

THE PASSION OF CHRIST: The Final Hours of Christ

From the Betrayal to His Resurrection

A Consolidated Harmony of the Gospels:

Matthew 26:1 - 28:10

Mark 14:1 - 16:8

Luke 22:1 - 24:12

John 13:1 - 20:18

All text from the Holman Christian Standard Bible



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This harmony of the Gospel accounts is a consolidation of the gospel record into one account of the Passion of the Christ. It hopefully will be read and received with an open heart and mind to seek to fully understand those final hours in the life of Jesus. I pray that those who read or hear these words may better understand what the Passion of the Christ really entailed from the various perspectives of His disciples.

The words are consolidated from the *Holman Christian Standard Bible* translation, and are true to the original Scriptural account (Although, in some isolated cases a paragraph may include excerpts from more than one gospel account to capture a broader perspective of a particular scene captured in the gospels.)

May this study prepare each heart for Easter, our annual day of celebration and reflection upon the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Our Savior and Lord, Jesus the Christ. God bless everyone who participates in this undertaking.

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Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go, select an animal from the flock according to your families, and ***slaughter the Passover lamb***. Take a cluster of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and brush the lintel and the two door posts with some of the blood in the basin. None of you may go out the door of his house until morning. When the Lord passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two door posts, He will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter your houses to strike [you]. "Keep this command permanently as a statute for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as He promised, you are to observe this ritual. When your children ask you, 'What does this ritual mean to you?' you are to reply, '*It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, for He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and spared our homes.*'" So the people bowed down and worshiped. Then the Israelites went and did [this]; they did just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. **Ex 12:21-28 (HCSB)**

Part I

From the Priestly Plot to Priestly Prayers: Preparation of the Passover Lamb

The Plot to Kill Jesus- Matt 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2

When Jesus had finished saying all this, He told His disciples, *“You know that the Passover takes place after two days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”*

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and they conspired to arrest Jesus in a treacherous way and kill Him.

“Not during the festival,” they said, *“so there won’t be rioting among the people.”*

The Anointing at Bethan- Mark 14:3-9; Matt 26:6-13

While He was in Bethany at the house of Simon who had a serious skin disease, as He was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of pure and expensive fragrant oil of nard. She broke the jar and poured it on His head. But some were expressing indignation to one another: *“Why has this fragrant oil been wasted? For this oil might have been sold for more than 300 denarii and given to the poor.”* And they began to scold her.

Then Jesus said, *“Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a noble thing for Me. You always have the poor with you, and you can do good for them whenever you want, but you do not always have Me. She has done what she could; she has anointed My body in advance for burial. I assure you: Wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told in memory of her.”*

Betrayal of Judas- Luke 22:3-6; Matt 26: 14-16; Mark 14:10-11

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, who was numbered among the Twelve. He went away and discussed with the chief priests and temple police how he could hand Him over to them. They were glad and agreed to give him silver. So he accepted [the offer] and started looking for a good opportunity to betray Him to them when the crowd was not present.

Preparation for Passover- Luke 22:7-13; Matt 26: 17-19; Mark 14:12-16

Then the Day of Unleavened Bread came when the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, *“Go and prepare the Passover meal for us, so we can eat it.”*

“Where do You want us to prepare it?” they asked Him.

“Listen,” He said to them, “when you’ve entered the city, a man carrying a water jug will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters. Tell the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher asks you, “Where is the guest room where I can eat the Passover with My disciples?’” ’ Then he will show you a large, furnished room upstairs. Make the preparations there.”

So they went and found it just as He had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet - John 13:1-20

Before the Passover Festival, Jesus knew that His hour had come to depart from this world to the Father. Having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

Now by the time of supper, the Devil had already put it into the heart of Judas, Simon Iscariot’s son, to betray Him. Jesus knew that the Father had given everything into His hands, that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God. So He got up from supper, laid aside His robe, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. Next, He poured water into a basin and began to wash His disciples’ feet and to dry them with the towel tied around Him.

He came to Simon Peter, who asked Him, *“Lord, are You going to wash my feet?”*

Jesus answered him, *“What I’m doing you don’t understand now, but afterwards you will know.”*

“You will never wash my feet—ever!” Peter said.

Jesus replied, *“If I don’t wash you, you have no part with Me.”*

Simon Peter said to Him, *“Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.”*

“One who has bathed,” Jesus told him, “doesn’t need to wash anything except his feet, but he is completely clean. You are clean, but not all of you.”

For He knew who would betray Him. This is why He said, *“You are not all clean.”*

When Jesus had washed their feet and put on His robe, He reclined again and said to them, *“Do you know what I have done for you? You call Me Teacher and Lord. This is well said, for I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed*

your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example that you also should do just as I have done for you.

"I assure you: A slave is not greater than his master, and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. I'm not speaking about all of you; I know those I have chosen.

"But the Scripture must be fulfilled: The one who eats My bread has raised his heel against Me.

"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am [He].

"I assure you: The one who receives whomever I send receives Me, and the one who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

Betrayal at the Passover- John 13:21-30; Matt 26: 20-25; Mark 14:17-21; Luke 22:21-23

When Jesus had said this, He was troubled in His spirit and testified, *"I assure you: One of you will betray Me!"*

The disciples started looking at one another—uncertain which one He was speaking about. One of His disciples, the one Jesus loved, was reclining close beside Jesus. Simon Peter motioned to him to find out who it was He was talking about.

So he leaned back against Jesus and asked Him, *"Lord, who is it?"*

Jesus replied, *"He's the one I give the piece of bread to after I have dipped it."*

When He had dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas, Simon Iscariot's son. After [Judas ate] the piece of bread, Satan entered him.

Therefore Jesus told him, *"What you're doing, do quickly."*

None of those reclining at the table knew why He told him this.

Since Judas kept the money-bag, some thought that Jesus was telling him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor.

After receiving the piece of bread, he went out immediately. And it was night.

The First Lord's Supper - Luke 22:14-20; Matt 26:26-29 Mark 14:22-25

When the hour came, He reclined at the table, and the apostles with Him.

Then He said to them, *“I have fervently desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”*

Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks, He said, *“Take this and share it among yourselves. For I tell you, from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.”*

And He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, gave it to them, and said, *“This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”*

In the same way He also took the cup after supper and said, *“This cup is the new covenant [established by] My blood; it is shed for you.”*

The New Commandment - John 13:31-35

When he (Judas) had gone out, Jesus said, *“Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself and will glorify Him at once.”*

“Children, I am with you a little while longer. You will look for Me, and just as I told the Jews, ‘Where I am going you cannot come,’ so now I tell you.”

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another. By this all people will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Way to the Father - John 14:1-6

“Your heart must not be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if not, I would have told you. I am going away to prepare a place for you. If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come back and receive you to Myself, so that where I am you may be also. You know the way where I am going.”

“Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where You’re going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*

Jesus Reveals the Father - John 14:7-11

“If you know Me, you will also know My Father. From now on you do know Him and have seen Him.”

“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.”

Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time without your knowing Me, Philip? The one who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on My own. The Father who lives in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

Praying in Jesus’ Name - John 14:12-14

“I assure you: The one who believes in Me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

Another Counselor Promised - John 14:15-18

“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn’t see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - John 14:19-26

“In a little while the world will see Me no longer, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live too. In that day you will know that I am in My Father, you are in Me, and I am in you. The one who has My commands and keeps them is the one who loves Me. And the one who loves Me will be loved by My Father. I also will love him and will reveal Myself to him.”

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, *“Lord, how is it You’re going to reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?”*

Jesus answered, *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. The one who doesn’t love Me will not keep My words. The word that you hear is not Mine but is from the Father who sent Me.*

“I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit—the Father will send Him in My name—will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

Jesus' Gift of Peace - John 14:1-31

"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Your heart must not be troubled or fearful. You have heard Me tell you, 'I am going away and I am coming to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

"I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe. I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over Me.

"On the contrary, [I am going away] so that the world may know that I love the Father. Just as the Father commanded Me, so I do.

"Get up; let's leave this place."

Departure of the Disciples to the Mount of Olives - Matt 26:30; Mark 14:26

After singing psalms, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The Dispute over Greatness - Luke 22:24-30

Then a dispute also arose among them about who should be considered the greatest.

But He said to them, *"The kings of the Gentiles dominate them, and those who have authority over them are called 'Benefactors.'* But it must not be like that among you.

"On the contrary, whoever is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and whoever leads, like the one serving. For who is greater, the one at the table or the one serving? Isn't it the one at the table? But I am among you as the One who serves.

"You are the ones who stood by Me in My trials. I bestow on you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one on Me, so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom. And you will sit on thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel."

Money-Bag, Backpack, and Sword - Luke 22:35-38

He also said to them, *"When I sent you out without money-bag, traveling bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?"*

"Not a thing," they said.

Then He said to them, *“But now, whoever has a money-bag should take it, and also a traveling bag. And whoever doesn’t have a sword should sell his robe and buy one. For I tell you, what is written must be fulfilled in Me: And He was counted among the outlaws. Yes, what is written about Me is coming to its fulfillment.”*

“Lord,” they said, “look, here are two swords.”

“Enough of that!” He told them.

The Vine and the Branches - John 15: 1-8

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vineyard keeper. Every branch in Me that does not produce fruit He removes, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me. If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

“If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be My disciples.

Christ like Love - John 15: 9-17

“As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commands you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commands and remain in His love.

“I have spoken these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is My command: love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that someone would lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you slaves anymore, because a slave doesn’t know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father.

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you. I appointed you that you should go out and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. This is what I command you: love one another.

Persecution Predicted - John 15:18-25

“If the world hates you, understand that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love [you as] its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you.

“Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will also keep yours. But they will do all these things to you on account of My name, because they don’t know the One who sent Me.

“If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have sin. Now they have no excuse for their sin. The one who hates Me also hates My Father. If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done, they would not have sin. Now they have seen and hated both Me and My Father.

“But [this happened] so that the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: They hated Me for no reason.

Coming Testimony and Rejection - John 15:26 – 16:4

“When the Counselor comes, the One I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father—He will testify about Me. You also will testify, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

“I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. They will do these things because they haven’t known the Father or Me.

“But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you may remember I told them to you. I didn’t tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you.

The Counselor’s Ministry - John 16:5-15

“But now I am going away to Him who sent Me, and not one of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

“Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: about sin, because they do not believe in Me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see Me; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

“I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has is Mine. This is why I told you that He takes from what is Mine and will declare it to you.”

Sorrow Turned to Joy - John 16:16-24

“A little while and you will no longer see Me; again a little while and you will see Me.”

Therefore some of His disciples said to one another, *“What is this He tells us: ‘A little while and you will not see Me; again a little while and you will see Me’; and, ‘because I am going to the Father?’”*

They said, *“What is this He is saying, ‘A little while’? We don’t know what He’s talking about!”*

Jesus knew they wanted to question Him, so He said to them, *“Are you asking one another about what I said, ‘A little while and you will not see Me; again a little while and you will see Me’?”*

“I assure you: You will weep and wail, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy.”

“When a woman is in labor she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will rob you of your joy. In that day you will not ask Me anything.”

“I assure you: Anything you ask the Father in My name, He will give you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be complete.”

Jesus the Victor - John 16:25-33

“I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. In that day you will ask in My name. I am not telling you that I will make requests to the Father on your behalf. For the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from God.”

“I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

“Ah!” His disciples said. “Now You’re speaking plainly and not using any figurative language. Now we know that You know everything and don’t need anyone to question You. By this we believe that You came from God.”

Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? Look: An hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave Me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

“I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

Peter’s Denial Predicted- Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-34; John 13:36-38

Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will run away, because it is written: I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. But after I have been resurrected, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.”

Peter told Him, “Even if everyone runs away, I will certainly not!”

“I assure you,” Jesus said to him, “today, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times!”

But he kept insisting, “If I have to die with You, I will never deny You!”

And they all said the same thing.

“Simon, Simon, look out! Satan has asked to sift you like wheat. But I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And you, when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

“Lord,” he told Him, “I’m ready to go with You both to prison and to death!”

“I tell you, Peter,” He said, “the rooster will not crow today until you deny three times that you know Me!”

“Lord,” Simon Peter said to Him, “where are You going?”

Jesus answered, “Where I am going you cannot follow Me now, but you will follow later.”

“Lord,” Peter asked, “why can’t I follow You now? I will lay down my life for You!”

Jesus replied, “Will you lay down your life for Me? I assure you: A rooster will not crow until you have denied Me three times.

Jesus Prays for Himself - John 17:1-5

Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said: *“Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son so that the Son may glorify You, for You gave Him authority over all flesh; so He may give eternal life to all You have given Him. This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and the One You have sent—Jesus Christ.*

“I have glorified You on the earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with that glory I had with You before the world existed.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples - John 17:6-19

“I have revealed Your name to the men You gave Me from the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they know that all things You have given to Me are from You, because the words that You gave Me, I have given them. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from You. They have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those You have given Me, because they are Yours. All My things are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I have been glorified in them. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by Your name that You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are one. While I was with them, I was protecting them by Your name that You have given Me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled.

“Now I am coming to You, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have My joy completed in them.

“I have given them Your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, as I am not of the world. I am not praying that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth.

“As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. I sanctify Myself for them, so they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Jesus Prays for All Believers - John 17:20-26

“I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in Me through their message. May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You. May they also be one in Us, so the world may believe You sent Me.

“I have given them the glory You have given Me. May they be one as We are one. I am in them and You are in Me. May they be made completely one, so the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.

“Father, I desire those You have given Me to be with Me where I am. Then they will see My glory, which You have given Me because You loved Me before the world’s foundation.

“Righteous Father! The world has not known You. However, I have known You, and these have known that You sent Me. I made Your name known to them and will make it known, so the love You have loved Me with may be in them and I may be in them.

Part II

From the Father's Will to the People's Will: Presentation of the Passover Lamb

The Prayer in the Garden- John 18:1; Matt 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46

After Jesus had said these things, He went out with His disciples across the Kidron Valley, where there was a garden, and He and His disciples went into it.

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane (also known as, Mount of Olives), and He told the disciples, *"Sit here while I go over there and pray."*

Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

Then He said to them, *"My soul is swallowed up in sorrow—to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake with Me."*

Going a little farther, He fell face down and prayed, *"My Father! If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Yet not as I will, but as You will."*

Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping.

He asked Peter. *"So, couldn't you stay awake with Me one hour? Stay awake and pray, so that you won't enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, *"My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, Your will be done."*

And He came again and found them sleeping, because they could not keep their eyes open.

After leaving them, He went away again and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

Then He came to the disciples and said to them, *"Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the time is near. The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up; let's go! See—My betrayer is near."*

The Judas Kiss- John 18: 2-11; Matt 26: 47-55: Luke 22:48-51; Mark 14:43-52

Judas, who betrayed Him, also knew the place, because Jesus often met there with His disciples. So Judas took a company of soldiers and some temple police

from the chief priests and the Pharisees and came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons.

While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, suddenly arrived. A large mob, with swords and clubs, was with him from the chief priests and elders of the people.

His betrayer had given them a sign: *“The One I kiss, He’s the One; arrest Him!”*

So he went right up to Jesus and said, *“Greetings, Rabbi!”*— and kissed Him.

“Friend,” Jesus asked him, *“why have you come?”*

“Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Then Jesus, knowing everything that was about to happen to Him, went out and said to them, *“Who is it you’re looking for?”*

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they answered.

“I am He,” Jesus told them.

Judas, who betrayed Him, was also standing with them.

When He told them, *“I am He,”* they stepped back and fell to the ground.

Then He asked them again, *“Who is it you’re looking for?”*

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

“I told you I am [He],” Jesus replied.

“So if you’re looking for Me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the words He had said: *“I have not lost one of those You have given Me.”*

When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they asked, *“Lord, Should we strike with the sword?”*

Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s slave, and cut off his right ear. (The slave’s name was Malchus.)

At that, Jesus said to Peter, *“Sheathe your sword! Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given Me?”*

“Put your sword back in place because all who take up a sword will perish by a sword. Or do you think that I cannot call on My Father, and He will provide Me

at once with more than 12 legions of angels? How, then, would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?"

Then Jesus responded, *"No more of this!"* And touching his ear, He healed him.

Then they came up, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him. Then Jesus said to the chief priests, temple police, and the elders who had come for Him, *"Have you come out with swords and clubs as if I were a criminal? Every day while I was with you in the temple complex, you never laid a hand on Me. But this is your hour—and the dominion of darkness."*

But all this has happened so that the prophetic Scriptures would be fulfilled.

Then all the disciples deserted Him and ran away.

Jesus Faces the Sanhedrin— John 18: 12-24; Matt 26: 57-68; Mark 14: 53-65; Luke 22:54, 62-71

Then the company of soldiers, the commander, and the Jewish temple police arrested Jesus and tied Him up.

First they led Him to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was advantageous that one man should die for the people.

The high priest questioned Jesus about His disciples and about His teaching.

"I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus answered him. *"I have always taught in the synagogue and in the temple complex, where all the Jews congregate, and I haven't spoken anything in secret. Why do you question Me? Question those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."*

When He had said these things, one of the temple police standing by slapped Jesus, saying, *"Is this the way you answer the high priest?"*

"If I have spoken wrongly," Jesus answered him, *"give evidence about the wrong; but if rightly, why do you hit Me?"*

Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas the high priest. (Then) those who had arrested Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had convened.

Meanwhile Simon Peter was following Jesus, as was another disciple. That disciple was an acquaintance of the high priest; so he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. (John was that other disciple.) But Peter remained standing outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the girl who was the doorkeeper and brought Peter

in. Peter went in and he was sitting with the temple police, warming himself by the fire to see the outcome.

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so they could put Him to death. But they could not find any, even though many false witnesses came forward, the testimonies did not agree.

Finally, two who came forward stated, *“This man said, ‘I can demolish God’s sanctuary and rebuild it in three days.’”*

“We heard Him say, ‘I will demolish this sanctuary made by [human] hands, and in three days I will build another not made by hands.’”

Yet their testimony did not agree even on this.

The high priest then stood up and said to Him, *“Don’t You have an answer to what these men are testifying against You?”*

But Jesus kept silent and did not answer anything.

Then the high priest said to Him, *“By the living God I place You under oath: tell us if You are the Messiah, the Son of God!”*

“You have said it,” Jesus told him. *“But I tell you, in the future you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”*

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, *“He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? Look, now you’ve heard the blasphemy! What is your decision?”*

They answered, *“He deserves death!”*

Then some began to spit on Him, to blindfold Him, and to beat Him, saying, *“Prophecy!”*

Even the temple police took Him and slapped Him; others slapped Him and said, *“Prophecy to us, Messiah! Who hit You?”*

And they were saying many other blasphemous things against Him.

Peter Denies His Lord- Matt 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:55-62

While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the high priest’s servants came. When a servant saw him sitting in the firelight, and looked closely at him, she said, *“This man was with Him too.”*

She looked at him and said, *“You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus.”*

But he denied it: *“I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about! Woman, I don’t know Him!”*

Then he went out to the entryway, and a rooster crowed.

Then the servant said, *“This man is one of them! You’re one of them too!”*

But again he denied it. *“Man, I am not!” Peter said.*

After a little while, about an hour later, those standing there said to Peter again, *“You certainly are one of them, since you’re also a Galilean!”*

One of the high priest’s slaves, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, saw him again she began to tell those standing nearby, *“Didn’t I see you with Him in the garden?”*

Then he started to curse and to swear with an oath, *“I don’t know this man you’re talking about!”*

Immediately, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed a second time.

Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter. So Peter remembered when Jesus had spoken the word to him, *“Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.”*

When he thought about it, he went outside and wept bitterly.

Jesus Handed Over to Pilate- Matt 27:1-2, 11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-5; John 18:28-38

When daybreak came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people plotted against Jesus to put Him to death. After tying Him up, they led Him away and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor...

Then they took Jesus from Caiaphas to the governor’s headquarters. They did not enter the headquarters themselves; otherwise they would be defiled and unable to eat the Passover.

Then Pilate came out to them and said, *“What charge do you bring against this man?”*

They answered him, *“If this man weren’t a criminal, we wouldn’t have handed Him over to you.”*

So Pilate told them, *“Take Him yourselves and judge Him according to your law.”*

“It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death,” the Jews declared.

They said this so that Jesus’ words might be fulfilled signifying what sort of death He was going to die.

Now Jesus stood before the governor.

They began to accuse Him, saying, *“We found this man subverting our nation, opposing payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that He Himself is the Messiah, a King.”*

Then Pilate went back into the headquarters, summoned Jesus. The governor asked Him, *“Are You the King of the Jews?”*

Jesus answered, *“You have said it. Are you asking this on your own, or have others told you about Me?”*

“I’m not a Jew, am I?” Pilate replied. *“Your own nation and the chief priests handed You over to me. What have You done?”*

“My kingdom is not of this world,” said Jesus. *“If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I wouldn’t be handed over to the Jews. As it is, My kingdom does not have its origin here.”*

“You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

“You say that I’m a king,” Jesus replied. *“I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice.”*

“What is truth?” said Pilate.

And the chief priests began to accuse Him of many things.

Then Pilate questioned Him again, *“Are You not answering anything? Look how many things they are accusing You of!”*

But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

Pilate then told the chief priests and the crowds, *“I find no grounds for charging this man.”*

But they kept insisting, *“He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee where He started even to here.”*

Jesus Faces Herod Antipas - Luke 23:6-12

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. Finding that He was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

Herod was very glad to see Jesus; for a long time he had wanted to see Him, because he had heard about Him and was hoping to see some miracle performed by Him. So he kept asking Him questions, but Jesus did not answer him.

The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing Him.

Then Herod, with his soldiers, treated Him with contempt, mocked Him, dressed Him in a brilliant robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.

That very day Herod and Pilate became friends. Previously, they had been hostile toward each other.

Judas Hangs Himself - Matt 27:3-10

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was full of remorse and returned the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders.

“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood,” he said.

“What’s that to us?” they said. *“See to it yourself!”*

So he threw the silver into the sanctuary and departed.

Then he went and hanged himself.

The chief priests took the silver and said, *“It’s not lawful to put it into the temple treasury, since it is blood money.”*

So they conferred together and bought the potter’s field with it as a burial place for foreigners. Therefore that field has been called “Blood Field” to this day.

Then what was spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: They took the 30 pieces of silver, the price of Him whose price was set by the sons of Israel, 10 and they gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.

Jesus or Barabbas - Matt 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:38-40

At the festival it was the governor's (Pilate) custom was to release to the crowd a prisoner they wanted. At that time they had a notorious prisoner called Barabbas, who was in prison with rebels who had committed murder during the rebellion.

So when they had gathered together, the crowd came up and began to ask [Pilate] to do for them as was his custom.

Pilate said to them, *"Who is it you want me to release for you—Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Messiah, the King of the Jews?"*

While he was sitting on the judge's bench, his wife sent word to him, *"Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for today I've suffered terribly in a dream because of Him!"*

The chief priests and the elders, however, persuaded the crowds to ask for Barabbas and to execute Jesus.

The governor asked them, *"Which of the two do you want me to release for you?"*

"Barabbas!" they answered.

Pilate asked them, *"What should I do then with Jesus, who is called Messiah, the One you call the King of the Jews?"*

They all answered, *"Crucify Him!"*

Then he said, *"Why? What has He done wrong?"*

But they kept shouting, *"Crucify Him!"* all the more.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the leaders, and the people, and said to them, *"You have brought me this man as one who subverts the people. But in fact, after examining Him in your presence, I have found no grounds to charge this man with those things you accuse Him of. Neither has Herod, because he sent Him back to us. Clearly, He has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore I will have Him whipped and [then] release Him."*

[For according to the festival he had to release someone to them.]

Then they all cried out together, *"Take this man away! Release Barabbas to us!"*

(He had been thrown into prison for a rebellion that had taken place in the city, and for murder.)

Pilate, wanting to release Jesus, addressed them again, but they kept shouting, *“Crucify! Crucify Him!”*

A third time he said to them, *“Why? What has this man done wrong? I have found in Him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have Him whipped and [then] release Him.”*

But they kept up the pressure, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And their voices won out.

When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that a riot was starting instead, he took some water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, *“I am innocent of this man’s blood. See to it yourselves!”*

All the people answered, *“His blood be on us and on our children!”*

Then, willing to gratify the crowd, Pilate decided to grant their demand and released the one they were asking for, who had been thrown into prison for rebellion and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.

Part III

From Rejected King to Resurrected King: Perfection of the Passover Lamb

Jesus Flogged & Mocked- Matt 27:27-31; Mark 15:16-20; John 19:1-16

Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him flogged.

Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the courtyard (that is, headquarters) and gathered the whole company around Him. They stripped Him and dressed Him in a scarlet robe. They twisted together a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and placed a reed in His right hand. And they knelt down before Him and mocked Him: *"Hail, King of the Jews!"*

Then they spit at Him, took the reed, and kept hitting Him on the head.

Pilate went outside again and said to them, *"Look, I'm bringing Him outside to you to let you know I find no grounds for charging Him."*

Then Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. Pilate said to them, *"Here is the man!"*

When the chief priests and the temple police saw Him, they shouted, *"Crucify! Crucify!"*

Pilate responded, *"Take Him and crucify Him yourselves, for I find no grounds for charging Him."*

"We have a law," the Jews replied to him, *"and according to that law He must die, because He made Himself the Son of God."*

When Pilate heard this statement, he was more afraid than ever.

He went back into the headquarters and asked Jesus, *"Where are You from?"*

But Jesus did not give him an answer.

So Pilate said to Him, *"You're not talking to me? Don't You know that I have the authority to release You and the authority to crucify You?"*

"You would have no authority over Me at all," Jesus answered him, *"if it hadn't been given you from above. This is why the one who handed Me over to you has the greater sin."*

From that moment Pilate made every effort to release Him.

But the Jews shouted, *“If you release this man, you are not Caesar’s friend. Anyone who makes himself a king opposes Caesar!”*

When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside. He sat down on the judge’s bench in a place called the Stone Pavement (but in Hebrew *Gabbatha*). It was the preparation day for the Passover, and it was about six in the morning.

Then he told the Jews, *“Here is your king!”*

But they shouted, *“Take Him away! Take Him away! Crucify Him!”*

Pilate said to them, *“Should I crucify your king?”*

“We have no king but Caesar!” the chief priests answered.

So then, because of them, he handed Him over to be crucified. They stripped Him of the robe, put His clothes on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

The Way to the Cross Matt 27:32-33; Mark 15:21-22; Luke 23:26-31; John 19:16-17a

Therefore they took Jesus away. Carrying His own cross.

As they led Him away, they seized Simon, a Cyrenian, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming in from the country, and they forced this man to carry His cross, and laid the cross on him to carry behind Jesus.

A great multitude of the people followed Him, including women who were mourning and lamenting Him.

But turning to them, Jesus said, *“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and your children. Look, the days are coming when they will say, ‘Blessed are the barren, the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed!’ Then they will begin to say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ and to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”*

Crucified Between Two Criminals- John 19:17b-24; Matt 27:34-44; Mark 15:21-32; Luke 23:32-43

He went out to what is called Skull Place, which in Hebrew is called *Golgotha*.

They gave Him wine mixed with gall (or, myrrh) to drink. But when He tasted it, He would not drink it.

They divided His clothes by casting lots. They took His clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, *“Let’s not tear it, but toss for it, to see who gets it.”*

[They did this] to fulfill the Scripture that says: They divided My clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for My clothing.

And this is what the soldiers did. Then they sat down and were guarding Him there.

Now it was nine in the morning when they crucified Him.

Above His head they put up the charge against Him in writing: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Many of the Jews read this sign, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek.

So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, *“Don’t write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that He said, ‘I am the King of the Jews.’”*

Pilate replied, *“What I have written, I have written.”*

Then two criminals were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. [So the Scripture was fulfilled that says: And He was counted among outlaws.]

Those who passed by were yelling insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, *“Ha! The One who would demolish the sanctuary and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, save Yourself by coming down from the cross!”*

Then Jesus said, *“Father, forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing.”*

In the same way the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him and said, *“He saved others, but He cannot save Himself! He is the King of Israel! Let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. He has put His trust in God; let God rescue Him now—if He wants Him! For He said, ‘I am God’s Son.’”*

In the same way even the criminals who were crucified with Him kept taunting Him.

The soldiers also mocked Him. They came offering Him sour wine and said, *“If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”*

Then one of the criminals hanging there began to yell insults at Him: *“Aren’t You the Messiah? Save Yourself and us!”*

But the other answered, rebuking him: *“Don’t you even fear God, since you are undergoing the same punishment? We are punished justly, because we’re getting back what we deserve for the things we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.”*

Then he said, *“Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!”*

And He said to him, *“I assure you: Today you will be with Me in paradise.”*

Jesus’ Provision for His Mother - John 19:25-27

Standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple He loved standing there, He said to His mother, *“Woman, here is your son.”*

Then He said to the disciple, *“Here is your mother.”*

And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

The Death of Jesus - Matt 27:45-56; Mark 15:33-41; Luke 23:44-49; John 19:25-37

From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over the whole land because the sun’s light failed.

At about three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, *“Eli, Eli, lemá sabachtháni?”* that is, *“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*

When some of those standing there heard this, they said, *“He’s calling for Elijah!”*

Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge, filled it with sour wine, fixed it on a reed, and offered Him a drink.

But the rest said, *“Let’s see if Elijah comes to save Him!”*

After this, when Jesus knew that everything was now accomplished that the Scripture might be fulfilled, He said, *“I’m thirsty!”*

A jar full of sour wine was sitting there; so they fixed a sponge full of sour wine on hyssop and held it up to His mouth.

When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, *"It is finished!"*

Then bowing His head, Jesus called out with a loud voice, *"Father, into Your hands I entrust My spirit."*

Saying this, He breathed His last, and gave up His spirit.

Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was split in two from top to bottom; the earth quaked and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened and many bodies of the saints who had gone to their rest were raised. And they came out of the tombs after His resurrection, entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

When the centurion who was standing opposite Him, and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the way He breathed His last, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they were terrified and said, *"This man really was God's Son!"*

Then he began to glorify God, saying, *"This man really was righteous!"*

Since it was the preparation day, the Jews did not want the bodies to remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a special day). They requested that Pilate have the men's legs broken and that [their bodies] be taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and of the other one who had been crucified with Him. When they came to Jesus, they did not break His legs since they saw that He was already dead.

But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out. He who saw this has testified so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth.

For these things happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: Not one of His bones will be broken.

Also, another Scripture says, They will look at the One they pierced.

Many women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and ministered to Him were there, looking on from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and Joseph, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. When He was in Galilee, they would follow Him and help Him. Many other women had come up with Him to Jerusalem.

All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests.

But all who knew Him, including the women who had followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

The Burial of Jesus- Matt 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:38-42

When it was already evening, because it was preparation day (that is, the day before the Sabbath), there was a good and righteous man named Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin, who was himself looking forward to the kingdom of God, who had not agreed with their plan and action. He was a disciple of Jesus—but secretly because of his fear of the Jews. He came and boldly went in to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body.

Pilate was surprised that He was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him whether He had already died. When he found out from the centurion, he gave the corpse to Joseph.

Nicodemus (who had previously come to Him at night) also came, bringing a mixture of about 75 pounds of myrrh and aloes.

Then they took Jesus' body and wrapped it in linen cloths with the aromatic spices, according to the burial custom of the Jews.

There was a garden in the place where He was crucified. A new tomb was in the garden; cut out of the rock, where no one had ever been placed, and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. They placed Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation and since the tomb was nearby.

Now the women, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses, who had come with Him from Galilee followed along and observed the tomb and how His body was placed. Then they returned and prepared spices and perfumes. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment.

The Closely Guarded Tomb - Matt 27:62-66

The next day, which followed the preparation day, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, *"Sir, we remember that while this deceiver was still alive, He said, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore give orders that the tomb be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, His disciples may come, steal Him, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead.' Then the last deception will be worse than the first."*

"You have a guard [of soldiers]," Pilate told them. *"Go and make it as secure as you know how."*

Then they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Resurrection Morning- Matt 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so they could go and anoint Him, and went to view the tomb at sunrise.

They were saying to one another, *“Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?”*

Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, because an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and approached [the tomb]. Looking up, they observed that the stone—which was very large—had been rolled away. He rolled back the stone and was sitting on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his robe was as white as snow.

The guards were so shaken from fear of him that they became like dead men.

When they entered the tomb, but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes.

“Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men.

Then they saw a young man dressed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; they were amazed and alarmed and bowed down to the ground.

But the angel told the women, *“Don’t be afraid, because I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.”*

*“You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has been resurrected! **He is not here!** For He has been resurrected, just as He said.”*

“Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, ‘The Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?’”

And they remembered His words.

“Come and see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples and Peter, ‘He has been raised from the dead. In fact, He is going ahead of you to Galilee; you will see Him there.’ Listen, I have told you.”

So, departing quickly they went out and started running from the tomb with fear and great joy, because trembling and astonishment overwhelmed them. And they said nothing to anyone, since they were afraid.

Just then Jesus met them and said, *“Good morning!”*

They came up, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him.

Then Jesus told them, *“Do not be afraid. Go and tell My brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see Me there.”*

They ran to tell His disciples the news.

Returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest.

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them were telling the apostles these things. But these words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women.

So she (Mary Magdalene) ran to Simon Peter and to the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said to them, *“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put Him!”*

At that, Peter and the other disciple went out, heading for the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and got to the tomb first. Stooping down, he saw the linen cloths lying there, yet he did not go in.

Then, following him, Simon Peter came also. When he stooped to look in, he saw only the linen cloths. He entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. The wrapping that had been on His head was not lying with the linen cloths but was folded up in a separate place by itself.

The other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, then entered the tomb, saw, and believed.

For they still did not understand the Scripture that He must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples went home again amazed at what had happened.

But Mary stood outside facing the tomb, crying. As she was crying, she stooped to look into the tomb. She saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet, where Jesus’ body had been lying.

They said to her, *“Woman, why are you crying?”*

“Because they’ve taken away my Lord,” she told them, “and I don’t know where they’ve put Him.”

Having said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not know it was Jesus. *“Woman,”* Jesus said to her, *“why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”*

Supposing He was the gardener, she replied, *“Sir, if you’ve removed Him, tell me where you’ve put Him, and I will take Him away.”*

Jesus said, *“Mary.”*

Turning around, she said to Him in Hebrew, *“Rabbouni!”*— which means *“Teacher.”*

“Don’t cling to Me,” Jesus told her, *“for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them that I am ascending to My Father and your Father—to My God and your God.”*

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, *“I have seen the Lord!”* And she told them what He had said to her.

Understanding the Passover Passion of Christ Symbolism

Instructions for the Passover

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: “This month is to be the beginning of months for you; it is the first month of your year. Tell the whole community of Israel that on the tenth day of this month they must each select an animal of the flock according to [their] fathers’ households, one animal per household. If the household is too small for a [whole] animal, that person and the neighbor nearest his house are to select one based on the combined number of people; you should apportion the animal according to what each person will eat. You must have an unblemished animal, a year-old male; you may take it from either the sheep or the goats. You are to keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembly of the community of Israel will slaughter the animals at twilight. They must take some of the blood and put it on the two door posts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat them. They are to eat the meat that night; they should eat it, roasted over the fire along with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or cooked in boiling water, but only roasted over fire—its head as well as its legs and inner organs. Do not let any of it remain until morning; you must burn up any part of it that does remain until morning.

Here is how you must eat it: dressed for travel, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. You are to eat it in a hurry; it is the Lord’s Passover. “I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night and strike every firstborn [male] in the land of Egypt, both man and beast. I am the Lord; I will execute judgments against all the gods of Egypt. The blood on the houses where you are staying will be a distinguishing mark for you; when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No plague will be among you to destroy [you] when I strike the land of Egypt. “This day is to be a memorial for you, and you must celebrate it as a festival to the Lord. You are to celebrate it throughout your generations as a permanent statute.

You must eat unleavened bread for seven days. On the first day you must remove yeast from your houses. Whoever eats what is leavened from the first day through the seventh day must be cut off from Israel. You are to hold a sacred assembly on the first day and another sacred assembly on the seventh day. No work may be done on those [days] except for preparing what people need to eat—you may do only that. “You are to observe the [Festival of] Unleavened Bread because on this very day I brought your ranks out of the land of Egypt. You must observe this day throughout your generations as a permanent statute. You are to eat unleavened bread in the first [month], from the evening of the fourteenth day of the month until the evening of the twenty-first day. Yeast must not be found in your houses for seven days. If anyone eats something leavened, that person, whether a foreign resident or native of the land, must be cut off from the community of Israel.20 Do not eat anything leavened; eat unleavened bread in all your homes.”

Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Go, select an animal from the flock according to your families, and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take *a cluster of hyssop*, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and brush the lintel and the two door posts with some of the blood in the basin. None of you may go out the door of his house until morning. When the Lord passes through to strike Egypt and sees the blood on the lintel and the two door posts, He will pass over the door and not let the destroyer enter your houses to strike [you].

“Keep this command permanently as a statute for you and your descendants. When you enter the land that the Lord will give you as He promised, you are to observe this ritual. When your children ask you, ‘What does this ritual mean to you?’ you are to reply, ‘It is the Passover sacrifice to the Lord, for He passed over the houses of the Israelites in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and spared our homes.’ ” So the people bowed down and worshiped. Then the Israelites went and did [this]; they did just as the Lord had commanded Moses and Aaron. **Ex 12:1-28 (HCSB)**

“These are the Lord’s appointed times, the sacred assemblies you are to proclaim at their appointed times. The Passover to the Lord comes in the first month, at twilight on the fourteenth day of the month. The Festival of Unleavened Bread to the Lord is on the fifteenth day of the same month. For seven days you must eat unleavened bread. On the first day you are to hold a sacred assembly; you are not to do any daily work. You are to present a fire offering to the Lord for seven days. On the seventh day there will be a sacred assembly; you must not do any daily work.”

Lev 23:4-8 (HCSB)

In the first month of the second year after their departure from the land of Egypt, the Lord told Moses in the Wilderness of Sinai: “The Israelites are to observe the Passover at its appointed time. You must observe it at its appointed time on the fourteenth day of this month at twilight; you are to observe it according to all its statutes and ordinances.” So Moses told the Israelites to observe the Passover, and they observed it in the first month on the fourteenth day at twilight in the Wilderness of Sinai. The Israelites did everything as the Lord had commanded Moses.

But there were [some] men who were unclean because of a human corpse, so they could not observe the Passover on that day. These men came before Moses and Aaron the same day and said to him, “We are unclean because of a human corpse. Why should we be excluded from presenting the Lord’s offering at its appointed time with the [other] Israelites?”

Moses replied to them, “Wait here until I hear what the Lord commands for you.” Then the Lord spoke to Moses: “Tell the Israelites: When any one of you or your descendants is unclean because of a corpse or is on a distant journey, he may still observe the Passover to the Lord. Such people are to observe it in the second month, on the fourteenth day at twilight. They are to eat the animal with unleavened bread and bitter herbs; they may not leave any of it until morning or break any of its bones. They must observe the Passover according to all its statutes. “But the man who is ceremonially clean, is not on a journey, and yet fails to observe the Passover is to be cut off from his people, because he did not present the Lord’s offering at its appointed time. That man will bear the consequences of his sin.

“If a foreigner resides with you and wants to observe the Passover to the Lord, he is to do so according to the Passover statute and its ordinances. You are to apply the same statute to both the foreign resident and the native of the land.” **Num 9:1-14 (HCSB)**

Offerings for Passover

“The Passover to the Lord comes in the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month. On the fifteenth day of this month there will be a festival; unleavened bread is to be eaten for seven days. On the first day there is to be a sacred assembly; you are not to do any daily work. Present a fire offering, a burnt offering to the Lord: two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs a year old. Your animals are to be unblemished. The grain offering with them is to be of fine flour mixed with oil; offer six quarts with each bull and four quarts with the ram. Offer two quarts with each of the seven lambs and one male goat for a sin offering to make atonement for yourselves. Offer these with the morning burnt offering that is part of the regular burnt offering. You are to offer the same food each day for seven days as a fire offering, a pleasing aroma to the Lord. It is to be offered with its drink offering and the regular burnt offering. On the seventh day you are to hold a sacred assembly; you are not to do any daily work. **Num 28:16-25 (HCSB)**

The Festival of Passover

“Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to the Lord your God, because the Lord your God brought you out of Egypt by night in the month of Abib. Sacrifice to the Lord your God a Passover animal from the herd or flock in the place where the Lord chooses to have His name dwell. You must not eat leavened bread with it. For seven days you are to eat unleavened bread

with it, the bread of hardship—because you left the land of Egypt in a hurry—so that you may remember for the rest of your life the day you left the land of Egypt. No yeast is to be found anywhere in your territory for seven days, and none of the meat you sacrifice in the evening of the first day is to remain until morning. You are not to sacrifice the Passover animal in any of the towns the Lord your God is giving you. You must only sacrifice the Passover animal at the place where the Lord your God chooses to have His name dwell. [Do this] in the evening as the sun sets at the [same] time [of day] you departed from Egypt. You are to cook and eat [it] in the place the Lord your God chooses, and you are to return to your tents in the morning. You must eat unleavened bread for six days. On the seventh day there is to be a solemn assembly to the Lord your God, and you must not do any work. **Deut 16:1-8 (HCSB)**

Passover under Joshua

While the Israelites camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they kept the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth day of the month. The day after Passover they ate unleavened bread and roasted grain from the produce of the land. And the day after they ate from the produce of the land, the manna ceased. Since there was no more manna for the Israelites, they ate from the crops of the land of Canaan that year. **Josh 5:10-12 (HCSB)**

Hezekiah's Passover

A very large assembly of people was gathered in Jerusalem to observe the Festival of Unleavened Bread in the second month. *They proceeded to take away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and they took away the incense altars and threw them into **the Kidron Valley**.* They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and Levites were ashamed, and they consecrated themselves and brought burnt offerings to the Lord's temple. They stood at their prescribed posts, according to the Law of Moses the man of God. The priests sprinkled the blood [received] from the hand of the Levites, for there were many in the assembly who had not consecrated themselves, and so the Levites were in charge of slaughtering the Passover [lambs] for every unclean person to consecrate [the lambs] to the Lord.

For a large number of the people—many from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun—were unclean, yet they had eaten the Passover contrary to what was written. But Hezekiah had interceded for them, saying, “May the good Lord provide atonement on behalf of whoever sets his whole heart on seeking God, the Lord God of his ancestors, even though not according to the purification [rules] of the sanctuary.” So the Lord heard Hezekiah and healed the people. The Israelites who were present in Jerusalem observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread seven days with great joy, and the Levites and the priests praised the Lord day after day with loud instruments.

Then Hezekiah encouraged all the Levites who performed skillfully before the Lord. They ate the appointed feast for seven days, sacrificing fellowship offerings and giving thanks to the Lord God of their ancestors. The whole congregation decided to observe seven more days, so they observed seven days with joy, for Hezekiah king of Judah contributed 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for the congregation. Also, the officials contributed 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep for the congregation, and many priests consecrated themselves. Then the whole assembly of Judah with the priests and Levites, the whole assembly that came from Israel, the foreigners who came from the land of Israel, and those who were living in Judah, rejoiced. Such rejoicing had not been seen in Jerusalem since the days of Solomon son of David, the king of Israel. Then the priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard their voice, and their prayer came into His holy dwelling place in heaven. **2 Chron 30:13-27 (HCSB)**

Josiah's Passover

The king commanded all the people, "Keep the Passover of the Lord your God as written in the book of the covenant." No such Passover had ever been kept from the time of the judges who judged Israel through the entire time of the kings of Israel and Judah. But in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, this Passover was observed to the Lord in Jerusalem. **2 Kings 23:21-23 (HCSB)**

Josiah observed the Lord's Passover and *slaughtered the Passover [lambs] on the fourteenth day of the first month*. He appointed the priests to their responsibilities and encouraged them to serve in the Lord's temple. He said to the Levites who taught all Israel the holy things of the Lord, "Put the holy ark in the temple built by Solomon son of David king of Israel. Since you do not have to carry it on your shoulders, now serve the Lord your God and His people Israel. "Organize your ancestral houses by your divisions according to the written instruction of David king of Israel and that of his son Solomon. Serve in the holy place by the divisions of the ancestral houses for your brothers, the lay people, and the distribution of the tribal household of the Levites. Slaughter the Passover [lambs], consecrate yourselves, and make preparations for your brothers to carry out the word of the Lord through Moses."

Then Josiah donated 30,000 sheep, lambs, and kid goats, plus 3,000 bulls from his own possessions, for the Passover sacrifices for all the lay people who were present. His officials also donated willingly for the people, the priests, and the Levites. Hilkiah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, leaders of God's temple, gave 2,600 Passover sacrifices and 300 bulls for the priests. Conaniah and his brothers Shemaiah and Nethanel, and Hashabiah, Jeiel, and Jozabad, officers of the Levites, donated 5,000 Passover sacrifices for the Levites, plus 500 bulls.

So the service was established; the priests stood at their posts and the Levites in their divisions according to the king's command. Then they slaughtered the Passover [lambs], and while the Levites were skinning the [animals], the priests sprinkled the blood they had been given. They removed the burnt offerings so that they might be given to the divisions of the ancestral houses of the lay people to offer to the Lord, according to what is written in the book of Moses; [they did] the same with the bulls. They roasted the Passover [lambs] with fire according to regulation. They boiled the holy [sacrifices] in pots, in kettles, and in bowls; and they quickly brought [them] to the lay people. Afterwards, they made preparations for themselves and for the priests, since the priests, the descendants of Aaron, were busy offering up burnt offerings and fat until night. So the Levites made preparations for themselves and for the priests, the descendants of Aaron.

The singers, the descendants of Asaph, were at their stations according to the command of David, Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun the king's seer. Also, the gatekeepers were at each gate. Because their Levite brothers had made preparations for them, none of them left their tasks.

So all the service of the Lord was established that day for observing the Passover and for offering burnt offerings on the altar of the Lord, according to the command of King Josiah. The Israelites who were present [in Judah] also observed the Passover at that time and the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days. No Passover had been observed like it in Israel since the days of Samuel the prophet. None of the kings of Israel ever observed a Passover like the one that Josiah observed with the priests, the Levites, all Judah, the Israelites who were present [in Judah], and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. In the eighteenth year of Josiah's reign, this Passover was observed. **2 Chron 35:1-19 (HCSB)**

Passover Restored After Temple Rebuilt

Then the Israelites, including the priests, the Levites, and the rest of the exiles, celebrated the dedication of this house of God with joy. For the dedication of God's house they offered 100 bulls, 200 rams, and 400 lambs, as well as 12 male goats as a sin offering for all Israel—one for each

Israelite tribe. They also appointed the priests by their divisions and the Levites by their groups to the service of God in Jerusalem, according to what is written in the book of Moses.

The exiles observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month. All of the priests and Levites were ceremonially clean, because they had purified themselves. *They killed the Passover lamb for themselves, their priestly brothers, and all the exiles.* The Israelites who had returned from exile ate [it], together with all who had separated themselves from the uncleanness of the Gentiles of the land in order to worship the Lord, the God of Israel.

They observed the Festival of Unleavened Bread for seven days with joy, because the Lord had made them joyful, having changed the Assyrian king's attitude toward them, so that he supported them in the work on the house of the God of Israel. **Ezra 6:16-22 (HCSB)**

Ezekiel's Passover Instructions

"In the first [month], on the fourteenth day of the month, you are to celebrate the Passover, a festival of seven days [during which] unleavened bread will be eaten. On that day *the prince will provide a bull as a sin offering on behalf of himself and all the people of the land.* During the seven days of the festival, he will provide seven bulls and seven rams without blemish as a burnt offering to the Lord on each of the seven days, along with a male goat each day for a sin offering. He will also provide a grain offering of half a bushel per bull and half a bushel per ram, along with a gallon of oil for every half bushel. At the festival [that begins] on the fifteenth day of the seventh month, he will provide the same things for seven days—the same sin offerings, burnt offerings, grain offerings, and oil. **Ezek 45:21-25 (HCSB)**

New Testament References

Your boasting is not good. Don't you know that a little yeast permeates the whole batch of dough? Clean out the old yeast so that you may be a new batch, since you are unleavened. For *Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.* Therefore, let us observe the feast, not with old yeast, or with the yeast of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. **1 Cor 5:6-8 (HCSB)**

By faith Moses, after he was born, was hidden by his parents for three months, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they didn't fear the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin. *For he considered reproach for the sake of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, since his attention was on the reward.* By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger, for he persevered, as one who sees Him who is invisible. By faith *he instituted the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.* By faith they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land. When the Egyptians attempted to do this, they were drowned. **Heb 11:23-29 (HCSB)**



Keep in mind Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, according to my gospel. For this I suffer, to the point of being bound like a criminal; but God's message is not bound. This is why I endure all things for the elect: so that they also may obtain salvation, which is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory.

This saying is trustworthy: For if we have died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He will also deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

2 Timothy 2:8-13 (HCSB)