

The Arrest (John 18:1-11)

V3 Detachment of Troops	Around 200 Soldiers to quell an eventual uprising
V5 Shirking back	Sign of authority by Jesus. Unexpected assertion of who he is
V10 Peter's sword	The recent lectures by Jesus did not reach his brain yet (Lk 22:51 reports Jesus healing the cut off ear)

Interrogation + Trial (John 18:12-19:16)

V13 Annas	Was High-Priest earlier and an authority figure among the Jews
V15 "another disciple"	Usually assumed to be identical with "beloved disciple" and other references to an anonymous person. Chapter 21 identifies that person with John the disciple. John had connections!
V17 Denial #1	Jesus prophecy becomes true (John 13:37+38)
V19-21 Interrogation	According to Jewish Customs the accused is not to be interrogated but witnesses are to testify against the accused. V21 needs to be understood as a demand for a regular trial. Annas is not the current high-priest.
V25 Denial #2	In sharp contrast to the bold statement of Jesus, Peter is trying to avoid the truth.
V27 Denial #3	More details on Peter's denial are found in Luke 22
V28 Sanhedrin skipped over by John	Details about the Sanhedrin (the official representative of the Jewish People) proceedings in Matthew 26:57-68.
V28 "did not go in"	Jewish leaders afraid of getting ritually unclean by contact with gentiles. They would not have been able to take part in the pasha feast had they entered the house. Pilate forced to move back and forth between Jesus and the leaders.
V30 Accusers have no accusation.	Seems that they expected Pilate to just proceed without a formal accusation. Pilate reopens the case and wants to know what is going on.
V31 Pilate trying to get rid of the case	Refuses to handle the issue since he considers it a matter of Jewish law and the leaders are not able to bring a accusation valid in Roman law. Jews have to humbly remind him that they have no powers for capital punishment and Pilate reluctantly begins to investigate.
V33-V38 Pilate verdict of innocence	Pilate investigates Jesus' claims and finds no legal reason for proceedings against him.
V39-V40	Pilate plays politics and tries to exchange Jesus for Barabbas so that he does not have to free a violent revolutionary like Barabbas on the Passover feast (which might already have been negotiated).
19:1-4 Ecce homo	Pilate shows a scourged Jesus in order to motivate the crowd to have pity with him.
V8 Fear in Pilate	Pilate was afraid because they referred to him as a son of God. In pagan religions of the period doing violence to a divine son was known to have severe consequences.
V9 Pilate' second Interview	Tries to figure out who exactly Jesus is. Jesus refuses to accept his power over him.
V12 Pilate trying to release Jesus	At this point Pilate was surely very impressed by Jesus and wanted to get rid of him. Jews threaten to bring news of him releasing a rebel to the paranoid Tiberius. "Friend of Caesar" is a honor bestowed by Caesar. Pilate got that title through a friend in Rome called Sejanus. Sejanus had just been eliminated.
V14 Last attempt	Pilate again tries to appeal to the people.
V15 Jews assert Caesar's authority	The interesting thing here is that the Jews here although usually very much opposed to Roman rule here assert their allegiance with the Empire. Some see this incident as a point at which the people of Israel have formally given up their allegiance with God.

The Death of Jesus (John 19:17-)

V17 Bearing the Cross	Only the crossbar was carried, not the whole cross. The vertical bar was customarily already in place. Golgatha = Place of the Skull = Calvary (from the Latin word)
V19-V22 Writing on the Cross	This time Pilate does not react to the Jewish leaders. Usually the plate contained the written reason for the crucifixion.
V25-V27 Testament	A dying man on the cross had the power to regulate things after his death. Jesus is taking care of his mother (who presumably is widowed at this point).
V38-V42 Burial	Criminals were not allowed to be buried in family tombs. A new tomb was necessary. It was not customary to release the bodies of criminals. The Romans usually preferred vultures consuming the bodies. Pilate releasing the body to a Jewish leader is a very big favor.