

The Passion of Christ



This book is dedicated to my father Joseph Omondi Muchura and all faithful Christians around the world.

This short book is meant to take Christian readers through the final moments of Jesus of Nazareth before he died, resurrected and ascended to heaven. It also highlights the coming down of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and the beginnings of the Apostolic Church that grew and differentiated into the many Christian Churches that we have today.

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1) Agony in the Garden



When Jesus realized that his hour of suffering was approaching, he picked his disciples and went to pray in **the garden of Gethsemane at Mount Olives**. He asked them to pray so that they may not fall into temptation. He moved aside from his disciples and went on his knees to pray saying:

“Father, if you are willing to take this cup of suffering from me, still, not my will but yours be done.”

An angel of God appeared next to him to strengthen him as he prayed. Sweat of blood began dripping from his body. He went back to his disciples and found them at sleep and awoke them to pray so that they are not fallen into temptation.

2) Betrayal, Arrest, Trial, Death and Resurrection of Jesus



Jesus is betrayed by Judas to the Jewish Temple Guards

At the garden, **Judas of Iscariot** arrived with a crowd and Jewish Temple Guards. He kissed Jesus to signal to the guards who they should arrest. One of the disciples struck a guard with a sword on his ear but Jesus healed him.

They arrested Jesus though and took him to the courtyard of the High Priest. Peter, one of the disciples followed them and sat with them. It is here that one of the women from the crowd that arrested Jesus, recognized Peter and she pointed him as one of Christ's followers. It is here that **Peter denied Jesus three times** and a cock in the courtyard crowed, as Jesus had foretold before him previously. The guards at the yard mocked, blindfolded and beat Jesus.

Jesus was brought before the **Sanhedrin** (judges of the Jewish Church of the time), who questioned him on his status as the proclaimed **Messiah**, **Son of God** and **King of the Jews**. The court accused him of blasphemy, an act of challenging God's authority and power.



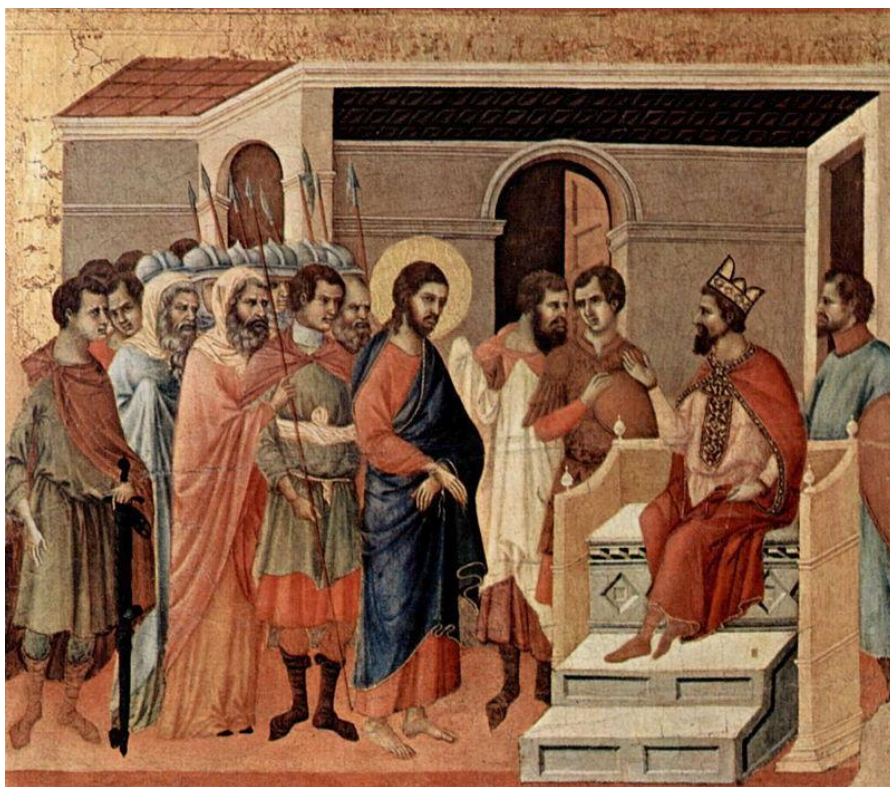
Jesus is brought before the Jewish Council, standing before Annas the High-Priest about to be struck

The whole Jewish council brought him before **Pontius Pilate** (Roman governor in Jerusalem) on these charges. Pilate threw the same questions to Jesus as the Jewish council and Jesus replied with the same answers. Pilate found him not guilty and questioned if he was from Galilee so that he is taken to **King Herod** (King of the Jews).



Jesus standing before Pontius Pilate for the first time, standing on the far right

Jesus was then taken to Herod on Pilate learning that he was from Galilee. Herod questioned Christ to a length before having his guards beat him and dress him in a purple cloth. Herod then sent him back to Pilate.



Jesus is brought before King Herod for trial . Herod mocked Jesus and had his soldiers beat him.

Pilate then gathered a crowd before his court for a public trial of Jesus. He said to the crowd that Jesus was not guilty and was acquitted of his charges, but would be chastised and freed.



Jesus is brought before Pontius Pilate for the second time and is put on public trial. The Jewish people he taught and helped took him to the cross in place of a monstrous criminal that was jailed for murder and rebellion.

He realized that the Jews were about to celebrate the **Passover** and as customary to the Jews one prisoner was to be freed. He therefore brought upon **Barabbas** from the dungeons, who was locked in on charges of murder and insurrection.

Pilate then asked who should be set free for the Passover and the crowd demanded the release of Barabbas and Jesus put to death. The crowd insisted on the crucifixion of Jesus and Pilate decided to have him flogged and released.

The crowd persisted and Pilate gave in to their demands releasing Jesus to the crowd to be put to death and freed Barabbas. Pilate took a jar of water and washed his hands off the case and departed. This shows Pilate's lack of a strong stand in defending Jesus from his enemies in the trial.

The Roman soldiers took Jesus, whipped him, put a crown of thorns on his head mocking him as the King of the Jews, and finally giving him a heavy wooden cross to carry to Calvary.

Jesus fell three times on his way to Calvary and was assisted by **Simon of Cyrene** when the cross was too heavy to bare.

At Calvary, he was crucified with two criminals beside him, where he eventually gave up his spirit and died at three o'clock in the afternoon.



Jesus is crucified and dies on the cross at three o'clock in the afternoon

His body was removed from the cross at the request of **Joseph of Arimathea** to Pontius Pilate. Joseph took his body and oversaw his burial in a stone tomb where the body rested for three days, after this, by God's intervention, Jesus was risen from the dead. This was realized when women who had prepared ointments and perfumes for preserving the body saw two angels by the tomb who informed them on the resurrection of Jesus. The women ran back to the disciples and told them the

good news. Peter one of them got up and ran to the tomb to confirm this but found only his linen left behind.

Two of Christ's disciples were on their way to a place called **Emmaus**, outside of Jerusalem, when Christ appeared to them, though they did not realize. He conversed with them as they told him the story of Jesus of Nazareth who was put to death but now has arisen.

Jesus Christ then taught them about these happenings as foretold by the prophetic scriptures beginning with Moses'.

The two disciples invited him over for an evening meal, where he took bread, blessed it and broke it, giving it to them, and immediately, the two realized that the stranger they had met was the risen Christ. Christ then vanished from their sight in the room. The two went back to gather with the rest of the disciples in Jerusalem, where they learn that he had also appeared to Simon.



The disciples learn of the identity of the stranger they met as the risen Christ during a meal at Emmaus

Christ finally appears to his disciples gathered in Jerusalem, where they are filled with fear for seeing a ghost. He showed them his hands and feet to show that he was Jesus of Nazareth who had been nailed on the cross. They were amazed and filled with joy.

He felt hunger and asked them for something to eat and they gave him baked fish and he ate before them.

Christ then told them about the Prophetic teachings in the scriptures of the Old Testament and that all that happened about his life and suffering had to be fulfilled as the prophets foretold.

The physical manifestation of Christ to his disciples after resurrection became known as the **Theophany of Christ**.

3) The Ascension of Christ to heaven, The Promise of the Arrival of the Holy Spirit



Jesus ascends to heaven at Bethany as his followers watch

Christ promised his followers a spiritual guide in the name of the Holy Spirit, who would come to them when they remain in Jerusalem. He then led them to as far as a place called **Bethany**, raised his hands and blessed them. He left them and was taken up to heaven, where today Christians believe he sits on the right-hand side of **God the Father**, one day to return to judge the living and the dead and to carry all his followers to heaven, both the living and those who will be arisen from the dead.

And just to bring some clarification on the terminologies used such as **Jesus of Nazareth** and **Jesus Christ**, the former is used to refer to Jesus from the time he was born, living among the people teaching, preaching and performing miracles, to the time he dies on the cross. **Jesus Christ** is used to refer to Jesus after his resurrection, commonly used as **Christ the risen Lord**. The term **Christ** therefore refers to Jesus in the new form, even more powerful with abilities to appear and disappear in and out of sight to his followers anywhere.

4) The Coming of the Holy Spirit

When the disciples gathered in a house in Jerusalem, on one day, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven and came like a loud roaring wind in the skies, filling the whole house.

The spirit settled on them as tongues of fire floating above their heads and they all began to speak in different languages. This was with the help of the Holy Spirit that filled them, in preparation for the journey to teach, preach and write down the word of God in many different languages across the world.

This day that marked the first arrival of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, became known as the **Day of Pentecost**. On this day, the followers of Jesus became the **Apostles of Christ**, a special term used on them after the day of Pentecost, losing the title **Disciples of Jesus**, used before this day.

5) The First Christian Church - The Early Church

When the Apostles of Christ gathered in a place called **Antioch**, they formed the first Christian Church with **Saint Peter** as the Head. This is what is referred to as the **Apostolic Church**.

Roman Catholics around the world believe that this Church in Antioch became the early beginnings of the **Roman Catholic Church** and that Saint Peter became **the First Pope of the Roman Catholic Church**.

Attributions

I hereby give my attributions to these writings to **Saint Luke** and his **Gospel in the Christian Bible** and to authors of the **Acts of the Apostles of the Christian Bible** in obtaining background information for the authorship of this book.

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