

2019-2020 Bible Study

#27

4/7/20

The Passion of Our Lord 2020

A Meditation Based On

- The Corporal Passion of Jesus Christ
 - *A Doctor at Calvary*
 - Pierre Barbet, M.D.
 - An Introduction ~
 - *Behold the Man – On the Physical Death of Jesus Christ*, JAMA, March 21, 1986
 - William D. Edwards, MD
 - Wesley J. Gabel, MDiv
 - Floyd E. Hosmer, MS, AMI
 - Three trips to the Holy Land

The Passion in Scripture

- Matthew 26-27
- Mark 14-15
- Luke 22-23
- John 13-19

History of the Stations of the Cross

- Originally performed as devotions by pilgrims to the Holy Land
- They began in earnest in the 1300s by the Franciscans who were charged with maintaining the holy places
- Became very popular during the crusades (1095-1270)
- Instituted inside churches in Christendom in the mid -18th century

Events Leading to the Passion

- Jesus' threefold message concerning his going to Jerusalem to die:
 - Mk 8:31
 - Mk 9:30
 - Mk 10:32
- The Transfiguration: Mt 17:1-9; Mk 9:2-10; Lk 9:28-36
 - Moses and Elijah
 - An Exodus
- On "the way"

Events Leading to the Passion (Cont)

- Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)
 - Palms
 - Riding on a donkey
- Jesus weeps over the city
- Jesus goes to Bethany
- Jesus instructs the apostles to prepare for the Passover

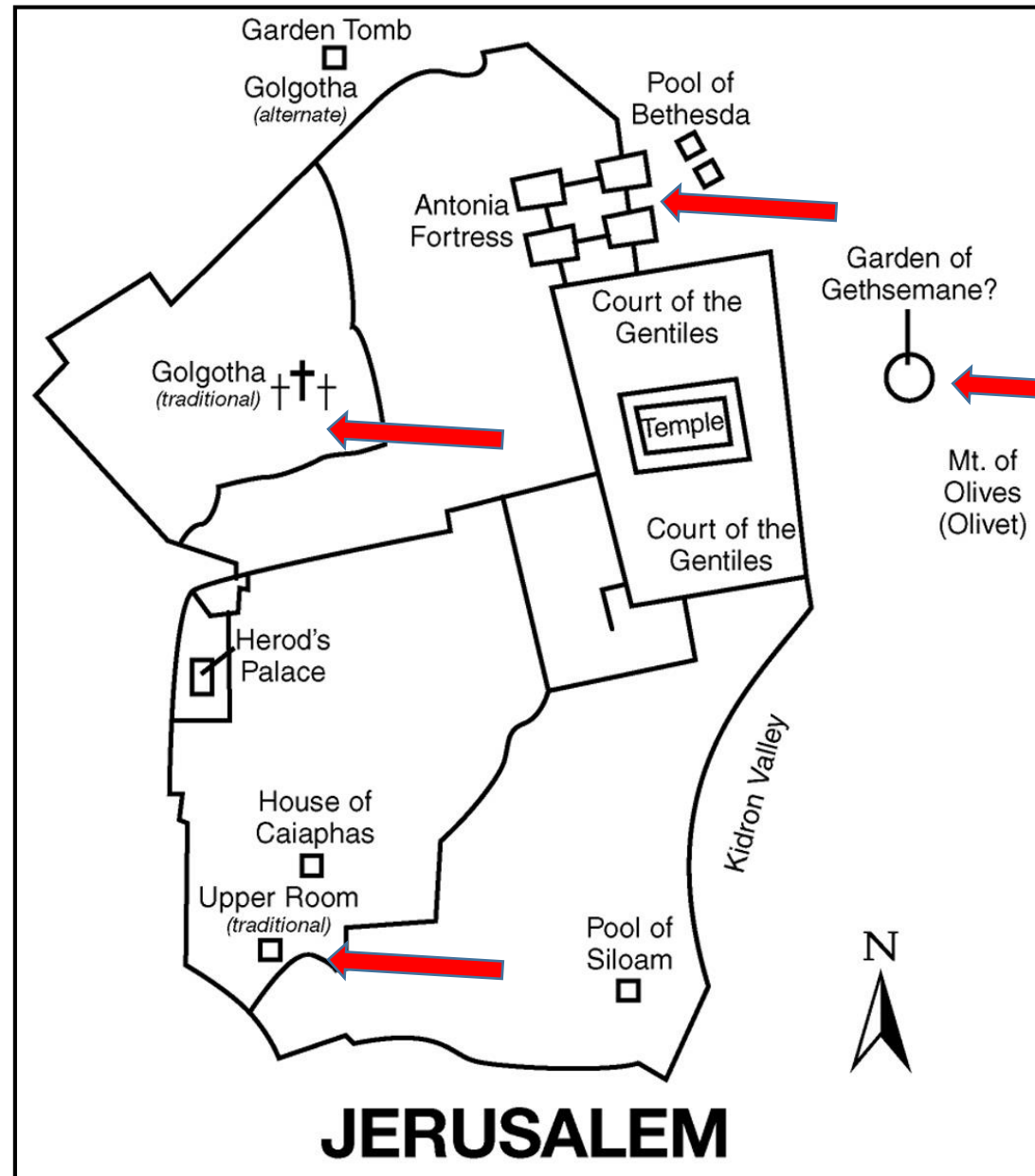


The New Moody Atlas of the Bible, By Barry J. Beitzel
 Moody Publishers, Chicago IL

Holy Land

New Testament

Jerusalem



Preparations for the Passion

- The Last Supper:
 - On the 13th of *Nisan* (April 6) 30 AD
 - Passover was celebrated on the first day of the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread which began on the 14th day of the first month (Nisan)
 - All ate a roasted lamb which was ritually sacrificed in the temple on the afternoon of the Passover
 - Jesus and the apostles celebrate the Passover
 - Washing of the Apostles' feet
 - Jesus institutes the priesthood and the Eucharist
 - Judas departs (and it was night) to betray Jesus

The Last Supper

- The Passion begins in Mk 14 with the story of a woman anointing Jesus with oil (Mk 14:3-9)
 - Concept of watching and praying which follows the rest of the Passion
- Then Jesus sends His disciples into the city to prepare the Passover meal (Mk 14:12-16)
 - Why was a man carrying water?
 - Usually women carried water
 - It would be unusual for a man to carry water
 - Most likely the upper room was on Mount Zion next to the Temple Mount

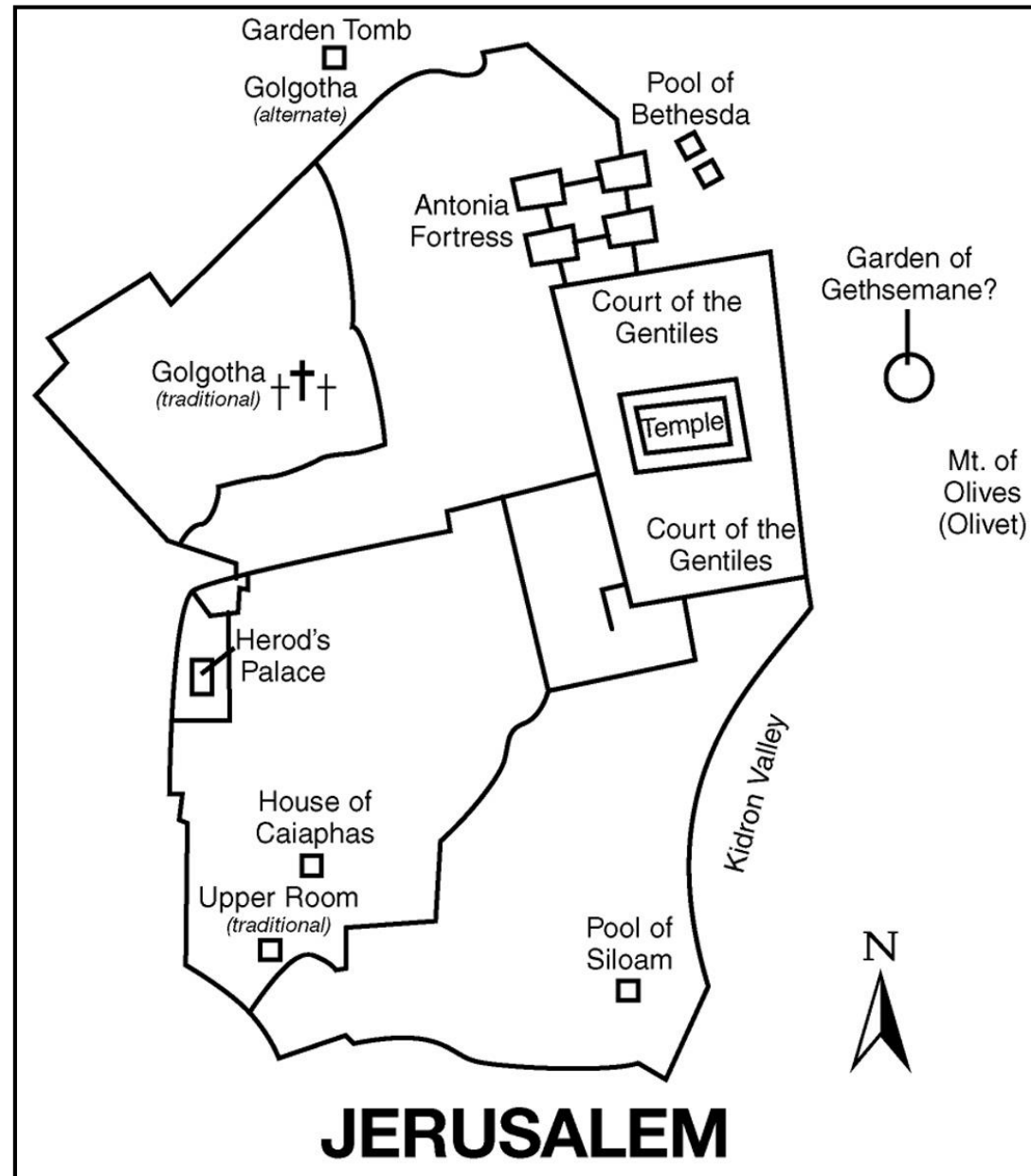
Last Supper (Cont)

- Archeology has revealed that this section of the old city was inhabited by the Essenes and was full of ceremonial cisterns for ritual washings
- The Essenes were in many cities of Palestine and Syria and later moved to *Qumran* by the Dead Sea
- They practiced a monastic life (like becoming a Franciscan today) with ritual purification needing a great deal of water
- They believed that the Messiah was coming and the end was at hand
- They, according to Josephus, were not as numerous as the Pharisees but numbered in the thousands especially in Jerusalem
- Today, the upper room is believed to have been over the Tomb of David (we Catholics celebrate it at the *Centicle* on Mount Zion)

Holy Land

New Testament

Jerusalem



Last Supper (Cont)

- Jesus predicts his betrayer at the last supper (Mk 14:17)
 - In the ancient world to betray someone with whom you have shared a meal was the highest form of betrayal
 - Breaking bread with someone was like inviting them into your family
 - Where one sat at the table indicated your position in the family, community, and the society
 - Of the 613 laws (rules) for living as a good Jew, 200 dealt with whom you could eat a meal with
 - Therefore, Jesus scandalized the Pharisees by eating with forbidden people (prostitutes and tax collectors)

Last Supper (Cont)

- The Pharisees used these laws to exercise political control over the people
- If a person did not honor the Sabbath, or tithe properly no one in that village would be allowed to eat with him
- Public shunning and ostracism was an effective form of discipline
- This was why the Pharisees followed Jesus from town to town to monitor his compliance with the Law
- So when Jesus violated these Laws and ate with the wrong people, the Pharisees became very angry with Him to the point they decided that He had to die
- Judas' betrayal right after Last Supper says a great deal about his character

Last Supper (Cont)

- After Jesus indicates that someone was about to betray Him, the other disciples became sorrowful and sought to find out who it would be (Mk 14:19-21)
- Then Mark presents Jesus initiating the Eucharist (Mk 14:22-25)
- The Last Supper concludes with the singing of some of the *Hallel* Psalms of praise (Ps113-118) and Jesus' prediction that they would fall away in accordance with Zachariah's prophesy (Mk 14:26-27)

Garden of Gethsemane

Garden of Gethsemane

- Garden of Gethsemane
 - In His Agony Jesus:
 - Sweats blood
 - Prays to avoid the cup
 - Commits to the will of the Father
 - Finds his three apostles asleep
 - Is betrayed by a kiss
 - Is captured
- Jesus is taken to the house of the High Priest *Caiaphas*

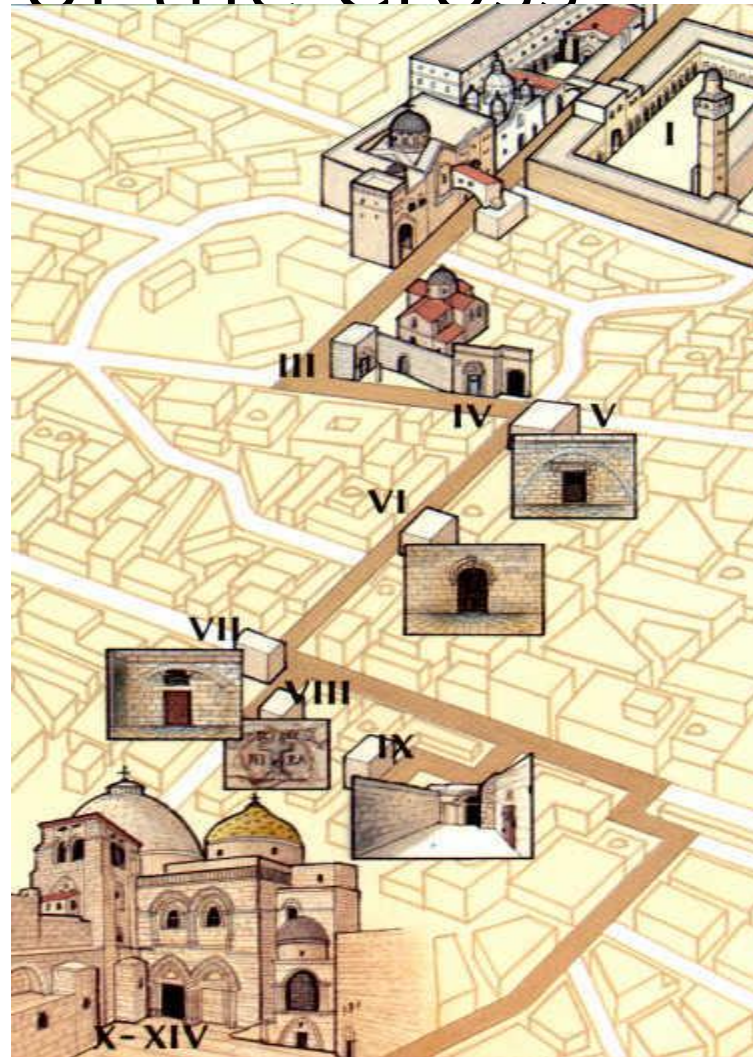
The Passion (Cont)

- Garden of Gethsemane
 - According to St Luke, Jesus in His agony:
 - Prays alone while He asks three apostles to watch and pray
 - Sweats blood (*Hematidrosa*)
 - Caused by profound emotion or great fear
 - Subcutaneous capillaries burst on contact with sweat glands
 - Blood mingles with sweat and falls to the ground
 - Skin remains sore and tender awaiting the blows to come

The Passion (Cont)

- Prays to avoid the cup
- Commits to the will of the Father
- Finds his three apostles asleep
- Is betrayed by a kiss
 - Restores the severed ear of *Malchus* a slave of the High Priest
- Is captured by the Temple guards
- Jesus is taken to the house of the High Priest *Caiaphas*
 - Peter and John follow the procession

Stations of the Cross



Jesus is Condemned

1st Station

- Jesus is condemned by the High Priest and Sanhedrin
 - He is mocked, spit on, and struck in the face by a soldier
 - The high priest accuses Him of blasphemy (a death penalty offense) and tears his garment
 - He is imprisoned in cistern
 - At dawn, He is taken to Praetorian (*Antonia Fortress*) seeking a Roman death sentence

-

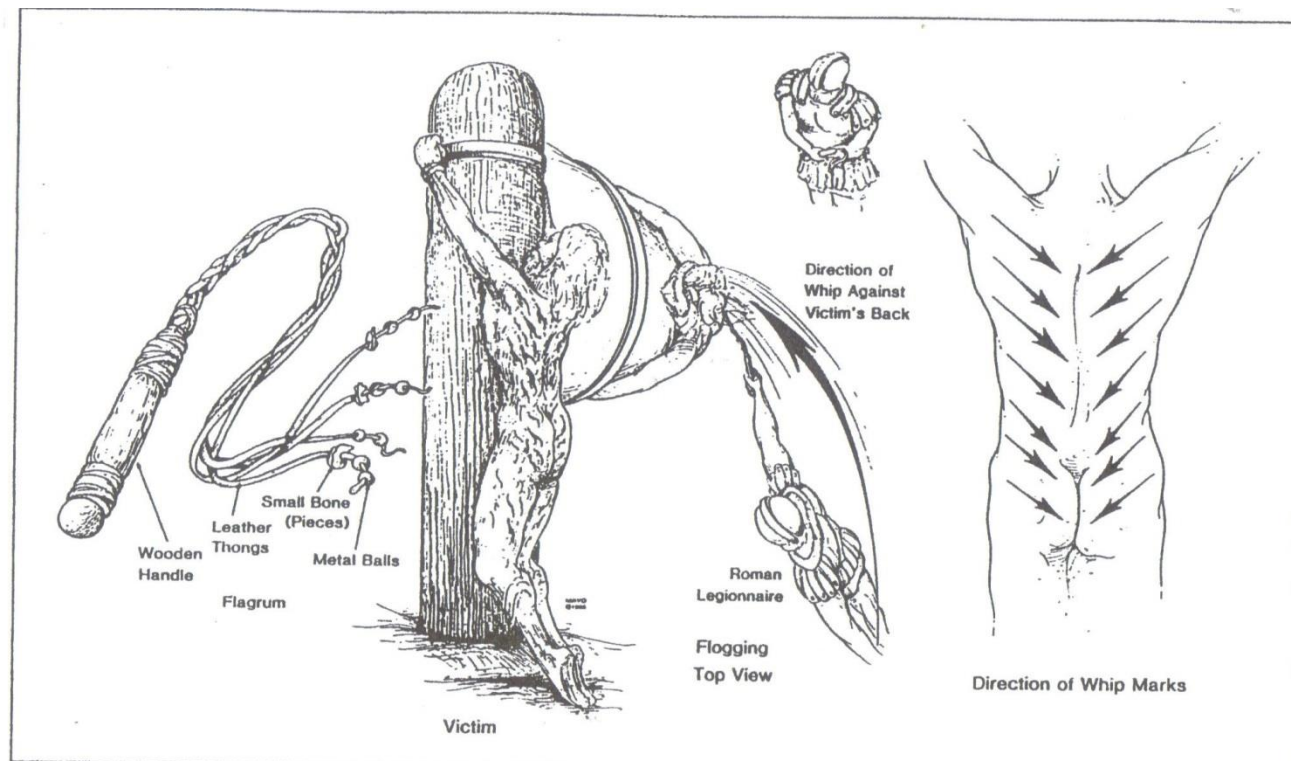
Jesus is Condemned by Pilate

- Found innocent
- Sent to Herod Antipas (Jesus was a Galilean)
- Scourged (*flagellavit*) by Roman soldiers
 - Tied naked to a pillar
 - Beaten by two soldiers each using a *flagrum*
 - Beaten over back, shoulders, loins, thighs and calves
 - Most likely not limited to 39 stripes according to Jewish law
 - Body becomes bloody marble mass as flesh is torn away
 - Produces an extensive loss of blood further weakening him

Jesus is Condemned (Cont)

- Covered with a legionary's cloak
 - Crowned with a crown of thorns covering the nape of his neck to His forehead producing more loss of blood
 - Mocked by soldiers
 - Struck in the face by a stick breaking his nose
- Returned and condemned by Pilate

Scourging at the Pillar



History of Crucifixion

- Introduced by the Greeks who borrowed it from the Persians after the conquests of Alexander the Great
- Practiced by the Greeks in Egypt and Syria
- Romans adopted and perfected it
- The two most typical crosses were:
 - The Roman high cross (*crux sublimis*)
 - The lower *tau* or T cross

Jesus Takes Up His Cross

2nd Station

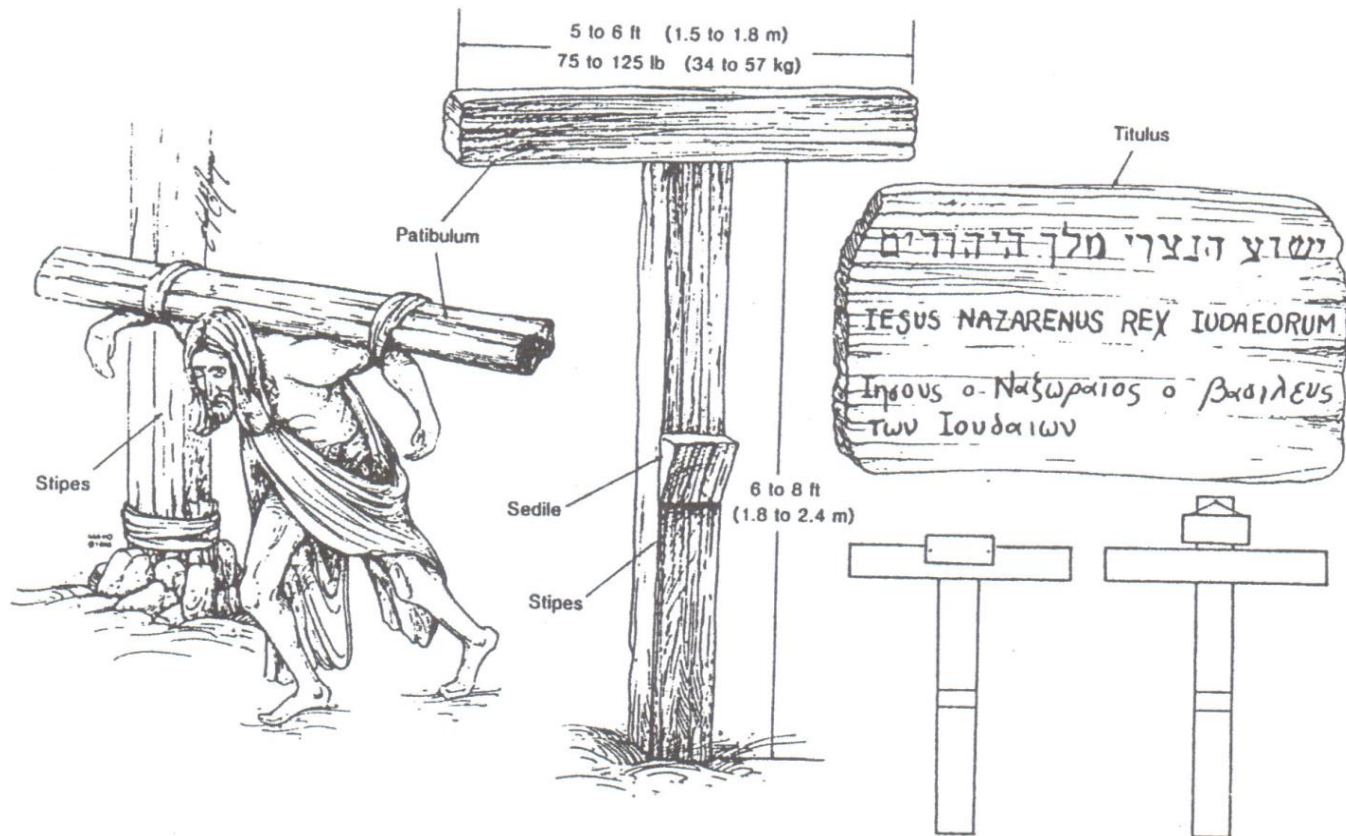
- Two main parts of the crosses were:
 - The vertical *stipes* which were usually pre-fixed into the ground
 - The horizontal beam or *patibulum*
 - The *crux sublimis* were reserved for important persons
 - Cross beam (patibulum) was attached to the *stipes* near the top
 - Soldiers had to raise the man using forked sticks or by climbing ladders leaning against the *stipe*

The Cross (Cont)

- Most crosses were low (*crux humilis*) also known as the *Tau* cross and consisted of two pieces of wood
 - The victim would be nailed or tied to the *patibulum* which was then lifted by two soldiers and affixed to the top of the *stipes*
 - The name plate was affixed to the *patibulum*
 - This cross allowed wild beasts to devour the corpses

The Cross (Cont)

- Crosses may also have included:
 - The *sedile* a horizontal wooden hook mounted on the *stipes* halfway down that rested between the thighs to prolong the process
 - The *suppedaneum* an oblique bracket to which the feet were attached



Jesus Takes Up His Cross

- Jesus
 - Cloak is removed reopening his wounds
 - Picks up the cross at the *Antonia* fortress
 - The cross beam – *Patibulum* weighed approximately 125 lbs
 - A complete cross would have weighed 250 lbs
- Walks a total distance to Golgotha (*Via Dolorosa*) of approximately 650 yards

Via Dolorosa

Jesus Falls the First Time

3rd Station

- Jesus:
 - Carries the weight of all the sins of the world for all time
 - Falls on and damages both knees (elbows?)
 - Enables dirt to enter his wounds
 - Soldiers worry that he might die before they get him to Golgotha

Jesus Meets His Mother

4th Station

- The Blessed Mother
 - Stands in front of Jesus halting his progress
 - Fulfills the prophecy of *Simeon* “a sword will pierce through your own soul also (Lk 2:35)
- Were any words exchanged?



Simon Helps Carry the Cross

5th Station

- Simon
 - Was from the city of *Cyrene* in *Cyrenaica* in Northern Africa (Libya)
 - *Cyrene* contained a large Jewish community (100,000 Palestinian Jews)
- Had two sons: Alexander and Rufus
- All may have become the first Christians from Africa
- Where was he going that morning?
 - Making preparations for the Passover?

Veronica Wipes His Face

6th Station

- Veronica
 - Tradition indicates her name was *Sheraphia*
 - Was the wife of an influential member of the Sanhedrin
 - Had long been a secret follower of Jesus
 - Committed a high risk act by interfering with a Roman execution
 - May have been permitted this access only because of her husband's rank
- Jesus left his countenance on her veil
- What is believed to be her veil still exists in St. Peters

Jesus Falls the Second Time

7th Station

- Jesus
 - Falls again from exhaustion, physical injuries to his body and the weight of our sins
 - Increases the damage to his knees
- How did Simon react to this fall?

Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem 8th Station

- Weeping women approach Jesus
- Jesus tells them to weep for themselves and their children
 - This prediction and warning was fulfilled in 70 A.D.

Jesus Falls the Third Time

9th Station

- Jesus
 - Falls just short of Golgotha under the physical weight of the cross and the weight of our sins
 - Increases the damage to his knees
 - Was almost totally exhausted
- The soldiers once again must have feared that Jesus would die before they could crucify him

Holy Sepulcher

Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

10th Station

- Jesus
 - Is prepared for crucifixion by having his outer garments pulled off, reopening his wounds
 - His blood streams down his body again
- The soldiers cast lots for his seamless garment

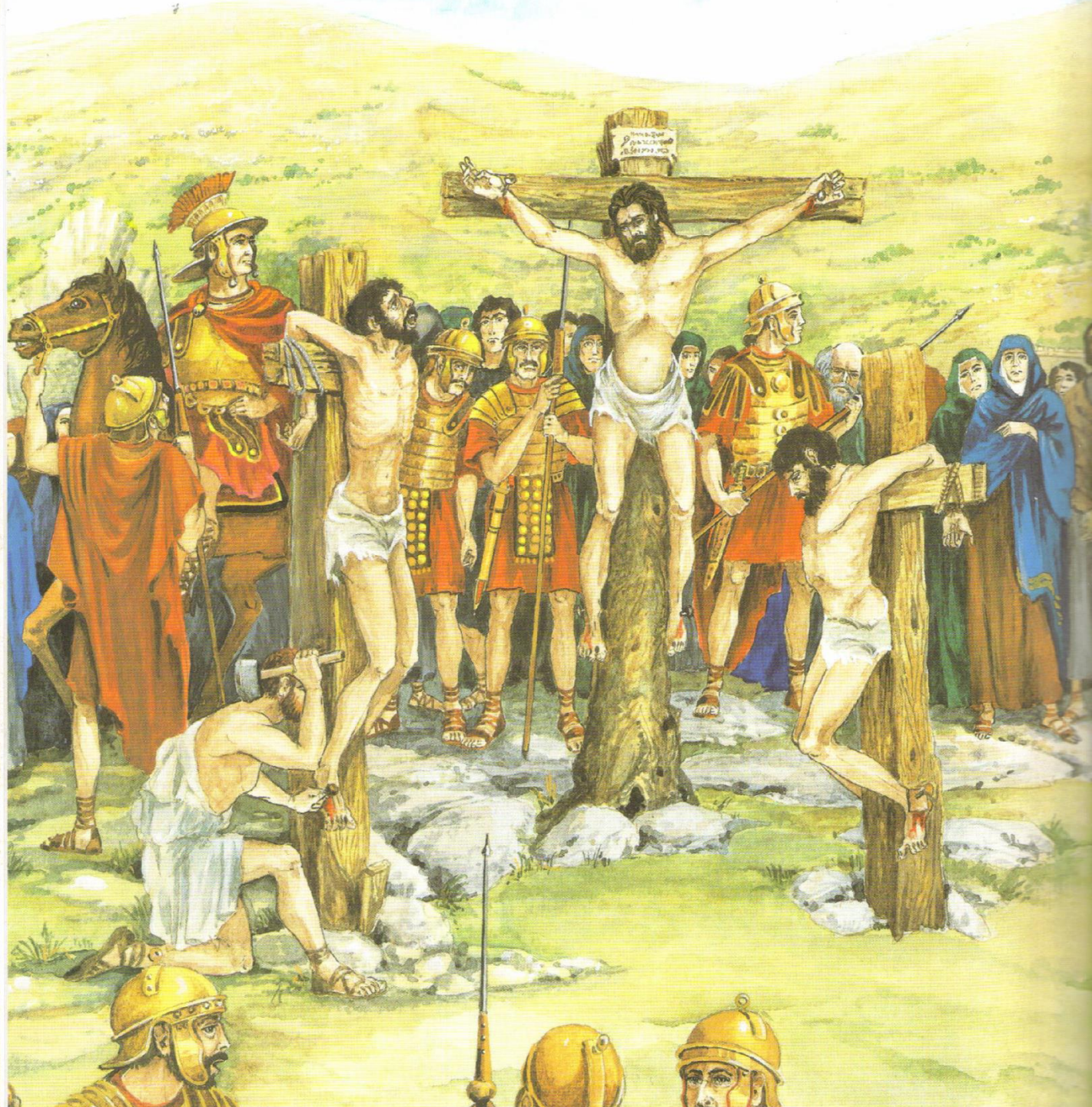
Jesus is Crucified

11th Station

- Jesus is nailed to the cross where he endures for three hours of agony
- The Seven Last words spoken from the cross

Jesus is Crucified (Cont)

- Jesus is crucified
- Two types of crosses
 - Most crosses were low (*crux humilis*)
 - Allowed wild beasts to devour the corpses
 - Cross beam (patibulum) attached to top of the *stipe*
 - A few were *crux sublimis* reserved for important persons
 - Cross beam (patibulum) attached to the *stipes* near the top
 - Nailing to the cross
- Three hours of agony
- The Seven Last words spoken from the cross



Jesus is Crucified (Cont)

- Jesus
 - Was nailed through both wrists
 - Had one foot nailed through the other into the flat of the *stipe*
 - Lived for three hours on the cross
 - Suspended on his throne between heaven and earth
 - Spoke the seven last phrases
 - Under total control as he bowed his head and died (cause of death was asphyxiation)

Jesus is Crucified (Cont)

- Those at the foot of the cross included:
 - The Blessed Mother
 - St. John
 - Mary Magdalene
 - Mary, the mother of James and Joseph
 - Mother of the sons of Zebedee
 - Mary, the wife of Clopas

The Seven Last Words

- “Father, forgive them for they know not what they are doing”
 - All men for all times
 - Contrast with Jeremiah
- “This day you will be with me in paradise”
 - *Dismas* made a Saint
 - Pray for a happy death
- “Woman, behold your son!”... “behold your mother!”
 - Mary becomes the Mother of the Church

The Seven Last Words (Cont)

- “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
 - Fully human, fully divine
 - The 22 Psalm
- “I thirst”
 - For souls
- “It is finished”
 - His mission on earth was done
- “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”
 - He was in total control until the end

Jesus Dies on the Cross

12th Station

- Darkness falls over the land
 - Earthquake
 - Veil in temple torn in two pieces
 - Souls of the dead are released from their tombs
- Statement by centurion “Truly this was the Son of God!” (Mt 27:54)

Jesus Taken Down from the Cross

13th Station

- Jesus
 - Is taken down from the cross after Joseph of *Arimathea* obtained permission from Pilate for the body of Jesus
- Mary receives his lifeless body - *Pieta*
- *Nicodemus* brings 100 lbs of myrrh and aloes to anoint Jesus' body
- He and Joseph wrapped Jesus' body in the Shroud
- Tomb of Joseph

The Pieta



Jesus is Buried

14th Station

- Joseph of *Arimathea* and *Nicodemus* laid Jesus' body in Joseph's unused tomb
- They sealed the tomb with a stone
- The Jews seek soldiers from Pilate to guard the tomb

Stations of the Cross and the Rosary

Station - Jesus

Rosary

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Is condemned | Our Father |
| 2. Picks up cross | Hail Mary 1 |
| 3. Falls 1 st time | Hail Mary 2 |
| 4. Meets mother | Hail Mary 3 |
| 5. Simon carries cross | Hail Mary 4 |
| 6. Veronica wipes face | Hail Mary 5 |
| 7. Falls 2 nd time | Hail Mary 6 |

Stations of the Cross and the Rosary (Cont)

8. Meets women	Hail Mary 7
9. Falls 3 rd time	Hail Mary 8
10. Stripped	Hail Mary 9
11. Crucified	Hail Mary 10
12. Dies	Glory be
13. Taken down and	O my Jesus
14. Buried	

Easter Sunday

- May you all have a most blessed and happy Easter