

**EVANGELICAL BIBLE COLLEGE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



**GOSPEL OF MARK.  
VOLUME 4.**

**[CHAPTERS 13-16]**

by

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**[BOOK 71A-4]**

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**WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?**

Professor Simon Greenleaf was one of the most eminent lawyers of all time. His "Laws of Evidence" for many years were accepted by all States in the United States as the standard methodology for evaluating cases. He was teaching law at a university in the United States when one of his students asked Professor Greenleaf if he would apply his "Laws of Evidence" to evaluate an historical figure. When Greenleaf agreed to the project he asked the student who was to be the subject of the review. The student replied that the person to be examined would be Jesus Christ. Professor Greenleaf agreed to undertake the examination of Jesus Christ and as a result, when he had finished the review, Simon Greenleaf personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour.

Professor Greenleaf then sent an open letter to all jurists in the United States jurists saying in part "I personally have investigated one called Jesus Christ. I have found the evidence concerning him to be historically accurate. I have also discovered that Jesus Christ is more than a human being, he is either God or nothing and having examined the evidence it is impossible to conclude other than he is God. Having concluded that he is God I have accepted him as my personal Saviour. I urge all members of the legal profession to use the "Laws of Evidence" to investigate the person of the Lord Jesus Christ and if you find that he is wrong expose him as a faker but if not consider him as your Saviour and Lord"

**HOW CAN I BE SAVED?****Salvation is available for all members of the human race.**

Salvation is the most important undertaking in all of God's universe. The salvation of sinners is never on the basis of God's merely passing over or closing His eyes to sin. God saves sinners on a completely righteous basis consistent with the divine holiness of His character. This is called grace. It relies on God so man cannot work for salvation, neither can he deserve it. We need to realise that the creation of this vast unmeasured universe was far less an undertaking than the working out of God's plan to save sinners.

However the acceptance of God's salvation by the sinner is the most simple thing in all of life. One need not be rich, nor wise, nor educated. Age is no barrier nor the colour of one's skin. The reception of the enormous benefits of God's redemption is based upon the simplest of terms so that there is no one in all this wide universe who need be turned away.

**How do I become a Christian?**

There is but one simple step divided into three parts. First of all I have to recognise that I am a sinner (Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ezekiel 18:4; John 5:24).

Secondly, realising that if I want a relationship with Almighty God who is perfect, and recognising that I am not perfect, I need to look to the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Saviour (I Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:16).

Thirdly, by the exercise of my own free will I personally receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour, believing that He died personally for me and that He is what He claims to be in an individual, personal and living way (John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 16:31; 4:12).

**The results of Salvation**

The results of this are unbelievably wonderful:

My sins are taken away (John 1:29),

I possess eternal life now (I John 5:11,12),

I become a new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17),

The Holy Spirit takes up His residence in my life (I Corinthians 6:19),

And I will never perish (John 10:28-30).

This truthfully is life's greatest transaction. This is the goal of all people; this is the ultimate of our existence. We invite and exhort any reader who has not become a Christian by trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ to follow these simple instructions and be born again eternally into God's family (Matthew 11:28; John 1:12; Acts 4:12; 16:31).

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**NOTE:** In this volume the text of the **Gospel of Mark** is reviewed verse by verse but parallel texts are noted at the start of each section and the application and doctrines relate to the whole story by using material from the other gospels. For composite evaluation please see **Harmony of the Gospels** volumes.

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**JESUS LAMENTS OVER JERUSALEM**

**MARK 13:1-2** [MATTHEW 23:37-24:2, LUKE 21:5-6] see HARMONY 74-19

**1** And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! **2** And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**1** And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! **2** And Jesus answering said unto him, Seest thou these great buildings? There shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

As the Lord Jesus was leaving the temple area for the last time before His death on the Cross, one of his disciples enthusiastically pointed to the architectural marvels of Herod's temple which had been over 40 years in the making to that point. It would only be finally finished in 63AD, just 7 years before it was destroyed. They were amazed at the size of the stones and the amazing beauty of it. It was referred to as a wonder in the ancient world.

Jesus however points out that the buildings they are admiring are not permanent, in fact they are going to all be totally destroyed within the generation with not one stone of the building remaining on another. This would be literally fulfilled when the Roman legions destroyed the city of Jerusalem in 70 AD. They left only one outer wall as evidence of the great building that had stood there.

**APPLICATION**

Many people are engrossed with the works of man to such an extent that they put their trust in the apparent solid foundations of human society.

We should not place our faith in man for situations can change drastically and rapidly.

We should place our trust in the Creator rather than the creation for the Word of God lives and abides forever.

The Word of God is more sure than anything we can see, however permanent those things appear.

**DOCTRINES****JERUSALEM****GOD: DIVINE INSTITUTIONS - FREEWILL****CHRISTIAN LIFE: SEPARATION****GENERAL CONDITIONS – CHURCH AGE**

**MARK 13:3-7** [MATTHEW 24:4-6, LUKE 21:7-9] see HARMONY 74-20

**3** And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, **4** Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled? **5** And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: **6** For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. **7** And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**3 And as he sat upon the Mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately, 4. Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?**

Going across the Kidron Valley to the top of the Mount of Olives, Jesus and his disciples sat down opposite the Temple. The summit of the Mount of Olives is only about 30 metres higher than Jerusalem, west of the mount lay the temple and the city.

Here we see the four disciples, the two sets of brothers, asking the questions being named by Mark. The imperfect tense of the verb to ask indicates that the disciples kept on asking these questions individually. Having no knowledge of the Church Age and only the perspective of Old Testament prophecy the disciples assumed that the time between the destruction of the Temple and the commencement of the promised Kingdom of God ruled by the Messiah would be short.

**5 And Jesus answering them began to say, Take heed lest any man deceive you: 6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. 7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet.**

The word translated "take heed" is the Greek word Blepo, which in Philippians 3:2 is translated "beware". Here it has the same concept of taking heed, looking quickly about, so that they did not fall into the trap of following or accepting false "christs", for the lord makes it clear that many will arise claiming they are "messiahs".

It is noted that in the King James Version the word Christ in verse 6 is in italics. This means that the word does not occur in the original text, with the false Christs saying "I am", which is the unique statement of God's being. These people are claiming to be God become man and walking the earth, and they will deceive many. Satan will saturate the earth with distraction from the truth of the First Advent, by producing many advents of many false "christs"; all as dodgy as the next, but with each one claiming "godhead", being the "I am" for their followers.

An example of this is in Acts 8:9-11 "**But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.**"

Jesus says that another feature of the world before his return would be wars and rumours of wars, which "must needs be". The Greek word for must is "dei", which means that it is by divine compulsion that these things occur. This is important for us, so that we see clearly man's pathetic attempts to stop war, for the Lord makes it clear that wars will certainly occur, no matter what men say and do to try to stop wars. They all fall within God's sovereign purposes, which include permitting wars as a consequence of rebellion and sin. However the end of the present age is not yet.

#### **APPLICATION**

The Lord is eager to answer the questions raised by the disciples and replies to them directly.

The Lord replies to our questions through the Scriptures, which are the mind of Christ.

He indicates that neither the fact of men calling themselves Messiah, nor the fact of hot or cold wars indicate the end of the Church Age. They are normative for the entire age.

We are not to be afraid of events that are occurring, but look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith

God is in control of history as a whole, as well as our individual lives.

#### **PROPHECY FULFILLED**

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century over 12,000 people have claimed to be the Messiah, Jesus Christ or God, They have such names as Divine Father, Divine Mother, The Messiah, The Christ, the Master of Masters, the God of Gods. Many have been masters of the occult and using this medium have influenced and exercised control over many lives. Some examples include:-

David Koresh from Waco in Texas who thought he was Jesus Christ and a spokesman for God. He died with his followers in a fiery holocaust in April 1993.

Maitreya who announced his arrival in 1982 with newspaper advertisements appearing around the world announcing "The Christ is now Here". Not only claiming to be Christ he was also said to be the 5<sup>th</sup> Buddha, the Imam Mahadi of the Moslems and a god of the Hindus. He was to bring his message inwardly and telepathically and lead the world into the Age of Aquarius.

False Messiah - Menachem Schneerson a 90 year old Rabbi from Brooklyn was widely proclaimed to be Messiah in the year before his death in 1994.

Lady Messiah - Maria Devi Khrystos from Ukraine claimed to be a living god, the reincarnation of Christ. She forecast the end of the world in November 1993. When it did not happen the Ukrainian police announced mockingly that the End of the World had been cancelled.

**DOCTRINES**

<b>PROPHECY</b>	<b>PROPHECY: PROPHECIES BY CHRIST</b>
<b>CHRIST - I AM</b>	<b>MILITARY FORCES</b>
<b>WAR</b>	<b>ANTICHRIST</b>
<b>FEAR</b>	

**SIGNS OF THE END OF THE AGE**

**INTRODUCTION**

In contrast to the previous passage in these verses Christ reveals the same single event that will indicate that the end of the Church Age has begun. The sign is said to be when the nation and shall rise against nation and the kingdom against kingdom. This is to be coupled by famines and earthquakes.

It is clearly stated that these things of the beginning of sorrows. Throughout the prophetic portions of Scripture the end of days are pictured by the word "sorrow or travail", which means of birth pangs, the pain of a woman in going through giving birth to a baby.

The important thing therefore is to determine the original meaning of the idiom, "Nation shall rise against the nation and kingdom against kingdom". This Idiom, taken in the Jewish context of the day when it was spoken, points to a total conflict of the area in view. This is found in two Old Testament passages, Isaiah 19:1-4, and 2 Chronicles 15:1-7.

In the first passage the land of Egypt is in view and the idiom points to a conflict all over the land of Egypt as a nation is engrossed in civil war. In the second passage it is the Middle East that is in view and the idiom points to conflict all over the Middle East.

In the Olivet discourse it is the whole world that is in view as is from verses 14, 21, 30 and 31, hence the idiom refers to a worldwide conflict and this worldwide conflict is the first to the "birth pangs" signifying that the last days have begun.

The first time that such a worldwide conflict occurred was in the years 1914 to 1918, with World War 1. Most historians agree that World War 2 was really a continuation of World War One. 1917 with America's entry into the war, begins the full world wide conflict with every area involved in the fighting.

As far as accompanying signs, it is noted that there were famines during 1918 to 1919. The Spanish flu (although from America in 1918, the year after they entered the war) became a pandemic in 1918-19 killing 23 million people. After the War in 1920 the great Chinese famine occurred, following the great Russian famine in 1921. Far more die in the famines than in the War before it.

The earthquake factor is even more interesting. According to encyclopaedias between AD 63 and 1896 there were only 26 recorded devastating earthquakes. It is clear most of the world's destructive earthquakes have occurred since 1900.

Therefore the linked together "birth pangs" signifying that the last days of the Church Age are fast approaching, began with a worldwide conflict coupled with famines and earthquakes. This is demonstrated to have been fulfilled after 1917, and also marks the first of the events leading towards the Tribulation. The "beginning of sorrows" began then.

**MARK 13:8** [MATTHEW 24:7-8, LUKE 21:10-11] see HARMONY 74-20

**8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.**

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

As explained above, the presence of world war, combined with famines, earthquakes and pandemic diseases on a world wide basis was predicted by our Lord as the prelude (birth pangs) to the Tribulation period.

Other information is also shown below under Prophecy Fulfilled.

**APPLICATION**

We need to interpret Scripture carefully, seeing what section of the Word relates to what events.

While we cannot know the time of our Lord's return for His church at the Rapture, we need not be ignorant of the time in which we live, as information is given to us so as not to be ignorant.

We should live each day, one at a time, focused each and every day on obedience to the Lord who gave us the signs that we are in "last days" to focus our minds.

When we see these things approaching we should "look up", because our redemption draws near.

**PROPHECY**

**EARTHQUAKES**

The Tribulation period will be characterised by many great earthquakes. It could therefore be expected that the incidence of major earthquakes would increase as the return of the Lord approaches.

The occurrence of +6 Richter earthquakes from 1880 to 1993 are as follows:

PERIOD	EARTHQUAKES	PERIOD	EARTHQUAKES
1880-1890	1	1940-1950	4
1890-1900	1	1950-1960	9
1900-1910	3	1960-1970	15
1910-1920	2	1970-1980	46
1920-1930	2	1980-1990	73
1930-1940	5	1990-1993	155

It is noted in 2003 that there were 58 Earthquakes of Richter +6 reported world wide.

In the early 1980s it was reported that the earth was wobbling on its axis, with the movement being up to 15cm. In addition, the occurrence of major earthquakes was found to correlate with maximum sunspot activity which has an 11-year cycle.

For example, of the eight major earthquakes that have occurred in the last 150 years within a radius of 80km of the Golden Gate Bridge, each earthquake has occurred within two years of maximum sunspot activity.

The major region for earthquakes is the Pacific Ring of Fire, with another earthquake line running through the Middle East, Iran and Burma. About 80% of earthquakes occur around the Ring of Fire, with 15% in the Middle East, and the remaining 5% scattered throughout the rest of world.

There were more major earthquakes reported in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century than in the previous 5000 years. Of the 14 worst earthquakes known in history, 11 occurred the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was a major earthquake each three years. Now at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century there are many major earthquakes every year.

**FAMINES**

The incidence of famines and the world population explosion are two sides of the same coin. Even allowing for miracle strains of staple crops which increase yields substantially, the war against the world population explosion is not being won. The population explosion is best shown in a tabulated form by date as to when the population of the earth passed each successive one billion mark: At the time the table was written it was thought that the 6 billion mark would be reached in 2000. In fact it was reached in 1999.

Date	World population in billions	Time gap since last billion
1800	1	5800 years
1930	2	130 years
1960	3	30 years
1975	4	15 years

1988	5	13 years
2000	6	12 years
2010	7	10 years

The current world population is doubling every 35 to 40 years – it is well beyond “crisis point” for man to solve this.

2. Food Production. The following facts are pertinent:
- (a) To improve nutrition, food production required quadrupling between 1975 and 2000.
  - (b) To maintain the present poor nutrition, 10-20 million hectares of new farm land has to be developed annually.
  - (c) Most of the good arable land in the world is under pasture or being tilled at the present.

Famines and food production must be greatly affected by weather conditions, which most meteorologists agree are in an unstable and unpredictable state.

The thinking person seeing major increases in world population, and the food production data, must come to the conclusion that famines are inevitable. In fact, in the 1980s, we saw increased famines, especially in Africa, generating such efforts as Band-Aid and Sportaid.

With the Greenhouse Effect people are being encouraged to afforest land: whilst population expansion requires increased arable land to be brought into production.

As far back as 1975 the World Food Conference in Rome stated that the annual famine toll in that year was 57 million, or 156,000 every day of the year. Those starving in 1975 were three times the number who were starving in 1970. In the Food Conference in Manila in 1978 it was stated that one baby in three will never reach the age of five because of malnutrition.

The United Nations continually has stated that we are in the grips of the worst food problems the world has ever seen. The only disposable food left is in countries such as Europe, the United States, and Australia.

Ninety percent of the world's food is grown in areas where a 5% change in rainfall would render them less productive and that process has begun, and any solutions that developing countries begin will simply make it worse. This 5% variation is being seen with El Nino – La Nina fluctuations.

**DISEASES:**

Whilst the scourge of smallpox has been removed from the world, many other diseases have become more resistant to medicines and have staged a counter-attack. New diseases have emerged such as AIDS, SARS, HIV and Bird Flu, which are causing world-wide concern. The Bird/Bat flus originating in East Asia have already become another pandemic when the virus is tampered with by humans (as in 2020), or the virus jumps species, or as the 1919 flu did, mutates.

As early as 1976 there was a meeting in the United States between leading American and British medical experts, where great concern was expressed about the reduction in the effect of antibiotics because disease causing organisms were increasing their immunity. Their immunity in large measure was put down to the overuse of antibiotics both in medicine and enhancement of livestock such as chicken and beef. Hospital bugs are rapidly making most major surgery dangerous with post-operative infections causing major complications for older patients especially.

In 1965 it appeared that by using DDT, malaria was on the way to extinction. However, by the 1990s malaria was back on a rampage in Africa, Asia and Latin America, with 120+ million cases a year, and resistant to anti-biotics. In India there were 40,000 cases of malaria reported in 1966. This increased to 430,000 in 1972 and further escalated to 5.8 million in 1976. Check the latest facts on line through “www.worldometers.com”.

It is expected that unless populations are curtailed, some of the world's biggest cities could experience infrastructure collapse within 20 years. By 2025 Mexico City could have a population of 37.5 million, Shanghai 36.1 million, Beijing 31.9, and Sao Paulo 29.6.

A report by the UN at the end of 2016 stated that there were over 36.7 million people affected by AIDS worldwide,.

**DOCTRINES**

**RAPTURE**

**RAPTURE - PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE:**

**DISPENSATIONS: THE TRIBULATION OR THE TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE**

**PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OF THE APOSTLES****INTRODUCTION**

This section deals with things that will happen prior to the end of the age. It shows that nine things will occur to the disciples.

1. They will be rejected by the Jews. Luke 21:12
2. They will be rejected by the Gentiles. Luke 21:12
3. Their rejection and persecution will give them opportunities to witness. Luke 21:13
4. The gospel will be proclaimed throughout the world. Mark 13:10, Revelation 14:6
5. They will be given the right words to say before the judgment. Mark 13:11, Luke 21:14-15
6. They will be rejected by the families. Mark 13:12, Luke 21:16
7. They will be hated by all. Mark 13:13
8. Nevertheless protection is assured. Luke 21:18
9. They will win souls for Christ. Luke 21:19

**MARK 13:9-13** [LUKE 21:12-19] see HARMONY 74-20

**9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them. 10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations. 11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. 12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. 13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.**

In verse nine our Lord predicts great personal testing for those who would be unflinching in their testimony for Him. They would be put on trial before religious and civil courts.

While this section is applicable to all periods of Christian testimony it seems to have a special reference to the ministry of the first believers with Roman Empire persecution from 88 – 312AD, and towards the end of the Church Age, and then in the tribulation, where 144,000 Jewish believers will carry the gospel of the Kingdom to all nations of the earth prior to Christ's coming to reign.

**10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.**

This verse should not be used to teach that the gospel must be preached to all nations before the rapture, as to say so is to state something the Bible doesn't state. No prophecy needs to be fulfilled before Christ coming for his saints he may come at any moment. This verse is true, as all nations have now heard, and are hearing by all communication means.

This could also relate to the preaching of the gospel to warn nations which occurs during of the tribulation by the mighty an angel of Revelation 14:6, **"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"**

**11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.**

The Lord promised the persecuted believers, on trial for his sake, that they would be given divine help in making their defence. They would not need to prepare their case in advance and perhaps there would not be the time.

The Holy Spirit would give them exactly the right words.

It should be noted that the Holy Spirit is called the Holy Ghost in this passage. The word ghost does not appear in the Greek. The word translated ghost is pneuma, which means spirit, therefore the Holy Ghost should be translated Holy Spirit.

This promise here should not be used as an excuse for not preparing sermons or messages today, but it is the guarantee of supernatural help the times of crisis. It is a promise for faithful martyrs not lazy ministers who don't prepare.

**12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. 13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

Another feature of the Tribulation days will be widespread betrayal of those who are loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ. Family members will serve as informers against believers. A great wave of anti Christian sentiment will sweep the world. It will take courage to remain true to the Lord, and that is the call to all.

The statements in verse thirteen that he who endures to the end the same shall be saved cannot mean that they will receive eternal salvation because of their endurance, as that would be a false gospel.

Neither can it mean that faithful believers will be saved from physical death during the tribulation because we're read elsewhere that many will seal their testimony with their blood - Revelation 6:9-11, **"And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: 10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled"**.

What it means is that those who survive the persecution will be safe and secure, and will enter into the millennial reign of Christ. It therefore shows that there will be survivors of this time of great trouble, and that "deliverance" is possible, although people will not believe it at times. It also reminds us that all of us "In Christ Jesus" are delivered into His Arms, through the doorway of death into heaven.

## APPLICATION

The world hates the true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ because it first hated Him. John 15:17ff.

The unbelievers will try and attack believers by many ways and at times will openly persecute them.

Often the pull of society and peer pressure is greater than the regard of family or friend and some relations will betray other members of their family. This happened in China after the Communist takeover where children would accuse parents and see them condemned.

The Lord will illuminate our minds in times of crisis to assist us in answering questions.

It is however essential to know things before you can recall things to mind.

Under times of great pressure often our attitude can be a great witness to others and cause people to be convicted and become believers.

Each day of our life as a believer, be it in tranquillity or adversity, is of vital importance to the Plan of God.

## DOCTRINES

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: EVANGELISM**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: EVANGELISM – FISHERS OF MEN**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: EVANGELISM - NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: SUFFERING**

**GOD - GOD CARES FOR YOU**

**HOLY SPIRIT: COMFORTER**

**GREAT TRIBULATION – SECOND HALF**

**MARK 13:14-23** [MATTHEW 24:15-28] see HARMONY 74-20

**14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: 15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: 16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. 17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. 19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. 20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. 21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: 22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. 23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.**

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:**

The word “abomination” denotes pagan idolatry and its detestable practices Deuteronomy 29:16-18, 2 Kings 16:3-4, Ezekiel 8:9-18. The phrase the “abomination of desolation” referred to the presence of an idolatrous person or object so detestable that it caused the temple to be abandoned and left desolate.

Historically the first of the fulfilments of Daniel’s prophetic use of the expression was the desecration of the temple in 167 BC by the Syrian ruler Antiochus Epiphanes. He erected an altar to the pagan Greek god (the demon behind it) Zeus over the altar of burnt offering and sacrificed a pig on it.

Jesus’ use of the “abomination of desolation” referred also to another fulfilment, the temple’s desecration and destruction in A.D. 70. His disciples, those present and future, seeing this desecration about to take place, will take it as a signal for people in Judea to escape to the mountains beyond the Jordan River in Perea.

Josephus tells about the occupation and appalling profaning of the temple in a 67 - 68 AD by a Jewish Zealots who also installed a usurper Phanni as high priest. Jewish Christians fled to Pella located in the mountains of Jordan.

The events of 167 BC and A D. 70 fore-shadow a final fulfilment of Jesus’ words just prior to his Second Advent. This person who will do the final acts of abomination is the end of time Antichrist who will make a covenant with the Jewish people at the beginning of the seven year period preceding Christ’s second coming. The temple will be rebuilt and worship re-established. In the middle of this tribulation time the Antichrist will break his covenant with Israel (and likely the Arabs as well), stop the temple sacrifices, desecrate the temple, and proclaim himself to be God, and that he alone is to be worshipped world wide from this rebuilt temple. This will violate Judaism and Islam, and likely unite them in serious opposition to the Western dictator and the bible records they fight on until Jesus return.

**15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: 16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. 17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter.**

When this crisis breaks, the person on the roof of the house must not take time to go inside to retrieve any possessions. In this case it needs to be remembered that most access to the roof was external to the house and therefore leaving the roof would involve running down some stairs and heading for the mountains without entering the house. The person working out in the field must not take time to go back to another part of the field or his house to get his cloak, an external garment that protected against cold night air. Believers must see this coming and be packed and ready to run.

Jesus expressed compassion for pregnant women and nursing mothers forced to flee under such difficult circumstances. He told his disciples to pray that this did not occur in winter where travel would be very much more difficult. The key concept behind the Lord’s warning is to be ready, by seeing the earlier signs, so that the final actions of the Antichrist figure do not catch them out. In these days there must be a readiness that means each believer is prepared to flee at any time with their transport stacked with provisions. In New Zealand we have experienced this in the Christchurch earthquakes where people had to have their cars loaded all the time, as if they were going camping, because at any time an earthquake might mean they would be “camping”, and they had to be ready, without notice to survive in the open.

**19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. 20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.**

At no time in the past, present, or future has there been, or will there ever be such a severe tribulation as this. This unprecedented distress was foreshadowed by the horrific scenes associated with the siege and later total destruction of Jerusalem 67-70 AD.

God sets limits on the duration of the end time of tribulation because of the elect, those redeemed during those days, whom He has chosen for Himself. Acts 13:48. While all this proved true indirectly in AD. 70 the language of this verse suggests God's direct intervention in judgment, an unmistakable characteristic of the end time tribulation. Revelation 16:1.

**21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: 22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. 23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.**

At this time if someone should claim that the Messiah was here or there His disciples were not to believe it. They should not turn aside from taking refuge. Jesus explained that many false Christ's and false prophets would appear and perform miraculous deeds that would seem to validate their claims. Their purpose would be to mislead or seduce the elect. It would be to lead astray the elect from the true Messiah but they will not succeed has seen with the words, "if it were possible". Jesus' concludes this passage by exhorting his disciples to be on guard for deceptive pitfalls in these very difficult days. Supreme alertness will save the church in 67 AD, and they all survive and escape, and only the same level of vigilance and personal fitness will save those who are believers in the Great Tribulation, for they will have to flee great distances, and possibly fight their way through to the area of old Moab and Edom.

## **APPLICATION**

It is extremely important to know Scripture in detail so that we can discern the signs of the times, and act in advance of disaster.

We have the mind of Christ given to us in writing. 1 Corinthians 2:16.

Jesus Christ knows the whole of history, both worldwide and personally. We should rely on Him for protection but also need to obey His word and live in fellowship with Him.

We need to weigh everything up against the Scriptures to ensure we are not being led astray, especially by signs and wonders. We walk by faith and not by sight.

In the Tribulation period there will be many signs as the dispensation has reverted to that of the Jewish age. The Lord said that, "the Jews look for signs", and with the demonic activity building, signs will abound towards the end. The Book of Revelation is full of signs to help believers of that time to spot where they are in the process.

The Lord not only knows history, but is in control of history. We can therefore have full confidence in our Lord.

## **DOCTRINES**

### **ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION**

### **DANIEL - DEDICATION**

### **TABERNACLE**

### **GOD: ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION**

**REGATHERING OF ISRAEL**

**MARK 13:24-27** [MATTHEW 24:29-31, LUKE 21:25-28] see HARMONY 74-20

**24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, 25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. 26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.**

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, 25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. 26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.**

In those days after the tribulation begins there will be startling disturbances in the heavens. Darkness will cover the earth both by day and by night. The stars of heaven will fall and the powers in the heavens, the forces that keep the stellar bodies in orbit, will be shaken. Revelation provides the sequence of events and describes things systematically and it is breath-taking.

Then the world will see the Son of Man returning to the earth. He will not now be the lowly Nazarene, but will come as the glorious conqueror. He will come in the clouds escorted by myriads of angelic beings and the glorified saints, His bride, the Church. It will be a sign of overwhelming power and dazzling splendour, that all the saved will rejoice in, but it is too late for the lost – they are now frozen in their multiple choices of evil and face judgement forever.

**27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.**

He will dispatch his angels to gather together his elect. These are all who have acknowledged him as Lord and Saviour during the Tribulation. From one end of the earth to the other they will come to enjoy the benefits of his wonderful thousand year reign on earth. His enemies however will be destroyed at the same time, for they have chosen eternity without Him as King, and they get their choice forever. Revelation 20:11-15.

**APPLICATION**

There will be tremendous disturbance to nature and the entire created universe at the Second Advent of Christ. It must be remembered that the Creator is returning to judge the earth, and to set up His long awaited Kingdom on earth.

A major feature is that the great created light, the sun is darkened, so that the light of the Lord returning with His Shekinah glory may be seen by all world wide.

At the Second Advent also, the dispersion of the nation Israel will be over, and the Lord Jesus Christ will send out angels to guide all of them back to Israel, some to a welcome and entry into the Kingdom which He is setting up, and some to damnation at the Jewish Baptism of Fire for their choices to support the Anti-Christ figure.

It should be noted that every time one sees the word redemption or saved it does not imply conversion. In this case we have the intervention of the Lord Jesus Christ in a very bad situation for believers. When the Tribulational saints see this happening they know for sure that their source of security has arrived.

We need to ensure that we look always unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who gives us protection in times of difficulty, and remember that He is in control of our life. We should therefore acknowledge His position in our lives.

Reasons for the resurrection of the Old Testament saints not occurring until the Second Advent of Christ.

1. In his Pentecostal sermon in Acts 2:25-29 Peter said that King David was in his sepulchre until this day which was after the resurrection of Christ.
2. Identification of the two witnesses in Revelation 11 shows them to be Moses and Elijah. The two witnesses are killed in Jerusalem half way through the Tribulation. If Moses and Elijah had resurrection bodies they could not be killed and then resuscitated.
3. The dispensation of Israel is not completed until the Second Advent of Christ. Daniel 9:24-27. The Church is resurrected at the end of the Church Age, which occurs at the Rapture, prior to the Tribulation, which completes the Age of Israel (the "Time of Jacob's Trouble").

4. Relation to the fulfilment of the unconditional covenants with Israel, the Abrahamic, Davidic, Palestinian and New which are not fulfilled until the start of the Millennium.
5. In Matthew 27:51-52 we have resuscitation of some Old Testament saints who were a witness to the Jews of the day and were en route for heaven.

**DOCTRINES**

<b>LIGHT</b>	<b>GOD - SHEKINAH GLORY</b>
<b>DISPENSATION OF THE JEWS OR ISRAEL</b>	<b>ISRAEL</b>
<b>COVENANTS</b>	<b>RESURRECTION</b>

**PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE**

**MARK 13:28-32** [MATTHEW 24:32-36, LUKE 21:29-33] see HARMONY 74-20

**28** Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: **29** So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. **30** Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. **31** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. **32** But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**28** Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: **29** So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. **30** Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. **31** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

The Lord now gives an illustration. He uses the fig tree as an example. Fig trees are barren during the winter as they are deciduous. When the buds soften and the leaves start to appear it is clear that summer is coming. Here Jesus uses a parable to speak about understanding the signs, which is a story which everybody understands, but has spiritual connotations to instruct His disciples.

In the Olivet discourse Jesus has been talking about many signs. He says that when you see these things happening realize that the Kingdom of Heaven on earth is very near. It is right at the doors, in exactly the same way as when you see the buds of the trees start to open you know that Spring is come, and Summer is near.

He also promises that the generation of people who see these signs start to happen will not die out before the Kingdom of Heaven is established on the earth. This is a startling statement for our generation has seen all these things start to happen, from the beginning of the "birth pangs" in 1917 to the birth of Israel in 1947, the capture of Jerusalem in 1967, and the readiness of the temple to be rebuilt and function, even to the appointing of a High Priest in 2017.

In verse 31 Jesus confirms the power and accuracy of the Scriptures. He says that the whole of creation will pass away which it will at the end of the Millennium, but the Word of God abides forever. This assertion guarantees the fulfilment of His prophecies, and means the disciples and all of us are encouraged to rest secure in the prophetic accuracy, and be alert to events today, for the time is short. If we are tempted however to start to "date set" we are warned....

**32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.**

Though it will be possible for someone to discern the proximity of the coming crisis, as displayed in versus 28 and 29, yet no one knows the precise moment when that day or hour will arrive, except the Father. This openly expressed limitation on Jesus' knowledge during his First Advent, which affirms him as voluntarily under the authority of the Father. In his incarnation Jesus involuntarily accepted human limitations including this one in submission to the Father's will. John 4:34.

On the other hand Jesus' use of the Son title, which only occurs here in Mark, instead of the usual Son of Man revealed his own awareness of his deity and Sonship. Nevertheless he exercised His divine attributes only at the Father's bidding John 8:28-29. If the Lord was this careful, how careful should we be?

This verse precludes all date setting and lends urgency to Jesus' exhortation to be watching, worshipping, witnessing, and working until His return.

**APPLICATION**

The word of God has eternal validity. What is true of God's words is equally true of Jesus' words for he is God.

There is emphasis on learning and applying the Word of God in these passages. As is seen the Word of God is more sure than the universe itself, thus learning and applying the Scriptures to one's life is of the utmost importance. Alertness by us to the closeness of the end of this phase of history is a correct application of what we can see.

Another principle is that Israel has a future, which involves it again becoming centre stage in the Plan of God.

God's plan never gets out of hand. It proceeds smoothly to its final triumph. He always has control over it.

Because of the Lord and His character we can rely on the promises and doctrines of God absolutely.

**DOCTRINES****CHRIST - BRANCH: A PICTURE OF CHRIST****CHURCH AND ISRAEL****ANTI-SEMITISM****CHRIST: HYPOSTATIC UNION – GOD - MAN****GOD: PLAN OF GOD****PROMISES****BIBLE: OLD TESTAMENT VERIFIED BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST****PARABLE OF THE DOOR KEEPER****MARK 13:33-37**

**33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. 34 For the Son of Man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

These verses complete the thirteenth chapter of Mark. It closes with an exhortation for watchfulness and prayer in view of the signs of the Lord's return. The fact that we do not know the appointed time, but can see the signs that things are getting close, should keep us on the alert.

A similar situation is common in everyday life. A man goes away from his home on the long trip. He leaves instructions with his servant and tells the watchman also to be on the lookout for his return. He has briefed the staff on what to do until he returns, and so there is no excuse for anyone to be slack in obedience. Each of us have our written instructions in the Word of God, and we have the Holy Spirit's personal instructions daily – we are to be alert and active!

Jesus likens himself to the travelling man. He may come back at any hour of the night or day. His people serving as night watchman should not be found sleeping, so he left this word for all his people. "Watch".

**APPLICATION**

While Christians today will not experience the terrible sufferings of the Tribulation we will have our share of persecution in this world before the Lord returns for his church.

Watchfulness has nothing to do with going to heaven. It is purely a matter of pleasing Him by obedient response to our required work, and then hearing His loving commendation, and receiving His reward.

There is no suggestion here that when he returns Jesus will take only the faithful to heaven and leave the others on the earth to suffer the Tribulation. His family is one, and He is now preparing a home for all of them, even the least worthy. We lose eternal reward, and we have lost the joy of service, but not our place in the family.

**DOCTRINES****CHRISTIAN LIFE: FASTING****PRAYER****CONSPIRACY OF THE RULERS**

**MARK 14:1-2** [MATTHEW 26:1-5] see HARMONY 74-21

**1** After two days was the Feast of the Passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death. **2** But they said, Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

The chief priests were under the Sadducees control in those days, (or possibly we would say the Sadducees group were under the Mafia family of Annas and Caiaphas control...) and they made a conspiracy with the Pharisees, under the leadership of Caiaphas. They need to find a way to arrest Jesus while he is away from the multitudes. They could not solve the problem they had until Judas came to them to betray Jesus. He will solve the problem for them, in God's time.

If Christ had died at any other time except the Passover, in any way other than the crucifixion, there would have been no atonement. The death of Christ was important and necessary for the atonement, but the timing and method was laid out in God's plan in the Old Testament. He had to die at a specific time, at the Passover, and in a specific way, by crucifixion.

This is also the reason why we have seen a number of occasions where Satan had tried to have Jesus killed prematurely. However at the Passover Jesus will force their hand, and they have no choice but to act on the very night that they and Satan didn't want to act. God's control is seen in every step of the journey towards the Cross.

**APPLICATION**

The plan of God goes on in detail and on schedule throughout the history of man. Neither men nor angels are able to manipulate the Plan of God.

As believers were are in the Plan of God and should always be ready to acquiesce to His will in our life. God's will for our lives is far superior to even our best plans.

Materialism and the lust for money has caused the downfall of many. Money is transient while the Plan of God has eternal implications.

Religion always attempts to gag or destroy the truth. It is more interested in keeping its vested interest than the eternal effect of their actions on those who are seeking to be led by God.

**DOCTRINES****RELIGION****SUPPER AT BETHANY, MARY ANOINTS JESUS**

**MARK 14:3-9** [MATTHEW 26:6-13, JOHN 12:1-11] see HARMONY 74-18

**3** And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. **4** And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? **5** For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her. **6** And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. **7** For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. **8** She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. **9** Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.

## BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

**3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. 4 And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.**

Spikenard is a rare ointment which was obtained from the Himalayas and entered the Middle East by the Indian caravan route, through India, across Persia and into Palestine. It came in little alabaster boxes which were sealed and had to be broken to be opened.

The value of the ointment was great the ointment used probably being worth several thousand dollars in today's money. It was a very potent ointment. 2 Samuel 24:24 - David said that he would not offer burnt offerings to God which did not cost him something. Mary had this attitude of giving the gift in love.

The cost of three hundred Denarius represents three hundred days or nearly a year's labourer's wages. The value of a penny or Denarius a day is given in Matthew 20:2, "And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard".

It would appear that Mary was saving it for her own burial, but she saw a higher use for it.

Spikenard is something which speaks of love, as seen in Song of Solomon 1:12, 4:12,13. Here it speaks of a love relationship and of capacity of enjoyment of life. It is associated with the closest and most intimate relationship on earth.

This is the point that Mary is making in this action. Everyone in the room would have been shocked, as this is seen by many as an act of a lover. It is an act of a person who is not concerned about what people think about them. With it being one of the most powerful scents, people both in the house and outside would have known the spikenard was being used.

What Mary did in letting her hair down was also seen by many to be an immodest act. It was an act for a wife for her husband. To wipe the feet of the man with her hair was a sign of complete submission and devotion to that man. She is an old woman, and it is clear that this is worship of God, so there is no sexual implications here.

She had kept the spikenard for her own funeral. It was the ointment that was placed on the dead to show the love for the person. She had saved it for her own funeral. She is a spinster and had no one to do it for her. Here we have the combination of love and death. She is showing that love is stronger than death, and she cared now not for herself as she faced her own death, but to show the love she had for the Lord before his coming death.

She is committed to the Lord and makes him smell sweet as she wipes the excess of the ointment from his feet. The scent also is on her and she has a sweet smelling savour as she walks around the room afterwards. This is what occurs when you worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. You are blessed and others are blessed if you do that.

The Lord is going to the Cross, and he will fulfil the sweet smelling savour sacrifices of Leviticus. She has made the Lord this "sweet savour offering" physically by the smell this day, as he is going to be spiritually in a few days. If you are worshipping the Lord in holiness and truth you will be a blessing to those who are in your vicinity.

**6 And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. 7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. 8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. 9 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.**

This statement closely parallels the passage from Matthew. The Lord's prophecy of this act by Mary of Bethany being known throughout the world wherever the gospel is preached has been fulfilled literally over the twenty centuries since the anointing of Christ.

Of all the actions at the feast this striking application of the illustration of a believer with doctrine has resounded down the corridors of time. This shows that divine good has everlasting repercussions. It's the gold, silver and precious stones which are the basis of our eternal rewards. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15.

## APPLICATION

Anything you do in the power of the Holy Spirit is worship. As a member of the royal family of God we are priests.

Everything we do should therefore be an act of worship. Let us daily lift up holy hands to the Lord who gave himself for us.

If a person is religious there will be no good fruit in their soul. By the fruit of the Holy Spirit they and we are known.

If you are absorbing God's Word and yet not having spiritual fruit in your life there must be something wrong in your life.

You have to be careful with whom you work in religious areas because they could be Caiaphas and Annas types that you are dealing with, and if they are, you will be, "dropped into it right up to your ears".

God uses all kinds of people to undertake His work. We have different gifts and consequently different roles in His overall plan.

We should not try and be a copy of others but lead our own life before the Lord.

We need to ensure that we do not blindly follow the anger of others, especially unbelievers.

There will always be poor people on the earth until the Kingdom of God is set up on earth in the Millennium.

We are never equal from the womb to the tomb. The only place of equality in the human race is "in Christ".

## DOCTRINES

### CHURCH: WORSHIP AND PRAISE

### POVERTY

### JUDAS - OUTLINE OF JUDAS' LIFE

1. His Opportunities
  - a) He was from the tribe of Judah (John 6:71)
  - b) He was called by Christ. (Luke 6:16)
  - c) He was one of the twelve (Matthew 10:4)
  - d) He was treasurer of the disciples. (John 12:6)
  - e) He was present at the Last Supper. (John 13:26)
2. His Sowing
  - a) He was covetous. (John 12:4-6)
  - b) He was a thief. (John 12:6)
  - c) He was Satan possessed. (Luke 22:3)
  - d) He bargained to betray Jesus. (Mark 14:10, 11)
  - e) He was bribed to become a traitor. (Matthew 26:14-16)
3. His Reaping
  - a) His repentance. (Matthew 27:3)
  - b) His act of restitution. (Matthew 27:4)
  - c) His death. (Matthew 27:5, Acts 1:18)
  - d) His curse. (Acts 1:20)
  - e) His replacement. (1 Corinthians 15:7-10)

### TREACHERY OF JUDAS

**MARK 14:10-11** [MATTHEW 26:14-16, LUKE 22:1-6] see HARMONY 74-21

**10** And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. **11** And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.

### BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Though Judas had lived with the Lord Jesus Christ for at least three years, and he had received nothing but kindness from him, he now goes out to the chief priests with a guarantee to betray the Son of God into their hands. They seized the offer gladly, offering to pay him for his treachery. All he had to do now was to work out the details in a "convenient" way for the High Priests, but it will be exactly the "right" time for the Lord and he eternal plan for salvation.

### APPLICATION

Demon possession occurs to unbelievers (make-believer all along – never really accepting the Lordship of Jesus, but always wanting to use Jesus for his own plans) such as Judas but cannot occur to believers because greater is He that is

in you [The Holy Spirit] than he that is in the world [Satan]. 1 John 4:4. Judas had to work very hard to be demon possessed, and it appears that it is only at the last moment at the Upper Room where his final rejection of the Lord's grace opened the door for Satan to enter.

Judas is paid at the temple treasury. The purpose of this treasury was to purchase of the sacrifice. Little do they know that this is what they are doing.

## PROPHECY

### 30 PIECES OF SILVER and THE POTTER'S FIELD

The 30 pieces of silver, which was the price that was agreed to, was almost the price of an insult because this was the value of the dead slave. In Exodus 21:32 it states that if a an ox gores a male or female slave the owner of the bull shall pay the slave owner 30 shekels of silver and the ox will be killed.

To the Jews therefore 30 pieces of silver became known as "the price of contempt" and it is used as such in Zechariah 11:12 below. In that verse Zechariah is asked to play the role of the Messiah and feed the sheep. After a period of feeding the sheep he presents himself to the leaders and says, "if you think my work is worthy pay me, if you do not think it is worthy don't pay me". They give him after consideration his value of 30 pieces silver. It would have been better that they had decided to give him nothing because 30 pieces of silver was the price of contempt.

In verse 13 God says to Zechariah take the 30 pieces of silver and cast it into the potters, this lordly price at which I was valued by them. So it was not Zechariah who is valued at 30 pieces of silver but God who is sold out for the price of contempt.

Zechariah 11:12,13 (487 BC): And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. 13 And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

## FULFILLMENT

Matthew 27:3-10 (32 AD): Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself. 6 And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. 7 And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in. 8 Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day. 9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value; 10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

1. The betrayal price that would be paid for our Lord was stated in Zechariah. It was 30 pieces of silver.
2. It is of note that Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt by his brethren for 20 pieces of silver (Genesis 37:28). Joseph in many ways is an antitype of Christ
3. Zechariah, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit also foresaw a problem with Judas' repentance and the return of the money to the Temple treasury.
4. Judas repented [METAMELOMAI]: he felt sorry for what he had done, but this repentance was not for salvation. Another Greek word translated repentance [METANOEO], means to change one's mind. This was the one always associated with salvation.
5. The temple government in the form of the chief priests, had difficulties in knowing what to do with the blood money, as they were unable to accept it back into the Temple treasury, so they purchased a potter's field for the burial of strangers.
6. This fulfilled Zechariah 11:12,13. Allusion is also made to the potter's field in Jeremiah 18:1-4 and 19:1-3.
7. The land purchased was called the field of blood or Akeldama in Acts 1:19. It was located south of Jerusalem at the junction of the valleys of Kidron and Hinnom.
8. Excavations in the area have shown first century graves, which confirm that the potter's field was used for the purposes for which it was bought.

## DOCTRINES

**FEASTS OF ISRAEL****PRIESTS****PRIESTS: LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD****MONEY****PREPARATION FOR THE PASSOVER**

**MARK 14:12-16** [MATTHEW 26:17-19, LUKE 22:7-13] see HARMONY 21

**12** And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover? **13** And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them, Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him. **14** And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? **15** And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us. **16** And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Jesus instructs his disciples to go and make ready the Passover. This is a day before the Passover, and this means that they may have been ready to feast both days, but will only have the Last Supper, as the Lord dies at the exact time of the first Passover Lamb, and the disciples will not be celebrating Passover that year. They are told to go into the city of Jerusalem and there they will find a man carrying a pitcher of water. They are to follow him and he will lead them to a large upper room where the Last Supper and the Passover can be eaten.

The reason that this would be significant was that the carrying of a pitcher of water was a woman's job, as it is today with Arab women. Traditionally the upper room, which was used was the one in the home of John Mark, and this was the same room in Acts 1 and 2 where the church was born. It was close to the temple area, and so they were meeting close to their enemies; they were hiding in plain sight.

Preparation of the Passover meal consisted of the following elements (the Last Supper wasn't a full Passover).

1. They had to go to the temple with the lamb
2. At the temple the lamb would be killed.
3. The blood of the lamb would then be poured into a bowl.
4. The bowl of blood would be poured out at the base of the altar.
5. They would sing Psalms 113-118.
6. The lamb would then be cleaned, skinned and entrails removed etc.
7. Parts of the lamb would be cut off and burned on the altar.
8. The lamb is then taken home and roasted.
9. Other Passover items would also be prepared such as the unleavened bread, wine and bitter herbs.

**APPLICATION**

We notice that the name of the two disciples are only given in Luke and again emphasises that to obtain the whole story of the Four Gospels it is necessary to glean material from all the accounts.

The man with the water pot makes a good picture of the Holy Spirit who leads seeking souls to the place of communion with the Lord, so we are exactly where we are meant to be at the right time.

The disciples were obedient, even though the sight of a man carrying a water pot on his head would be extremely rare in the ancient world. We need to trust the Lord and believe what his Word says, heeding the Holy Spirit's instructions.

The world in which we live tells us many things which are contrary to the Word of God. We have a choice of either believing what the world says, or believing what the Bible says.

God Word says that, "my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor my ways your ways". Isaiah 55:8. We need to learn about God's ways from the Scripture so that we are guided correctly in Satan's world.

We are to dedicate ourselves our possessions, everything we have to the Lord because He has the right to have everything we have including ourselves.

**DOCTRINES****CHRISTIAN LIFE: OBEDIENCE****HOLY SPIRIT - EFFECTIVE CALLING****THE LAST SUPPER/PASSOVER AND THE LORD'S TABLE**

**MARK 14:17-26** [MATTHEW 26:20-30, LUKE22:14-30, JOHN 13:21-35] see HARMONY 74-21

**17** And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. **18** And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. **19** And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? **20** And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. **21** The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born. **22** And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. **23** And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. **24** And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. **25** Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. **26** And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**18** And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said, Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me. **19** And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one, Is it I? and another said, Is it I? **20** And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. **21** The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.

It was a common practice to recline on dining couches during the festive meals. In fact in the 1<sup>st</sup> century it was seen as the traditional requirement for the Passover meal to be eaten in this manner, even for the poorest of people.

While they were eating dipping bread into the bowl of vegetables as part of the meal itself Jesus announced that one of the twelve would betray him. This was the last appeal of grace to Judas, by the One who is omniscient, and Jesus wants Judas to see that his plot is unhinged and it is time to "come clean", or do what he has sworn in evil to do. It is decision time and there is no avoiding this; his heart is being "hardened" into its eternally preferred position.

The words "one who is eating with me" are unique to the Gospel of Mark, and led by the Holy Spirit Peter has recalled the words of Psalm 41:9, where David laments that his trusted friend, who shared his table with him, has turned against him. To eat with a person and then betray him was considered the height of treachery, and Peter sees that this occurred with Judas. Nearly thirty years later, as Peter writes this Gospel with Mark, he is still baffled by evil as it worked its work in Judas and destroyed him.

The disciples are deeply troubled, and I suspect most are still baffled and upset by this betrayal years later. One by one, even Judas, sought to clear themselves. Literally the form of question in the Greek is, "it is not I is it?" All were expecting a reassuring negative answer from Jesus. Reflect upon Peter's thinking as he writes this, for he, with the other ten felt a deep betrayal of them selves also. Judas had served with them, been the trusted treasurer, and yet was a fraudster and thief, but they hadn't spotted the extent of his malice.

Jesus declined to name the offender to the group, with the account of events given in Matthew apparently being made only to Judas. This is reinforced by the fact that when of Judas left the room to betray Jesus the other disciples thought he had gone to buy things for the Passover Feast the following day, as he was the treasurer for the group.

Jesus repeated his statement that the betrayer was one of the twelve who was dipping a piece of bread into the bowl with him. His announcement, to emphasize the treachery of the betrayal, also gave that person, Judas, an opportunity to repent and change his eternal life direction. Big consequences turn on minor and inconsequential choices at times, and we are here reminded of the flow on effect in history of Judas' lack of remorse about his choice, and his blank face as he took the "sop" of bread and ate it, then slipped away into the darkness.

In verse 21 Jesus confirms again that he is going to the cross, but in the second half of the verse he laments the fact that the person who betrays him is going into a Christless future. Christ's death was according to the Plan of God, and so without his free will being twisted in any direction, Judas, in perfect harmony with his own free will, has fulfilled the eternal Plan. The betrayer was acting freely as Satan's agent, rejecting the last call of grace upon him, and so awful a destiny awaits him that Jesus says it would have been better if he had not been born.

**22** And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. **23** And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it.

**24 And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. 25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.**

The head of the household used to give thanks for the bread and wine for any meal in a Jewish home. Jewish people broke rather than cut their bread. The statement, "This is my body", we should understand is not literal as he is there standing with them, but the bread becomes that moment a symbol of his body from that point onwards until the end of time.

As a parallel example we would not for instance take literally the standard Jewish statement spoken of the Passover bread, "This is the bread of affliction our ancestors ate when they came from Egypt", for to take that literally would mean that this bread would have been centuries old. In addition it had already been eaten.

Four cups of red wine were used in the traditional Passover Meal. This cup was the third cup, the cup of thanksgiving, which followed the blessing of the bread. Each person did not have an individual cup, they customarily passed around a common one. This raises the question, was this the true "Passover meal", given that the Passover is the next night? It is clear that the Lord dies at the time of the Passover Lambs the next afternoon at 3pm, and so as the disciples mourn the rest of Israel is celebrating their Passover meals.

This supper is the disciple's "Last Supper" together with the Lord, and so becomes their "last Passover" for they wont celebrate it the same ever again, and they certainly wouldn't have eaten with the rest of the nation the next night. In effect this became their last "Passover meal" and Jesus did it in this way the day in advance because it was to be their last, and the last night where he could teach them.

The multiple cups were part of Passover, but could be used also to teach at any festive meal, and they are here by Jesus. Covenants were ratified by the blood of sacrifice. God had redeemed his people from Egypt bought the blood of the Passover lamb. The phrase, "Which was shed for many", could only refer to Isaiah 53. Traditional Jewish Passover ritual interpreted the cup as a cup of suffering, but did not interpret it as blood, because Jewish law and custom were revolted by the idea of drinking any creatures blood, especially human blood.

Vows of abstinence were common in Palestinian Judaism. Phrases were used such as, "I will not eat any such and such until this happens", or, "I vow that I will not use this until that happens". Jesus makes it clear by drinking this cup with the disciples that there will be blessing for all as a result of what is to occur, but then a period of great sadness until His return to rule in the Kingdom to be established later. We celebrate Communion in light of this statement, for it is joy as we remember his victory, but it is sadness for he is not back yet to rule, and evil still fouls our world.

Jewish blessings over the wine covered the fruit of the vine as the sign of God's blessings upon Israel, and the greatest blessing is just about to unfold. Messiah is going to the Cross to pay for Adam's sin, and defeat the power of sin and death. Jesus says that he will not drink wine until the Kingdom of God comes, and he perhaps abstains from the fourth cup. We are not given all that occurred at this last supper together, for the veil is drawn over it, as it was "a team only talk", with just what was for sharing recorded later in the Gospel records.

The Jews always portrayed the time of the kingdom as a banquet, when the Bible had promised an unending supply of beautiful wine. Amos 9:13-15 – **"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the ploughman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt.14 And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. 15 And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God."**

**26 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.**

This is the last thing that happens at the traditional Passover Meal of the first century. The Hallel or praise Psalms were sung or chanted in connection with the Passover. The first two Psalms, 113-114 before the meal, and the final four Psalms, 115-118, after it to conclude the evening observance. The use of the term "an hymn" leaves it open however, for was it one or two psalms sung? There are lots of elements that suggest this was a traditional Passover Meal, but also clues that it was not fully one, for the "Passover Lamb" was running it, and He had a quite different purpose this night than running a backward looking feast; He was looking forward to the events of the next few hours. There is a mystery here, which will only be fully understood when we see this in heaven, where all of space and time may be seen, because then we are in Eternity, beyond this universes' limitations. Let's leave our unanswerable questions until we see all space-time spread out before us.

Lots of significant conversation occurred after the departure of Judas, some of which is included later in John chapters 14-17, and it was probably around mid-nigh when they left the upper room and headed out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus will teach them all the way across the Kidron Valley. Another clue here that this is not the "real" Passover meal this year, for no-one wandered about after mid-night on Passover night, all were indoors. The one who is the "Real Passover" has given them the joy of a last observance in advance, or what he is just about to do the next day in dying for their sins.

## APPLICATION AND REFLECTIONS

Though he acted within God's plan Judas remained personally responsible and culpable for his actions.

Remember the Bible teaches that the unbeliever is condemned on the basis of their good works not their sins - Revelation 20:11-15. They are going to hell on the basis that they have decided that they can stand on the basis of their own good works, for they believe that they do not need the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. All the good things that they have done will not add up to the one truly "good thing" to defeat sin and death that Jesus Christ has done for them on the Cross. Unbelieving People will say to you, when they hear the gospel, that they want to do things their way not Jesus way.

Their judgement will be that they will see, too late, that their way does not get them anywhere near to God. Their pride, in all the things that they thought they could do to impress God will be the very basis of their condemnation. Like Cain, they despise the blood sacrifice, and like Cain they will be judged. Revelation 20 makes it quite clear that God is not impressed by our good works. The unbeliever will not be in hell because of their sins, which were paid for in full at the Cross, but for their arrogant rejection of the Lord. They will be in hell because they have rejected the one that paid for their sins, and insulted the one who gave all for them. Isaiah 64:1-6. They have expressed their eternal preference!

We have to go through the Scriptures carefully and give the message accurately. Hell is a waiting place. The names Hades, Gehenna, and torments, are for the place where the unbelievers wait until the Great White Throne judgment and the resurrection of the lost, where at the end of time they will be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire with Satan and his angels. Judas is in the place of torments today with all other unbelievers, and is awaiting the great white throne judgment. With all unbelievers he will stand before the one he knowingly betrayed and finally rejected, believing he had a better plan to Jesus' one.

After the departure of Judas the atmosphere in the upper room changed. The Lord is able to give the rest some doctrines now, as the unbeliever has gone. He can now teach the believers new deep wonderful truths.

The Bible makes it quite clear in Corinthians that Satan is an angel of light. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. He is a counterfeiter with counterfeit gifts, spirituality and evil but limited power. Satan will try to get unbelievers into places of power in the church and State. Why are they there?

Dr McEwan, having spoken to many down the years about their reason for being in a church, has identified several reasons. Firstly they are there for social and business reasons; it is good for their social lives and businesses to have Christian "networks" of pleasant people. Most are deists, so believe in the "Great Architect", and enjoy the quiet stability and decency of the church in the midst of the moral chaos of the world. They will be keen participants in all social activities.

The second group are those who want a drug free and pleasant social network for their children and a moral platform for social action initiatives for the less fortunate in society. They want preaching on the safe "human example" Jesus of liberalism, not the real historical Jesus of the Bible. They do not want evangelical and doctrinal truths taught nor preached powerfully; they want a comfortable faith, as the religious unbelievers did in Jeremiah and Isaiah's day.

In the case of a vast number of churches, they are neutralised because of this presence of the enemy's people in their midst, even in the pulpit. Many have an unbeliever in the pulpit with a dog collar on, or the deacons or elders are religious unbelievers. This will cause great dissension, or spiritual death, and the wet blanket of social action will extinguish the spiritual fire. If there are unbelievers in the church, you have to ensure that you open the door for their conversion, or get rid of them by powerful biblical preaching. There are techniques to "lean on" people spiritually in a Christian way, and you need to do it strongly. If you do it in a wrong way you will lose your spirituality and God will judge you and the unbelievers will still be there in positions of power to stop genuine evangelical work!

The "new commandment" which the Lord gives is not for Judas; for no religious unbeliever can accept or truly apply this. It is the basis of church age spirituality, the new commandment of love. Judas was the secretary/treasurer of the group and as such a key man, but he was an unbeliever and so unable to live in love, except for himself. Once you have the unbeliever out the spiritual log jam clears, the "water of the Word" starts flowing again, and the rest can centre their spirituality in their joint love for the Lord and each other.

We should not allow the satanic tool of ritualism or legalism to get hold of the local church. The standard of our relationship with other believers is the standard of the Lord's relationship with us. The Lord wants us to be like Him and to be seen to be like Him. The things that impressed the Romans so much were the loyalty of the Christians to one another. If you stab each other in the back you are insulting the Lord's love, and if you allow the adoption of religious ritualism you are copying the Pharisees not the Lord.

You need to go on the offensive with love. Agape love is ultimate concern. It is concern for their ultimate destiny and how they are going to be in eternity. It means that you will do anything for that Christian so that they will be able to grow spiritually and that you will not do anything that will not assist them to grow spiritually. By this shall all men know that you are his disciples.

Lots of simple lessons flow from these principles above. "Be practical and be without hypocrisy". For example, you should not read your Bible at work when you should be on the job. It is sinful to pray and preach in similar circumstances,

for you are being paid to work for your boss, and unless you do your job, "as unto the Lord", you cannot witness to Him with honour and respect to those around you, and to Him.

As an evangelist you should be able to pray at all times; while you are looking at people, talking to them, and while you work. People will know you are His disciples when you have love coming out of your life. In your love you will be practical, you will go and do things, which will help people rather than mouth platitudes at people.

If you come across a brother who needs a meal you invite them home to have a meal. If their garden is overgrown with weeds, you help and clear the weeds, praying for them as you do so, and speaking words of encouragement to them as you go.

You give counsel always with practical help. The motivation is caring love, and you will have concern for that person's weakness, for their sanity, and their spirituality. You may have to work on all three areas at the same time. All three activities on your part are then an expression of true caring love. The Lord says for us, as deacons and deaconesses, to get our hands dirty. The practical and the spiritual go together, and they both show Holy Spirit guided love.

Many problems within the church centre in pride, for that remains the main satanic technique to snare people into darker paths. When a person says, "this is beneath my dignity", they are a hypocrite in Jesus' eyes, not a disciple! If they will not help in the Sunday School, church car park, or as a kitchen helper, they are not to expect to help in public ministry in the church! 1 John 4:7-12, 1 Corinthians 13:4-8.

It is very important that we respond to all challenges and problems in our lives from our human spirit, Holy Spirit led and empowered, rather than our Old Sin Nature affected soulish mind, as we are then able to see objectively the problems as part of the Plan of God. Responding from the soul will cause us to become very emotional and be less effective in relating to the problems. Holy Spirit filled thinking creates discernment.

In contrast we see the Lord Jesus Christ facing the horrors of the Cross in relation to His position with the Plan of the Father. He comes under tremendous pressure but fulfils the plan completely. All the disciples ran away, the angels could not assist Him, God judged Him for our sins, yet he was able to shout out in triumph, "It is finished". Sin was "Paid in full", before He dismissed His spirit, and with that he defeated death itself.

The Passover is a ritual that teaches truth, and one that Jesus uses this year to teach many things, before He becomes the Passover Lamb the next day. Ritual without reality is meaningless, but the Communion Service for us, based on the Lord's "Last Supper" with the disciples, is full of meaning.

We also see that it is better never to have been born if you are not spiritually "born again" (born from above) – John 3:3-16.

All members of the human race can take the Lord as their Saviour, 2 Peter 3:9, and they can all fellowship with him and "eat and drink" with Him and remember Him and His work on their behalf. The offer is therefore open to all. The action of taking indicates acceptance of the bread of life in the form of Christ, which shows that the Christian life right from salvation is based on faith.

All people are able to take the bread and cup but only the believer, specifically in fellowship, is able to spiritually discern the meaning of the bread and cup. 1 Corinthians 11:23-31.

Believers in the Church Age also participate in the spiritual blessings of regeneration and the indwelling spirit.

That the bread and wine are symbols of our Lord's body and blood are clearly shown by the fact that the Lord had not died at the time he instituted the "Last Supper/Lord's Table".

In the celebration of the Lord's Supper we are to be occupied with Christ himself alone, with the memories of his love and grace, recording his sorrows, sufferings and death, and bearing in mind his promise to come again and receive us unto himself. It is a mistake to think of this ordinance as a means of grace, in the sense of it having to do with the salvation of the soul. It is intended to deepen fellowship, so that in the heart of those already saved, the realization of the preciousness of Christ's person and work deepens.

The Lord's Supper is a feast of remembrance which is intended to carry our minds back to the death of our Saviour and also to cause us to look forward to His coming again. We are to do this in remembrance of Him until His return for His church.

## **PROPHECY**

### **BETRAYED BY A FRIEND**

PROPHECY

**Psalm 41:9** (1000 BC): Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

1. Judas Iscariot had been a disciple of the Lord for his public earthly ministry. Yet it was he who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. His very name is now synonymous with treachery.

2. At the last supper the sop, a piece of bread dipped in the juices of the Passover lamb, was offered to Judas. This was the last opportunity for Judas to repent of his ways. He, however, disappeared into the night to betray the Lord.

**FULFILLMENT**

**John 13:18,19,21,26,27** (32 AD)-. I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. 19 Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he. 21 When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. 26 Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.

**DOCTRINES**

**GOD: ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION**

**ANGELS: COUNTERFEITS OF SATAN**

**ANGELS: CROSS AND SATAN**

**ANGELS: DEMONS**

**ANGELS: SATAN - ADVERSARY**

**ANGELS: SATAN'S DESTINY**

**ANGELS: SATAN'S STRATEGY**

**ANGELS: SATAN'S WORK**

**ANGELS: SATAN AND SATANIC ATTACK**

**ANGELS: SATANIC ATTACK ON BELIEVERS**

**ANGELS: SATANIC REVIVAL**

**ANGELS – SATAN'S STRATEGY AND TACTICS**

**GOD: CHARACTER OF GOD**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: LOVE**

**SALT**

**UNBELIEVER**

**KINGDOM**

**CHRIST: ISAIAH CHAPTER 53: SUFFERING OF JESUS CHRIST**

Isaiah 53 is one of the most famous chapters in the Bible and portrays prophetically the sufferings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prophecy - 53:1 "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"

Fulfilment - John 12:38

Prophecy - 53:2 "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."

Fulfilment - Philippians 2:5-8

Prophecy - 53:3 "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not"

Fulfilment - John 1:11, Matthew 26:38; 27:20-22,

Prophecy - 53:4 "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted."

Fulfilment - Matthew 8:16, 27:41-43

Prophecy - 53:5 "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

Fulfilment - Matthew 27:26-29, Colossians 1:20, 1 Peter 2:24

Prophecy - 53:6 "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Fulfilment - Romans 3:23, 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Prophecy - 53:7 "He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." –

Fulfilment - Matthew 27:12-14, 1 Peter 2:23.

Prophecy - 53:8 "He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken."

Fulfilment - Luke 23:4-33, John 18:3-30

Prophecy - 53:9 "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth."

Fulfilment - Matthew 27:24, 57-60

Prophecy - 53:10 "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand."

Fulfilment - John 3:16, Romans 8:32

Prophecy - 53:11 "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.:"

Fulfilment - John 19:34, Romans 4:25

Prophecy - 53:12 "Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."

Fulfilment - Mark 15:27, Luke 23:34, John 19:28-31

**CHURCH: COMMUNION: THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**COVENANT: NEW COVENANT**

**BLOOD SACRIFICE**

**CHURCH: MINISTERS**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: DISAGREEMENTS**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: REWARDS AND CROWNS**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: SUBMISSION**

**KINGDOM: MILLENNIAL KINGDOM**

**PREDICTION OF PETER'S FALL**

**MARK 14:27-31** [MATTHEW 26:31-35, LUKE 22:31-34, JOHN 13:36-38] see HARMONY 74-21

**27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. 28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. 29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. 30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. 31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.**

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**27 And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. 28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.**

Jesus predicted that all the disciples would take offence at his sufferings and death. Jesus quoted Zechariah 13:7 to the situation. "I [God the Father] will strike [put to death] the shepherd [Jesus] and the sheep [the disciples] will be scattered abroad". They must see that their response was "normal" given the events that will unfold around them, and they are not to blame themselves to the point of despair, only to the point of repentance! The same challenge is ours when we sin and make fools of ourselves. **1 John 1:1-10.**

Jesus also challenges them to keep thinking about their coming offence and "rejection". He adds to his prediction of desertion by the disciples, with the promise of a post resurrection reunion in Galilee, a promise that indicates they will all be forgiven and restored. They were to follow the risen Lord, who would continue to lead his people in their future tasks. Forgiveness would characterize the Risen Lord, as it had his entire ministry to date.

**29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. 30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. 31 But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.**

Peter picks up the first part of the Lord's prediction, while ignoring the second part. He insists that the he would remain faithful even if the others fall away. Peter has done the very thing we have reflected upon, he has operated from the strength of his human soul, and while he is strong, he is not as strong as he thinks he is.

Jesus however told Peter that his fall would be greater than the others despite his sincerity. He tells Peter that before the "cock crow" occurs twice Peter would not only desert Jesus, but also would deny him (at least) three times (it appears it is 7 times!). The Lord prophetically warns Peter, so that after he repents, he will be assured of forgiveness also.

The "cock crow" was both a description of a Roman Trumpet call marking the time of watch change, but was also a proverbial expression for early morning before sunrise as seen in Mark 13:35, "**Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:**"

Only Mark mentioned the "cock crowing" twice which was a detail probably indelibly marked in Peter's memory. The fact that the word "twice" is more likely correct, is the use of the same words the second time in a Mark 14:72.

**APPLICATION**

If you start doing something important in your spiritual life you will have plenty of testing. Do not expect the enemy to sit by and give you a clear run! He is however only allowed to attack under God's allowances, so all attack is by permission, and can be seen as "for training and spiritual growth purposes only"!

You may have got away with being sloppy in the Christian life prior to dedicating yourself to the Lord's purposes for your life, but once you start to work for the Lord, the testing will come, and you must walk with the Holy Spirit's power, and in God's Precise Plan for your life, or you will fall over just as fast as Peter is going to.

God is going to do things with our life, so get the message now and walk in the Holy Spirit's power and Plan!

If you get working for God you will be blessed, but the enemy will not be sitting around cheering you on from the side lines; so be alert and Spirit filled at all times. Keep your armour on, for you are on a battlefield, and even though the enemy is fatally beaten, he is angry and determined to hurt those he can! Ephesians 6:10-18, James 4:6-10, 1 Peter 5:5-11.

Do not be like Peter is going to be over this next day. Do not let arrogance enter your soul, and think you know a lot, that you have great assets and can work alone. Learn to think at all times as a child in the Lord, and be filled with the Holy Spirit, and therefore have the mental attitude that the Lord can teach you, and that you will only advance if the Spirit guides you. Only then are you safe.

**PROPHECY**

**ABANDONED BY DISCIPLES**

## PROPHECY

**Zechariah 13:7** (487 BC): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

1. Although the disciples had been taught by the Lord himself for three years, they had not accepted the concept that the Lord Jesus Christ had to go to the cross.
2. This is clearly shown by Peter telling the Lord that this should not be so, and earning the rebuke of "Get thee behind me Satan" from the Lord (**Matthew 16:21-23**).
3. As a consequence, when the shepherd was struck the sheep scattered.

## FULFILLMENT

**Mark 14:27** (32 AD): And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

Peter denied that he would be offended by his association with the Lord. He eventually denied the Lord three times before the cock crowed twice (**Luke 22:54-62**).

## DOCTRINES

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: SUFFERING**

**PETER – DIVINE GUIDANCE**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: ETERNAL SECURITY**

**WORRY**

**THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN****MARK 14:32-42**

**32** And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. **33** And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; **34** And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. **35** And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. **36** And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt. **37** And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? **38** Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. **39** And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. **40** And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. **41** And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **42** Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**32** And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. **33** And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; **34** And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

Jesus and the eleven disciples came to Gethsemane. The word Gethsemane means a press for crushing oil out of the olives. It was a gardenlike enclosure in olive orchards near the foot of the Mount of Olives. This secluded spot was also known to Judas as one of their favourite meeting places as a group.

Jesus told his disciples to sit down near the entrance and wait until he had prayed. He requested Peter, James and John to go along with him. As the four walked into the garden Jesus became noticeably distressed. The full impact of his death and its spiritual consequences struck Jesus, and he staggered under the full understanding of its unique weight. The prospect of alienation from his Father horrified him. To “become sin” for us, was a horror for a sinless one, but a horror to be bourn in love and obedience, so that our salvation could be fully won. **2 Corinthians 5:21, 8:9, Philippians 2:8, Hebrews 5:9.**

**35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.**

Moving forward at a short distance from the three and quietly prostrating himself on the ground, face down, Jesus prayed aloud with great emotion. His prayer lasted at least an hour as noted in verse 37 below. Much was not heard, as the disciples slept on and off, so tired were they. The Lord must have explained all his prayer to them after his resurrection, and they received its full meaning then, in light of his victory.

However Mark recorded only a brief summary of it, first in narrative form in verse 35, and then in direct quotation in verse 36. The words “if possible” is a first class condition in the Greek which means he had made a request on the understanding that God the Father was able to grant it. The issue remained however as to whether it was God’s will to do so, and it was God the Father’s will for him to go to the Cross and defeat sin and death, and the Devil himself in the process.

The metaphor of “the hour” indicates God’s appointed time when Jesus would suffer and die. The metaphor of “this cup” refers to the same event. The cup represents God’s wrath against the sins of all mankind, which when poured out upon Him on the Cross, includes not only physical but also spiritual suffering and death.

The double title Abba, which is the Aramaic for my father, and the Greek word “Pater”, occurs only two other times in the New Testament. Romans 8:15, **“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father”**. Galatians 4:6, **“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father”**.

Abba was a common way young Jewish children addressed their fathers. It conveyed intimacy and familiarity. The Jews however did not use it in prayer of God, as it was said to be inappropriate in addressing God. Thus Jesus’ use of both in addressing God was new and unique. It vividly portrayed the shift from religious formalism to intimate relationship that the Cross and Empty Tomb will open the door to, for all who come to Jesus.

The request for the Father to take the cup from him indicates that Jesus was, in his humanity, hoping to avoid the hour and hoping if possible that the cup would be removed before he must drink it. However having said this He relaxes into the Plan, having noted the very human anticipatory fear of the horror of it all. He shows His total obedience to the Plan of God by stating, “nevertheless not what I will but what thou wilt”. This prayer models our own agonized prayers at times, when we sit with our human fears/anxieties, acknowledge them to God, but then relax into the eternal Plan of God, through the pain that may come. Obedience triumphs over fear when we accept God’s path, and the power to walk it!

He therefore acknowledged that the answer to his request was not governed by what he desired, but by what the Father willed to fulfil the eternal Plan whereby salvation was provided for all mankind. God’s will entailed the sacrificial death of Jesus so He resolutely submitted himself to it. His deep distress passed from Him, but the hour did not. He would not be able to receive the father’s comfort through the Cross, nor the Holy Spirit’s power to bear the sin of the world; he had to do it alone. Because of that obedience in extreme suffering we receive God’s help and the Spirit’s power in all times of testing we face in the Plan of God for our lives.

**37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? 38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. 39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. 40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. 41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.**

The Holy Spirit inspired emphasis in Mark’s Gospel now shifts from Jesus’ prayer to the failure of the three disciples he requested to stay with Him to stay awake. Three times Jesus interrupts his prayer and returns to where they are, finding them sleeping. The first time he addresses Peter alone, He addresses him as Simon, his old very human name, and chides him for his inability to watch for even one hour.

On His second return Jesus addresses all three disciples. He tells them all to watch be alert to the spiritual dangers that are drawing near as he speaks, and to acknowledge their total dependency on God. The Spirit is willing and desires to do the will of God but the flesh, the very human and flawed person we each are, in our fallen humanity is always weak. It is only the Holy Spirit that truly strengthens us on our brief journey through space and time.

Following a third of prayer session, Jesus returns and again find them sleeping. Three times Peter failed to watch and pray, and in the next hours well more than three times he would fall into temptation and deny the Lord Jesus. Jesus prayer sessions are now completed so Jesus tells them to take some rest, but their human rest will not help them in the hours to come, for evil, approaches, and human rest does not prepare for spiritual battles. He says that his hour is come – death and victory are coming in the next twelve hours.

There is a small interval between the first and second halves of verse 41. In the second half He now tells the disciples to get up and go, because Judas and the band of “police” from the temple with the Roman troops, who are going to arrest Jesus are approaching and the time for sleeping and preparing has now finished.

Instead of fleeing from Jesus at this point, the three disciples, who have now probably been joined by the other eight advance to meet Judas. The issue that prompted Jesus’ prayer in this passage has been settled. He will now go through the gate of the garden, protecting the disciples thereby, and walk calmly forward and face the Cross in conformity with the Father’s will and purpose.

## **APPLICATION**

Privacy in prayer is a central principle in the Christian life. It is time for the believer to commune with God on a one to one basis and it needs to happen “continually” – “with the frequency of a hacking cough”. 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

We can never understand the extreme pressure that our Lord was under in the Garden contemplating the Cross. These sufferings were unique.

We have three wills active in the universe, God’s will, Angelic will, and Human will. Without human free will there would have been no salvation. Adam could only sin one way, by using his free will against God’s Word.

We should always use our free will to do the Will of God for our lives. As a believer we can handle our problems before God only by bringing them before the throne and talking about them with God.

As the deity of Christ cannot die it will be the humanity of Christ on which the sins of the world will be judged.

Prayer has relationship to resisting temptation and testing.

With sins having been dealt with at the Cross a person either relies on the imputed righteousness of Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:21, or one’s own good works to satisfy God. The unbeliever is eventually condemned by his good works. Revelation 20:11-15.

In times of inactivity it is opportunity to build up your knowledge of the Word of God, as it is application of the truths of the Bible which will see you through the hard times when they come.

This warning about watching and praying applies to all believers for all space-time, for all of us are susceptible to spiritual failure when we walk in our human strength rather than Holy Spirit power.

## **DOCTRINES**

### **CHRISTIAN LIFE – MENTAL ATTITUDE**

### **CHRIST - KENOSIS OF CHRIST**

### **SOUL AND HUMAN SPIRIT**

**THE ARREST OF CHRIST, DISPERSION OF DISCIPLES**

**MARK 14:43-52** [MATTHEW 26:47-56, LUKE 22:47-53, JOHN 18:2-12] see HARMONY 74-23

**43** And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. **44** And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely. **45** And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him. **46** And they laid their hands on him, and took him. **47** And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. **48** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me? **49** I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled. **50** And they all forsook him, and fled. **51** And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: **52** And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**43** And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

Because they had been sent by the leaders of Israel in the form of the High Priest, Elders and Scribes, the band that comes to arrest Jesus would have been the temple guard, possibly "stiffened" by the Roman Army in case of major trouble, although less trouble from the crowd if the soldiers were all Jewish. This guard was known to possess the very weapons mentioned here, namely swords and the clubs/staves. Jesus is "prince of peace" but these men and their masters think only in human terms and they expect him to be like them selves.

Clubs were said to have characterized a corrupt priestly aristocracy in charge of the Temple, as well as being useful in controlling rioters. Clubs were not supposed to be carried on Holy Days including the Passover festival. These men came prepared for armed resistance from one they supposed to be a messianic revolutionary, because they had interpreted Jesus' act in the temple in terms of cultural categories of the day, rather than in terms of the rest of His teaching. They were thinking like the servants of the "Mafia" of their day (Caiaphas and Annas' family activities were well known).

**44** And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely. **45** And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith, Master, master; and kissed him. **46** And they laid their hands on him, and took him.

A kiss was a sign of special affection among family members and close friends or of a disciple's affection for his teacher. Thus Judas' kiss is a special act of hypocrisy. Proverbs 27:6 says, "**Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful**".

This band believed they needed Judas to lead them in person to the appropriate spot, and secure an absolute identification. Had they searched for Jesus only on the basis of general directions, they thought their search would have given Jesus time to escape. The kiss is therefore necessary, because darkness made it difficult to recognize Jesus. Under normal conditions some of the guard of course may have been able to recognize Him as He had been teaching in the temple and they had approached him before with questions from the authorities. John 7:45-49.

**47** And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

Being rich from his criminal empire, the high priest had ample servants. Although the servant mentioned herein is probably not a Levite, and thus unable to minister in the temple in any way, it is worthy of note that anyone who were missing appendages, such as ears, were barred from serving in the sanctuary.

In fact John Mark who was eligible to be a Levitical Priest is said to have removed the tip of one of his fingers to prevent him from serving in that way. His action caused him to inherit the nickname of "stumpy finger".

Although the object of the expedition was only to arrest Jesus, had the sword of Peter struck again, many of the disciples would likely have been killed in the ensuing conflict. There was also a possibility of Jesus being killed in any riotous situation, and so not going to the Cross. Roman Soldiers were executed themselves if they let a prisoner escape, and so if there, they would be taking no chances this dark night. Satan was looking for any way to kill Jesus before the Cross and Peter's human-driven actions nearly open the door for the enemy to win. It is always dangerous for us to operate on the basis of human emotion or thinking, rather than Holy Spirit thought! Praise God, the Lord indeed reigns.

**48** And Jesus answered and said unto them, Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me? **49** I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled. **50** And they all forsook him, and fled.

These words will be chillingly fulfilled in Jerusalem during the years moving towards the fall of the city to the Romans, 66-90 AD. There were multiple assassins groupings/factions, all fighting each other and killing any Jewish aristocrats under

the cover of the crowds in the streets or Temple; they did acts secretly so as to avoid capture and they murder many members of Annas' family. Jesus' supposed subversion had been public and unconcealed and it was no threat. An arrest in the temple would however have been politically disadvantageous and probably aroused a riot by other groups. All the disciples other than John and Peter flee, but Peter and John will follow the soldiers at a safe distance back into the city.

**51 And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: 52 And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.**

Except for some of the Jews who were totally immersed in Greek culture and considered apostates by others, Jewish people generally despised nakedness. At night one might expect the young disciple to have an outer garment as well as the linen cloth under garments. Although one could sleep naked inside one's home in Palestine in April, Jerusalem's higher elevation made it likely that it was a cold night. This is confirmed by Peter warming himself by the fire later in the chapter. Passover pilgrims who camped outdoors had coverings. This young man was in a hurry and had wrapped himself in a linen cloth, which also allowed him to slip from the hold of his captors. He may have been wearing underwear, but this was considered "naked" by the orthodox.

## APPLICATION

In the case of Judas, he told the mob to restrain the Lord as he was afraid of reprisals. Those who have criminal or bad attitudes often expect others to react as they would. This man stupidly thought that if Jesus hands were tied he was powerless! Even Holy Spirit empowered men were not powerless when tied! Judges 16:7-9. We need to respond as our Lord would and not react to situations according to our Old Sin Nature.

Pettiness of attitude is eliminated by the application of the Word of God to one's life.

The ignorant believer cannot hinder the Plan of God, and at times God will use unbeliever's free choices as an integral part of His plan. God's Plan will succeed, the issue is simply whether we will be blessed within it or not!

Self centred (narcissistic like their master Satan) people value things and the praise of man rather than the 'well done' of God, for that is just too far away for them.

Let us learn from the sin of Judas. As believers we are not like him, but we may resemble him at times when we place ourselves above the will of the Lord for our lives.

Remember the principle, if you are in a situation where the Lord wants you He will protect you until you have completed the task. You need to ask, "Am I doing what the Lord would have me do at this point in time?"

If you are in God's will in accordance with His Plan for your life, you are safe, and even if you are out of the will of God at that point, you may well be as safe as Peter was here. If he wants you to be a martyr give him thanks that you have been given the opportunity to gain the martyr's crown before you go to be with Him. Find out what He wants you to do and do it without fear.

God doesn't want us to give our human best! He wants us to be obedient to him and follow the Holy Spirit, and give our supernatural (Holy Spirit empowered) spiritual best!

## DOCTRINES

## REVOLUTION

## CHRISTIAN LIFE: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

## KISS

## CUP

**EXAMINATION BEFORE SANHEDRIN AND PETER'S DENIAL****MARK 14:53,55-65**

53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. 54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire. 55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. 56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. 57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, 58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. 59 But neither so did their witness agree together. 60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? 61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? 62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. 63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? 64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. 65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands. 66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: 67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. 68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. 69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them. 70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto. 71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak. 72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. 54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire. 55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. 56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. 57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, 58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. 59 But neither so did their witness agree together.

This is the second trial, the first trial being before Annas. The first trial is found in John 18:13, 19-24. In verses 55 to 59 we have an account of an early morning meeting of the "rump" Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin comprised 71 members and was presided over by the High Priest, but this early morning meeting was illegal, and so we suspect was missing many key members.

Peter's trespassing on private property, that of the high priest himself, required a serious commitment from the Galilean fishermen, but it was not thought through, for he doesn't belong here. The guards, or servants as they are called, could be the priest's night watchman but presumably they would immediately recognize that Peter does not belong there, as guards/servants were expected to know who was "acceptable" to the household and who was not. Also it is possible that these are some members of the temple guard, waiting to see the results of the trial inside.

On this particular night the Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes and Elders who comprised the Sanhedrin showed utter disregard for the rules under which they operated. They were not supposed to meet at night or during any of the Jewish Feasts. They were not supposed to bribe witnesses to commit perjury. A death verdict was not to be carried out until a night had elapsed and unless they met in the Hall of Hewn Stone in the temple area their verdicts were not binding.

In the eagerness to do away with the Lord Jesus Christ this group of religious leaders did not hesitate to stoop to breaking their own rules. Their determined efforts produced a group of false witness but they failed to produce united testimony. Some misquote the Lord as threatening to destroy the temple and to rebuild it within three days. What He actually said can be found in John 2:19. The witnesses had purposely confused the Temple in Jerusalem with the temple of His body. The problem they have is that their "star witness" Judas has stormed out and suicided!

In relation to two witnesses that seem to be saying the same thing in Matthew 26:61, "**And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days**", and the account given in Mark, "**I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands**". The difference between, "I am able" and "I will" in a Jewish court would be sufficient to disqualify the witnesses as Mark notes in verse 59.

60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? 61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked

him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? 62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

When the High Priest questioned Jesus our Lord, He did not reply. But when then asked under oath as shown in the Matthew account whether he was the Messiah the Son of the Blessed the Lord replied "Yes" He was acting in conformity with Leviticus 5:1. "And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity".

Then in order to remove any doubt as to who he claimed to be the Lord Jesus Christ directly told the Sanhedrin that they would yet see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand the power and coming back to the earth with the clouds of heaven. During his first advent of the glory of His deity was clothed in human body but when He comes again in power and great glory the veil will be removed and everyone will know exactly who He is. His clear reference to being Messiah, Son of David, is giving them their permission to fully express their real opinion and belief about Him. They reject Him!

**63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith, What need we any further witnesses? 64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye? And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. 65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophecy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.**

The high priest very clearly understood what Jesus meant. He tore his clothes as a sign of his righteous indignation against this supposed blasphemy, although it was forbidden for a High Priest to do so. The person in Israel who above all others should have been ready to recognize and receive the Messiah was loudest in his condemnation, as he was a religious politician, not a believer in God. But he was not alone, the entire Sanhedrin membership gathered this night, agreed that Jesus had blasphemed, and so condemned Him to be deserving of death.

In verse 65 the scene that followed is almost unbelievable given that this was a religious court of men who believed they were the guardians of Moses – who spoke directly of Messiah. Some members of the Sanhedrin began to spit on the Son of God, to blindfold Him and to challenge Him to name his assailants. It is almost incredible that our Lord should have to endure such actions by the religious leaders of Israel against himself, and yet this had to be played out, for their rejection would lead to their rejection as light bearers for the next period of history. Zechariah 12:10ff.

The officers of the court also joined in the scandal by hitting the Lord with the palms of their hands.

**66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: 67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth. 68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew. 69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them.**

Slaves in aristocratic households exercised more power and status than the average free person. Although the high priest undoubtedly had many servants, the slave girl would have recognized that Peter and the temple guards were not from the high priests household. The guards were dressed in their uniforms so would be acceptable but Peter was obviously a Galilean and as such a "dodgy" and possibly dangerous character this night, when the "Galilean Messiah" was standing inside being insulted, and about to be handed over for execution. This girl may have thought she was protecting the household against a possible assassin from Jesus' radical band! Assassins were common in the city.

As a servant in an aristocratic household near to the temple, she had perhaps been at the temple recently, and could have had a good look at Jesus' disciples in the temple court. After being approached by the servant girl Peter's withdrawal from the court to the porch area perhaps anticipates the need for escape, but he doesn't leave, he hesitates.

**70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto. 71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.**

Galilean accents differed significantly from Judean accents. The high priest servants and temple guards would have lived in Jerusalem and regard themselves as Judeans. They would therefore recognize that Peter was from a different part of the country and say that his accent demonstrates this. In addition Galilee was always considered by the people in Jerusalem to be a backward and dangerous multi-cultural area of Israel, and the Galileans were looked down upon as a result.

The fact that Peter began to call down curses on himself, and that he swears to them, does not necessarily mean he used profanity. Rather he placed himself under God's curse if he were lying to them and put himself under oath, as in a courtroom to confirm the truth of his denial. Carefully avoiding the use of Jesus' name, Peter emphatically denied any knowledge of "this man" that they were talking about.

**72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.**

In this verse we are told of the second crowing of the cock. Peter immediately then remembers exactly what Jesus had said to him, and realises that the denials that he has made have confirmed the prophecy that Jesus gave, "Before the cock crows twice you shall deny me thrice". As a result he went out and wept bitterly.

### **APPLICATION**

Ritual without reality is meaningless. People with negative attitudes rarely are convinced by the truth.

Legalistic people are more interested in keeping their self imposed traditions than facing up to the truth.

Judges should never lose their tempers. It is critical that the facts of a case are objectively reviewed.

It is always important that one stays focussed on the main reason for us being here, and consider how questions that are put to us can be utilised for the Glory of God, and clarification of God's grace.

Just because a person is highly trained and qualified it does not mean that from a spiritual viewpoint you will get unbiased and good advice.

Pride and power, if deeply desired, not only corrupt but also can blind a person to the truth.

This passage demonstrates the fall of Peter but unlike Judas Peter survived his great betrayal of our Lord and after recovery had a great ministry for thirty or so years. The recovery had a number of features that we need to reflect upon for our own assurance, as we face disgraceful actions we can be guilty of if careless.

[a] Peter was saved when this incident happened.

[b] Peter did not lose his salvation by his action.

[c] Peter was disciplined as a child of God in the form of bitter regrets.

[d] Peter did confess his sins [John 21:15-17]. Confession is essential regarding recovery in ministry.

[e] If Peter had died immediately after his denials he still would have gone to Paradise.

[f] Confession of sins gives you the privilege of service in the Christian life. Peter is going to have a great ministry ahead.

[g] Peter failed but he was still alive and therefore God had a plan and purpose for him. You know when your ministry is finished as you die or are taken at the Rapture.

God can show you blessing in suffering here which He cannot in heaven as there will be no suffering there. There is no sin or suffering in eternity.

It is of the greatest importance to be in the place where you are supposed to be. Another Christian may be in a location which is of danger to you, or vice versa. We must follow the Holy Spirit alone.

You should not make promises and commitments, which you cannot keep. Knowledge of the Word of God helps in keeping one focused on the Plan of God. Knowledge and application of Bible doctrine is most important in the believer's life.

## **APPARENT PROBLEM BETWEEN MARK'S ACCOUNT AND THE OTHER GOSPELS**

### **DENIAL OF PETER AND THE CROWING OF THE COCK**

The crowing of the cock is reported in all four Gospels with Mark reporting that the cock crowed twice.

Study of the four Gospels show that during this night Peter is reported as having denied the Lord on seven occasions rather than three, so he has a very busy night denying the Lord. It is noted that the first cock crow is recorded to have occurred at the time of the fourth denial.

The sequence appears as follows:-

#### **FIRST DENIAL**

##### **PETER STANDING BY THE DOOR**

JOHN 8:16-18. "But Peter stood at the door without. Then went out that other disciple, which was known unto the high priest, and spake unto her that kept the door, and brought in Peter. Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter,

Art not thou also one of this man's disciples? He saith, I am not. And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself."

#### Comments

Here Peter is standing warming himself while in the Second denial he is seated thus they are probably separate incidents.

### SECOND DENIAL

#### PETER SEATED AT THE FIRE - A YOUNG SERVANT GIRL

This is reported in three gospels:

MATTHEW 26:69. "Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. 70 But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest."

MARK 14:66. "And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch."

LUKE 22:55. "And when they had kindled a fire in the midst of the hall, and were set down together, Peter sat down among them. 56 But a certain maid beheld him as he sat by the fire, and earnestly looked upon him, and said, This man was also with him. 57 And he denied him, saying, Woman, I know him not."

#### Comments

Notice Mark reports the first crowing of the cock here but it is after Peter has gone out into the porch, which allows additional time for denials. In addition the crowing of the cock for the first time seems to have had very little effect on Peter as he continues to deny the Lord. It is only when he sees the Lord Jesus Christ looking at him that it registers what he has done.

### THIRD DENIAL

#### A MAN CHALLENGES HIM

LUKE 22:58. "And after a little while another saw him, and said, Thou art also of them. And Peter said, Man, I am not."

#### Comments

Here a man challenges him in sequence in Luke but no mention of the cock crowing

### FOURTH DENIAL

#### SERVANT OF THE HIGH PRIEST

JOHN 18:26 "One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him? 27 Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew."

#### Comments

The fourth denial was a friend of the man injured in the incident at the arrest of our Lord. Here we note that immediately the cock crowed.

This conforms with the statement in John 13:38. "Jesus answered him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice". He appears to have denied him four times to date.

### FIFTH DENIAL

#### ANOTHER SERVANT GIRL

MATTHEW 26:71. "And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth. 72 And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man."

#### Comments

Here Peter is in the porch again denying the Lord

**SIXTH DENIAL**

## THE CROWD

MATTHEW 26:73. “And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech betrayeth thee.<sup>74</sup> Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.<sup>75</sup> And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crew, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.”

MARK 14:70. “And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilean, and thy speech agreeth thereto. <sup>71</sup> But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.”

## Comments

Here we notice in Matthew that immediately the cock crew. This is the second crowing of the cock

**SEVENTH DENIAL**

## ANOTHER MAN

LUKE 22:59. “And about the space of one hour after another confidently affirmed, saying, Of a truth this fellow also was with him: for he is a Galilaean.<sup>60</sup> And Peter said, Man, I know not what thou sayest. And immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew.”

## Comments

Here we have the cock crowing while he was yet speaking so denials 6 and 7 are closely sequential and is the second crowing of the cock.

**SECOND CROWING OF THE COCK**

MARK 14:72. “And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crew twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.”

## Comments

Remembering that Mark is Peter’s account in collaboration with Mark the second crowing marked the time of great remorse and weeping as he had twice denied the Lord three times terminating with crows from the cock bearing in mind that the seventh denial was during the second crowing of the cock.

**PROPHECIES****[1] FALSE WITNESSES**

## PROPHECY

**Psalm 35:11** (1000 BC): **False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.**

## FULFILLMENT

**Matthew 26:59-61** (32 AD): Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; <sup>60</sup> But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, <sup>61</sup> And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

1. Although the rulers of Israel had plotted the arrest and condemnation of the Lord Jesus Christ, when it came to the trial they could not get two witnesses to agree on accusations against him.
2. They accused Jesus on two counts: destroying the temple and building another in three days (**Matthew 26:61**); and claiming to be the Son of God (**Matthew 27:43**).
3. Both the Jewish legal system, which employed the false witnesses, and the Roman system, which was in force in Israel at that time, were the great legal systems of the ancient world.
4. Both were distorted when Jesus Christ was condemned.
5. The Jewish law was distorted by religion and legalism.

6. The Roman law was perverted by political expediency.

## [2] SPIT IN HIS FACE

### PROPHECY

**Isaiah 50:6** (712 BC): I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

### FULFILLMENT

**Mark 14:65** (32 AD): And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophesy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

1. The act of spitting in someone's face is one of the most degrading acts of contempt that one member of the human race can perpetrate on another. During his mistreatment by the Roman soldiers Jesus suffered this indignity.
2. Nevertheless the first cry from the cross was, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do" (**Luke 23:34**).

### DOCTRINES

**CHRIST: ASCENSION AND SESSION**

**CHRIST – RETURN OF OUR LORD**

**CHRIST - "RIGHT TIME" FOR THE LORDS FIRST ADVENT**

**CHRIST: FIRST AND SECOND ADVENTS**

**PRIESTS: PRIESTLY GARMENTS**

**SIN – UNPARDONABLE SIN**

**SIN: OLD SIN NATURE – THE FRUIT OF**

**BITTERNESS**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: IGNORANCE**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: REPENTANCE**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: THINKING BIBLICALLY**

**WEEPING**

**CHAPTER 15****JESUS LED TO AND APPEARS BEFORE PILATE****MARK 15:1-5**

**1** And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate. **2** And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto them, Thou sayest it. **3** And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing. **4** And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. **5** But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Up to this time Jesus had been on trial before the Jewish religious leaders on the charge of blasphemy. Now he was taken before the civil court on a charge of treason. The civil trial took place in three stages first before Pilate then before Herod Antipas, and finally before Pilate again.

Pilate asked the Lord Jesus Christ if he was the King of the Jews. If he were he was presumably dedicated to the overthrow of Caesar and thus guilty of treason. Pilate had to work with these religious leaders this year, and he had to please them, for they could complain again about him, and he was in personal danger regarding his future.

The chief priests poured out many charges against Jesus desperately trying to make him a revolutionary figure and therefore able to be dealt with by Romans and excusing the Jewish leadership of responsibility. This is seen in the imperfect tense of the word "Kategoroeo", which means they kept on accusing Him. Pilate could not get over his poise in the face of such overwhelming accusations and such deep malice. He asked why he didn't defend Himself, but Jesus refused to answer his critics.

Jewish accounts of martyrs which come down to us from this time testify frequently to the gentile judges' astonishment that the Jewish martyrs refused to cooperate. Roman Law did not however interpret silence as an admission of guilt, and Pilate's hatred of the Jewish leadership was great, for they had got him into serious trouble over recent years, to the point where he was on his last warning from the Senate.

**APPLICATION**

Even the greatest systems of law can prove to be ineffective due to the weaknesses in the leaders and sets of circumstances that they face. Today we call this "human factors", and many come together this night to ensure that the Father's Will is done.

As Christians we should never compromise the truth. Pilate asks Christ, "What is truth"? In fact he is looking at Him who is the way, the truth and the life. **John 14:6**.

Religious people can commit the most heinous crimes yet be very particular about keeping the niceties of their tradition.

The unbeliever, who knew Jesus was innocent, could not see the truth, as spiritual phenomena are spiritually discerned, and so not accessible to negative people. **1 Corinthians 2:14**.

Satan would have liked Jesus to be stoned to death, or killed by a Roman sword thrust, as the Lord would have died without conforming to the prophetic words about Him in the Scriptures.

The Romans had however rescinded the ability of the Jews executing anybody thus forcing the Jews to have to use the Roman crucifixion format. This is what had been prophesied in Psalm 22, by David, one thousand years previously.

God is in charge of History. He knew what stressors Pilate would be under, what the interplay of the Jews and the Romans would be, and how the Lord would successfully go to the Cross as part of the eternal plan of God.

**DOCTRINES**

**PILATE: PONTIUS PILATE - EXPEDIANCY**

**CHRIST : PROPHETIC PSALMS ABOUT CHRIST**

**CHRIST: PROPHECIES ABOUT THE CRUCIFIXION**

**PILATE SEEKS TO RELEASE JESUS BUT CONDEMNS HIM**

**MARK 15:6-19** [MATTHEW 27:15-30, LUKE 23:13-25, JOHN 18:39-19:3] see HARMONY 74-24

**6** Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. **7** And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. **8** And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them. **9** But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews? **10** For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. **11** But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. **12** And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews? **13** And they cried out again, Crucify him. **14** Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. **15** And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified. **16** And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. **17** And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, **18** And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! **19** And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**6** Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. **7** And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. **8** And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them.

It was a custom for the Roman Governor to release one Jewish prisoner at the time of Passover. One such eligible prisoner was Barabbas who was guilty of a rebellion against Roman authority, and murder of people in that rebellion. This man was thoroughly self righteously evil, ready to murder in his cause, so a perfect substitute for the leadership.

When Pilate offered to release Jesus, taunting the envious chief priests, the people were primed to ask for Barabbas. The very ones who were charging Jesus with treason against Caesar were asking for the release of a man who was actually guilty of that very crime. The position of the chief priest was irrational and ludicrous, but sin and evil is like that. Satan is basically self defeating in all his schemes, because in his arrogance and short sightedness he does not see the evils he is creating, and always thinks he can control his people, but they are equally self willed to him.

**9** But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews? **10** For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. **11** But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. **12** And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews? **13** And they cried out again, Crucify him. **14** Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him. **15** And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them,

Pilate asked what he should do with the One whom they called the King of the Jews. The people chanted savagely "crucify him". Pilate demanded the reason, but they had none. Mob hysteria was rising because it was being "paid to rise" by the agents of the High Priests, and so, well paid as they were, all they would shout was "crucify him".

So Pilate did what they wanted. He released Barabbas. It was a monstrous verdict of unrighteousness. The guiltless one was delivered to die in order that the guilty might go free. Remember when you reflect on this crowd, the decent people of Jerusalem were all in bed at this time; only the paid, "rent a mob" crowd, who the Chief Priests could pay to get out of bed at this early hour, were there.

**and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified. 16** And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. **17** And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, **18** And began to salute him, Hail, King of the Jews! **19** And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.

The soldiers led Jesus away into the hall of the governor's residence. After assembling the whole garrison they staged a mock of coronation for the King of the Jews. The whole garrison would be on alert this night, and Pilate is fully and formally dressed, because he has been tipped off about the arrest well before the Jewish leadership arrives.

It was God's son they clothed with purple. It was their own creator they crowned with thorns. It was the sustainer of the universe they mocked as King of the Jews. It was the Lord and glory they struck on the head. They spat on the Prince of Peace. They mockingly worshipped, bowing the knee to the King of Kings and lord of lords. All will indeed bow before him in the end, but the majority will be like these men, in unbelief but in total acceptance in the end of their judgment. **Isaiah 45:23, Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:12, Revelation 20:11-15.**

In all this they acted out of contempt, not so much for Jesus personally, but for their subject nation which had long desired a King of its own. Sadly they will accept all manner of radicals in the years 66-70 AD and 2 million will die or

pass into captivity. Then 70 years later in the 130s they will actually accept Simon Bar Kochba as the Messiah and will pay a terrible price for the evils the rebels let loose at that time. When we reject the truth, we will accept anything.

At this point Jesus suffered the fourth mockery of the night, and the fifth mistreatment. The mockery of their chant, "Hail to the King of the Jews", the mistreatment they smote his head with a reed and spit upon him, bowing the knee and worshipping him.

## PROPHECY

### [1] HE IS SCORNED

#### PROPHECY

**Isaiah 50:6** (712 BC): I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

#### FULFILLMENT

**Matthew 27:26** (32 AD): Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

1. Scourging involved the laceration of the body by a whip with metal spikes embedded in it to maximise trauma.
2. Jesus, who had done nothing wrong, and had been found not guilty by Pilate, was scourged as a matter of expediency.
3. Often those scourged by the Romans died under punishment. That our Lord had been greatly weakened by this action was demonstrated by his inability to carry his cross all the way to Golgotha (**Matthew 27:32**).
4. It is of interest that the person released as a result of Jesus Christ being condemned was Barabbas, whose compound name Bar Abbas means son of the Father. The son of God was a substitute for the son of the Father (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

### [2] CROWN OF THORNS

#### PROPHECY

**Jonah 2:5** (862 BC): The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head.

#### FULFILLMENT

**Matthew 27:29** (32 AD): And when they had plaited a crown of thorns they put it upon his head.

1. The crown of thorns on the head of the Lord Jesus Christ represents the sins of the world being placed on the Saviour.
2. One of the judgments on Adam in the garden was the production of thorns. **Genesis 3:17,18** states, And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;
3. It is also clear that at the second advent of our Lord the pristine nature of the world will be restored (**Romans 8:19-22**).
4. That the Bible mentions the weed around Jonah's head and Jonah is the only sign given to the Jews just prior to Jesus' crucifixion is significant and can be seen as a prototype of the thorns on the Saviour's brow.

## APPLICATION

God's plan progresses through history and sometimes He uses the weaknesses of unbelievers to advance the plan. As God is all knowing and outside time He can see all the implications and results of the action of the free will of man.

Unbelievers when looking at the person of Christ objectively were able to see that he was innocent and perfect.

Using mobs, especially "rent a crowds" proves nothing. A mob can be encouraged to demand things either for gain or on the basis of emotion. As Christians we are not going to be popular, as we are in the "devil's world", but remember, he is defeated and one day soon to be judged forever.

You do not need to be in the majority to be right. Political and other leaders may manipulate people into thinking bad is good and vice versa. Public opinion is often wrong.

Many decisions are made to satisfy the demands of a vocal minority. Decisions made on this basis can come back to haunt you. The Jewish Leadership and their families died at the hands of the very radicals like Barabbas in the years 65-70AD.

This happened to Pontius Pilate who about 4 years later was removed from his post and exiled to France where he committed suicide.

Here we see Satan again trying to kill Jesus before He can get to the Cross and bear the sins of the world. If he can cause the Lord to die other than on the Cross he has won the angelic conflict.

The crown of thorns is symbolic of the curse of sin and the Son of Man is going to take this curse for us and pay the penalty for our sins in His own body on the tree.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord.

Man is in rebellion against God. We can expect to be persecuted as we are not of this world and are representatives of heaven on earth as seen in the Beatitudes in Matthew 5.

## **DOCTRINES**

### **CHRIST: TRIALS OF CHRIST**

### **SIN: JEALOUSY**

### **ANGELS – ANGELIC CONFLICT**

### **BEATITUDES**

### **NOT OF THIS WORLD**

## **THE CRUCIFIXION**

**MARK 15:20-32** [MATTHEW 27:31-44, LUKE 23:26-43, JOHN 19:16-27] see HARMONY 74-24

**20** 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. **21** 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. **22** And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. **23** And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not. **24** And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. **25** And it was the third hour, and they crucified him. **26** And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS. **27** And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. **28** And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors. **29** 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, **30** Save thyself, and come down from the cross. **31** Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. **32** 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.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**20 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. 21 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.**

When their crude jests were over and so they put His own clothes back on Him and led Him out crucify Him. Simon of Cyrene in North Africa was commandeered to carry the Lord's cross. He had two sons Alexander and Rufus who were probably believers, if Rufus is the same one as mentioned in Romans 16:13. Peter's mention of his name indicates that Simon also became a believer as a result of his encounter this day.

**22 And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull. 23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not.**

The Spirit of God describes the crucifixion in a simple and unemotional manner not dwelling on the extreme cruelty or terrible suffering this mode of execution entailed. It is quietly understated by the eye witnesses, and especially by Peter, as the Romans to whom he wrote knew every detail of the horror of this form of death.

The exact location of Golgotha, the place of the skull, is unknown. The traditional site is at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but this is inside the present walls of Jerusalem although proponents of this site say that it was outside the walls at the time of Christ. Another supposed site is Gordon's Calvary, which is situated north of the city walls near a garden. Ground penetrating radar surveys make it most likely that the church is actually the right site, with Gordon's site being made to look that way by gun powder in the early 1800s! It is probable that the site was so named because it was the place of execution rather than it being in the shape of a skull.

The soldiers offered Jesus wine mixed with a narcotic, to assist him and prolong the death, for that was the purpose of this death – to warn others about not messing with Roman power! The Lord declined to drink anything narcotic, as it would have impaired His freewill, which was needed to be engaged, for Him to be judged for the sins of the world.

**24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. 25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.**

With great simplicity Mark writes, "And they crucified him". His Roman readers needed no elaboration and he offered none as they were fully aware of what was involved.

Normally a condemned man was stripped naked, laid on the ground and both outstretched forearms were nailed to the cross beam. This beam was then raised and fastened to an upright post already stuck in the ground and the victims feet were nailed to it through the bone of the heel. Each nail was designed to cause maximum pain through bone and nerves. A crucified man's skeleton was found buried in Israel recently and showed that the nails went through the heels.

A wooden peg part way up the post on which the victim sat help support his body. Death which came from extreme exhaustion and thirst was painful and slow and usually came after two or three days. Sometimes death was hastened by breaking the victims legs as shown in John 19:31-33.

Roman soldiers customarily divided the executed criminals clothing as their "share". This was a bonus for the soldiers in the crucifixion detail and items were usually sold for drinking money. The soldiers in this case divide most of the clothes but cast lots for his outer coat, which was woven in one piece and would have had some value.

The third hour is about 9:00 in the morning. The exact time would vary according to the time of sunrise from which they reckoned the day to start.

**26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**

The charge over a convicted criminal was often posted above the head or on the crossbeam of the person being crucified. The claim to be a King would be sufficient to incur Roman wrath. However Jesus is called, not a royal pretender, but King of the Jews. In this case the charge was above the Lord indicating that the traditional cross was used. The charge sheet was nailed above the victim, and proclaimed the truth in this case.

While there are minor variations in the four Gospel accounts of what was written, Mark recorded the official charge against him that he was, "The King of the Jews". Pilate's wording was intended as an insult to the Jewish aspiration for independence. It is however a formal acknowledgement by Rome that Jesus was indeed, "King of the Jews".

**27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. 28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.**

The term thief in verse 27 is translated in other more modern versions as robbers or bandits. This term is the same one the Josephus used for revolutionaries/terrorists. These two men were therefore probably colleagues of Barabbas who was originally meant to be executed in the middle cross on that day. Jesus is on Barabbas' cross.

As so often occurs in the Bible actions by unbelievers cause the fulfilment of prophecy. In this particular case Pilate by condemning the Lord Jesus Christ at the same time as the revolutionaries allowed for the fulfilment of Isaiah 53:12. **“Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”**

**29 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, 30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross. 31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. 32 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.**

The Lord Jesus Christ was mocked by the passers-bys who may have seen him in the temple, but also by the chief priests and scribes who had tried to catch him out by trick questions, as well as the two brigands. The passers-bys were probably Jewish visitors to the city who were ready to keep the Passover inside the city, or on the hills around. Outside they paused long enough to hurl an insult at the Pascal Lamb. They misquoted him as threatening to destroy their beloved temple and to rebuild it in three days. If He was so great let Him save Himself by coming down from the cross.

The chief priest's people and the scribes scorned His claim to save others, just happy that he is in no position to answer them now. “He saved others Himself He cannot save”, and so they mocked. It was viciously cruel yet unintentionally true. It was true in the Lord's life, as if He had descended from the cross at that point, the salvation of mankind would not have been possible. The greatest temptations occur in these hours of abuse, and He remains there paying for the sin of all.

The religious leaders also challenged Him to come down from the cross if He were the Messiah the King of Israel. Then they would believe, they said. Let us see and we will believe, but they had seen so many things and yet refused to believe and apply their knowledge to change their lives. God's order is always hear, think, decide and believe, and then you will see more. Again we see that even the crucified criminals reproach Him.

## APPLICATION

There were three methods of execution in the Roman Empire at the time of our Lord's death, Suicide by slitting one's wrists in a tub of water for the Roman aristocracy such as Pilate, Decapitation for the Roman citizen such as Paul and any Roman knight which did not avail themselves of suicide, and Crucifixion for the non Roman citizen.

It was only the latter case which could satisfy the Scriptures, specifically Psalm 22 and other places where it says that the person “accursed” will die or be hung on a tree. Other methods like stoning, which was not available to the Jews at this time would not have been long enough for our Lord to be judged for our sins. Although after stoning to death the body was hung on a tree until sundown, but this would not have fulfilled all prophetic words. God is precise and the Lord will fulfil all prophecies precisely.

In bearing the cross after Jesus, Simon of Cyrene gave us a picture of what should characterize us as disciples of the Saviour. Our Holy Spirit strengthened sufferings as believers give us the opportunity to share in the Lord's suffering in some way, and to “fill up” the Lord's suffering with our own. Colossians 1:24. There is suffering left behind to be part of to the Lord's glory, and some of us are called to “fill up” this suffering in our own bodies and share more fellowship and understanding as a result. Refer to the commentary on Colossians 1:24 for a discussion on this mystery doctrine.

If there is no free will due to the impairment of the Lord Jesus Christ by the effect of a narcotic there is no salvation.

It is interesting that Simon who may well be Hamitic bore the cross for our Lord, Pilate who was a Japhetic, was in the story as a ruler and condemned our Lord, and the high priests, who was Semitic, rejected our Lord on the basis of their understanding of scripture and their traditions. All the sons of Noah were part of the unfolding drama of redemption.

The descendants of the three sons of Noah, Ham, Shem and Japheth are then the scene fulfilling their type roles as given in Genesis 9:25-27. **“25 And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. 26 And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. 27 God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.**

The Lord on the Cross, made seven reported utterances. The first asked the forgiveness of the Father on those who were abusing Him. We need also to have the understanding of the principle of, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord”. Hebrews 10:30-31. We should have no bitterness towards sinful people, but love our enemies.

The language is used in the superscription were three great world languages of the time, each of them the servant of one dominant idea.

- [a] Greek was the language of culture and knowledge in that realm said the inscription, Jesus was King.
- [b] Latin was the language of law and government, and Jesus was King there.
- [c] Hebrew was the language of revealed religion, and Jesus was King of there.

Hence as Jesus Christ hung dying it was true, that on his head were many crowns. Revelation 19:12

The people who said, "come down and we will believe", had had three years of miracles and testimony but had not believed.

The repentant gangster/terrorist should be of great comfort to us, as we see the minimal amount that a person has to do to be saved. The gangster could not be baptised or join any organisation. He was within a few short hours of death and was unable to go anywhere to offer restitution. This shows us that salvation is all of grace.

The fact that Mary was placed into the care of John when we know that she had living children show that you are closer to your brethren in Christ than you are to your own blood relatives.

These women were successful business women also, and their money kept the disciples in food and clothing through the three years of the Lord's earthly ministry. There is a very important principle here. The person up front can only function if they are totally backed up by a team of people who are financially and practically active in support ministries.

While Mary the Lord's mother is taken away by John the other two stay by the cross and weep, and they also follow the body to ensure it is placed in a grave. These women are ready to follow the Lord's body and even rescue it from the city dump if necessary! This is the devotion they are rightly praised for.

In prophecy we see God validating His Scriptures. In this passage we have five fulfilments of prophecy from the Old Testament. The prophecies are all over 600 years old when fulfilled, with the oldest and most recent prophecies being separated in time by almost 1000 years between them being given.

## PROPHECIES

### [1] NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS

#### PROPHECY

**Isaiah 53:12** (712 BC): Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

#### FULFILLMENT

**Mark 15:28** (32 AD): And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

1. When Jesus Christ was crucified he had a convicted criminal crucified on each side of him.
2. One of the felons believed during the period on the cross, whilst the other remained an unbeliever, clearly portraying the two categories of the human race (**John 3:36**). The believer was promised paradise by the Lord. He graphically portrays that one can do absolutely nothing for salvation other than believe or have faith in Christ
3. As the famous hymn "Rock of Ages" puts it, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to thy cross I cling; naked come to thee for dress, hopeless look to thee for grace. His death amongst the transgressors also shows the potential for all to be saved and that Christ died for all.

### [2] PIERCED HANDS AND FEET

#### PROPHECY

**Psalms 22:16** (1000 BC): For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

#### FULFILLMENT

**Matthew 27:35** (32 AD): And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet. They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

1. This prophecy, dating from the time of David, is remarkable in the fact that crucifixion was not practiced in David's day by the Jews. This form of execution was used by the Phoenicians, Carthaginians and Persians in the 6th century BC.

2. It was later used by the Romans for those of non-citizen categories. A Roman citizen was executed by sword such as in the case of Paul. Knights or the aristocracy of the Roman empire were allowed to commit suicide, as illustrated by Pilate.

3. Four types of crosses were used:

(a) Crux Simplex - the simple vertical stake.

(b) Crux Commissa - a cross shaped like a 'T'.

(c) Crux Decussata - a cross shaped like an 'X'.

(d) Crux Immissa - held by tradition to be the type of cross on which Christ died. This was confirmed by the Christian writer Ireneaus (140-202 AD).

4. The tradition of the type of cross is further strengthened by statements in **Matthew 27:37**; **Mark 15:26**; **Luke 23:38** and **John 19:19-22** regarding the title nailed to the cross of Christ over his head.

5. After condemnation, the person to die was made to carry the crossbeam [patibutum] to the scene of his death, not the whole cross as is usually depicted.

The condemned was then stripped naked, laid on the ground with the crossbeam under his shoulders, and his hands tied or nailed to the cross. The crossbar was then lifted and secured to the upright post so that the victim's feet were just above the ground.

The main weight of the body was borne on a peg [sedile] astride which the victim sat. He died from exhaustion, thirst, or sometimes tetanus. History records numbers of occasions where over a week elapsed between crucifixion and death.

### [3] MOSES LIFTING UP THE SERPENT

#### PROPHECY

**Numbers 21:7-9** (1500 BC): Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8 And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.

1. The Jews in the wilderness, on entering the land of Edom, started complaining to Moses regarding God. Because of this act a plague of serpents was sent among the children of Israel as a result of which many died of snakebite. Moses was instructed to construct a serpent of brass and raise it on a pole.

2. In this event we see that the wages of sin is death (**Romans 6:23**). The serpent on the pole represents sin being judged, the judgment being indicated by the fact that the serpent was made of brass.

3. Salvation from physical death was secured by faith, looking on the brass serpent.

4. The fulfilment between this action and the cross of Christ, where all sin was dealt with, is given in the following Scripture.

#### FULFILLMENT

**John 3:14,15** (32 AD): And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

### [4] DIVISION OF HIS GARMENTS

#### PROPHECY

**Psalms 22:18** (1000 BC): They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

#### FULFILLMENT

**John 19:23,24** (32 AD): Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. 24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

1. It was common practice at crucifixions that the clothes of the condemned person were sold by the common soldiers who attended such events.
2. The monies received from the sale of the clothes was usually spent on rough red wine which was consumed by the soldiers while they awaited the victim's death.
3. In this prophecy the great accuracy of the scriptures are seen in that the coat which was without seam was the subject of lot by dice whilst the other clothes were divided up.

## **[5] DESPISED BY THE CROWD**

### **PROPHECY**

**Psalm 22:7,8 (1000 BC):** All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 He trusted on the Lord, that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

### **FULFILLMENT**

**Matthew 27:39-43 (32 AD):** And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

1. The suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ was increased by the attitude of the crowd which came to see the crucifixion. Their behaviour fulfilled the prophecy of **Psalm 22:7,8** where, with their heads wagging in derision, they quoted the statement, He trusted in God, let him deliver him if he will have him.
2. Bearing in mind that the Lord was not remote from these people, as often shown in paintings, but his feet were nearly touching the earth of Golgotha, their sneering criticism must have been very hard to bear.

### **DOCTRINES**

**CHRIST: CRIES OF CHRIST FROM THE CROSS**

**CHRIST:- HUMILIATION AND EXALTATION – THE ROAD TO GLORY**

**CHRIST – WORK ON THE CROSS**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST**

**GRACE**

**DEATH**

**HELL AND HADES**

**CHRISTIAN LIFE: - DESTINY OF BELIEVERS**

**WOMEN: WIDOWS**

**SALVATION**

**SALVATION: SIN – MAN’S NEED FOR SALVATION**

**GOSPEL OF SALVATION**

**THE DEATH OF JESUS**

**MARK 15:33-41** [MATTHEW 27:45- 56, LUKE 23:44-49, JOHN 19:28-30] see HARMONY 74-24

**33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 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? 35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. 36 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. 37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. 38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. 39 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. 40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; 41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.**

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. 34 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?**

Jesus hanged on the cross for three hours in the daylight until noon, suffering the full physical anguish and pain of crucifixion, but the worst was to come. Then at noon total darkness engulfed the whole land and this lasted for three hours to 3 PM or the ninth hour.

The darkness, which was most likely a miraculous solar eclipse, was probably a cosmic sign of God's judgment on all of human sin, which was then being placed on Jesus. Isaiah 53: 5-6. Specifically pictured here is God's judgment on Israel who rejected his Messiah the Sin Bearer, but also upon all mankind. John 1:29.

Mark reported only this one of Christ' seven sayings from the cross. This was more than the cry of the righteous Sufferer affirming His faith that God would cause him to triumph. Nor did Jesus merely feel abandoned. Instead Jesus' cry combined being abandoned by God the Father in the judicial sense and a genuine affirmation of Jesus' relationship to God. Bearing the curse of sin and God's judgment on sin. He experienced the unfathomable horror of separation from God who cannot look on sin.

This is the only one of Jesus' recorded prayers in which he did not use the address Father. Far from renouncing him Jesus claims the Father as his God. He died forsaken by God so that his people might claim God as their God and never be forsaken. Hebrews 13:5.

The difference between Eli in Mathew and Eloi in Mark is the difference between a Greek transliteration in Mark, in Mathew it is in Aramaic, the probable language that our Lord used in this cry of anguish.

**35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said, Behold, he calleth Elias. 36 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. 37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.**

Some Jewish bystanders apparently misunderstood or more likely, as a mockery deliberately misinterpreted Jesus cry as a call to Elijah. Popular Jewish belief held that Elijah came in times of distress to deliver righteous sufferers.

In response to Jesus additional words "I thirst" which are mentioned in the gospel of John a bystander soaked a sponge with sour wine diluted with a mixture of eggs and water which was the common inexpensive beverage of the day and raised it on a stick to Jesus mouth so that he could extract some refreshment from it. If the drink prolonged his life the spectators would have a chance to see if Elijah would take him down.

Jesus' loud cry before he breathed his last indicated that he did not die the ordinary death of one who was crucified. Normally such a person suffered extreme exhaustion for a long period and then lapsed into a coma before dying. There were no loud "last words" from the crucified, just the gasps of a choking man. But Jesus was fully conscious to the end, and His death came voluntarily and suddenly. This accounts for Pilate's surprise that he was already dead as seen in verse 44.

**38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom. 39 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.**

Simultaneously with Jesus' death of the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The passive tense of the verb Schizo, which means to rend or tear, and the direction of the tear indicates that this was God's action. It was no

doubt observed and reported by the priests, who at that moment were conducting the Jewish evening sacrifice. The inner veil was torn as a sign that Jesus' death ended the need for repeated sacrifices for sins, and opened up the only new and living way of free and direct access to God.

There was an important soldier whose life was transformed at the crucifixion of our Lord. Mark uses the Greek word *Kentyrion* a transliteration of the Latin word referring to a commander of a hundred soldiers. All other New Testament writers use the equivalent Greek word or *Hekatontarchos*. This provides additional evidence that Mark wrote to a Roman audience. The Centurion's confession is the climax of Mark's revelation of Jesus identity. It also exemplifies the truth of the torn curtain. For a Roman audience this affirmation by a tough professional soldier would be significant.

**40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; 41 (Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.**

There were many women who viewed the scene of the crucifixion. Mary Magdalene surnamed because of the fact that she came from Magdala, a village on the Sea of Galilee, had been released from demon possession by Jesus. Another Mary is distinguished from the others by the name of her son's James the younger and Joses who apparently were well known in the early church. Salome whose name appears only in Mark was the mother of the disciples James and John. When Jesus was in Galilee these three women used to follow Him from place to place and used to care for his material needs. Many other women who did not accompany him regularly were there also. They had come to Jerusalem for the Passover festival with Jesus, perhaps hoping he would establish his Messianic Kingdom.

Mark mentioned the women as eyewitnesses to the crucifixion in anticipation of their eye-witness role of Jesus' burial and his resurrection. Their devotion surpassed that of the eleven disciples who had deserted him. Mark may have intended these words as an encouragement to faithful discipleship among women in the church of Rome. Only John is at the Cross, leaving only to take care of Jesus mother Mary, then returning for Jesus' death.

## APPLICATION

In this section we have the last four cries by our Lord from the Cross. "My God, My God why has thou forsaken me?" [Matthew, Luke], "I thirst" [John], "It is finished", [John] "Father into thy hands I dismiss my spirit" [Luke]. This shows the importance of a Harmony of the Gospels to get the complete picture.

It is also noted that the first cry was, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they do". Here therefore we see the perfect relation between the Jesus Christ and God the father being broken during the bearing of the sins of the world, but also its restoration after that period, with the phrase, "Father into thy hands I dismiss my spirit".

For all those in Christ Jesus there is security from any upset with meeting death, for we do not, we meet Jesus. We are able to relax with God's timetable for our death, and his means of taking us home. Death for the believer is a home coming rather than a being 'taking' from life.

In all cases other than suicide, death is when life is taken from a person, and would reflect the passive voice in a verb. However it is noted that Jesus Christ was active in His death, indicating that He as the God man was absolutely in conformity with the Father's will, as to the exact moment of His death. God's Plan is precise.

There is a parallelism between the Cross and the Levitical offerings, with the flat plate offering corresponding with the three hours when the sacrifice was able to be seen, and the oven period where the Lord was hidden from view.

The veil of the temple that separates the Holy of Holies being split in two from top to bottom shows that now there is no separation between God and man, as every person can now approach directly to God without a human mediator. We have free direct access to God through Jesus Christ.

The earthquake shows how God is in control of history, and the minimal power that even the strongest of mankind has in relation not only to nature but to his own destiny.

The raising of the recently deceased saints show that the Lord has conquered death, that death is no longer the end but through Christ we have eternal life. "O death where is thy sting, O grave where is thy victory. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

There are a group of people who are in heaven now because of this momentous day, the repentant brigand, Simon of Cyrene, Mary the mother of the humanity of Christ was joined to a new family, the Centurion and Roman detachment all had their lives changed radically.

There were also many who looked on from afar, some knew what was happening but others such as most of the disciples did not see for they were elsewhere nursing their shattered dreams.

## AN APPARENT PROBLEM

Some have said that there is an anomaly between the reported saying of the Centurion when the words of Luke differ in content to that of Mark and Matthew.

However when one is greatly impressed by a situation, which would be the case of the Roman officer, having just experienced darkness over the earth and a major earthquake as well as studying Christ dying on the Cross, he probably uttered a number of phrases to express his amazement. For instance if you attend a great sporting or cultural event that really stirs you, you will end up using a number of superlatives at different times when verbalising it.

It is true that Christ was a perfect man and as we have seen this is the emphasis in the Gospel of Luke, Christ the perfect man thus it is not surprising that Luke records this. The Holy Spirit however guided Matthew and Mark to record the Centurion's statement about Christ being the Son of God.

## PROPHECIES

We notice that the Lord constantly fulfilled prophecy throughout His incarnation.

### [1] COMMITMENT OF HIS SPIRIT

#### PROPHECY

**Psalm 31:5 (1 000 BC):** Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

#### FULFILLMENT

**Luke 23:46 (32AD):** And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

The perfect accord between the action of the Son and the will of the Father is shown in the fulfilment of this prophecy. The Father had provided a body for the Son at the beginning of the first advent (**Hebrews 10:5**), now at the end of this period the Lord Jesus Christ returns his life to the Father.

### [2] THIRST ON THE CROSS

#### PROPHECY

**Psalm 69:21 (1000 BC):** They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

#### FULFILLMENT

**John 19:28-30 (32 AD):** After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

1. The timing of the tasting of the vinegar or rough red wine mixed with gall is important. As can be seen by the prophecy and fulfilment above, the Lord Jesus Christ tasted and therefore fulfilled the prophecy immediately before he died physically. Having tasted the wine and gall Jesus Christ said "It is finished" and died.

2. The Jews had attempted to give Jesus this mixture to drink just prior to his crucifixion. However, he had refused because the mixture was a narcotic and could have affected the free will of our Lord which would have made the judgment of God on him null and void.

3. This time is given in **Matthew 27:33,34** And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull, 34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

### [3] DARKNESS

#### PROPHECY

**Amos 8:9** (787 BC): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord God, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day.

**FULFILLMENT**

**Matthew 27:45** (32AD): Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

1. One of the prophecies fulfilled to the very hour was that darkness should cover the earth at noon.
2. Unnatural darkness commenced over the earth at the sixth hour (or 12 noon) and lasted until the ninth hour (3pm). This darkness obscured mankind's view of the Lord Jesus Christ being judged for the sins of the world.
3. The cross is pictured in the Levitical offerings of Leviticus 2:4-7 4 "And if thou bring an oblation of a meat offering baken in the oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil. 5And K thy oblation be a meat offering baken in a pan, it shall be of fine flour unleavened, mingled with oil. 6Thou shalt part it in pieces, and pour oil thereon: it is a meat offering. 7And O thy oblation be a meat offering baken in the frypan, it shall be made of fine flour with oil."
4. We have three categories of offerings in this passage:
  - (a) The oven where the offering was hidden from sight.
  - (b) The flat-plate or pan where the offering was seen.
  - (c) The frying-pan where the offering was part hidden, part seen.
5. In all cases the offering was of fine flour, of the highest quality, without leaven (or sinless) but with added oil, which represents the power of the Holy Spirit.
6. The frying-pan represents the whole cross period; the flat-plate the first three hours; and the oven the last three hours.
7. We also learn from the offering that it was the offering only which was tested by fire.

The person who brought the offering was not judged. In a similar way we are unable to assist God in any way in salvation.

All we can do is acquire salvation by faith.

**[4] - CRY FROM THE CROSS**

**PROPHECY**

**Psalms 22:1** (1000 BC): My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

**FULFILLMENT**

**Matthew 27:46** (32 AD): And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

1. During the six hours from 9am to 3pm on the day of his crucifixion, seven phrases were offered by the Lord.
2. The above prophecy was fulfilled with the fourth phrase. The cries from the cross were as follows:
 

[a] Father forgive them for they know not what they do (**Luke 23:32-34**). Jesus had been treated totally unfairly yet he did not become bitter or resentful. He was about to be judged for these sins as well as all the other sins of the world, and in grace asked God the Father to forgive them. It is of importance to note that at this point he addresses the Father with the title 'Father' (see F62).

(b) His second cry was a statement to the repentant gangster crucified next to him. Today shalt thou be with me in paradise (**Luke 23:43**). (see G64).

(c) His third phrase was addressed to Mary his mother. Woman behold thy son. Then said he to the disciple, Behold thy mother (**John 19:26,27**). Even in his extremity he provided for his family. In this case he handed over protection of Mary to John his disciple. Under the concept of the fifth commandment, Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee (**Exodus 20:12**), it is of interest that of all the disciples, John appears to have lived by far the longest. The Book of Revelation, written by John on the island of Patmos, is usually dated at 96 AD, indicating that at that time he would have been in his mid-80's. His days had certainly been long.

(d) The fourth cry was one of great anguish, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? (**Matthew 27:46**).

No longer is it 'Father'. Jesus Christ cried with a loud voice, or screamed, My God, My God. God had forsaken him because he was being judged for the sins of the world at this point (**2 Corinthians 5:21**).

(e) The fifth phrase completed another requirement of fulfillment of prophecy, I thirst (John 19:28). This action confirmed the prophecy of Psalm 69:21 (see G77).

[f] The sixth cry was a shout of triumph: It is finished (John 19:30). Salvation was complete: the payment for sin had been made in full. The work that the Lord Jesus Christ had come to accomplish on earth was complete. Satan was a totally defeated foe.

(g) The final phrase was: Father into thy hands I commit my spirit (**Luke 23:46**). Again, the statement is addressed to God, using the title Father, showing that the total close intimate relationship between the Father and the Son had been restored (see G73).

## [5] THE PIERCING WOUNDS

### PROPHECY

**Zechariah 12:10** (487 BC): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

### FULFILLMENT

**John 19:34,35,37** (32AD): But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water. 35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe. 37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

1. An examination of the piercing of the side of our Lord and its implications was made by a great physiologist with the following results as to the cause of the physical death of Jesus Christ.

2. When the soldier pierced with his spear the side of Christ he was already dead; and the flow of blood and water that followed was either a natural phenomenon explicable by natural causes, or it was a miracle. That John thought it, if not to be miraculous, at least to be unusual, appears plainly from the comment he makes upon it, and from the emphatic manner in which he solemnly declares his accuracy in narrating it.

3. Repeated observations and experiments made upon men and animals have shown the following results:

When the left side is freely pierced after death by a large knife, comparable in size with a Roman spear, three distinct cases are observed.

1<sup>st</sup> - No flow of any kind follows the wound except a slight trickling of blood.

2<sup>nd</sup> - A flow of water only, succeeded by a few drops of blood, follows the wound.

3<sup>rd</sup> - A copious flow of blood only follows the wound.

Of the three cases, the first is that which usually occurs; the second in cases of death by drowning and can be proved to be the normal case of a crucified person; whilst the third case would be found in death by pleurisy and rupture of the heart

4. Whilst the above three types are well known, two other cases, although not recorded in the text books, could occur. 4<sup>th</sup> - A copious flow of water followed by a copious flow of blood follows the wound.

5<sup>th</sup> - A copious flow of blood followed by a copious flow of water follows the wound.

The fifth type is recorded in John 19.

5. Death by crucifixion causes a condition of blood in the lungs similar to that produced by drowning. The fourth case would have occurred if the victim had been suffering from pleurisy, whilst the fifth type would occur if the person on the cross had died from a rupture of the heart. The history of the days preceding our Lord's death precludes the idea of pleurisy, as does the type of flow observed by John. It is therefore concluded that the type of flow recorded in John 19 must have resulted from the combination of crucifixion and rupture of the heart.

6. It is also of importance that such a flow could not have been invented by John as its occurrence was highly unusual.

7. Had Jesus been alive when the spear was thrust into his side, strong spurts of blood would have emerged with every heartbeat. However, with John observing semi-solid dark clots seeping out, distinct from an accompanying watery serum, there is very strong evidence of massive clotting of the blood in the main arteries, and is exceptionally strong medical proof of physical death.

**[6] NO BONES BROKEN**

## PROPHECY

**Exodus 12:46** (1500 BC): **46** in one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

## PROPHECY

**Psalms 34:20** (1000 BC): He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

## FULFILLMENT

**John 19:31 - 33,36** [32 AD] The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day (for that Sabbath day was a high day), besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. 32 Then came the soldiers and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. 33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs . 36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

1. Ever since the Passover lamb ceremony had been instituted some 1500 BC, the children of Israel annually had killed the lamb on the 14th Nisan. They were instructed by Moses, just before leaving Egypt, that great care should be taken that none of the bones of the Passover lamb be broken. In the Psalms the promise that the bones would not be broken was again given.

2. The Passover lambs over the centuries were a picture of the death of Jesus Christ who, unlike the gangsters whose legs were broken to effect their death by exhaustion, died without a bone being broken.

3. It is also of interest that the religious leaders of the Jews who had conspired to murder the King of Glory, could not tolerate the bodies remaining on the crosses over the Sabbath, which shows the workings of the legalistic mind.

**[7] TOMB WITH THE RICH**

## PROPHECY

**Isaiah 53:9** (712 BC): And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

## FULFILLMENT

**Luke 23:50-53** (32 AD): And, behold, there was a man named Joseph, a counsellor; and he was a good man, and a just: 51 (The same had not consented to the counsel and deed of them); he was of Arimathea, a city of the Jews: who also himself waited for the kingdom of God. 52 This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. 53 And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

1. After the death of a convicted person by crucifixion, the practice was to throw the body of the deceased onto the rubbish dump of Jerusalem, called Gehenna or the Valley of Hinnom.

2. During the reign of Ahaz and Manasseh at Topheth (or fire place) in the Valley of Hinnom, human sacrifices were offered to the heathen god Molech (**2 Chronicles 28:3, 33:6**).

3. However, Josiah in his reforms stopped this practice (**2 Kings 23:10**).

4. **Jeremiah 7:30-33** announced that the name of the valley be changed to the "Valley of Slaughter" because when the Lord judged Judah for her sins, the number of dead would be so great that they would be thrown into the valley to lie there without burial.

5. From about the second century BC the Valley of Hinnom came to be thought of as the place of final punishment for the enemies of God.

6. In order to fulfill the prophecy of **Isaiah 53:9**, however, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus claimed the body of Jesus from Pilate and buried it in a rich man's tomb hewn out of rock. A stone was then rolled to cover the entrance. A secure tomb such as this made the assertion of the religious leaders of the Jews, that the disciples had stolen the body

of Jesus Christ completely lacking in credibility. Had Jesus Christ's body been thrown into the Valley of Hinnom, however, such a claim could have been hard to disprove.

## DOCTRINES

**SALVATION: SIN - BARRIER BETWEEN MAN AND GOD**

**SALVATION: EXPIATION AND PROPITIATION**

**MARY: SEVEN DIFFERENT WOMEN**

**JOHN THE DISCIPLE**

**EVENTS CONCERNING THE TEMPLE RELATING TO THE CRUCIFIXION**

## TAKING DOWN FROM CROSS AND BURIAL

**MARK 15:42-47** [MATTHEW 27:57-61, LUKE 50-56, JOHN 19:31-42] – see HARMONY 74-24

**42** And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, **43** Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. **44** And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. **45** And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. **46** And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. **47** And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

## BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

**42** And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, **43** Joseph of Arimathea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. **44** And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. **45** And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

The Jewish day began at sunset. Evening was now fast approaching and the necessity for prompt action probably emboldened Joseph of Arimathea to ask Pilate for permission to bury the body of Jesus. Joseph was a member of the Sanhedrin (one we suspect not called to the meeting this morning) but also a secret disciple of Christ.

Pilate could hardly believe that Jesus already dead. When the centurion confirmed the fact the governor granted the body to Joseph, very likely after a large sum of money was received.

It is noted that two different words are used for the body of Jesus in this section. Joseph asked for the body [Soma] of the Jesus Christ and Pilate granted the corpse [Ptoma] to him.

**46** And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. **47** And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

With loving care Joseph and Nicodemus embalmed the body, wrapped Him in the linen and put him in a new tomb. The tomb had been carved out of bed rock, the door was sealed with a coin shaped stone which would have rolled into a groove carved out of the stone.

Again the women, that is the two Mary's, are mentioned as being present. We admire their unflagging and fearless affection and they will be there again as soon as the sunrise allows them to walk on Sunday morning.

## APPLICATION

God often provides assistance from unusual and unexpected quarters, as in the case of Joseph of Arimathea, who had prepared his own tomb and was a secret disciple. In order Scripture might be fulfilled the Lord had already prepared this and all phases of the Lord's ministry.

God knows our every action in the Plan of God and His Plan will be completed on time and in complete accordance with His requirements. If we need help people will be moved to assist in exactly the right way, at the right time.

The Messiah, who was born of a virgin, and had gone forth anointed by Jehovah, healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, had died at last on the cross for sinners. Now his body lay in a tomb and no one knew if redemption was a completed fact or not.

If He had not come forth from the tomb there would be no evidence that the sin question had been settled. His resurrected body would be proof of the complete success of His mission and a guarantee of our salvation.

The Messiah is demonstrated to be dead so the swoon theory is seen as false. The Centurion had seen the death of many people and would not be fooled by a person fainting. The blood clots and serum is undeniable evidence of the physical death of Jesus Christ.

## **DOCTRINES**

### **CHRIST: SACRIFICE OF CHRIST**

### **CHRIST TYPES: PASSOVER AS A TYPE OF CHRIST**

### **JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA**

## **CHAPTER 16**

### **VISIT OF THE WOMEN AND CHRIST'S APPEARANCE**

**MARK 16:1-11** [MATTHEW 28:1-10, LUKE 24:1-12, JOHN 20:1-18] see HARMONY 74-25

1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. 8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. 9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

**1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.**

Early on the Sunday morning the two Mary's and Salome come to the tomb to finish the embalming of the body of Jesus with spices. They knew it would not be easy or pleasant, but they knew the two men had done most of the job three days before. A huge stone had been rolled across the mouth of the tomb and they have some concerns about access, but they come with faith, that there will be a way in to do what is right.

They may have known about the Romans seal and the soldiers (Temple Guard detachment) guarding the tomb. They queried how the stone would be moved, although may have expected the guard to help, but were surprised when they looked up and found that it was already done. In addition the guard seemed to be sleeping so they approached the sepulchre with many questions in their mind.

**5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.**

These are focused women, with courage, who are ready to enter the darkness in the early dawn and see and minister to a much battered body. Entering the tomb they saw an angel with the appearance of a young man in translucent white clothing. They were now frightened. What had happened to the body of the Lord Jesus Christ? The angel quickly dispelled their fears however with the announcement that Jesus of Nazareth who had been crucified was no longer there, He was risen. The tomb was empty and the angel invited them to inspect the place where the body of Jesus had been laid. Evidence is the key in this encounter, as the angel wants the women to take the good news to the disciples.

**7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter, that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.**

The angel now commissioned them to tell others about the resurrection. They were to tell his disciples, and Peter, that Jesus would meet them in Galilee.

We also see that Peter, the disciple who had denied his lord was singled out for special mention. Christ had not disowned him but still loved him and longed to see him again. A special work of a restoration needed to be done and would be done by the Sea of Galilee where the story had begun for Peter three years before.

**8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.**

The women fled from the tomb with a mixture of shock and panic. They were too afraid to tell anyone on the way what had happened. This is not surprising. The wonder is that they had been so brave and loyal and devoted up to this point, and they would remain so until their deaths. These women are mentors of sustained courage in support ministry.

**9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils. 10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.**

The Savior's first appearance was to Mary Magdalene. The first time she had met Jesus He had cast seven demons out of her. From then on she served him lovingly with her possessions and with her time and energy. She witnessed the crucifixion and had seen where His body was buried, and she is the first to see Him in resurrection body.

From the Gospel of John we learn that after finding the tomb empty she ran and told Peter and John. Coming back with her they found the sepulchre empty as she had told them. The disciples returned to their home, but she stayed at the empty tomb. It was then that Jesus appeared to her.

Again she went back to the city to share the good news with the sorrowing disciples. For them it was too good to be true. They did not believe her, and are rebuked by the Lord later for their great sin of contempt for her love and the truth itself. It would take multiple appearances of the Lord, and close contact and teaching with the disciples that would convince them and train them ready for the work to be started after Pentecost.

**APPLICATION****SIGNIFICANCE OF THE RESURRECTION**

Without the Resurrection it would be impossible for Christ to be glorified. Jesus Christ has to have a body for His glorification. His deity could not and would not die.

Human beings are said to be less than the angels, yet with a resurrection body we become superior to them, and even now as Holy Spirit filled men and women we are superior to the angels and they serve us. Hebrews 1:14, 1 John 4:4.

Without the resurrection there would have been no giving of the Holy Spirit. John 7:39. The Holy Spirit was not yet given to permanently indwell the believers, because Christ had not been glorified. When the Holy Spirit came His work was to glorify Christ. John 14:16.

Resurrection means never to die again. He went to heaven as a member of the human race. The seating at the right hand of the Father is as the God-man, as Immanuel. There is a man in a resurrection body in heaven waiting for us, but way more than any man, for he is God and has lifted us all up to be members of the royal family of eternity! 1 Peter 2:9-10.

Resurrection is the guarantee of ultimate sanctification for all believers. Philippians 3:21, 1 Corinthians 15:20-23.

Without resurrection there is no eternal priesthood. Jesus Christ is going to be a priest, and as He has an eternal priesthood He must have a human body, and that body is a resurrection body. Hebrews 7:4-5, 10:5, 10:10-14.

Without resurrection there is no mediatorship. A mediator has equality with both parties, therefore the God man must have a human body.

Without resurrection there is no fulfilment of the Davidic and Palestinian covenants. David was promised in 1 Samuel 7 the provision of a king descended from him who would reign forever. As seen in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 Jesus Christ was descended from David. He as King of the Jews will reign forever only if he has a resurrection body.

Therefore without a physical, bodily resurrection there would have been no Christianity.

The Greek, Roman and Jewish beliefs were similar, as to the fate of the dead. They all shared a belief in an after-life, either as a place of non-existence, or as a place of the 'shades', the ghosts of people, existing in a shadowy place. The beliefs of mankind today remains split into the two camps, or schools of thought. Christianity with its emphasis upon the resurrection message had a direct appeal to those who believed in some form of after-life, but was rejected totally by the philosophers who believed in extinction. This is demonstrated best at Athens in Acts 17.

This is the event that made the early church, and the certainty of this was the heart and message of their preaching. They preached the physical, bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. They were transformed by it and they transformed the world as they lived and preached in the power of it. They taught the "good news" that sin and death were defeated on the cross, and that power was available for all who would heed the work of God upon them and surrender to him as Saviour and Lord over their lives, now and forever.

They were a people with the message of the resurrection on their minds and lips at all times, and with heaven in their hearts. The reality of this message meant they would calmly go to their deaths as martyrs. There were so many witnesses to the resurrection in the early years of the church that the Jewish authorities had to resort to vigorous persecution to try to stamp the faith out. Remember to be careful of language here; it was not 'the Jews' who killed Jesus! It was the leadership and their unbelieving followers.

All the Lord's followers were also Jews, and the common people from amongst the Jews, 'heard him gladly'. Don't let the message of the cross sound anti-Semitic, it is not, for the first Church was solidly Jewish. He died as the 'King of the Jews', as their Messiah, and he will return again to rule them. Jews are not 'Christ killers', they are, like all other peoples, either saved or lost, and both groups exist within them, right through until today, and the end itself.

This is one of the proofs of the veracity of the resurrection accounts. These people didn't really expect a physical bodily resurrection, they thought that he was dead, and that if the body was gone from the tomb, it was to be found somewhere in Palestine! In the post-trauma of the cross they have all forgotten that he said he would rise from the dead. The irony of this is that the chief priests remember his words, when the disciples don't!

## PROPHECY

## RESURRECTION

### PROPHECY

**Psalms 16:10** (1000 BC): For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

### FULFILLMENTS

**Matthew 28: 5 -7** (32 AD) And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he

said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

**Acts 2: 25 - 31 (32 AD):** For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. 29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. 30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

**Acts 13: 35 - 37 (32 AD):** Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: 37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

1. The resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ was prophesied by David. That the prophecy dealt with Jesus Christ and not David is shown in Acts 2 and 13, where David and Christ are contrasted.

2. Having conquered death, the Lord rose from the dead and was seen on numerous occasions before he ascended into heaven. They include:

- (a) Mary Magdalene (John 20:14-18).
- (b) Women returning from the tomb (Matthew 28:8-10).
- (c) Couple on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31).
- (d) Peter (Luke 24:34).
- (e) Ten disciples (Luke 24:36-43).
- [f] Disciples including Thomas (John 20:24-29).
- (g) Lake Tiberius appearance (John 21:1-23).
- (h) To the 500 (1 Corinthians 15:6).
- (i) To James (1 Corinthians 15:7).
- [j] Disciples at the ascension (Acts 1:3-12).
- (k) Stephen (Acts 7:55).
- (l) Paul on the Damascus road (Acts 9:3-6).
- (m) Paul in the Temple (Acts 22:17-21).
- (n) Paul at night (Acts 23:11).
- (o) John on Patmos (Revelation 1:10-19).

3. In addition to the eyewitness reports other proof of the resurrection includes:

- (a) An empty tomb (Matthew 28).
- (b) Changes to the disciples after the resurrection.
- (c) The giving of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.
- (d) The observance of the first day of the week as a worship day.
- (e) The existence of the Church.

Without the resurrection it was impossible for Jesus Christ to be glorified. In the resurrection body Jesus Christ as a member of the human race, became superior to angels.

## DOCTRINES

**CHRIST: RESSURECTION BODY**

**CHRIST: MEDIATORSHIP**

**CHRIST: PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING**

**COVENANT: DAVIDIC COVENANT**

**HARMONISATION**

If people cite contradictions in the Gospels it is usually these passages that are given. There are a number of places where there are apparent contradictions.

**RESURRECTION MORNING**

SCRIPTURES - MATTHEW 28:1-10, MARK 16:1-11, LUKE 24:1-12, JOHN 20:1-18

**INTRODUCTION**

In order to get clarification certain facts need to be established.

There are a number women involved and they receive the news that Christ is risen from the Lord Himself and from angels

The eleven apostles with additional believers are recipients of the good news but they do not believe what the women say.

It is highly likely that the apostles plus others are scattered throughout Jerusalem in different family homes.

We know that Peter and John were together and were apparently the only apostles to visit the tomb.

It appears that they were closer to the tomb than the others as Mary Magdalene returns to the tomb and after their departure from the tomb meets the risen Lord.

She is the first to see Jesus.

Some commentators say that the young man in white is Mark, but if Mary is the first to see Jesus, it would appear that the young man is an angelic being in the form of/appearance of a man.

All angels from a scriptural viewpoint are seen to be male.

The earthquake that occurred when the mighty angel came to the tomb predated the original arrival of the women at the sepulchre.

**SEQUENCE OF EVENTS****[1] WOMEN GO TO THE TOMB**

Mary Magdalene with a number of women head for the tomb very early on Sunday. The fact that she was not alone is seen in John 20 verse 2 where she uses the plural we when reporting to Peter and John.

They start their journey in the dark and are concerned how they will access the tomb but on arrival find that the stone has been rolled away

As Mary Magdalene is the first one to see the Lord we note that John in his gospel mentions only Mary coming to the tomb but this does not exclude the rest of the women being there as stated in the other accounts.

It is equivalent to attending a function where the Queen is present. One may say the Queen was there but this does not mean that she was there alone.

MATTHEW 28:1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

MARK 16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. 3 And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? 4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

LUKE 24:1 Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

JOHN 20:1 The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

## HARMONY

### THE WOMEN GO TO THE SEPULCHRE TO ANOINT THE BODY OF JESUS WITH SPICES

Early of the first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome and others, starting while it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, that they might come and anoint him they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And they found on arrival the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

### [2] METHOD OF OPENING THE TOMB HAD BEEN A GREAT EARTHQUAKE

The Angel who was involved with moving the stone is said to have kept on sitting on the stone – Imperfect tense of *kathemai*. He was waiting to tell the women about the resurrection of the Lord.

As he was sitting and the rock had already moved the earthquake reported in Matthew had occurred before the arrival of the women.

It is noted that it had caused the guard to faint with fear. It is also noted that the guard did not challenge the women showing that they were unconscious during the time of their visit and the subsequent visit of Peter and John.

This ties in with their excuse later in Matthew where they said the disciples stole the body while they slept. Matthew 28:13 **Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.**

### THE EARTHQUAKE THE ANGEL AND THE GUARD

MATTHEW 28: 2 And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: 4 And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

### THE ANGEL WHO MOVED THE STONE TELLS THEM

MATTHEW 28:5 And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. 6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

## HARMONY

### THE EARTHQUAKE THE ANGEL AND THE GUARD

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

### THE ANGEL INVITES THE WOMEN TO SEE INTO THE TOMB

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

### [3] MESSENGERS IN THE TOMB

MARK 16:5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. 6 And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

LUKE 24:3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining

garments: 5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, 7 Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. 8 And they remembered his words,

## HARMONY

### THE MESSAGE FROM THE TOMB

And entering into the sepulchre and found not the body of the Lord Jesus, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words

### [4] THE WOMEN LEAVE THE TOMB

Here the women in a state of excitement leave the tomb and hurry off to tell the eleven apostles and all the rest. On the way they did not stop to tell anyone as they were totally focussed on telling the brethren.

MARK 16:8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.

LUKE 24:9 And returned from the sepulchre, and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

## HARMONY

### THE WOMEN LEAVE THE TOMB

And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

### [5] MARY MAGDALENE GOES TO PETER AND JOHN WHO VISIT THE TOMB, SEE NO BODY AND RETURN HOME

LUKE 24:12 Then arose Peter, and ran unto the sepulchre; and stooping down, he beheld the linen clothes laid by themselves, and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

JOHN 20: 2 Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. 3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. 4 So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. 5 And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. 6 Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, 7 And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. 8 Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. 9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. 10 Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

## HARMONY

### PETER AND JOHN VISIT THE TOMB

Then Mary Magdalene runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the LORD out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and stooping down seeth the linen clothes laid by themselves and the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself and departed, wondering in himself at that which was come to pass.

Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

## **[6] MARY MAGDALENE MEETS JESUS**

Here we see Mary Magdalene having followed Peter and John back to the tomb now amid weeping looks into the tomb. She still does not understand that the Lord is risen but is now the first one to see the risen Lord.

We note also that Christ rose of the first day of the week, on the Sunday.

MARK 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

JOHN 20:11 But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre, 12 And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. 13 And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him. 14 And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. 16 Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. 17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

## **HARMONY**

### **JESUS APPEARS TO MARY MAGDALENE**

Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

After the departure of Peter and John Mary stood without the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre and seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him.

And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

## **[7] MARY MAGDALENE GOES BACK TO THE DISCIPLES AGAIN**

Mary Magdalene now returns to tell the disciples who are still mourning and weeping that she has seen Jesus alive but they do not believe her.

MARK 16:10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

JOHN 20:18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that he had spoken these things unto her.

## **HARMONY**

### **MARY MAGDALENE VISITS THE DISCIPLES AGAIN**

Mary Magdalene came as the disciples mourned and wept and told them that she had seen the LORD, that she had been with him and that he had spoken these things unto her. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

**[8] THE LORD APPEARS TO THE OTHER WOMEN**

As the Lord appeared to the women and it is noted that Mary Magdalene was the first one to see the risen Lord it is concluded that the Mary had left the other women who were running to see another group of believers and had had enough time to tell Peter and John, followed them to the Tomb and remained after the Apostles had left.

From this it is clear the other women had considerably further to travel before they reached the other believers and that the place where John and Peter were staying was near the tomb.

MATTHEW 28:8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. 9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. 10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

**HARMONY**

**THE LORD APPEARS TO THE OTHER WOMEN**

And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

**[9] SUMMARY OF THE APOSTLES UNBELIEF**

MARK 16:10 It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. 11 And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

**HARMONY**

**SUMMARY OF THE APOSTLES UNBELIEF**

It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

**COMPOSITE HARMONY**

**THE WOMEN GO TO THE SEPULCHRE TO ANOINT THE BODY OF JESUS WITH SPICES**

Early of the first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome and others, starting while it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, that they might come and anoint him they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And they found on arrival the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

**THE EARTHQUAKE THE ANGEL AND THE GUARD**

And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men.

**THE ANGEL INVITES THE WOMEN TO SEE INTO THE TOMB**

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you.

**THE MESSAGE FROM THE TOMB**

And entering into the sepulchre and found not the body of the Lord Jesus, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. And they remembered his words

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And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid and told all these things unto the eleven, and to all the rest.

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And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

#### MARY MAGDALENE VISITS THE DISCIPLES AGAIN

Mary Magdalene came as the disciples mourned and wept and told them that she had seen the LORD, that she had been with him and that he had spoken these things unto her. And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.

#### THE LORD APPEARS TO THE OTHER WOMEN

And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

#### SUMMARY OF THE APOSTLES UNBELIEF

It was Mary Magdalene and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

**INTERVIEW WITH TWO DISCIPLES NEAR JERUSALEM****MARK 16:12-13** [LUKE 24:13-35] see HARMONY 74-25**12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.****BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

This very short account is expanded greatly in Luke 24 as Luke speaks to many others to fill the story out. Here we read that He appeared in to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. To Mary he had appeared as if he was a gardener, although that was what she was expecting, and when she recognized him she knew it was no gardener. Now he seemed like a fellow traveller to these men, but it was Jesus in his glorified body. The words indicate that these two men were part of the group who had disbelieved Mary's initial report and headed away.

We note that he was in another form, which probably means that He appeared to them in a form different to one in which they had previously recognised him as the human teacher/Messiah Jesus. His resurrection body was the same and yet different.

When the two disciples returned to Jerusalem after their encounter and reported their fellowship with the risen Saviour they met the same disbelief that Mary had encountered. Apparently, despite testimony to the resurrected Christ, the disciples seemed initially to regard these appearances as apparitions. It was all too good to be true.

**APPLICATION**

The Lord will provide for His own, and will go to great lengths to reveal himself to them. In this case the people had received some information, but were very unsure as to the meaning of it. Confusion is to be expected, given that the resurrection is a unique event and no-one was expecting this, and it was simply too weird and outside their previous frame of reference. It took time with the Risen Lord Jesus to realise that it was him and he had risen indeed!

God reveals himself to us through His Word. 1 Corinthians 2:16. The more we know about the Word of God the more likely are we to recognise the Lord, understand how He thinks and have fellowship with Him.

The Lord Jesus Christ, and people like the apostles Paul and Peter, preached about the Messiah using the Old Testament scriptures alone. They would be used to write the New Testament, but as they started they used the OT alone. The Messiah is therefore clearly seen in the Old Testament and in fact is the central figure in all the Scriptures.

The Lord is recognisable, and we will be recognisable in our resurrection body, so that in heaven we will be able to recognise each other, and instantly knew all those of the past. We see a glimpse of this on the Mount of Transfiguration with the disciples instantly recognizing Elijah and Moses, yet no pictures were available – they were just known!

**DOCTRINES****BIBLE: BIBLE AND THE BELIEVER****CHRIST - TYPES: CHRIST FULFILLS TYPES IN OLD TESTAMENT EVENTS****CHRIST TYPES – TYPES OF CHRIST IN THE OLD TESTAMENT****CHRIST: RESURRECTION APPEARANCES**

**CHRIST APPEARS TO THE ELEVEN****MARK 16:14** [LUKE 24:36-49, JOHN 20:19-24] see HARMONY 74-25**14** Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

This appearance to the eleven took place the same Resurrection Sunday evening. Although the disciples are referred to as the eleven only ten were present. Thomas was absent on this occasion. Jesus' rebukes his own for their refusal to accept the reports of his resurrection from Mary and the others.

It was at this time that not only Thomas doubted, but others as well, and all were soundly rebuked by the Lord when He appeared to them as they were having a meal. Thomas is so doubtful and depressed he doesn't even attend the dinner together with the others. They are also rebuked for failing to hear the women! Women were not valued as witnesses in court of this day, but Jesus rebukes these men for not believing women they knew to be faithful and true!

**APPLICATION**

Remember the setting and the time. It is John's house in Jerusalem, perhaps the very place they had the Last Supper. They are all back together, except Thomas and Judas. They are still very scared of the authorities for the word is out about the missing body and the guard's story is that the disciples have stolen the body. They are going to have to leave town fairly quickly and return to the Galilee. They are in fear, even though they know the Lord has risen. Can you see the contradiction here?

If the Lord has risen then he is Lord of all, so why be fearful of the Jewish leaders? Does this sound like Elijah on Mt Carmel? Elijah has just been used by God to bring down fire from heaven, but afterwards Jezebel says, 'I am going to kill you', and he runs for his life. We can be just like this ourselves.

The Lord has all the power, and he has the plan for us, but we get our eyes off him and onto the 'bit players' who threaten us from the side line of life. The Jewish leaders appear to be powerful but actually they are not even on the field of play, they are side lined! They have no future, and their power will last just a few years more and they will be swept away into the dust bin of history.

Don't mock the disciples for their fear, for there but for the grace and strength and fellowship of the Holy Spirit go we all.

No joy in life then no Christ in life. Deepening of joy is a sign of the deepening of the believer's faith and knowledge of the Lord. Nehemiah 8:10, John 10:10.

In John 7:39 the Holy Spirit could not begin his new operation until the Lord's glorification. This is related to the plan of God from eternity past and we don't know all the reasons for it.

This next section of the chapter divides into three parts. The first is the 'peace' of the risen Christ, the second is the 'new creation', the reception of the Holy Spirit, and the third is the gospel of forgiveness for sins.

Some people hold a belief in ghosts without considering that it contradicts the idea of an after life in Heaven or Hell and the doctrine of the bodily resurrection. Jesus in this passage assures the disciples that He is not an example of a ghost but that of the bodily resurrection.

The Lord's presence means safety, the Lord's will means safety, the Lord's love means security. We are under his 'much more' care and under his plan's provisions. We are always secure, even if facing death itself.

There is rebuke here but it is muted. The Lord is still asking them (and us), 'why don't you trust me?' The resurrected Lord is with us forever, we are never away from his loving presence and care. His death and resurrection means our sins are solved and our eternal security is assured. What then can man do to us? They can do nothing that will affect our eternal security. Philippians 4:7.

Our strength and stability rests in our position with Christ. The daily awareness of the Lord's presence is the source for daily stability during our walk upon the earth.

The Old Testament is full of prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them were:

That He must suffer - Psalm 22:1-2, Isaiah 53:1-9

That He must rise again from the dead the third day - Psalm 16:10, Jonah 1:17, Hosea 6:2

This chapter in Luke's account of the resurrection is full of "opening things" - The open tomb [Lk 24:12], open home [v 29], open eyes [v 31], open scriptures [v 32], open lips [v 35], open understanding [v 45], and open heavens [v 51].

God is not mocked by man's unbelief. We can tell people with absolute certainty, that if they reject our message about the risen Lord they are not forgiven their sin of unbelief, they are under the curse of the creator who gave his all for them.

Their contempt for God will bring righteous judgement from Him upon them. They will join Pilate, Caiaphas, and Judas, and all others who thought they knew better than God. Arrogance is the reason for their arrival in Hell, and in their torment they will know that their sins were truly born by the Lord but they rejected him!

We can tell others that there is remission of sins through the Lord Jesus Christ but there is also condemnation for those who do not trust in Him.

The tenses of the verbs to remit and retain in John 20 shows that forgiveness occurs at a point in time as shown by the aorist tense and that forgiveness is forever as seen in the perfect tense whilst retention of the sins is in the present tense meaning that it is a constant denial of God's provision results in a situation that keeps on going forever.

## DOCTRINES

### CHRIST: TESTIMONIES BY CHRIST OF HIMSELF

### CHRISTIAN LIFE: FAITH

### CHRISTIAN LIFE: FAITH – OVERCOMING BY FAITH

### GOD: WORK OF THE FATHER AND THE SPIRIT

## THE GREAT COMMISSION

**MARK 16:15-18** [MATTHEW 28:16-20] see HARMONY 74-25

**15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

## BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

**15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

This verse records the commission that was given by the Lord on the eve of his ascension. There is thus an interval between verses 14 and 15. The disciples were commanded to preach the gospel message to the whole creation. The Saviour's goal was world evangelism and it is reached. He proposed to accomplish it with eleven disciples who would literally forsake all to follow Him, and they did, and their converts went out and out to the point of world saturation of air and tv waves today, even to cable tv and internet delivery of material in all languages.

**16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

The omission of baptized with "disbelieveth" shows that Jesus does not make baptism essential to salvation. Condemnation rests on disbelief, not on baptism. So salvation rests on belief. Baptism is merely the best and obedient sign/picture of the new life not the means of securing it. So serious a sacramental doctrine would need stronger support anyhow than this disputed portion of Mark.

This verses used by some to teach the necessity of water baptism for salvation. We know it cannot mean that for the following reasons:

1. The thief on the cross was not baptized yet he was assured of being in paradise with Christ. Luke 23:43
2. The Gentiles at Caesarea were baptized after they were saved. Acts 10:44-48
3. Jesus himself did not baptize which is a strange omission if baptism was necessary for salvation. John 4:1,2

4. Paul thanked God that he baptized very few of the Corinthians which is an impossible thanksgiving if baptism was essential for salvation. 1 Corinthians 1:14-16
5. Approximately 150 passages in the New Testament state that salvation is by faith alone. No verses or very few verses could contradict this overwhelming testimony.

This verse mentions baptism as the expected output expression of belief. James 2:14-26. Baptism is not a condition of salvation, but an outward proclamation that the person has been saved; it is a "fruit" of faith, an evidence, not a precondition or requirement.

**17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

This passage, if taken in isolation indicates that all Christians will be able to heal all the sick, they will all be able to speak miraculously in foreign languages, if any of them drink poison or handle snakes they will not die, all will be able to cast out demons. Obviously this is not a true reflection on Christianity today or historically. The ability to do miracles and be miraculously delivered is a sovereign gift of the Holy Spirit. When a miracle is required the Lord will ensure it occurs, so we are always to be ready to receive a miracle from the Lord and just give thanks without distraction and move forward. 1 Corinthians 12:13. For an article on this subject see Book 135 of CD EBCWA. See also the Three Great Commissions below.

## APPLICATION

Let us look at the great commissions to see the evolving of the Plan of God

### THE THREE GREAT COMMISSIONS

There are three great commissions given in succession by the Lord Himself; one before the crucifixion, another after His resurrection, which is the one in view here, and a third after His Ascension and Pentecost. Here we see a developing series of commissions. We need to ensure that the commission we are following is totally pertinent and applicable to the Church, as the first two were given to the disciples or apostles still operating within the Age of Israel.

The First Great Commission is given to His disciples in Matthew 10:5-8. **"These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."**

Here we see that the object of the commission is to go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and not to the Gentiles, preaching that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. The command also includes the requirement to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out devils. These would be the signs following and in that way is a very Jewish format as the Jews look for signs while the Church lives by faith. We call this the "great commission", and we borrow the last part of it to sum up the grace aspect of our mission.

The second Great Commission is given above in Matthew 28:19,20. **"19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."**

In this commission the apostles are told to go and teach all nations, baptising them in the name of the Trinity. Again this is the Gospel of the Kingdom, with the possibility still that the Lord would return and set up His Kingdom. It is to be remembered that this was the teaching of Peter at Pentecost and thereafter. Acts 2:36-39, 3:19-26. Here there is a development of the same programme, as they were given according to Mark greater miraculous powers to accredit them, and they had all things in common.

It should be also noted that the Lord said that He would be with them until the end of the world, which more correctly should be rendered the end of the age. He is talking in the Age of the Jews, and is therefore giving comfort to those who minister in that dispensation. This includes the 144,000 Jewish evangelists in Revelation 7, which relates to the Tribulation period following the removal of the Church at the Rapture. This again is really a great commission to the Jews. We call this the "greater commission".

It needs to be noted in the period between the removal of the Church and the Second Coming of our Lord the Gospel of the Kingdom will again be preached. **"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."** Matthew 24:14. The end in this case is again the end of the Age of Israel, the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

This is fulfilled in Revelation 14:6-7a by a mighty angel. **"6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is**

**come: and worship him that made heaven.”** Here we see the hour of judgment coming after which the Kingdom will be set up. Here God provides the fulfillment of Matthew 24:14.

Whilst it is an ideal thing to aim at by the Church, both prophecy and fulfillment do not have to do with the Church, but is a sign that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent.

The third Great Commission is given in 2 Corinthians 5:16-20. **“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. 17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”**

The third and last marching orders are given above, where Paul with the gospel of Grace, which relates to the Church Age, is given. The offer of reconciliation by grace through faith is the heart of the gospel of the grace of God. After the nations and even Israel had turned against God He did something remarkable. He replied to the brutal murder of Stephen, by saving Saul, the very leader of the persecution against the church, and the personification of Israel’s spirit of rebellion.

It became necessary therefore to set Israel aside, God demonstrating the riches of His grace by saving her leader in the rebellion and sending him forth with an offer of grace to all men everywhere. Romans 11:15.

It was God’s revealed purpose to bless the world through the rise of Israel Isaiah 60:1-3 and this purpose will be accomplished during the Tribulation. But it was God’s hidden purpose to bless the world through the fall of Israel and this is now being accomplished. Romans 11:11,12, 15.

1. Under this commission we with Paul are sent to all men without distinction. 2 Corinthians 5:14-21
2. Under this commission Christ’s returned to judge and reign is held in abeyance and reconciliation is offered to God’s enemies everywhere. 2 Corinthians 5:16, 19, Romans 11:25 Hebrews 2:8,9
3. Under this commission miraculous powers have been withdrawn as the norm, but may occur when the Holy Spirit provides them. Romans 8:23, 2 Corinthians 4:16, 5:1,2 12:7-10, 1 Timothy 5:23, 2 Timothy 4:20
4. Under this commission the “sell all” and “lay not up” orders have been rescinded. 2 Corinthians 12:14 1 Timothy 5:8. Indeed the apostle even had to take up offerings for those in Jerusalem who sold all and were now beginning to lack. Acts 4: 34 cf Acts 11:27 -30, Romans 15:26 1 Corinthians 16:1- 3
5. Under this commission faith alone is required for salvation. 2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Romans 3:21, 24-28 and 4:5, Ephesians 2:8-10

In verse 16 we have **“Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more.”** Here we have the word henceforth meaning from here on there is no priority by race, it is to everyone. We are therefore ambassadors to whosoever. This is the greatest commission and the one given to the church with the Gospel of Grace rather than Matthew 28:19,20, which still had the Gospel of the Kingdom in focus.

## DOCTRINES

### CHRISTIAN LIFE: AMBASSADORSHIP

### BAPTISM

### BAPTISMAL REGENERATION: DOES WATER BAPTISM SAVE YOU?

### TONGUES

### GOD – TRINITY

### GOD: TRINITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

### GOD: TRINITY IN THE TITLES OF GOD

**THE ASCENSION****MARK 16:19-20** [LUKE 24:50-53] see HARMONY 74-25

**19** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. **20** And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Mark's Gospel finishes with the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ into heaven and his Session at the right hand of the Father to hear our prayers. His ministry on the earth had been victoriously completed. He had instructed his disciples in many aspects of the spiritual life and would soon send the Holy Spirit, another comforter/instructor to them. To the Roman mind the seating of the victorious Caesar on his throne was the final victory moment. Orders given from there later expressed and celebrated the victory (Pentecost and the giving of the New Testament to the Apostolic writers).

After the Day of Pentecost the disciples went out and preached with the Lord working with them, and the Holy Spirit, through spiritual gifting and specific actions confirmed their status as God's anointed apostles with miraculous signs. By about the middle of the book of Acts however there is a shift. By then it was the apostle Paul, with the new teams, Barnabas, Silas, Titus, Timothy and many others, who are now "sent out" on the great mission journeys as the Apostle's next wave specifically to the Gentiles, although many of the other apostles by tradition also went far afield from Jerusalem after they are forced to leave in 67 AD.

**APPLICATION**

We have a risen Saviour who is at the right hand the Father at a place of ultimate power and authority, and the place where our prayers are heard and answered.

The doctrines of the Ascension and Session are vital for believers to understand; spend the time and see the significance of the Lord's present ministries.

We, like the disciples, should rejoice in this fact and be continuously blessing His name. It is also our responsibility and privilege to go out and tell others about the Lord Jesus Christ as the Holy Spirit directs our steps.

The Lord Jesus Christ should be central to our life, and our life's work here is our priority until we are called home. He is seated on his victory throne and we can boldly approach the throne of grace, in confident faith, to receive all we require to fulfill his orders to us. Hebrews 4:4-16.