

# Mark 15:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

## Analysis

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**And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead**—Pilate's surprise is medically significant. Crucifixion victims typically survived 2-3 days before dying. Jesus died after only six hours (9 AM to 3 PM, Mark 15:25, 34). The Greek verb indicates genuine astonishment—Pilate found the rapid death unusual enough to verify. **Calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead**—Pilate summoned the execution supervising officer to confirm death. Roman centurions were experienced soldiers overseeing countless crucifixions—they knew death's signs. Pilate's verification ensured he was not releasing a living man, which would be politically catastrophic. This official confirmation also providentially authenticated Jesus's death against later theories that He merely swooned.

## Historical Context

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Roman crucifixion was scientifically brutal, designed to maximize suffering and prolong death. Victims hung by their arms, making breathing difficult. Eventually, exhaustion made breathing impossible, leading to asphyxiation. Breaking legs hastened death by preventing pushing up to breathe. That Jesus's legs were not broken fulfilled Psalm 34:20 and Exodus 12:46—Jesus, the ultimate Passover Lamb, fulfilled typology precisely. Pilate's official verification was providentially significant. Skeptics could not claim Jesus survived crucifixion; Romans expert in execution confirmed death. Multiple credible observers testified to Jesus's death.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does official Roman confirmation strengthen the historical reliability of the crucifixion account?
2. What does Jesus's relatively rapid death reveal about both the flogging's severity and His sovereign control?
3. How do medical details and scriptural fulfillments demonstrate divine orchestration?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁ	δὲ	Πιλάτος	ἐθαύμασεν	εἰ	ἤδη	τέθνηκεν	καὶ
G3588	<b>And</b>	<b>Pilate</b>	<b>marvelled</b>	<b>if</b>	<b>already</b>	<b>dead</b>	<b>and</b>
	G1161	G4091	G2296	G1487	G2235	G2348	G2532
προσκαλεσάμενος	τὸν	κεντυρίωνα	ἐπηρώτησεν	αὐτὸν			
<b>calling</b>		<b>unto him the centurion</b>	<b>he asked</b>	<b>him</b>			
G4341	G3588	G2760	G1905	G846			
εἰ	πάλαί	ἀπέθανεν·					
<b>if</b>	<b>any while</b>	<b>dead</b>					
G1487	G3819	G599					

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