

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

AN INTERPRETATION by JONATHAN CLARKE 1999

As the pamphlet available by the stations

1. JESUS IS CONDEMNED

Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified. Then the soldiers led him into the courtyard of the palace (that is, the Governor's headquarters, called Praetorium in Greek), and they called together the whole cohort. And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him.

Mark 15: 15-17

2. JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

So they took Jesus; and carrying the cross by himself, he went out to what is called The Place of the Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.

John 19: 16b-17

3. JESUS FALLS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

Isaiah 53: 4

4. JESUS MEETS MARY HIS MOTHER

Simeon said to Mary - "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and a sword will pierce your own soul too,"

Luke 2: 34b-35

5. SIMON OF GYRENE HELPS TO CARRY THE CROSS

As they led him away, they seized a man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and they laid the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus.

Luke 23: 26

6. COMPASSION OF VERONICA

He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

Isaiah 53: 2-3

7. JESUS FALLS FOR THE SECOND TIME

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2: 24

8. JESUS SPEAKS TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM

A number of people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on

us"; and to the hilts, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green what will happen when it is dry?"

Luke 23: 27-31

9. JESUS FALLS FOR THE THIRD TIME

We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, who is without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4: 15-16

10. JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier. They also took his tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it." This was to fulfil what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots."

John 19: 23-24

11. JESUS IS CRUCIFIED

Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross."

Matthew 27: 39-40

12. JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

Then Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple <jjas torn in two, from top to bottom. Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

Mark 15: 37-39

13. JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS

After these things, Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, though a secret one because of his fear of the Jews, asked Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus. Pilate gave him permission; so he came and removed his body. Nicodemus, who had at first come to Jesus by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen clothes, according to the custom of the Jews.

John 19: 38-42

14. THE BODY IS LAID IN THE TOMB

So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then wiled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting opposite the tomb.

Matthew 27: 59-61