

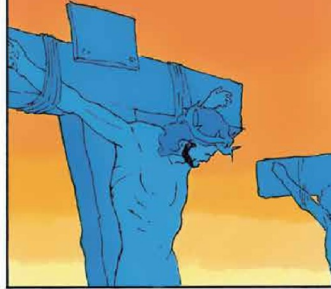
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

READ FOR YOURSELF: Luke 23:32-46, Matthew 27:46-50, John 19:25-30

An inscription is placed on the cross in three languages. It says: "Jesus, king of the Jews"...



Jesus refuses a painkilling drink...

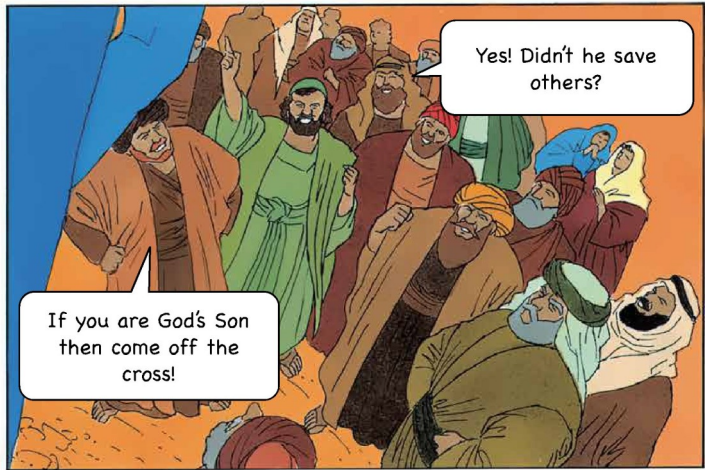


The soldiers gamble for his clothes...



Yes! Didn't he save others?

If you are God's Son then come off the cross!



Save yourself and us!

Show some respect for God. We've got what we deserve, but this man hasn't done anything wrong.



Remember me when you enter your kingdom!

I assure you, you'll be with me in paradise today.



Around noon there is a total darkness. It takes three hours...

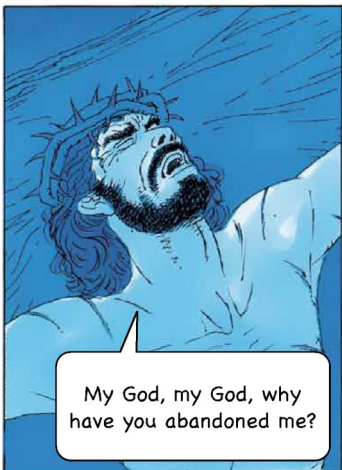


Mary, the mother of Jesus, and John, his disciple, are looking on...

Now you are mother and son.



My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?



I'm...thirsty.



Father, I place my Spirit into your hands.



It is ...finished.



JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

The Lord Jesus is hanging on the cross. How can He find support for His tortured body? When His arms hold Him up, the wounds in His hands tear open. But when He shifts His body weight down, it presses on His feet that have been nailed. He moves up and down and the pain shoots through His limbs.

Jesus is exhausted. It was a night full of hardships, without sleep, food or anything to drink. The skin of his back was beaten into shreds. His back muscles have been affected by the beating. With every movement He feels the bleedings. His head hurts, because of the sharp pain that is caused by the thorns.

The exhaustion causes waves of cramps. His breast muscles become paralysed and His heart is being pressed together. He has to push Himself upwards in order to be able to gasp for some air. He is losing blood and moisture and in His feverish body He feels the chill of death approaching.

The Son of God hangs on the cross between Heaven and earth. He is hanging there because that is what He wanted. He does that for you and me. He trades places with us. He carries the sin and sickness of all people, so that we can receive His goodness and dignity. The Lord Jesus hangs on the cross for six hours. Then He bows his head in peace and gives up His spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

"But God has shown us how much He loves us - it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" (Romans 5:8)

WHO IS JESUS?

The Crucified

"He is not here; He has been raised, just as He said. Come here and see the place where He was lying." (Matthew 28:6)

The people make a caricature of who Jesus really is.

- In the Jewish court He is mocked as prophet.
- In the Roman palace He is mocked as king.
- On the hill of Golgotha, He is mocked as priest.

But as the crucified one, He shows that He is truly prophet, truly king and truly priest. He is all of it, because on the cross He is exactly the one that God promised. Nobody understands any of it as He hangs there. But later, when He has risen from the dead, the people will understand why He had to die.

NEVER FORGET WHAT JESUS HAS ACCOMPLISHED

Jesus gave His life for you on the cross. He carried your guilt, your shame, your judgement. Do you want to receive His gift? Everyone who meets the Lord Jesus has to answer that question. How do you receive His gift?

By Believing in Him. By thanking Him for taking your sin upon Him. That He gives you life, full of divine strength and love.

TIP

Never forget what Jesus did.

Why He died for you on the cross.

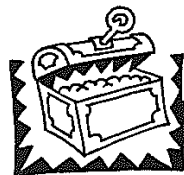
“That His blood has cleansed you from all sin”. And that His death has given you eternal life. You can never thank Him enough for that!

OLD TREASURES

“My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?”

I have cried desperately for help, but still it does not come.”

(Psalms 22:1)



The Psalms are sometimes called the prayers of Jesus. Psalm 22, very accurately expresses the suffering of the Messiah. It is an impressive prophecy, in which many details about the crucifix of the Lord Jesus are predicted. Halfway Psalm 22 the tone changes. It tells the victory that God gives. That all generations need to hear!

“Future generations will serve Him; they will speak of the Lord to the coming generation.

People not yet born will be told:

“The Lord saved his people.” (Psalm 22:30-31).

EXTRA INFORMATION



The Crucifixion

Crucifixion is the Roman punishment for slaves, criminals and agitators. The cross is made up of three parts: the horizontal pole (in Latin it is called the ‘stipes’), the cross-beam (the ‘patibulum’) and the board (the ‘titulus’). The board describes the crime. It is worn around the neck of the criminal and sometimes it is nailed to the top of the cross.

The horizontal pole is anchored in the ground where the punishment is being carried out. The cross-beam (that weighs about 30-50 kilos) has to be carried there by the criminal. His hands (or wrists) are fastened to it with nails or rope. In this way his body, on the cross-beam, is raised up to the pole. Finally the feet of the criminal are nailed to the pole.

On the board above Jesus’ head Pilate wrote:

“Jesus of Nazareth, king of the Jews”

The Jews become very upset when they read that.

In Hebrew it was written like this:

“Jeshua Hanazarei Wamalekh Hayhudim”

The first letters on the board in the Hebrew language form the name of God: JHWH.

That’s how Jews write the name of God in Hebrew.

By writing these words on the board the name of God is now above Jesus head!



DO YOU KNOW...?

1. Count in the picture story, how many times Jesus says something as He hangs on the cross. (tip: The first sentence can be found in the previous chapter.)

2. What is written on the board that is nailed to the cross above Jesus' head?

3. There are several women by the cross. Name one of them.

4. Which disciple is standing near the cross?

5. Does Jesus really want to die?

- a) No, because crucifixion is a great humiliation
- b) No, because He is the Son of God who is not allowed to die.
- c) Yes, because by doing so He fulfils Gods plan for the world.

6. Jesus always calls God, Father, when He prays. But one time in the whole Bible He calls Him God, at the cross. What does He say to God then?

7. Write out the last sentence that Jesus says before He dies:

BIBLE READING

Sun	Luke 23:32-46
Mon	Matthew 27:46-50
Tue	John 19:25-30
Wed	Psalms 22:1-22
Thu	Psalms 69:1-22
Fri	John 3:13-18
Sat	Romans 5:7-11



ACTION POINT!

Jesus said:

"It is finished!"

He has made everything good again between God and you.

Think of these words especially when things go worse. Don't be afraid.

Jesus went through them all. It is finished!