

# English Language resources: Homework activities – Mark 15: 15-39

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### **Questions on Biblical texts: Mark 15:15-39**

The following text is from the Gospel of Mark chapter 15 in the *King James Bible*. The *King James Bible (KJB)* was first translated in 1611 and was revised in 1769. This is the version in general use today.

This is the story of the Crucifixion.

- A. Using dictionaries, research the meaning of the following archaic / unfamiliar terms:
- A. scourged
  - B. smote
  - C. superscription
  - D. railed
  - E. rent in twain
- B. Identify the following archaic grammatical forms in the text and rewrite them in modern standard English:
- 1. Unusual verb tenses
  - 2. The dummy auxiliary 'do'
  - 3. Archaic inflections
  - 4. Unusual word order
- C. Identify words that come into the lexical field of physical torture or punishment. How are they expressed? What effect do they have on the text?
- D. Refer to the methods for analysis template. What can you say about the ideology of this text?

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- <sup>15</sup> And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.
- <sup>16</sup> And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band.
- <sup>17</sup> And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head,
- <sup>18</sup> And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews!
- <sup>19</sup> And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.
- <sup>20</sup> And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.
- <sup>21</sup> And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.
- <sup>22</sup> And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.
- <sup>23</sup> And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.
- <sup>24</sup> And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.
- <sup>25</sup> And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.
- <sup>26</sup> And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.
- <sup>27</sup> And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.
- <sup>28</sup> And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.
- <sup>29</sup> And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,
- <sup>30</sup> Save thyself, and come down from the cross.
- <sup>31</sup> Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.
- <sup>32</sup> Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him.
- <sup>33</sup> And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.
- <sup>34</sup> And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
- <sup>35</sup> And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias.
- <sup>36</sup> And one ran and filled a sponge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying, Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.
- <sup>37</sup> And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.
- <sup>38</sup> And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.
- <sup>39</sup> And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God.