

Lesson XI.

THE CRUCIFIXION

December 11, 1910

LESSON SETTING—Jesus underwent two trials,—one before the Jewish, and the other before the Roman authorities. In each trial there were three stages. The Jewish trial included the appearance of our Lord: (1) before Annas (John 18: 12-14); (2) before Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin at night (ch. 26: 57-68, Lesson IX., Nov. 27); and (3) a second appearance in the morning (vs. 1, 2) before the same body. In the Roman trial, Jesus appeared: (1) before Pilate, the Roman governor (vs. 11-14); (2) before Herod, to whom Pilate sent Him (Luke 23: 6-12); (3) again before Pilate (vs. 15-30 of to-day's Lesson).

GOLDEN TEXT—He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.—Isaiah 53: 5. Memorize vs. 41, 42. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Matthew 27: 33-50. Study Matthew 27: 15-50.

33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, ¹a place of a skull,

34 They gave him ²vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted ³thereof, he would not drink.

35 And ⁴they crucified him, and parted his garments ⁵, casting lots: ⁶that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

36 ⁷And sitting down they watched him there; 37 And ⁸set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

38 Then ⁹were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and ¹⁰another on the left. 39 And they that passed by ¹¹reviled him, wagging their heads.

40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou ¹²be the Son of God, come down from the cross.

41 ¹³Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said,

Revised Version—¹The; ²wine; ³it; ⁴when they had crucified him, they parted; ⁵among them; ⁶Omit rest of verse; ⁷And they sat and watched; ⁸they; ⁹are there crucified with him two robbers; ¹⁰one on; ¹¹railed on him; ¹²art; ¹³In like manner; ¹⁴He is; ¹⁵on; ¹⁶trusteth on; ¹⁷desireth him; ¹⁸And the robbers also that were; ¹⁹upon him the same reproach; ²⁰until; ²¹Omit to say; ²²And; ²³Elijah; ²⁴sponge; ²⁵cometh; ²⁶And Jesus cried; ²⁷his spirit.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—The crucifixion, Matt. 27: 15-32. T.—The crucifixion, Matt. 27: 33-50. W.—Herod's mockery, Luke 23: 4-18. Th.—Pilate's question, John 18: 28-40. F.—The malefactors, Luke 23: 32-47. S.—The burial, Matt. 27: 57-66. S.—"For us", Isa. 53.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Jesus' return from Herod to Pilate (see Between the Lessons) was followed by Pilate's declaration of Jesus' innocence (John 18: 38-40); Pilate's offer to release Jesus, according to the custom of the Passover feast; the warning sent to the governor by his wife; the demand of the people that Barabbas should be released and Jesus crucified; the governor's yielding to his demand and delivering Jesus to the soldiers; the scourging and the mocking; and the leading away of Jesus to be crucified. Vs. 15-32.

I. THE CRUCIFIXION.—33-36. When they were come; that is, the procession in which Jesus was led to be crucified. Unto.. Golgotha, etc. See Geography Lesson. Vinegar; a mixture of sour wine and water, the drink of the Roman soldiers. Mingled with gall; a drug to deaden pain. Would not drink; wishing to keep His mind clear to the last. Crucified him; nailing Him, through hands and feet, to the cross. It was at this time Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of His enemies, Luke 23: 34. Parted his garments; divided His clothing. According to custom, the clothes of the crucified belonged to the soldiers who carried out the sentence. Casting lots; throwing dice to settle what each should have. (Compare John 19: 23, 24.) Spoken by the prophet; in Ps. 22: 8. Watched him there; to prevent any attempt at rescue.

37, 38. Over his head; on a board fastened to the upright beam of the cross. His accusation; a description of His offence. THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin, the three chief languages of the world at that time. Though it was written in mockery, it declared that Jesus was the

42 He saved others; himself he cannot save ¹⁴If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe ¹⁵him.

43 He ¹⁶trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he ¹⁷will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

44 ¹⁸The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast ¹⁹the same in his teeth.

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land ²⁰unto the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, E'li, E'li, la'ma sabach'thani? that is ²¹to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

47 ²²Some of them that stood there, when they heard ²³that, said, This man calleth ²⁴for Eli'as.

48 And straightway one of them ran, and took a ²⁵sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

49 ²⁶The rest said, Let be, let us see whether ²⁷Eli'as ²⁸will come to save him.

50 ²⁹Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, ³⁰yielded up ³¹the ghost.



CAPER PLANT: Perhaps the "reed" of v. 48

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