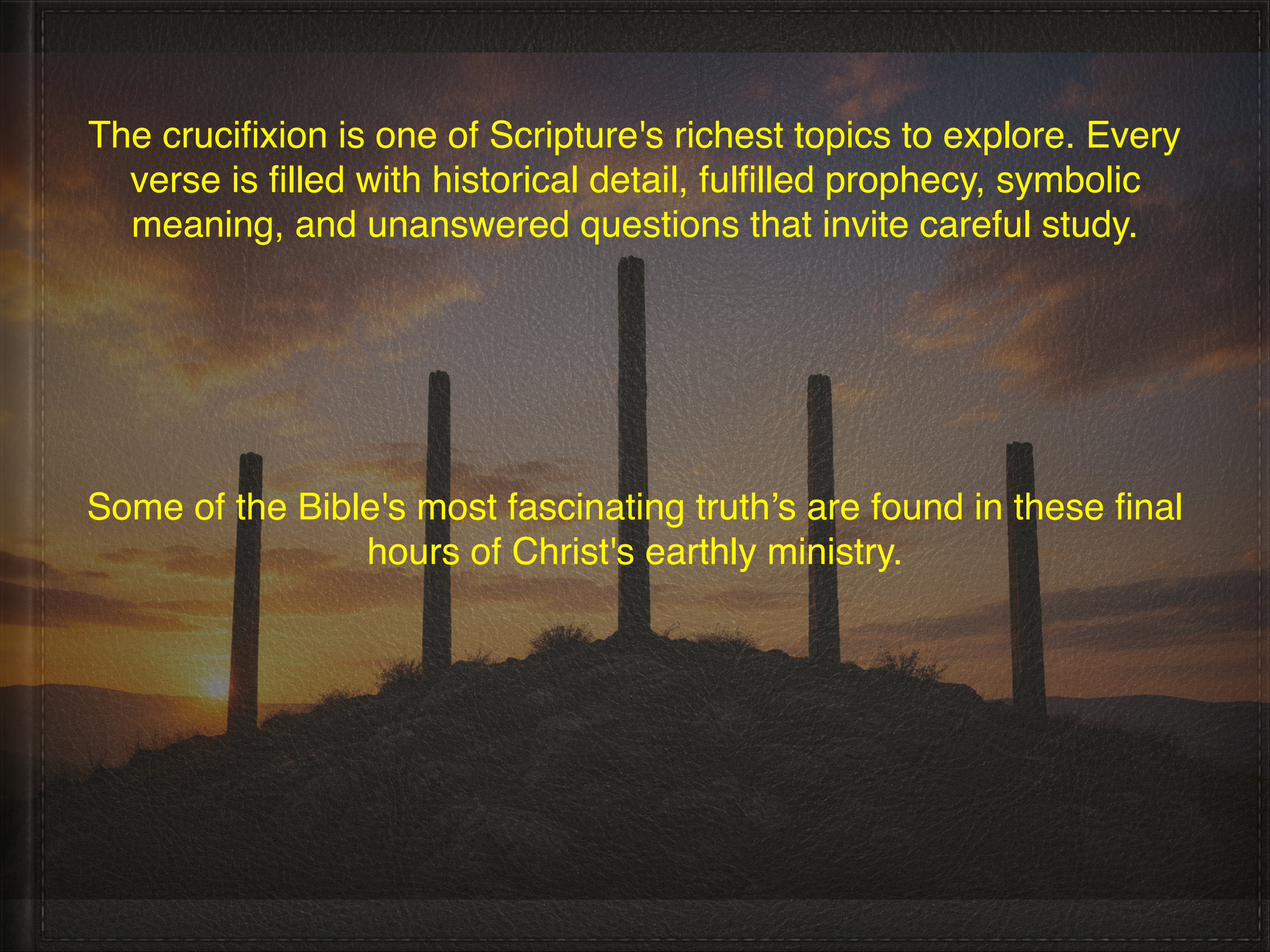


The background of the slide is a photograph of five tall, dark, rectangular crosses standing on a grassy hill. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The crosses are silhouetted against the bright sky. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

The crucifixion is one of Scripture's richest topics to explore. Every verse is filled with historical detail, fulfilled prophecy, symbolic meaning, and unanswered questions that invite careful study.

Some of the Bible's most fascinating truths are found in these final hours of Christ's earthly ministry.

BEFORE THE CRUCIFIXION

1. Why did Jesus sweat "great drops of blood"?

Luke 22:44 And becoming in an agony He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. Mentioned only in Luke - The gospel that portrays the Messiah as a MAN and His humanity. Other items mentioned in Luke: His infancy, Swaddling clothes, circumcision, age 12 in temple, and many more human emotions.

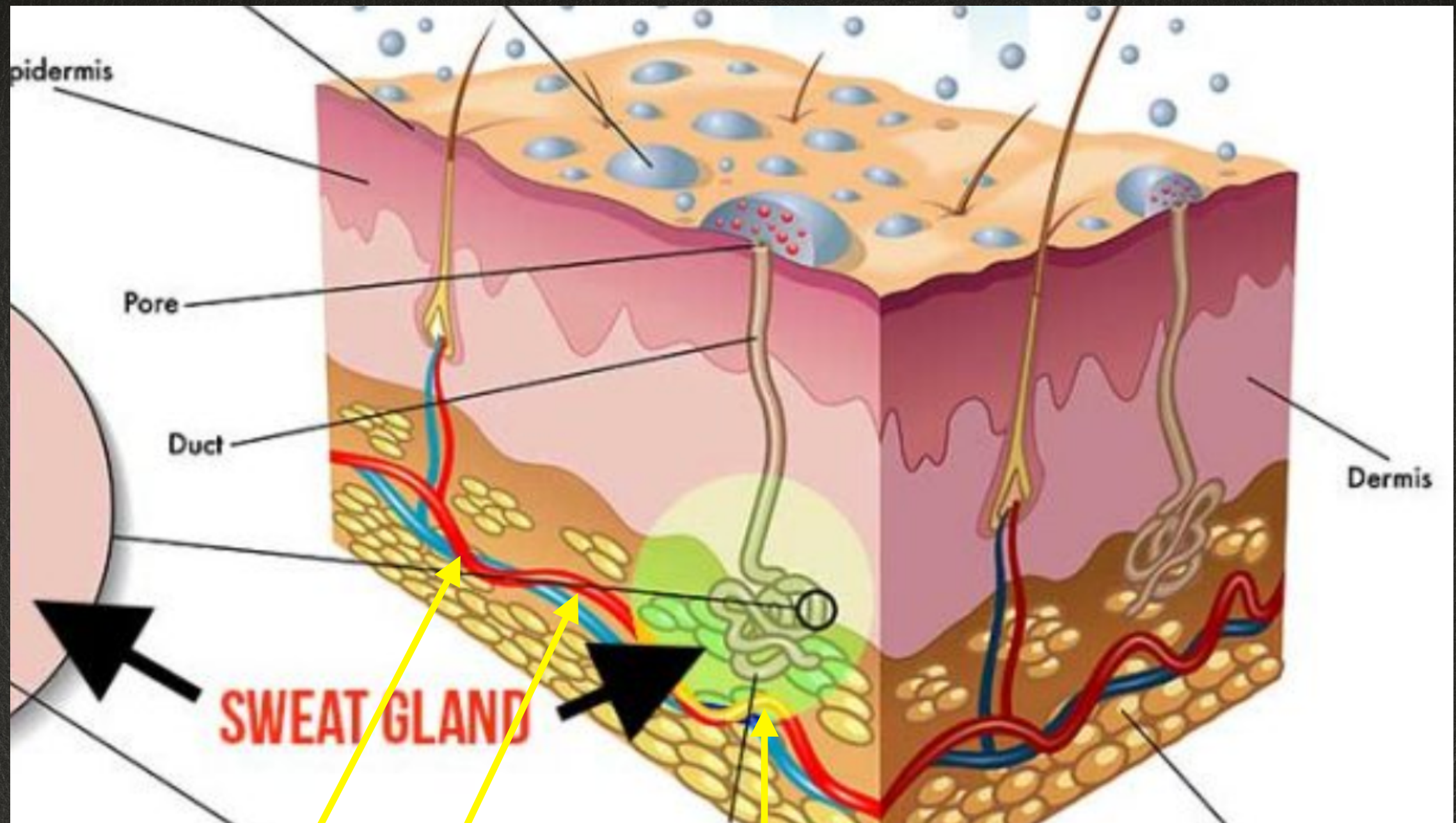
This particular blood related detail is described by Luke who was A physician!

- Medical explanation (hematidrosis)

Extreme activation of the sympathetic nervous system

Under extraordinary emotional stress, the body releases massive amounts of:

- Epinephrine (adrenaline)
- Norepinephrine (noradrenaline)
- Cortisol
- Other stress hormones



Intense constriction

Sudden rebound dilation

Capillary rupture

Only about 200 cases reported in medical literature.

He was approaching the moment when He would become the sin offering.
As Second Epistle to the Corinthians 5:21 says:

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin..."

He was about to bear in His body...the sins of all the redeemed.

- every murder
- every act of cruelty
- every lie
- every act of idolatry
- every betrayal
- every blasphemy

Not merely knowing about sin—but bearing its judgment.

He anticipated the wrath of God -The greatest suffering was not Roman scourging but crucifixion.

The burden was physically crushing

The forces of evil were fully engaged

A Interesting contrast

The first Adam was tested in a garden.

He yielded to his own desires. Sin entered

The last Adam was tested in a garden.

He surrendered His will completely.

One garden brought sin into the world.

The other garden — A Just Man was about to

Pay the debt to free many from sin.

2. Why did Judas betray Jesus with a kiss?

Matthew 26:48–50 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss (phileo), that same is he: hold him fast.

Why choose that sign? A kiss normally signifies love and loyalty.

It was nighttime, The garden was dimly lit. There were eleven disciples nearby, dressed similarly. A simple verbal identification could have been confusing. The kiss gave the arresting officers an unmistakable identification.

It wasn't just a kiss—The Greek emphasizes something MORE!

In Matthew 26:49, the verb translated "kissed him" is **kataphileō**, an intensive form of *phileō*.

It implies: to kiss earnestly, to kiss repeatedly

Luke 7:38. To Peter You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered has not stopped kissing my feet.

It fulfilled Scripture

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted... hath lifted up his heel against me." (Psalm 41:9)

Throughout Scripture, a kiss is associated with reconciliation and love:

- Joseph kissed his brothers after forgiving them (Genesis 45:15).
- The father kissed the returning prodigal son (Luke 15:20).
- Believers are exhorted to greet one another with a "holy kiss."

Judas transformed one of the Bible's symbols of affection into a sign of betrayal.

External religious acts can exist without genuine faith.

3. Why did Jesus heal the servant's ear?

Luke 22:51 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Permit even this, and he touched his ear, and healed him.

Only Luke, the physician, records the miracle:

"And he touched his ear, and healed him." (Luke 22:51)

This is the final miracle recorded before Christ was led away to trial.

Jesus Demonstrated That His Kingdom Was Not Advanced by Force

Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Christ Protected His Disciples

By instantly healing Malchus, Christ removed the physical evidence of Peter's attack and likely prevented the situation from escalating further against His disciples. Only Jesus would be arrested. As He had already declared:

"If therefore ye seek me, let these go their way." (John 18:8)

4. Why did everyone fall backward?

3 Judas then, having received the cohort of men and temple guards from the chief priests and Pharisees, came forth with lanterns and torches and Weapons. John 18:1-4

A 'cohort' is a 1/10 part of a Legion or 600 men. Cohort = spieda Gr.

'Chief Priests (Sadducees) and Pharisees being of different theological camps decided to set aside their differences in order to destroy Him, just as Herod and Pilate were made friends (Luke 23:12)

John 18:6 Jesus therefore, **knowing all things** that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, **I am he**... As soon then as he had said unto them, **I am he**, **they went backward**, and fell to the ground."

The arrest was not a surprise. (this was probably after Judas kissed Him)
John begins by saying that Jesus

"knew all things that should come upon him."

Rather than hiding, He walked toward the soldiers.

Rather than being discovered, He identified Himself.

This is important because the soldiers **did not overpower Jesus**. He voluntarily **surrendered Himself**.

The moment they fell backward demonstrated that
no one could have arrested Him unless He allowed it.

As Jesus later said:

"No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself." (John 10:18)

His arrest and death was not a defeat but a **WILLING** sacrifice.

The soldiers had come expecting to seize a helpless Galilean.

Instead, for a brief moment they encountered the majesty of the Son of God. The overwhelming power of His presence caused them to recoil and fall backward.

Throughout Scripture, when sinful people encounter even a glimpse of God's glory, they often fall:

- Ezekiel fell on his face.
- Daniel collapsed without strength.
- Saul of Tarsus fell to the ground on the Damascus road.
- John fell "as dead" before the glorified Christ in Revelation.

An Important Contrast

Notice the irony.

The soldiers came expecting Jesus to fall before them.
Instead, **they** fell before Him.

Only after demonstrating His authority did Jesus permit Himself to be bound.
The One who could knock an armed company to the ground with a word
willingly submitted to ropes, mockery, scourging, and crucifixion.

There will come a time yet future when EVERYONE will fall down
and every knee will bow to recognize that Jesus Christ is Lord, Phil 2:10

5. Why did Christ say I am He

Whom seek ye? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, **I am he**

The Meaning of "I Am *He*" THERE IS NO 'HE' IN THE GREEK!

In English the text reads, "I am he." Greek is λέγει αὐτοῖς· ἐγὼ εἰμι

legei autois: egō eimi

He says to them I AM

However, the word "he" is supplied by the translators to make the sentence read smoothly. In the Greek text, Jesus simply says:

ἐγὼ εἰμι (egō eimi) Literally, "I AM."

This echoes the familiar verse where God reveals His name to Moses
“I AM THAT I AM.” (Exodus 3:14)

The Hebrew reads:

אֶהְיֶה אֲשֶׁר אֶהְיֶה

'ehyeh 'asher 'ehyeh

I AM that I AM

Theologically meaning

“I am the One who is, the One who was, The one who is to come,

Throughout John's Gospel, Christ repeatedly used these words:

- "I am the bread of life."
- "I am the light of the world."
- "I am the good shepherd."
- "Before Abraham was, **I AM**." (John 8:58)

THE TRIALS

6. THE SIX DIFFERENT TRIALS

The Three Jewish Trials

1. Before Annas (John 18:12–24) Jesus was first taken to **Annas**, the former high priest and father-in-law of Caiaphas. This hearing was informal and appears to have been an attempt to gather evidence that could be used against Jesus. Instead of receiving justice, Jesus was struck in the face by one of the officers. This first hearing set the tone for everything that followed.
2. Before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin (Matthew 26:57–68). Jesus was then taken to **Caiaphas**, the acting high priest, where members of the Sanhedrin had already assembled. This was the real religious trial.

Finally, Caiaphas placed Jesus under oath:

"Art thou the MESSIAH, the Son of God?"

When Jesus answered that He was, Caiaphas tore his robes and declared Him guilty of blasphemy

3. The Morning Ratification (Luke 22:66–71)

Jewish law generally required capital cases to be confirmed in daylight. Therefore, after dawn the council met again to officially ratify the decision made during the night.

Since the Jewish leaders lacked authority under Roman rule to carry out an execution, they now needed the Roman governor to approve the sentence.

However, Rome would not execute someone simply for a charge of blasphemy. The accusation had to change. Religious charges became political charges. Instead of saying, "He claims to be the Son of God," they now accused Him of claiming to be a rival king who threatened Caesar.

THREE ROMAN TRIALS

4. Before Pilate (John 18:28–38)

Jesus was brought before **Pontius Pilate**, the Roman governor.

Pilate quickly realized that Jesus had committed no crime deserving death.

After questioning Him, Pilate declared:

"I find in him no fault at all."

But political pressure was already building.

When Pilate learned that Jesus was from Galilee, he saw an opportunity to avoid making the decision himself.

He sent Jesus to Herod Antipas.

5. Before Herod Antipas (Luke 23:6–12)

Herod had long wanted to meet Jesus.

Not because he believed Him, but because he hoped to witness a miracle.

He questioned Jesus extensively.

Jesus never answered.

This silence fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy:

"As a sheep before the shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth."

(Isaiah 53:7)

After mocking Him and dressing Him in a gorgeous robe, Herod returned Jesus to Pilate without issuing any sentence.

Luke notes an interesting detail:

"The same day Pilate and Herod were made friends together."

Jesus became the common object of their political interests.

6. Before Pilate Again (Matthew 27; John 19)

Jesus now stood before Pilate for the final time.

Pilate repeatedly declared His innocence.

His wife warned him because of a troubling dream. That day God showed her in a dream that Christ was an innocent man.

Another Witness to Christ's Innocence

Throughout the Passion narrative, many witnesses declare Jesus innocent:

- Pilate
- Pilate's wife
- Judas ("I have betrayed innocent blood")
- Herod (implicitly, by sending Him back)
- the repentant thief
- the centurion

Matthew piles up testimony showing that Jesus was condemned despite repeated declarations of His innocence.

An Interesting Contrast

Notice the irony.

Person	Response
Judas had firsthand experience with Jesus	Betrayed Him
Pilate questioned Jesus personally	Condemned Him
Jewish leaders knew the Scriptures	Rejected Him
Pilate's wife knew Him only through a dream	Declared Him righteous
The one person with the least direct knowledge became one of the clearest voices calling for His innocence.	

Pilate attempted several compromises:

- offering to release Jesus instead of Barabbas,
- sending Him to Herod,
- ordering Him scourged in hopes that would satisfy the crowd,
- publicly washing his hands.

None of these succeeded.

Finally, fearing political consequences and the accusation that he was "not Caesar's friend,"

Pilate surrendered to the demands of the crowd and sentenced Jesus to crucifixion.

Why Were There Six Trials?

The repeated hearings served several important purposes.

They demonstrated Christ's complete innocence.

Again and again, judges, rulers, and even hostile witnesses failed to prove any genuine crime.

Pilate repeatedly declared:

"I find no fault in him."

Herod found nothing worthy of death.

Even Judas later confessed:

"I have betrayed the innocent blood."

Every trial unintentionally became another witness to Christ's innocence.

The trials expose the corruption of both religious and civil authority when truth becomes secondary to power.

A Remarkable Observation

It is striking that although Jesus stood before six different courts, **not one court was able to prove Him guilty of an actual crime.**

The only charge that ultimately condemned Him was the truth—that He really was the Son of God and the promised King.

In the greatest miscarriage of justice in human history, every trial that was meant to establish His guilt instead became another testimony to His perfect innocence.

How many TRIALS did Paul endure?

ONE before the Sanhedrin

FIVE before Roman Authorities

7. Why did Pilate wash his hands?

3. Washing the Hands Was a Jewish Symbol

Although Pilate was a Roman governor, his action reflected a Jewish custom. In Deuteronomy 21, the elders of a city washed their hands over a sacrificed heifer when an unsolved murder occurred, declaring:
"Our hands have not shed this blood."

Pilate borrowed this familiar image before the Jewish crowd. He was publicly declaring:
"I do not accept responsibility for this man's death."

Water Cannot Remove Moral Guilt

Pilate's hands may have been clean physically.

They were not clean morally.

Immediately after washing his hands, he did exactly what he claimed he did not want to do.

He ordered Jesus to be scourged.

He handed Him over for crucifixion.

His actions contradicted his declaration.

A Great Irony

Pilate washed his own hands.

Jesus would soon wash away the sins of the elect.

Pilate sought symbolic cleansing through water.

Christ would provide true cleansing through His blood.

One attempted to escape responsibility.

The other willingly accepted responsibility for the sins of the elect.

THE CRUCIFIXION

8. Cross or Stake?

The verb σταυρόω (stauroō)

The related verb literally means:

"to fasten to a stake."

Originally it did not describe the shape of the instrument.

It simply described the act of impaling or fastening someone to a stake.

Strengths of the stake argument

- The earliest meaning of σταυρός is indeed "upright stake."
- ξύλον literally means wood or tree.
- Scripture never explicitly describes the instrument's shape.

9. Seven sayings from the Christ

1. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

What makes this remarkable?

Jesus had just been: scourged, mocked, beaten, crowned with thorns, nailed to the cross

Yet His first recorded words are not about His own suffering—they are a prayer for His enemies.

Notice He does not ask for justice—He asks for **forgiveness**.

2. "Today you will be with Me in Paradise."

The phrase is a Hebraism and can be interpreted two ways.

A. I say unto you, TODAY you will be with me in paradise.

B. I say unto you today, you WILL BE with me in paradise.
But not today.

Another Interesting observations

This man: performed no works, was never baptized, never joined a church, never took communion, never had time to change his life
His salvation rested entirely on Christ's grace.

A person can be regenerated on their "death bed"

3. "Woman, behold your son... Behold your mother."

Jesus never stopped being a Son

Although Jesus was accomplishing the greatest work—the redemption of mankind—He did not neglect His earthly responsibilities.

Even in His final hours, Jesus perfectly fulfilled that commandment.

"Honor thy father and thy mother." (Exodus 20:12)

Why did Jesus entrust Mary to John?

Jesus had several half-brothers: James, Joses (Joseph), Simon, Judas (See Matthew 13:55.)

Earlier in Jn 7:5 "For neither did His brethren believe in Him."

Perhaps John was the only one regenerated at the time.

4. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Is it possible that the first three sayings occurred before 12 noon?

Then there were 3 hours of darkness during which Christ was forsaken by the Father.

At the NINTH HOUR - Is this then the first words spoken from Christ at 3 pm before He dies?

Christ is quoting Ps 22. This is the ONLY time Christ called His Father God! Probably to be accurate in quoting the Hebrew of Ps 22.

He cries out with a loud voice, Eli, Eli (My God My God). The crowd Thought He was calling for Elijah (because the words sound similar).

This was the middle saying. Three more to follow. Thus emphasizing That this crucial point of quoting Ps 22 was being fulfilled. Perhaps the Darkest moment of His agony.

5. "I thirst." Irony of this desire for water.

Jesus turned water into wine (John 2). He offered the Samaritan woman **living water** (John 4),

He cried, "If anyone thirsts, let him come unto Me and drink." (John 7:37)

At the beginning of His ministry

Jesus says:

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me."

At the end of His ministry

Jesus Himself says:

"I thirst."

6. "It is finished."

Jesus did not simply say, "I am finished."

He said, "It is finished."

The emphasis is not on His life ending, but on **His mission being completed.**

The perfect tense - The grammar is extraordinary.

Tetelestai is in the perfect tense. The perfect tense describes:

A completed action with continuing results.

In other words,

"It has been completed, and it remains completed."

The work would never need to be repeated.

Christ bowed His head. Willingly. Normally the person dies first then the Head bows. This is indicative of Christ laying down His life.

7. "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."

Christ began these seven sayings by calling on His Father to forgive them.
He now calls of His Father to receive His Spirit.

He died before the soldiers expected

Normally, victims of crucifixion survived many hours sometimes days.
Yet Jesus dies after about six hours.

When Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body, Mark tells us:
Pilate was surprised that Jesus was already dead.

This emphasizes that Jesus did not die because Rome finally
conquered Him, He died when His work was complete.

The remarkable progression

SAYING

Father, forgive them

Today you will be with Me

Behold your mother

Why have You forsaken Me?

I thirst

It is finished

Into Your hands

THEME

Forgiveness

Salvation

Compassion

Atonement

Humanity/Prophecy

Redemption Accomplished

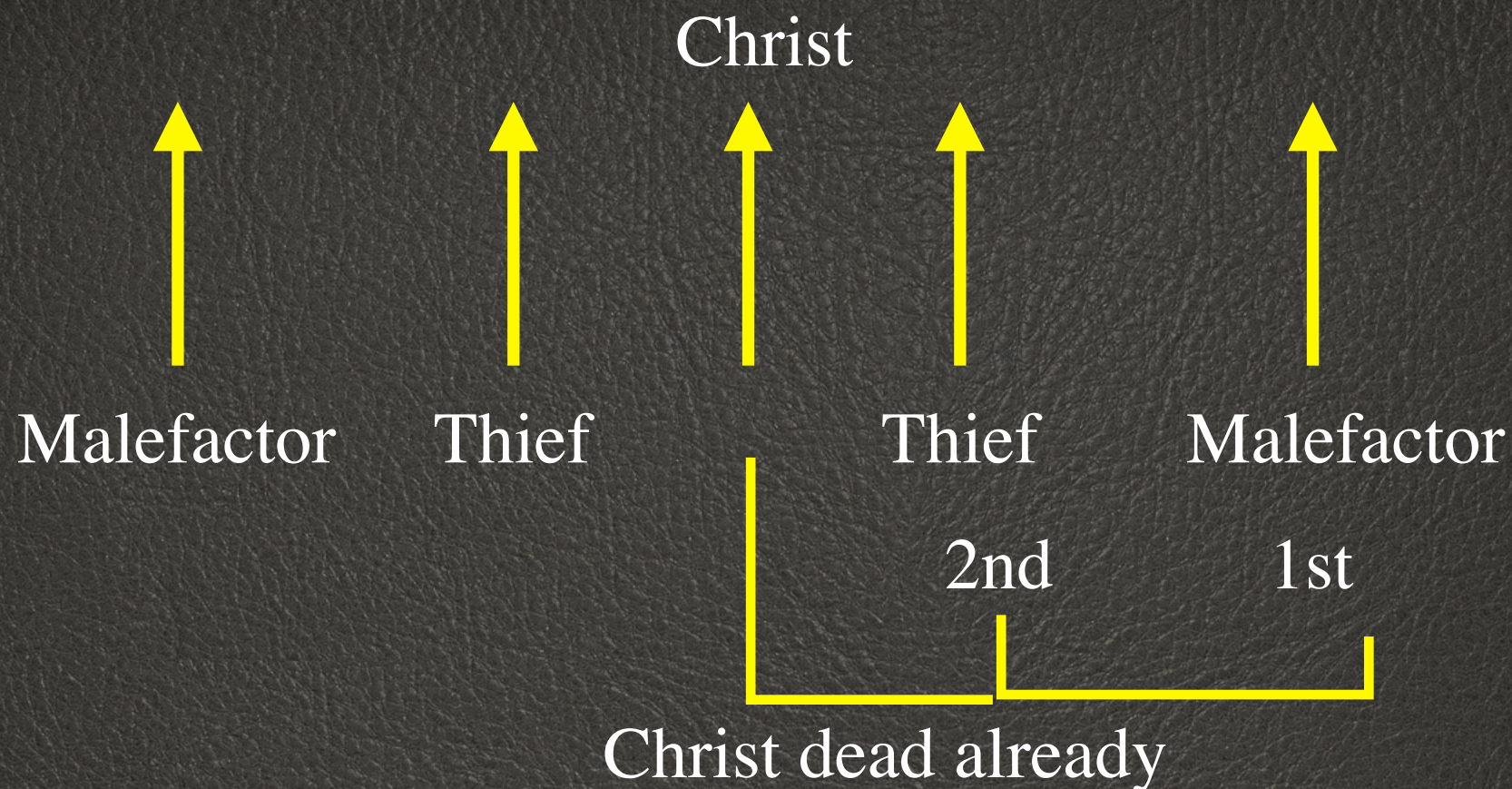
Victory

10. The Breaking of the Legs:

Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. ³² The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴ Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. ³⁵ The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. ³⁶ These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken,"^[c] ³⁷ and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."^[d]

The Breaking of the Legs:

Used to support the fact that there were 5 crucifixions.



John stress his eyewitness? This is unusual.

John almost interrupts the story. "He who saw it has testified."

The apostles proclaimed: Jesus really died, Jesus was buried, Jesus truly rose.

11. RENTING OF THE VEIL

COURT
(Outer Court)

HOLY PLACE

MOST HOLY PLACE
(HOLY OF HOLIES)



THE VEIL

Separated the Holy Place
from the Most Holy Place.
Only the High Priest entered
beyond it, once a year.

From the Top to the Bottom” The veil was about 60 feet high

Matthew and Mark specifically say:

"from the top to the bottom."

Why mention this?

Because it indicates the tear began where **no human could have reached.**

The emphasis is that **God** tore it.

Man did not open the way to God.

Why Did the Veil Exist?

The veil constantly reminded Israel that:

Sin separates mankind from God.

Even priests could not pass beyond it.

Only the high priest entered.

Only once each year.

Why Was It Torn?

1. Christ Completed the Final Sacrifice

Hebrews explains that Christ offered Himself once for all. Animal sacrifices could only cover sin temporarily. Jesus removed sin completely at His death.

Direct Access to God Was Opened

Hebrews 10:19–20 says:

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, **through the veil, that is to say, his flesh.**"

Notice the symbolism.

The veil represented Christ's flesh. When His body was broken, the veil was torn.

An Interesting Parallel

The first time God placed a barrier between Himself and humanity was after Adam and Eve sinned.

Genesis 3 records that cherubim guarded the way back to the tree of life.

The veil in the Tabernacle and Temple was embroidered with **cherubim** (Exodus 26:31), symbolizing that same restricted access to God's presence because of sin.

At Christ's death, the veil with its cherubim was torn open. The barrier introduced in Eden was, in principle, removed through the finished work of Christ.

What sin had closed, Christ reopened.

THE END