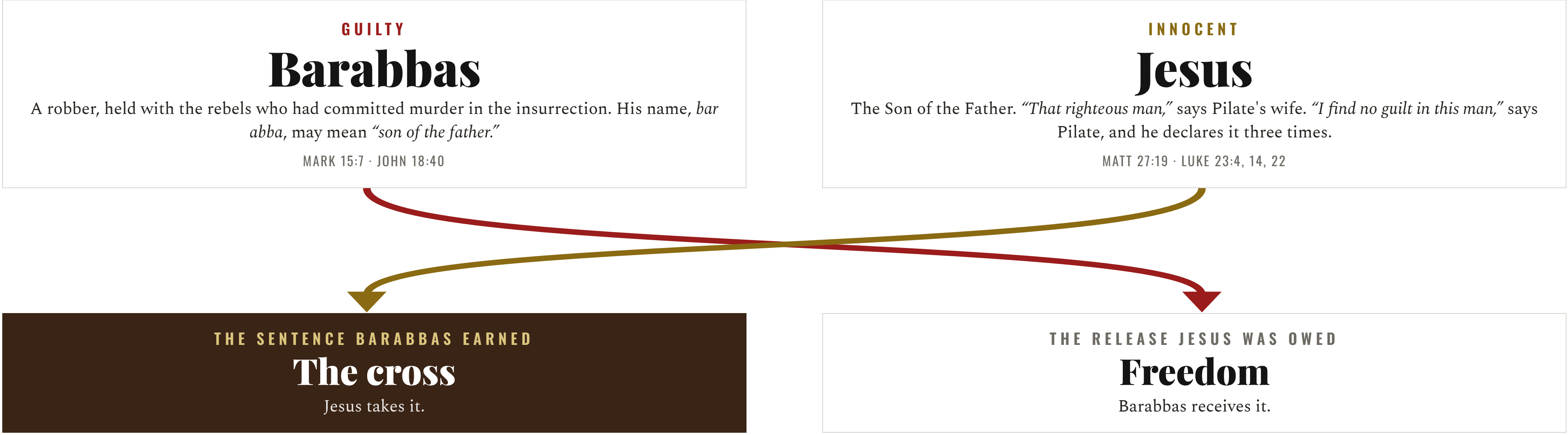


Four Gospels, one exchange

WE ARE ALL BARABBAS.

At the Passover the crowd asked for a prisoner, and Pilate gave them the one they chose. Jesus took the sentence that man had earned. *Barabbas alone could say it as plain fact: He died in my place.*

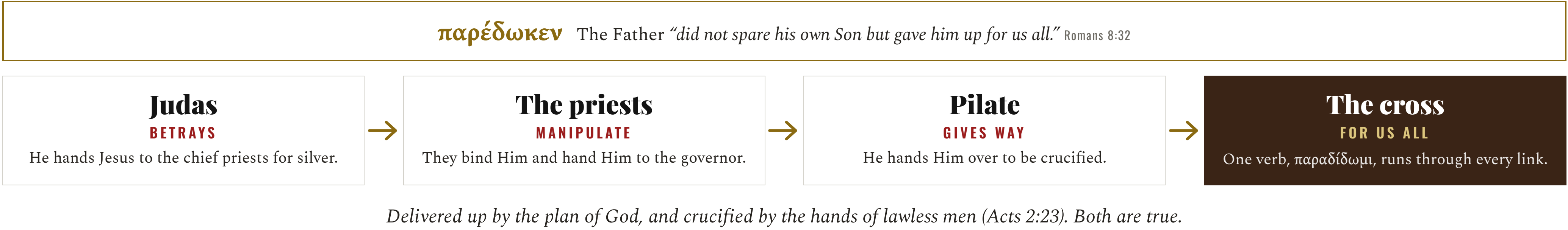


A guilty man went free. An innocent man died.

I FOUR WITNESSES, ONE EXCHANGE

	Mark 15:6–20	Matthew 27:15–31	Luke 23:13–25	John 18:39–19:16
PILATE	He sees that the priests act out of envy. He gives way all the same, “ <i>wishing to satisfy the crowd</i> .” 15:10, 15	His wife’s dream names Jesus “ <i>that righteous man</i> .” He washes his hands and says, “ <i>See to it yourselves</i> ,” the priests’ own words to Judas. 27:19, 24	A second and a third time he declares Jesus innocent, with Herod as his witness. Then he delivers Him “ <i>over to their will</i> .” 23:25	“ <i>If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend</i> .” The threat decides the case. 19:12
ONLY HERE	The baseline. The crowd asks for the cross by name: “ <i>Crucify him!</i> ” He will die under the curse of the tree (Deut 21:23; Gal 3:13).	The cry “ <i>His blood be on us</i> ” belongs to all humanity, Jew and Gentile alike. The same blood is “ <i>poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins</i> .” 27:25 · 26:28	The world’s own court certifies the Lamb without blemish (Exod 12:5). No disciple has to vouch for Him.	“ <i>Behold the man!</i> ” Then Pilate, afraid, asks, “ <i>Where are you from?</i> ” Jesus tells him his authority comes “ <i>from above</i> .” 19:5, 9, 11
PORTRAIT	The innocent substitute	The righteous one	Three times innocent	The Good Shepherd

II HANDED OVER



III WORDS FROM THE JUDGMENT SEAT

φθόνος
PHTHONOS · MARK 15:10
Envy. Pilate knows why the priests handed Jesus over, and he does not act on what he knows.

Ἰδοὺ ὁ ἄνθρωπος
IDOU HO ANTHRŌPOS · JOHN 19:5
Behold the man. Pilate means a beaten wretch. John’s readers see the second Adam, and soon hear, “*Behold your King!*” (19:14).

ληστής
LĒSTĒS · JOHN 18:40
A robber, the word Jesus used of those who climb into the sheepfold (John 10:1). The Good Shepherd dies in a robber’s place.

Πόθεν εἶ σύ;
POTHEN EI SY? · JOHN 19:9
Where are you from? Pilate asks the question of the whole Gospel without knowing it.

φραγελλώσας
PHRAGELLŌSAS · MARK 15:15
Having scourged. One word, borrowed from the Latin *flagellum*. The Evangelists state the fact and do not dwell on it.

ἄνωθεν
ANŌTHEN · JOHN 19:11
From above. Pilate’s authority is on loan from God for this hour, and his guilt remains his own.

THE FIRST ADAM · GENESIS 3:18

The curse grew thorns.

“*Thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you*.” They are the mark of the Fall on the ground Adam was given to tend.

THE SECOND ADAM · MARK 15:17

The King wore them.

The soldiers meant a joke about kingship. He took the curse of the first Adam onto His own head (Gal 3:13).

He “*purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death*.”

SMALL CATECHISM, SECOND ARTICLE · AUGSBURG CONFESSION III

Guilty, condemned and set free.