

It Happened to Confirm the Prophecies

John 18:28-40 (v. 32)

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I. Historical Background and Biblical Context

Before the foundation of the world, God had a plan to bring redemption through His Son, Jesus. Not only did God have a plan but He also had a Person to carry out and complete His plan and that was Jesus. Throughout the Old Testament there are prophecies that foretold of Jesus coming, His life, His journey to the cross, and His resurrection.

In the New Testament, we see the fulfilling of those prophecies through Jesus Christ. Jesus stated that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; but to fulfill them (Matt 5:17). Jesus predicted His death on more than one occasion to His disciples stating that “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise” (Mark 9:31, Matt. 17:22; and Luke 9:44). What God says will come to pass for God cannot lie (Titus 1:12). More than once, Jesus spoken to His disciples about the things that He would go through in Jerusalem on His way to the cross. He explained that He would suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life (Matt 16:21).

John’s Gospel places emphasis on the fulfillment of the scriptures during Passion Week. There are specific passages of Scriptures that foreshadow the events of that week. Noteworthy is that John depicted the Passion as fulfilling the meaning of the sacrificial system. In John 1:29, John the Baptist, stated that Jesus is the Lamb of God. The trial of Jesus before Pilate taking place on the day of Preparation of Passover Week (John 19:14), was Jesus being prepared as the Passover Lamb for sacrifice. Jesus fulfilled the meaning of sacrifice. All the events that surrounded His life, trials, suffering, death, and resurrection, confirmed not only the prophecies of the prophets of old but also things that Jesus stated that would take place.

God's plan for our redemption came through Jesus whereby everyone who believes and follows him can be redeemed and reconciled to the God the Father. Thank God for Jesus who came to do God the Father's will in fulfilling all that He had spoken that would take place for His divine plan and purpose for the saving of humankind.

These things had to happen to confirm the prophecies.

II. It Happened to Confirm the Prophecies

1. vv. 28 & 29. What Charges are You Bringing Against This Man?

John's Gospel does not go into extensive details of the Jesus's arrest and trials as the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke does (Matt 26-27; Mark 14; and Luke 22-23). At this time, Jesus has already been arrested and bound as a criminal. He has been questioned by Annas, the high priest. Annas was not satisfied with Jesus' response so he sent him to Caiaphas, Annas' son in law, high priest. The chief priests and Sanhedrin had looked for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Even those who testified against him could not agree.

Now in this text, we see the Jewish leaders taking Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace where Pilate, the Roman governor was. They did this early in the morning, and they wanted to avoid ceremonial uncleanness by not entering the palace so they would be qualified to eat the Passover. If they had entered the palace of the governor, a Gentile, they would have been declared unclean. Pilate came out of the palace to them. They didn't want to do anything to give cause for them not to celebrate. They were more concerned with the outward appearance, the keeping of their custom, than they were of lying on, making false accusations, trumped up charges, and setting up an innocent man to die a cruel death on a rugged cross. However, let's not forget this will be all for the working of God's plan. Jesus once told the religious Jewish leaders that they were like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the

outside they appear to people as righteous but on the inside they are full of hypocrisy and wickedness (Matt 23: 27 – 28). Their hearts were very deceitful.

They wanted to pass on the responsibility of getting rid of Jesus to Pilate, the governor. Pilate inquired of them as to what charges they were bringing against Jesus. They had not been able to agree on any of their accusations against Jesus. However, in Luke 23:2, they accused Jesus of subverting our nation, opposing payment of taxes to Caesar, and claims to be Messiah, king (Luke 23:2). In John's Gospel, instead of stating their trump up accusations as charges, they were sarcastic in their response to Pilate, "if he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you". Pilate could see that this wasn't a political or military issue but a religious one between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders.

Have you ever been falsely accused just because you try to live a life pleasing unto God? How you ever been in a position that folks just wanted to get rid of you for no apparent reason because you do not go along with their unrighteous ways and talk? As with our Savior so shall it be with us. It won't have anything to do with us but with the One who lives inside of us. As with Jesus, we too are going to suffer sometimes and be accused of what we did not say or do. But Jesus has told us to be of good cheer. If we are faithful and obedient, we will be victorious.

2. vv. 31 & 32. This Took Place to Fulfill What Jesus has Said

Pilate wanted specific charges but the Jewish leaders didn't offered any. At this, Pilate didn't see this as a Roman issue but one for the Jewish leaders to handle. Pilate wanted to wash his hands of this issue so he told them to take Jesus and judge him by their law. Jesus could only be executed under the Roman law. They said, we have no right to execute anyone. They were not aware that this took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die. He was not to be stoned to death as is a tradition custom of the Jews for execution; but he was to be lifted up on a cross as in crucifixion. Jesus said in John 12:32 & 33, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die."

Everything was working in accordance with the plan of God.

3. **vv. 33-37**. Are You the King of the Jews?

Pilate went back inside the palace and summoned for Jesus to come in. He began an interrogation session. He questioned Jesus as to him being the King of the Jews. Jesus response to Pilate was in the form of a question – “Is this your idea or did others talk to you about me?” Jesus didn’t receive a straight answer from Pilate. Instead, Pilate replied with a question that he already knew the answer to, “Am I a Jew?” He was being sarcastic. If Jesus had been guilty of anything, Pilate had no need to question him but he didn’t know and really didn’t want to have anything to do with the Jewish leaders plotting to have Jesus executed.

While the Jewish leaders schemed to incite an uproar in saying Jesus that he is king of Jews, what Pilate didn’t know was that Jesus is the king of kings. That his kingdom is not of this physical world but of the spiritual world. That if Jesus’ kingdom was physical and military that there would have been a battle between his servants and the Jewish leaders when they went to arrest him in the garden.

But his kingdom is not like the earthly kingdom where man rules always is trying to protect his political position and power. Jesus is all powerful. He rules and super rule heaven and earth. His kingdom is of peace, joy, righteousness, and spiritual blessings. He could have had those who have come against destroy. But Jesus knew his purpose and he remain obedience even to the death on the cross. He knew his purpose of coming into this world was to fulfill the prophecies of God’s Word and be a savior for the world. Pilate then said, “You are a king, then!” Jesus’ response was that what you are saying but the fact is that I was born and same into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me. This must have been piercing to Pilate’s heart. Truth is who and what Jesus is. He is the absolute Truth.

Truth does not matter to those who hearts are wicked, prideful, and self-centered.

Pilate didn’t even wait for an answer from Jesus. He went out to the crowd and informed them that he didn’t have any basis for a charge against Jesus. He knew he was not going to get off that easy. He didn’t want to get the crowds and Jewish leaders upset so he figured he let them make the choice. It was the custom at the time of Passover that one prisoner would be released.

He asked them if they wanted the king of the Jews released (meaning Jesus)?

The crowd shouted, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!”

- Were these the same people that were shouting a few days ago, “Hosanna!” “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!” “Hosanna in the highest heaven!” (Mark 11:9).
- Are these the same ones he healed and fed when they were hungry?

What short memory!

They wanted Barabbas, a prisoner, a convicted murderer, and a guilty man to be released versus an innocent man, one who had not been convicted of any crimes, one who came that they might have life and have it more abundantly. The One who came that we might be reconciled back to the God. The One who was willing to laid down His life because He loves us just that much. The Redeemer and Deliverer and He reigns forever.

But all of these things that took place was for the Prophecies to be fulfilled!

It happened to Confirm the Prophecies!

III. CONCLUSION

- How is this different today?
- What is the truth? Does truth matter?
- Do we know innocent people who have been condemned?
- In our lives, is Jesus King?