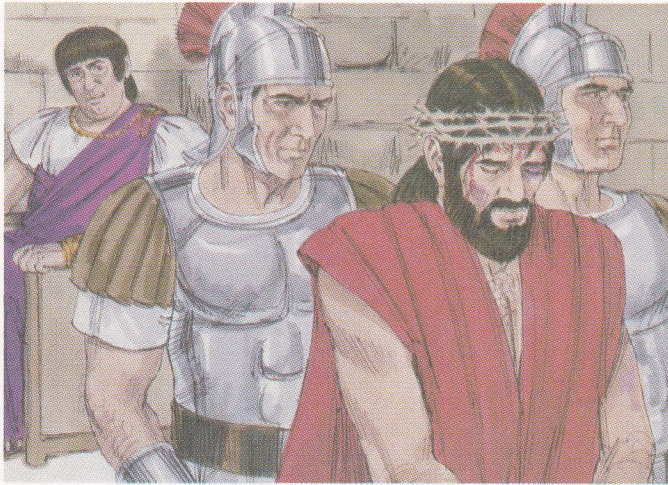


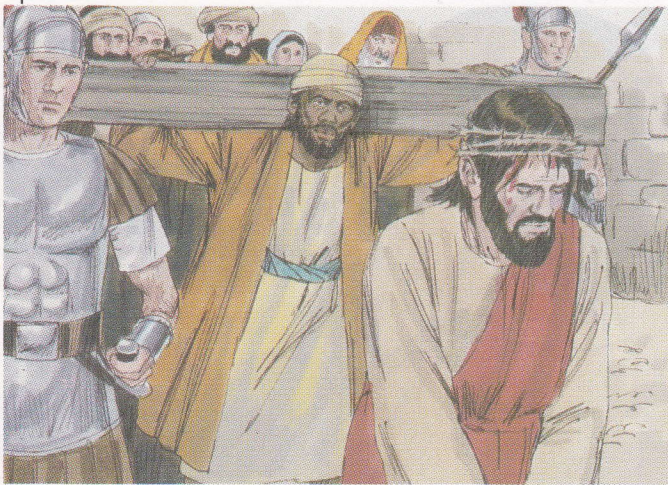
The Crucifixion of Jesus



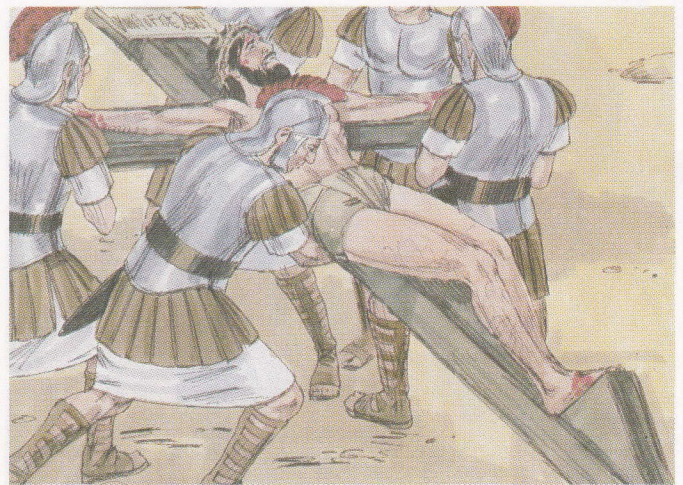
1 So Pilate agreed to crucify Jesus. The soldiers led him back into the palace and mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews." They struck him on the head and spat on him.



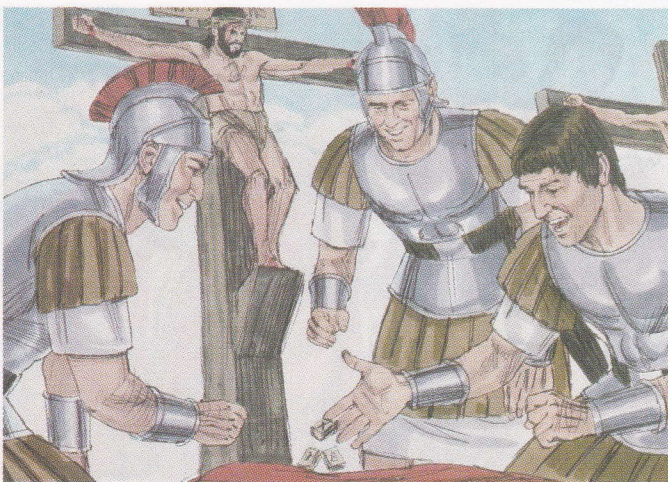
2 Finally, they took off the purple cloak and put Jesus' own clothes back on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.



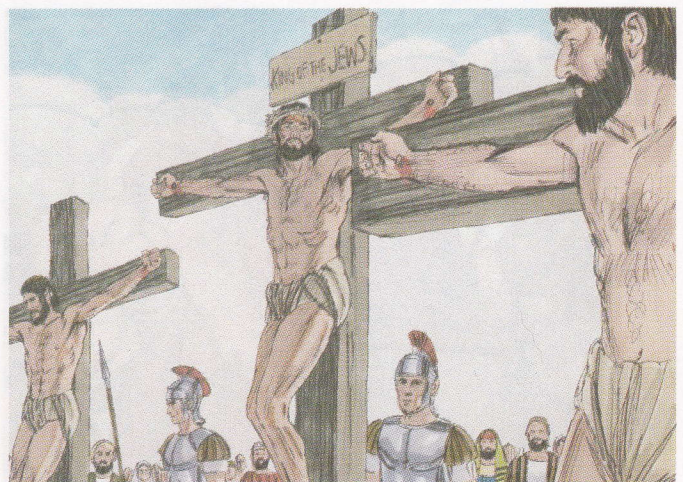
3 A man named Simon, who was from Cyrene, happened to be passing by at that time. The soldiers made Simon carry Jesus' cross.



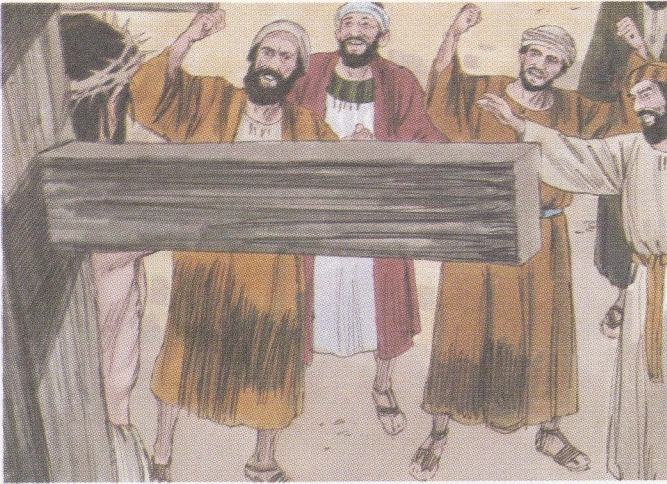
4 They brought him to the place called the Skull (Golgotha). There they nailed Jesus to the cross and raised it up. It was about nine o'clock in the morning.



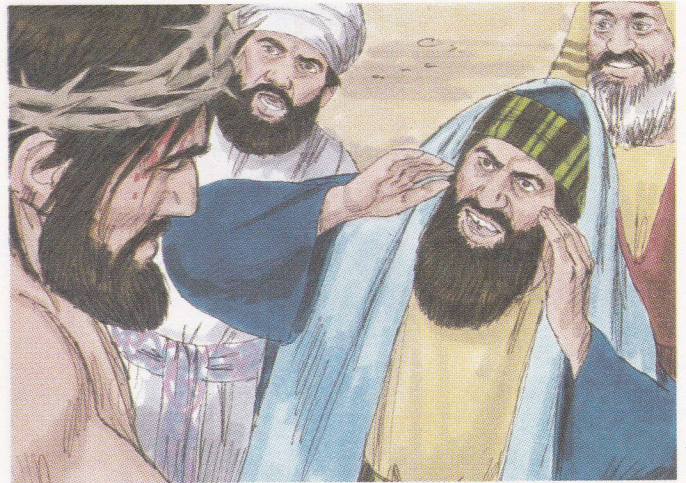
5 The soldiers gambled to see who would get his clothes.



6 On Jesus' cross was a sign giving the charge for which he was crucified: "The King of the Jews." Two robbers were crucified beside him, one on the right and one on the left.



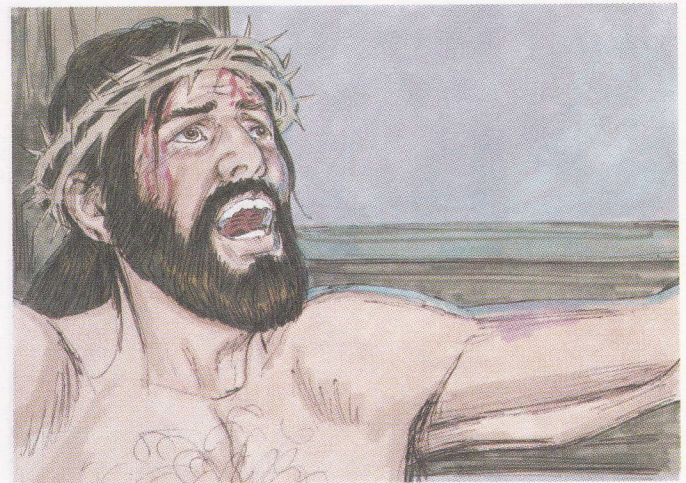
7 The people who passed by made fun of Jesus. They said, "You claimed you would destroy the temple and build it in three days! Save yourself and come down from there!"



8 The chief priests and scribes also mocked him. They said, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! Let the King of Israel come down from the cross so we can believe in him!"



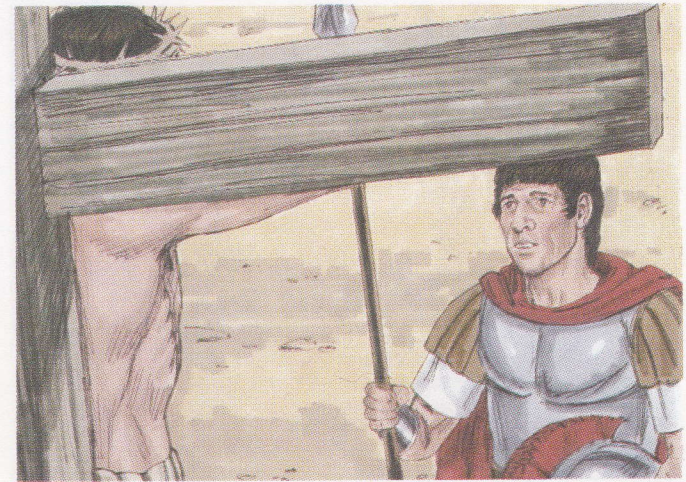
9 At about twelve o'clock, darkness came over the whole land. It lasted for three hours.



10 Then at about three o'clock, Jesus cried with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Not long after that, Jesus gave a loud cry and died.



11 Standing far away and watching were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joseph, Salome, and many other women who had come with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem.



12 When the centurion who stood facing Jesus saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"