king."

15

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

John 18:28-38 (cont'd)

"For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?"

After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him."

16

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

"Are you the king of the Jews?"

"You say that I am."

"I find no guilt in this man."

Again, why has Luke omitted much of this conversation?
Because he's interested in establishing one thing here:
Jesus' INNOCENCE!

Jesus' innocence is asserted and affirmed 3x by Pilate!

Jesus' innocence is thrice vindicated by legal authority.

17

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:1-5: Jesus Before Pilate

"I find no guilt in this man."

Pilate knows very well that he's being used by the Jewish leaders to advance *their* interests, not his own or Rome's. The reason they've brought Jesus to him is so that he – who has the authority to administer capital punishment which they lack – will kill Jesus for them and get rid of their problem. Thus, his initial verdict. But not only don't they listen, but now press harder! They add yet another charge – that Jesus has been stirring up trouble here and in Galilee.

18

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:6-16: Jesus Before Herod

Herod Antipas (Roman client king in Galilee, 4 BC-AD 39).
In Jerusalem for the feast.

Was Pilate was simply getting a second opinion from Herod as to what to do with Jesus – acting thereby with political shrewdness in seeming to respect Herod's judgment? Or was he was trying to pass off the problem of Jesus to him? Perhaps a bit of both! If indeed Jesus had been stirring up trouble in Galilee, Herod would have had both motive and jurisdiction to deal with him.

19

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:6-16: Jesus Before Herod

Herod was a strange character. In a manner similar to his response to John the Baptist (see Mark 6:19-20), he seems to have been *fascinated* by Jesus, yet having no *faith* in him. Davis's commentary speaks of Herod's attitude, and that of others like him, as "curious and frivolous."

When Jesus said and did nothing in Herod's presence, he treated him with contempt and mockery. "Fascination without faith" in Jesus can also manifest as dismissiveness. (See so many New Testament scholars who don't believe!)

20

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:6-16: Jesus Before Herod

In verses 13-16, Pilate makes his "case for Jesus." In effect:

1. I have examined him.
2. I find no guilt in him.
3. My (now) good friend Herod agrees with me.
4. So... I'll punish him, then release him.

Thus say I with all the authority of Rome behind me!

21

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:6-16: Jesus Before Herod

But ... all this talk of release opens the door further:

His "giving an inch" of offering to punish Jesus will be met by their demand for the "mile" that he crucify Jesus.

And his offer of release for Jesus will be met by their demand for release of a known terrorist!

22

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:18-25: Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

- Before going any further, what happened to verse 17?!?
- **Luke 23:17 (KJV):** *For of necessity, he must release one unto them at the feast.*
- Pro-inclusion: this verse found in Sinaiticus, W, N, E, F, G, H, Δ, Uncial 063, the vast majority of the Greek minuscule texts, most of the Old Latin copies, etc.
- Anti-inclusion: not found in P75, B, A, T, Uncial 070, L, K, Π, Minuscule 892, etc.
- In summary, no doctrine is impacted. Its inclusion makes the passage clearer, but it is not necessary.

23

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:18-25: Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

1. "Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas!"
2. When Pilate tries a third time, their demands crystallize further still: we are dictating his punishment. You will release Barabbas, and you will find Jesus guilty and crucify him! You will do this against your will, knowing its wrong. And you'll do it – get this now – to maintain the fiction that *you* are in control!

24

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:18-25: Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

"Why, what has he done...?"
We can sense the balance of power shifting.
Instead of issuing decrees, Pilate is debating.
And their voices are prevailing!

"So Pilate decided..." Did he though?
See George Orwell's essay, "Shooting an Elephant."
The British official in Burma shoots an elephant against his will because the crowd expects him to do it, and he is afraid of seeming weak and not in control, and so is their puppet!

25

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:18-25: Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

Luke's big point here, again, is this: Jesus is INNOCENT!
Three times – no guilt, no guilt, no guilt!
"Behold the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world."

1 Peter 1:18-19:

You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

26

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:18-25: Pilate Delivers Jesus to Be Crucified

If Herod was "curious and frivolous,"
Davis describes Pilate as "convinced but compromised."

Pilate knew in his gut that Jesus was innocent. He knew the right thing to do, and he sought to do it as the one in charge.

But the pressure of the mob forced him to give in and give them what they wanted, to perpetuate the fiction that he, and not them, was in control in that situation!

27

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

In verses 26-31, Jesus' words to the mourning women are prophetic words, words warning of impending judgment, which would be fulfilled 40 years later, in AD 70, when Jerusalem would be destroyed by the Romans.

As with all prophesy, these words of warning are a call to repentance!

28

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

We see here something of both the horror and the historical fact of crucifixion.

Consider its public character. It was a "spectacle" (vs. 48). Systematic and complete degradation, nakedness, abasement, humiliation, dishonor, pain, shame.

By means of his death on the cross, Jesus took upon himself all the vileness, all the sin of his people. This is the stark historical fact at the heart of our faith.

29

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

John 3:14:

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."

John 12:31-32:

"Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."

30

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

1 Peter 2:20-25:

What credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called – because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

31

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

1 Peter 2:20-25:

He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

32

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

Consider the power of our intercession
on behalf of those who wrong us!

Matthew 5:11-12:

"Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

33

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

Psalm 22:7-18:

All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me;
they wag their heads;
"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him...!"

34

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

Psalm 22:7-18: (cont'd)

A company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet –
I can count all my bones –
they stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

35

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

"He saved others; let him save himself."

The irony of truth confessed but not believed. But more: Jesus confounds our false expectations of what the Messiah will do – that somehow, he'll work the system and escape from the situation. A real Messiah would save himself!

This was Paul's central stumbling block and the reason for his lethal opposition to Jesus. In his view, Jesus could ONLY be a failed messiah. Why? Because ... he failed! Because ... the Bible!

36

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

Deuteronomy 21:23:

He that is hanged from a tree is cursed by God.

But Paul's stumbling block became his foundation stone...

37

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

Galatians 3:13-14:

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law *by becoming a curse for us* – for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” – so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

38

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

“This is the King of the Jews.”

More irony! These words were meant to humiliate not just Jesus and his followers, but also the hopes of all Jews. And yet, the words were true! Here, executed by unjust human power and authority, was the true King of the Jews!

Genesis 50:20

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

39

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

“And the criminals, one on his right, and one on his left...”

- The one criminal's satanic temptation:
“Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!”
Unrepentance to the end: the sin that leads to death.
- The other's acknowledgment of his sin and of Christ!
“Remember me when you come into your kingdom.”
Faith and repentance, even at the point of death:
the twin graces by which GOD SAVES SINNERS!

40

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:26-43: The Crucifixion

"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Surely, these are some of the most comforting words ever recorded! Thanks be to God. We will be with the Lord.

<p>"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."</p>	<p>What awaits us is certain. What awaits us is immediate. What awaits us is personal. What awaits us is WONDERFUL!</p>
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41

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

- **A Cosmic Sign**: darkness over the land at midday. Echoes of the ninth plague in Egypt; as if, the world itself were mourning; the shrouding of the light a picture of judgment and of mourning.
- **Ezekiel 32:8**
All the bright lights of heaven will I make dark over you, and put darkness on your land, declares the Lord GOD.

42

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

- **A Cosmic Sign**: darkness over the land at midday.
- **Amos 8:9-10**:
"And on that day," declares the Lord GOD, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist and baldness on every head; *I will make it like the mourning for an only son* and the end of it like a bitter day."

43

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

- **A Cosmic Sign**: darkness over the land at midday. A picture of judgment and of mourning. But also of God's presence...
- **Genesis 1:2**:
The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

44

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

- **Exodus 20:21**
The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.

45

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

- **Psalm 18:9-12**
He bowed the heavens and came down;
thick darkness was under his feet.
He rode on a cherub and flew;
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.
He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,
thick clouds dark with water.
Out of the brightness before him
hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

46

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

- **A Cosmic Sign:** darkness over the land at midday. Echoes of the ninth plague in Egypt; as if, the world itself were mourning; the shrouding of the light.
- **A Cultic Sign:** the curtain of the temple torn in two. The veil – that final wall of separation between sinful humans and the unutterably holy God – was torn from top to bottom. This is a picture of the end of one order ... and the beginning of another.

47

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

- **A Cultic Sign:** the curtain of the temple torn in two.
- The end of the old order, reminiscent of God's glory departing the temple (Ezekiel 8-11).
- And the beginning of another: that glory is now in Christ, and henceforth, unprecedented access to God the Father, is in, through, and by Christ alone!

48

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

- **Hebrews 10:19-23:**

Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.

49

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

50

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (cont'd)

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

51

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Luke 23:44-49: The Death of Jesus

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (cont'd)

For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

52

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said,
"Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!"
And having said this he breathed his last.

1. Breathing the Psalms to his last breath. (Ps. 22, 31:5...)
2. The death of death in the death of Christ!

Isaiah 25:8

He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away
from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

53

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

The death of death in the death of Christ!

1 Corinthians 15:26, 54-55

The last enemy to be destroyed is death...
Then shall come to pass the saying that is written:
"Death is swallowed up in victory."
"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"

54

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

The death of death in the death of Christ!

Colossians 2:13-15

And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the
uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with
him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the
record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands.
This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the
rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by
triumphing over them in him.

55

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

The death of death in the death of Christ!

Hebrews 2:14-15

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he
himself likewise partook of the same things, that through
death he might destroy the one who has the power of
death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through
fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

56

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

Revelation 20:14:

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire.
This is the second death, the lake of fire...

Revelation 21:4

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

AMEN!

57

THE DEATH OF DEATH IN THE DEATH OF CHRIST

"Jesus Paid It All"

And when, before the throne
I stand in Him complete
"Jesus died my soul to save"
My lips shall still repeat

Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow

58