

John 18-19  
The Passion Narrative

I. Arrest and interrogation (18:1-27).

A. The arrest (18:1-11).

1. Went to the Mount of Olives (Garden of Gethsemane).
2. Judas brings the soldiers.
  - a. A cohort.
    - i. Anywhere from 200 - 640 soldiers.
    - ii. Chiliarch: one of six tribunes.
  - b. Possibly to protect from a riot.
    - i. Jerusalem was crowded for Passover.  
-- normally about 100,000.  
-- swelled to 200,000 to 1,000,000.
    - ii. Pilate was hated.
  - c. Jewish collusion with Pilate.
3. Jesus went out -- the Passion was voluntary.
4. I AM.
  - a. They fall to the ground.
  - b. Every knee shall bow (Ph. 2:10, Dan. 2:46, Rev. 1:17).
5. Peter cuts off Malchus's ear.

B. The interrogation (18:12-27).

1. John leaves out much of what is in Synoptics.
2. Peter's denials.
3. High priest.
  - a. Disciples -- does he lead others astray.
  - b. Does he falsely claim to speak for God (Dt. 13 & 18).

II. Trial before Pilate (18:28 - 19:16).

A. John gives a lot of space to this trial.

1. Stress is on Jesus's kingship and his suffering.
2. Two scenes.
  - a. Outside (outer court): frenzy and chaos.
  - b. Inside (praetorium): calm and reason.

B. Chiliastic pattern.

1. Outside -- demand Jesus's death (28-32).
2. Inside -- kingship of Jesus (33-38a).
3. Outside -- not guilty, Barabbas (38b-40).
4. Inside -- flogging (19:1-3).
5. Outside -- behold the man (4-7).

- 6. Inside -- power (8-12).
  - a. To crucify.
  - b. No power at all.
  - c. Not Caesar's friend (cf. Sejanus).
- 7. Outside -- death sentence (13-16).
- C. No one is neutral -- Jesus or politics.

### III. Death and burial (19:17-42).

- A. Many omissions from and additions to Synoptics -- stresses theology.
- B. Crucifixion (17-22).
  - 1. He carried his cross.
    - a. The binding of Isaac (Ge. 22: 1-19).
    - b. Voluntary.
    - c. He carried the wood.
  - 2. Crucified between two thieves.
  - 3. Inscription (in 3 languages).
    - a. Pilate mocking the Jews.
    - b. "Ho gegrapha, gegrapha:" what I have written, I have written.
    - c. Unwitting enthronement of the Messiah.
- C. Divide Jesus's clothing (23-24).
  - 1. Fulfills Ps. 22:18.
  - 2. Probably no theology intended but possibly represents:
    - a. Unity of the church.
    - b. Division of the world into four parts.
    - c. Seamless robe the high priest's robe.
- D. Care of Mary (25-27).
- E. Death (28-30).
  - 1. Hyssop was used to put blood on doorposts at Passover (Ex. 12:22).
  - 2. It is finished -- cry of victory (Ps. 22:31).
  - 3. Bowed his head.
- F. Breaking the legs and piercing the side (31-37; cf. Ex.12:46, Ps. 34:20).
  - 1. Death would be immediate.
  - 2. To fulfill Scripture.
  - 3. Pierced the heart (blood and water; cf. Zech. 12:10).
  - 4. Stressed that Jesus really died.
- G. Burial (38-42).
  - 1. According to Jewish custom.
  - 2. Myrrh and aloes -- 75 pounds.
  - 3. Wrapped in linen strips.
  - 4. Placed in a nearby tomb.