

Matthew 27

Read Matthew 27:1-2: The Jewish Sanhedrin decided to kill Jesus.

Some of their disagreements with Jesus were over their detailed requirements (oral traditions/Mishnah) added beyond what was written in the Bible. Jesus said that the additional teachings (teachings of men—not God) that went into more detail than the scriptures missed the whole point; and worked against the intent. They held to the incidentals; and ignored the fundamentals.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO FOCUS ON THE "CORE" REASONING
'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me
with *their* lips,

But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me,
Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' " (Matthew 15:8-9)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves. "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'Whoever swears by the temple, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that sanctifies the gold? And, 'Whoever swears by the altar, it is nothing; but whoever swears by the gift that is on it, he is obliged to perform it.' Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift? (Matthew 23:16-18)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we

would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.’ “Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers’ *guilt*. Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell? Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: *some* of them you will kill and crucify, and *some* of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, (Matthew 23:29-34)

The Sanhedrin was the supreme court of Israel. It had 71 members who were rulers, elders and scribes. There were 70 members plus the presiding official who was the High Priest. Caiaphas was the High Priest at this time. Annas was the former High Priest and the real power broker behind the scenes; who held the honorary title as High Priest. The elders were the tribal heads. The scribes were like legal professionals. There were two political parties (the Sadducees and Pharisees). The Sadducees were the majority. They were generally wealthy aristocracy who made deals with Rome. They were aloof from the masses. Jesus cut to the truth and exposed sin. The Sadducees saw Jesus as a threat to their status quo. Caiaphas the High Priest was a Sadducee. Most scribes were Pharisees. The Sanhedrin was the court of appeal to the lower courts. The Sanhedrin had lost the power of capital punishment to the Romans. They met daily except on Sabbaths and religious feast days in a session room adjoining the temple. There were more Pharisees outside the Sanhedrin; but they were a minority within the Sanhedrin. The Pharisees worked in the local synagogues providing religious training. The word Pharisee means ‘separated one’. They sought to keep themselves pure from corrupting influences. Most had little interest in politics. The Pharisees developed a rabbinic

traditions and applications of biblical laws. The Sadducees did not believe in immortality, resurrection, angels or demons.

In other words, a Sadducee was like a wealthy senator who did not want to be exposed, or to have any cause for a revolution or disruption of business. The Pharisees were proud professors. They liked being the local experts on religion. They also became the religious police. These religious leaders used their power for cruelty and control. They did not want any local rabbi exposing their hypocrisy; and challenge their authority.

Read Matthew 27:3-10: Thirty pieces of silver, under the Mosaic law, was the price to be paid to remedy the damage done to a slave that had been gored by a neighbor's ox (Exodus 21:32). Here's the significance. Christ went to the cross as the "servant" of God (doulos—a slave, Philippians 2:7). The Lord, in fact, was a servant "wounded" by the nails of the crucifixion brutality (cf. Isaiah 53:5). To many of the Jews, he was expendable, mere "damaged goods" in the assessment of his enemies, "rejected indeed of men, but with God elect" (1 Peter 2:4). Zechariah predicts this:

A PRICE OF A SLAVE

"And I said unto them, If you think good, give me my hire; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my hire thirty pieces of silver. And Jehovah said unto me, Cast it unto the potter, the goodly price that I was prized at by them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them unto the potter, in the house of Jehovah" (Zechariah 11:12-13).

The prophecy suggests there would be a haggling of terms in connection with the betrayal of Jesus. "If you think good, give me my hire; and if not, forbear." Matthew records Judas' words as follows. "What are you willing to give me, and I will deliver him unto you?" (Matthew 26:15). Luke says that the chief priests were glad and "covenanted" to give him the money, and the traitor "consented" to

the deal (Luke 22:5-6). The term “covenanted” (suntithemi) signifies “to work out a mutually agreeable contract”. The ancient prophet indicated that in some way the silver coins were to be “cast” (thrown) into the “house of Jehovah.” Zechariah has perfectly depicted the act of the betrayer. Judas “cast down the pieces of silver into the sanctuary”

The chief priests took the money and purchased a “potter’s field,” which would serve as a burial place for strangers. This likely was an area where clay for pottery was extracted from the earth, or perhaps a dump where broken shards finally were discarded. It most assuredly was cheap land.

Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Genesis 2:7)

But now, O LORD, You *are* our Father; We *are* the clay, and You our potter; And all we *are* the work of Your hand. (Isaiah 64:8)

The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying: “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.” Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the LORD. (Jeremiah 18:1-5)

Read Matthew 27:11-14: Jesus did not defend himself to his accusers.

Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)

"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves. But beware of men, for they will hand you over to *the* courts and scourge you in their synagogues; and you will even be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. For it is not you who speak, but *it is* the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. (Matthew 10:16-20)

Read Matthew 27:15-26: Pilate was an uninvolved party able to see causes for disputes. He was a witness that Jesus was innocent; and the trumped-up charges were based on the envy of the religious leaders. *Jesus stood.* The charge against Jesus that caused the Romans to take interest was that He claimed to be king. This would be an act of rebellion. This was a capital offence and would be quickly dealt with as there could be no king except Caesar. However, Pilate saw through the pious, fraud leaders, and knew Jesus was innocent. Jesus even testified of His innocence to the Romans in saying His kingdom was not of this world (John 18:36-37). Thus Pilate tried to please the people and religious leaders by first punishing Jesus, then trying to set Him free

The gospel of Mark presents Jesus in terms of the pivotal cultural values of his day, honor and shame. Mark knows that the success Jesus enjoys will only earn him bitter envy from his peers. Honor provokes envy, which issues in conflict and hostility. Yet, even the

portrayal of the envy of Pharisees, scribes and chief priests toward Jesus contributes to his honor, for it implies Jesus' superiority. Mark, we contend, knew as only natives knew the full social dynamic of honor and envy. His hero was crucified in shame, which demands an explanation; and he offers us a culturally plausible one narrating how Pilate "perceived that it was out of envy that they handed Jesus over" (15:10). *~ THE WHOLE THING WAS DONE OUT OF ENVY*

Aristotle succinctly defines envy as "a certain kind of distress at apparent success on the part of one's peers in attaining the good things that have been mentioned, not that a person may get anything for himself but because of those who have it" Envy basically consists of pain or distress caused by another's success. The modern world defines envy in the same way: "to feel displeasure and ill will at the superiority of another person in happiness, success, reputation or the possession of anything desirable."⁴ Yet, even the portrayal of the envy of Pharisees, scribes and chief priests toward Jesus contributes to his honor, for it implies Jesus' superiority.

Read Matthew 27:27-32: What the Roman soldiers meant as a mockery, was in fact a picture of Christ's two roles, first of suffering servant (Isaiah 53), and second of conquering Messiah-King (Revelation 19). (2) Jesus was willing to endure the pain, the insults, and the shame, all on our account. The crown of thorns, and the suffering that went with it, are long gone, and Jesus has now received the crown of which He is worthy. "But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, *crowned with glory and honor* because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:9, emphasis added).

There is further symbolism embodied in the crown of thorns. When Adam and Eve sinned, bringing evil and a curse upon the world, part of the curse upon humanity was “...cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...” (Genesis 3:17–18, emphasis added). The Roman soldiers unknowingly took an object of the curse and fashioned it into a crown for the one who would deliver us from that curse. “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’” (Galatians 3:13). Christ, in His perfect atoning sacrifice, has delivered us from the curse of sin, of which a thorn is a symbol. While intended to be a mockery, the crown of thorns was, in fact, an excellent symbol of who Jesus is and what He came to accomplish.

Read Matthew 27:33–66:

Twenty-eight Prophecies Fulfilled On the Crucifixion Day

On the day of Jesus’ crucifixion, all the prophecies concerning His suffering were fulfilled in every detail—a lasting testimony that Jesus truly is the Messiah. The first prophecy, the oldest of all, had been given by God at the time of Adam and Eve’s sin:

1) The serpent would bruise the seed of the woman.

Prophesied: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her

Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3:15).

Fulfilled: “ ‘Now is the judgment of this world. Now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself.’ But He said this to signify by what death He was about to die” (John 12:31-33).

2) The Messiah would be cut off, but not for Himself, as prophesied by Daniel.

Prophesied: “And after sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off but not for Himself” (Dan.9:26)

Fulfilled: “ ‘Nor consider that it is better for us that one man die for the people, than that the whole nation should perish.’ Now he did not say this of himself, but being high priest that year, prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation; and not for the nation only, but also that He might gather together into one the children of God who were scattered abroad” (John 11:50-52).

3) The betrayal of Jesus by Judas was foretold by David.

Prophesied: “Even a man, my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate of my bread, has lifted up his heel against me” (Psa. 41:9).

Fulfilled: “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order that he might deliver Him up to them. And after hearing this, they were delighted and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray Him” (Mark 14:10-11).

4) Jesus Christ would be forsaken by His disciples, as prophesied by Zechariah.

Prophesied: “ ‘Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, and against the Man who is My companion,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘Strike the Shepherd [Jesus], and the sheep shall be scattered’ ” (Zech. 13:7).

Fulfilled: "Then they all forsook Him and fled" (Mark 14:50).

5) The price of His betrayal was also foretold by Zechariah.

Prophesied: "And I said to them, 'If it is good, give me my price; and if not, let it go.' So they weighed my price—thirty pieces of silver" (Zech. 11:12).

Fulfilled: "And said, 'What are you willing to give me, and I will deliver Him up to you?' And they offered him thirty pieces of silver" (Matt. 26:15).

6) Zechariah also foretold what would be done with the betrayal money.

Prophesied: "And the LORD said to me, 'Throw it to the potter'—the princely price at which I was valued by them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD" (Zech. 11:13).

Fulfilled: "Now when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He was condemned, he changed his mind and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, 'I have sinned and have betrayed innocent blood.' But they said, 'What is that to us? You see to it yourself.' And after throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he went out and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is the price of blood.' And after taking counsel, they bought a potter's field with the pieces of silver, for a burial ground for strangers" (Matt. 27:3-7).

7) Isaiah prophesied that Jesus Christ would be sacrificed as the Passover Lamb of God.

Prophesied: "He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter..." (Isa. 53:7).

Fulfilled: "For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us" (I Cor. 5:7). "Knowing that you were not redeemed by corruptible things ... but by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; Who truly was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for your sakes" (I Pet. 1:18-20).

8) Isaiah also prophesied the scourging and mocking that He would suffer.

Prophesied: "I gave My back to the smiters [scourgers], and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting" (Isa. 50:6).

Fulfilled: "Then he released Barabbas to them; but after scourging Jesus, he delivered Him up so that He might be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers, after taking Jesus with them into the Praetorium, gathered the entire band against Him; and they stripped Him and put a scarlet cloak around Him. And after plating a crown of thorns, they put it on His head; and a rod in His right hand; and bowing on their knees before Him, they mocked Him, and kept on saying, 'Hail, king of the Jews!' Then, after spitting on Him, they took the rod and struck Him on the head" (Matt. 27:26-30).

9) Both Isaiah and David prophesied that Jesus' body would be mutilated.

Prophesied: "Many were astonished at Him—for His body was so disfigured—even His form beyond that of the sons of men" (Isa. 52:14). "I can count all My bones; they look and gloat over Me" (Psa. 22:17).

Fulfilled: "But after scourging Jesus, he delivered Him up so that He might be crucified" (Matt.27:26).

"Then Pilate therefore took Jesus and scourged Him" (John 19:1). 10) David prophesied the shame and dishonor that Jesus would suffer, being condemned as a criminal.

Prophesied: "[The] reproaches of those who reproached You have fallen upon Me... You have known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonor; my enemies are all before You. Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness; and I looked for sympathy, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none" (Psa. 69:9, 19-20).

Fulfilled: "At that point Jesus said to the crowd, 'Have you come out to take Me with swords and clubs, as against a robber?' " (Matt. 26:55) "They answered and said, 'He is deserving of death!' " (Matt. 26:66)

11) David also foretold that false witnesses would testify against Christ.

Prophesied: "Cruel witnesses rose up; they asked me of things that I knew nothing about" (Psa. 35:11).

Fulfilled: "And the chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were trying to find testimony against Jesus, to put Him to death; but they did not find any. For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimonies did not agree. And some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying..." (Mark 14:55-57).

12) Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would not make an effort to defend Himself at the trial.

Prophesied: "He was oppressed, and He was afflicted; yet He opened not His mouth. He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter; and as a sheep before its shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth" (Isa. 53:7).

Fulfilled: "Then Pilate said to Him, 'Don't You hear how many things they testify against You?' And He did not answer even one word to him, so that the governor was greatly amazed" (Matt. 27:13-14).

13) Isaiah also foretold Jesus Christ's crucifixion as the sin offering for the world.

Prophesied: "Surely He has borne our infirmities, and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we ourselves are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned each one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... Yet the LORD willed to crush Him and He has put Him to grief: You shall make His life an offering for sin. He shall see His seed; He shall prolong His days, and that the purpose of the LORD might prosper in His hand. He shall see of the travail of His soul. He shall be fully satisfied. By His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many; and He shall bear their iniquities" (Isa. 53:4-6, 10-11).

Fulfilled: "Therefore, he then delivered Him up to them so that He might be crucified. Now they took Jesus and led Him away; and He went out bearing His own cross to the place called 'A Skull,' which is called in Hebrew, 'Golgotha'; where they crucified Him, and with Him two others, one on this side and one on the other side, and Jesus in the middle. Now Pilate also wrote a title and put it on the cross. And

it was written, 'Jesus the Nazarean, the King of the Jews'(John 19:16-19).

14) As Isaiah had prophesied, He was numbered among lawbreakers.

Prophesied: "He was counted among the transgressors..." (Isa. 53:12).

Fulfilled: "And also two other malefactors were led away with Him to be put to death. And when they came to the place called 'Skull,' there they crucified Him and the malefactors, one on the right and one on the left" (Luke 23:32-33).

15) David prophesied that His hands and His feet would be pierced.

Prophesied: "Dogs have surrounded Me; a band of evildoers have encircled me; they have pierced My hands and My feet..." (Psa. 22:16).

Fulfilled: "And they crucified Him" (Mark 15:25). "Then the other disciples said to him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'If I do not see the nail marks in His hands, and put my finger into the nail marks, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe at all!' Now after eight days, His disciples were within, and Thomas with them. After the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said, 'Peace to you.' Then He said to Thomas, 'Bring forth your finger, and see My hands; and bring forth your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing' " (John 20:25-27).

16) The parting of His garments was also prophesied by David.

Prophesied: "They divide My garments among them and cast lots upon My vesture" (Psa. 22:18).

Fulfilled: "Then they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but let us cast lots for it to determine whose it shall be'; that the Scripture might be fulfilled, which says, 'They divided My garments among them, and they cast lots for My vesture.' Therefore the soldiers did these things" (John 19:24).

17) In another psalm, David prophesied that they would give Him vinegar to drink.

Prophesied: "They also gave Me gall for My food; and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink" (Psa. 69:21).

Fulfilled: "They gave Him vinegar mingled with gall to drink; but after tasting it, He would not drink" (Matt. 27:34).

18) David also prophesied that many would be watching Jesus during the crucifixion.

Prophesied: "They look and gloat over Me" (Psa. 22:17).

Fulfilled: "And the guards sat down there to guard Him" (Matt. 27:36). "And all the people who were gathered together to this sight, after seeing the things that took place, beat their breasts and returned" (Luke 23:48).

19) Among those watching would be Jesus' family and friends, who would stand at a distance.

Prophesied: "My loved ones and my friends stand apart from my plague; and my neighbors stand far off" (Psa. 38:11).

Fulfilled: "Now all those who knew Him stood afar off observing these things, the women also who followed Him from Galilee" (Luke 23:49).

20) Some of His observers would shake their heads at Him.

Prophesied: "And I also became a reproach to them when they looked upon me; they shook their heads" (Psa. 109:25).

Fulfilled: "But those who were passing by railed at Him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross!" (Matt. 27:39-40)

21) Even the words of His reproachers were prophesied by David.

Prophesied: "He trusted on the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, since He delights in Him!" (Psa. 22:8).

Fulfilled: " 'He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him; for He said, "I am the Son of God." ' And the two robbers who were also crucified with Him reproached Him

with the same words" (Matt. 27:43-44).

22) Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would make intercession for sinners. This intercession began even during His crucifixion.

Prophesied: "He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for transgressors" (Isa. 53:12).

Fulfilled: "Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not understand what they are doing.' And they divided His garments, and cast lots" (Luke 23:34).

23) David prophesied the thoughts of Jesus at the height of His suffering.

Prophesied: "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me, and why are You so far from helping me, and from the words of my groaning?" (Psa. 22:1.)

Fulfilled: "And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?' That is, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?' " (Matt. 27:46).

24) Zechariah prophesied that His body would be pierced with a spear.

Prophesied: "And they shall look upon Me whom they have pierced..." (Zech. 12:10).

Fulfilled: "But one of the soldiers had pierced His side with a spear, and immediately water and blood had come out....And again another scripture says, 'They shall look upon Him Whom they pierced' " (John 19:34, 37).

25) David prophesied that Jesus would commit His spirit to God.

Prophesied: "Into Your hand I commit my spirit..." (Psa. 31:5).

Fulfilled: "And after crying out with a loud voice, Jesus said, 'Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.' And when He had said these things, He expired" (Luke 23:46).

26) David also prophesied Jesus' last words.

Prophesied: "They shall come and shall declare His righteousness unto a people that shall yet be born, that He has done this" (Psa. 22:31). The Hebrew literally reads, "For it is finished."

Fulfilled: "Therefore, when Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished.' And after bowing His head, He yielded up His spirit" (John 19:30).

27) As no bone of the Passover lamb was to be broken (Ex. 12:46), not a bone of His would be broken.

Prophesied: "He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken" (Psa. 34:20).

Fulfilled: "Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first one, and the legs of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs....For these things took place so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, 'Not a bone of Him shall be broken'" (John 19:32-33, 36).

28) His burial in the tomb of a rich man was foretold by Isaiah.

Prophesied: "By oppression and judgment He was taken away; and with His generation who did consider that He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of My people He was stricken? And He made His grave with the wicked, and with the rich in His death; although He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth" (Isa. 53:8-9).

Fulfilled: "And when evening was coming on, a rich man of Arimathea came, named Joseph, who was himself a disciple of Jesus. After going to Pilate, he begged to have the body of Jesus. [Jesus would otherwise have been buried among the criminals.] Then Pilate commanded the body to be given over to him. And after taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in clean linen cloth, and placed it in his new tomb which he had hewn in the rock; and after rolling a great stone to the door of the tomb, he went away" (Matt. 27:57-60).