

Appendix

A Tentative Reconstruction and Translation of the Content (not necessarily the wording) of the Pre-Markan Passion Narrative

They went to a place named Gethsemane, and Jesus began to be distressed and anxious, and he said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful to the point of death; stay here and keep awake." He went a little farther on, fell upon the ground, began to pray, and said, "Abba, father, all things are possible for you; remove this cup from me; but (let) not what I want (be), but what you want." And he went and found them sleeping and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep awake for one hour? Wake up, let us go. See, the one who hands me over has drawn near."

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a crowd with swords and clubs, sent by the chief priests. Now the one who was about to hand him over had given them a signal, saying, "The one whom I kiss is he; arrest him and take him securely into custody." And when he arrived, he immediately went to Jesus and said, "Rabbi," and kissed him. The others laid hands on him and arrested him. And all (the disciples) left him and fled.

And they led Jesus away to the high priest. Early in the morning, the chief priests took counsel, bound Jesus, brought him, and handed him over to Pilate. And Pilate asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" He then said to him, "You say (so)." And the chief priests accused him of many things. Pilate asked him again, saying, "Have you no response? Look how many accusations they make against you." But Jesus no longer made any response, so that Pilate marveled. He had Jesus whipped and handed him over to be crucified.

The soldiers led him into the courtyard and called together the whole cohort. And they dressed him in a purple cloak, wove an acanthus crown and put it on him. And they began to greet him, "Welcome, king of the Jews!" And they hit him on the head with a reed and spat on him and, kneeling, showed him reverence. And when they had mocked him, they took the purple cloak off of him and put his (own) clothes on him.

And they led him out to crucify him. And they forced a certain passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. And they brought him to the place Golgotha, that is, translated, the place that is called Skull. And they tried to give him wine flavored with myrrh, but he did not take it. And they crucified him and divided his clothes, casting lots for them (to determine) who would take what. Now it was the third hour when they crucified him. And the inscription of the charge against him was posted: the king of the Jews. And those who passed by reviled him, shaking their heads and saying, "He saved others, himself he cannot save; let the messiah, the king of Israel, come down now from the cross, in order that we may see and believe."

And at the sixth hour, darkness came upon the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice and expired. And the curtain of the sanctuary was split in two from top to bottom.