(1) JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

- We are entering a section of scripture that is heavy with Prophetic fulfillment
- Also, John shares new and unique information that the synoptics do not include

★ such as:

1) mother/son conversation
2) I am thirsty fulfillment
3) It is finished fulfillment
4) Jesus side pierced fulfillment
5) Jesus carried cross fulfillment
6) controversy over the Placard
7) Nicodemus helped w/ Burial

v.17 And He, bearing His cross...

- Jesus had to carry His own cross
- As was the Roman custom:

"Each criminal as part of his punishment carries his cross on his back." - Plutarch, The Divine Vengeance, 554

- This section of the cross is called the Patibulum (The Transverse Beam / "cross beam")
- The criminal carried the Patibulum to the Gibbet (vertical Beam fastened to the ground)
- victim/criminal was then made to lie on his back on the ground.
- his arms then stretched out and tied and/or nailed to the Patibulum

(I believe Jesus was tied and nailed in His hands as the nailing the wrists would severe an artery and cause very quick death)

- The crossbeam is then hoisted up to the vertical beam
- Victim's feet were then tied and/or nailed to a small wood-like seat called Sedecula.
  - The Sedecula supported some of the Body Weight and allowed the criminal to push up on this seat to be able to breathe

★ This was designed to prolong the agony, NOT provide mercy

- Romans were known to sadistically manipulate the crossbeam at times (X, T, †, ‡, etc)
- Many Scholars associate Jesus' carrying of the cross a symbolic antitype fulfillment of Isaac

"Abraham took the wood for the offering and laid it on Isaac, his son" Gen. 22:6

★ Even the Rebbis commentary on Gen. 22:6 says:...

"Isaac carried the wood like one carries his stake/cross on his shoulders" Genesis Rabbah 56:3

v.17 Jesus went out to a place called "The Place of the Skull" which in Hebrew is called: Golgatha

- tradition says the hill once looked like a skull (Golgotha = "Skull")
- another common name for the site is Calvary (Latin for "Skull" - Calvaria-Cranium)

★ The actual site is in doubt

- "Gordon's Calvary" is an option
- OR the site is near the church of the Holy Sepulchre (As it is by a road "And those who passed by blasphemed Him and shook their heads at Him" Matt 27:39)
- OR an unknown site

(2) JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

v.18 where they crucified Him

- very interesting that all 4 gospels leave it at that... Crucified
- Not one Gospel goes into detail regarding the actual crucifixion
- We know it was in a public place, where all could see Him.
- The most terrible and brutal form of punishment
  - so horrible, that no Roman citizen could be crucified (unless directly authorized by the Emperor)
- Stripped naked and beaten/scourged by a verbato scourging
- Victim could hang there for hours, even days in the hot sun
- To breathe, they must push up on the sedecula to keep lungs open
- Terrible muscle spasms occur, But Collapse meant asphyxiation,
  - so the cycle would continue

v.18 and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center.

- All 4 gospels mention two criminals one on each side of Jesus
- Matthew and Mark calls the criminals λεῃστὰι (guerilla fighters)
  - same word used for Barabbas

★ This does fulfill prophecy:

- w/in the 4 servant songs...

"He poured out His soul unto death, He was numbered with the transgressors, He bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors." Is. 53:12

v.19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross

- The charge of the crime was to be advertised above the criminal
- Typically, the soldiers would even carry the placard in front of the criminal as he carries the cross (or hung around criminal's neck)
- The Governer/prefect would technically have it written by someone else and determined the saying/charge.

★ The crime was written on a placard called: Τίτλος (Titlos)

- Latin ⇒ Titulus, English = Title

v.19 And the writing was:

Jesus of Nazareth
The King of the Jews

- Thus maintaining Pilate's position at the beginning of the Tribunal
- Also providing a little reverse and frustration toward the Jews

★ But most importantly: accurately titled AND fulfilled prophecy

(Typological prophecy: Ps. 22
Messianic prophecy: Is 52:13, Zech 12, Jer. 23, 42, 49, 50, 52)

- minor wording differences exist w/in Matt, Mark, Luke, and John on the word of the title...
  - Thy 'r Jesus The King of the Jews - Matt 27:37
  - The King of the Jews - Mark 15:26
  - This is the King of the Jews - Luke 23:38
- This is most likely because the title was written in 3 different languages (Hebrew, Latin, Greek)
  - most Jews spoke Aramaic/Hebrew
  - Latin was Rome's official language
  - Greek was the most common language (Lingua Franca of the Empire) Koine Greek = common Greek

(3) DISPUTE OVER JESUS' TITLE & JESUS' CLOTHING

v.20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.

- The Lord Jesus truly is The King
- It is very possible that Pilate is fulfilling a prophecy w/in Psalms

★ The tri-lingual notice may serve to proclaim "the Kingship of Jesus to all the Nations"

"Say to all the Nations: The LORD reigns, The world will be established, it shall not be moved, for He shall judge all people in righteousness" Ps. 96:10

★ By Pilate writing this title in 3 languages, it seems God is using Pilate to "proclaim it to the nations"!

- The chief Priests were NOT happy...

v.21 Therefore, the chief Priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write 'The King of the Jews,' but write: 'He said, I am The King of the Jews.'"

- Obviously, they are upset w/ this title
- As they refused to have Jesus as their King, the Messiah, the Son of God (Title for true King - Psalm 2)
- Their objection is overruled

v.22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

- The title was already written
- It was already fastened to the cross
- It was getting late in the day
- It was NOT GOING to be changed

★ It was final

- Nothing can ever change that Beautiful Title.

v.23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments

- It was customary to strip the criminal naked and leave the clothes at the foot of the cross
- Any belongings, by Law, become property of the Soldiers ("Perquisite of the Office")

★ There is some symbolism here to the footwashing where "Jesus rose from supper and laid aside His garments" took a towel and washed their feet John 13:4

- some say the footwashing act of humility and sacrificial dying to self foreshadows the cross (There are a lot of similarities)

v.23 The soldiers made four parts of his garments, to each soldier a part

- we see here that Jesus was escorted by 4 soldiers
- Each soldier received a garment (probably a belt, sandals, clothes, head covering of some sort)

v.23 There was also a tunic/Robe (NLT) Now the robe was without seams, woven from top in one piece.

- The NLT translates this the most accurate (modern day understanding) AND this "Robe" has huge symbolism.
- A Robe, throughout scripture, has symbolic representation of God's Kingdom!
  - 3 Key times with Samuel, Saul, David, and the Prophet Ahijah

★ We see God's Kingdom symbolized as a robe the King wears

1. "As Samuel turned around to go away, Saul seized the edge of his robe and it tore. So Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the Kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you" 1 Sam 15:27-29

2. As Saul took care of his needs David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe... it troubled David that he did this to Saul's robe for he was the anointed. When Saul left the cave, David said, "See, Yes, see I cut the corner of your robe, it is in my hand! Saul lifted up his voice and said, "now I know indeed that you shall surely be King and the Kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand" (Because the robe was in David's hand) 1 Sam 24

3. "Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem and the prophet Ahijah met him on the way. Ahijah took hold of the new garment (Robe) that was on Jeroboam and tore it into twelve pieces. And he said to Jeroboam, "Take for yourself ten pieces, for thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, "Behold, I will tear the Kingdom out of the hand of Solomon and will give ten tribes to you... I will take the Kingdom out of his son's hand and give it to you - ten tribes" 1 Kings 11:29-31, 35

- Jesus, as King, wears a robe and the Robe (Kingdom) cannot be broken
  - Nations, Romans, physical soldiers will be unable to tear this Kingdom

"I will build My church (the Kingdom) and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it... and I will give you the Keys of the Kingdom of heaven..." Matt. 16:18-19

(4) SCRIPTURE FULFILLED IN THE ROBE

v.24 Let us not tear it, but cast lots whose it shall be

- Either all 4 soldiers already each had piece of His garments - and now cast lot for the robe OR
- There were 3 garments, but the robe was more valuable, so they cast lots to see who would get it.

v.24 That the scripture might be fulfilled, which says, "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."

- John's verbiage matches the LXX exactly. (Greek/Septuagint)
- The quoted scripture comes from Psalm 22
  - This is a fulfillment of Davidic Typology (Typological prophecy)
  - Ps. 22 is the most quoted Psalm in the New Testament.

★ O.T. context:

David is lamenting to God and praying God delivers him from his enemies. Although David is suffering, he is confident God will hear his pleas & deliver him.

- The Psalm ends with praise to God
- David is confident in God's faithfulness

- man's rejection → faithful suffering → praising Yahweh

- John will quote this Psalm two more times in this Gospel

1) "I thirst" John 19:28 - Ps. 22:15
2) "They pierced My hands & My feet" John 19:34 - Ps. 22:16

(John 19:37 Quoted directly from Zech 12:10 As Fulfilled "They will look on Him who they pierced"

★ Jews do not look at Ps. 22 as a Messianic prophecy

- They link it speaking of Israel as a Nation OR referring to Esther (Esther 4:16... if I perish, I perish - under King Ahasuerus)

★ John, however, is so confident Ps. 22 speaks of the Messiah - he feels no need to mention, as the other synoptics, that

★ Jesus literally quotes this Psalm on the cross)!

"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me..." Ps 22:1 Matt. 27:46

★ This Psalm in detail speaks of the Messiah, unequivocally (Even v.6 saying I am a worm - crimson worm, crawls up a tree, has babies, gives up its body as food for its offspring, then leaves a crimson red die on the tree and its body turns completely white)



- outer garments: sandals, belt, prayer coverings, head coverings, prayer shall, tassels, etc
- inner garment/Robe

★ The high Priest wore an outer robe, so we can't equate symbolism w/ that "Robe"