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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Mark 14.

(2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Mark 14.

Topics.

- Passover and the feast of unleavened bread.
- A woman with an alabaster flask anoints Jesus for burial.
- Judas Iscariot goes to the chief priest to betray Jesus.
- Jesus and the disciples eat the Passover.
- This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many.
- I will strike the shepherd.
- Jesus tells Peter he will deny him three times.
- Jesus prays in Gethsemane.
- Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.
- The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
- Peter denies Jesus three times.

The Previous Chapter: in the previous chapter Jesus told Peter, James, John and Andrew that Jerusalem would be destroyed and then shared with them the signs that will take place prior to his return as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth.

NOTE: for information concerning people, places and the meaning of words see Map Locations and People of the Bible, and Bible Dictionary on Website Menu.

Two days Before the Passover.

Mark 14:1-2 ----- ¹It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, ²for they said, "Not during the feast (of Passover) lest there be an uproar from the people."

How stunning is this Israel's top religious leaders the chief priests and scribes who had total authority and influence regarding God's word and religious affairs and who call the nation of Israel to uphold the Law of Moses are plotting how they can murder Jesus, no wonder Jesus called them hypocrites. This teaches us all that even though a religious organisation has magnificent buildings for worship and a following of millions it does not guarantee that that religious institution is of the Lord, (i.e. Israel's religious leaders lead the entire nation astray).

Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

It is the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb (v12) so it is Passover Day which was the 14th Day of the month of Abib (also called Nisan). This was the day that God commanded the Jews to keep the Passover Feast, regardless of what day of the week it fell on it had to be kept on the 14th Day of Abib. The day immediately after Passover Day was the first day of the seven Day Feast of Unleavened Bread so it was also a Sabbath Day. Throughout history Passover Day and the following Sabbath Day of the seven day feast could have fallen on any day of the week, but when Christ was crucified the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread happened to fall on a Saturday thus it is called a High Sabbath (i.e., double Sabbath).

Jesus and Passover Day: Jesus was crucified on Passover Day Friday (14th) lay in the tomb all day Saturday (15th) the Jewish weekly Sabbath (Saturday) and the Sabbath of the Feast of Unleavened bread (the high Sabbath) and rose early on the first day of the week Sunday morning (16th). We know this because all four Gospels records that the two Mary's went to the tomb after the Sabbath Day near the dawn of the First Day of the week (Sunday) (Matt. 28:1) (Mark 16:1-2) (Luke 24:1-5) (John 20:1-2).

For further information see:-

- Three days and three nights, in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

A Woman with an Alabaster Flask Anoints Jesus for Burial.

Mark 14:3-9 ----- ³And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard (Spikenard in KJV) very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head. ⁴There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? ⁵For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her. ⁶But Jesus said, "Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me. ⁸She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial. ⁹And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her."

Bethany: was at Mount of Olives (Olivet), 1.5 miles from Jerusalem, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived in Bethany, John baptised Jesus in Bethany Jesus, raised Lazarus to life in Bethany and the colt Jesus made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on was obtained at Bethany.

Ponder for a moment: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived in Bethany, they would have all been bonded friends to Jesus, yet Jesus is not in their home, or sitting with the most important religious people of Israel, but rather he is with what the nation of Israel would have considered at that time the lowest of the low (i.e., a leper). To the Jews especially the religious leaders lepers were considered unclean, demon possessed and certainly they would not touch one let alone eat in their house. Jesus in this one act alone is changing the entire Old Testament Covenant and mindset of the Jews to what is important to the heart of God (i.e. accepting without judgment the Gentiles, the poor and the lowly).

Ointment of pure nard: spikenard was an aromatic (strong odour), the plant had a rose-red fragrant ointment made from the dried roots and woolly stems of the spikenard plant. It was a favourite perfume of the ancients and a precious ointment. They had to be imported from northern India and so it was extremely costly so they were and still are transported in an alabaster box to preserve their fragrance

The denarius: the denarius was the most common Roman coin during the days of the apostles and one denarius was a day's wages for a soldier in the Roman army (Matt 20:2, 10) which means that the woman's alabaster box of oil was worth three hundred days wages.

She has done what she could (v8) there are two things we learn from these verses firstly we all have different gifts, this woman was able to spend her vast amount of money on Christ and Jesus commended her for it saying, she has done all she could, referring to it as a beautiful thing, that is all the Lord expects simply do what we can with what we have. Secondly Jesus says, she has anointed his body for burial, clearly showing that he is fully aware of the brutal horror and cruel death he is about to face.

Judas Iscariot goes to the Chief Priest to Betray Jesus.

Mark 14:10-11 ----- ¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, who was one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray him to them. ¹¹And when they heard it, they were glad and promised to give him money. And he sought an opportunity to betray him.

Judas was in the ministry, he walked with the Lord, ate and fellowshiped with him and the apostles, he was with the twelve when Jesus gave them power and authority over every kind of sickness yet for greed of money he was prepared to betray the Lord. This shows us that just because a person confesses Christ teaches his word and has authority and fellowships amongst faithful brothers and sisters in Christ it does not guarantee that their heart is right before the Lord.

Jesus Disciples Prepare the Passover.

Mark 14:12-16 ----- ¹²And on the first day of Unleavened Bread, when they (the Jews) sacrificed the Passover lamb, his disciples said to him, "Where will you have us (the disciples) go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?" ¹³And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, ¹⁴and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us." ¹⁶And the disciples set out and went to the city and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Jews sacrificed the Passover lamb (14th Nissan), Jesus tells his disciples to go into the city, and follow a man carrying a jar of water and he will show them a large room upstairs already prepared for the Passover meal. Every Jew in Israel would have had their houses ready to eat the Passover Meal; this was a major annual event for the entire nation.

Some say Jesus knew this man and had prearranged with him to have the meal at his home, others say because Jesus was given the Spirit of God he had the foreknowledge of God and therefore was able to see future events unfolding, either way the important point in all this is that the Lord's Supper was not in a glorious synagogue where all religious events took place, but in the home of a local man who served not in the temple or to the priesthood, but was a local worker in the city.

Jesus tells the Disciples one of them well Betray Him.

Mark 14:17-21 ----- ¹⁷And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. ¹⁸And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me." ¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, "Is it I?" ²⁰He said to them, "It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me. ²¹For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

Jesus and the disciples are eating the Passover meal (the Last Supper) in an upstairs room of a local man's house sometime after sunset but early in the evening (Mark 14:12) (Mark 14:18).

NOTICE: the apostles believed Jesus when he said one of them would betray him, they are in deep sorrow, yet it appears that none of them suspected that the betrayer would be Judas.

Jesus statement, "For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him," shows us that Jesus knew exactly what his fate was, (i.e., the horror and pain of the cross), yet he says Judas fate will be even worse (most likely because Jesus knew he was in the will of God and trusted his Father would resurrect him).

The Fabulous Beauty of Bible Language.

The following reveals the fabulous beauty of Bible language, this is the Passover Meal that the Lord and his twelve apostles are eating this meal required each household to eat a lamb without blemish. Jesus had previously sent his disciples to prepare the upper room for the Passover meal so it is absolutely certain that they would have had a lamb ready to be eaten especially considering the following: -

- The Jews faithfully kept this historical Jewish feast as it was a major national celebration for all Israel.

- Jesus had sent men to prepare table and a room for this feast and it is hardly likely they would spend all their time preparing a room for one glass of wine and one loaf of bread especially for men who had been out working all day.

Yet there is no mention of a Passover Lamb on the table of the Lord. This is deliberate because the Lord Jesus Christ is about to replace the Passover lamb with his own body and blood. Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection this very day became the Passover Lamb not only for Israel, but for whosoever will come to him (Jew or Gentile).

The phrase, "For the Son of Man goes as it is written of him," refers to the book of Psalms and the book of Isaiah.

David in Psalm twenty-two wrote: -

- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? All who see me mock me they say "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him." LORD I am poured out like water all my bones are out of joint and company of evildoers encircles me. They have pierced my hands and feet and divide my garments among them casting lots for them (Ps. 22:1-31) (the entire Psalm echoes Christ).

Isaiah wrote: -

- He grew up before him like a young plant with no beauty or majesty that we should look at him or desire him and he was despised and rejected by men. Even though he was despised, and we esteemed him not he bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted, but he was crushed for our transgressions and iniquities, because we have turned every-one to our own way and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb led to the slaughter they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence he poured out his soul to death baring the sin of many and making intercession for the transgressor. He shall make many to be accounted righteous and he shall bear their iniquities (Isaiah 53:1-12).

Jesus and the Disciples eat the Passover.

Mark 14:22-25 ----- ²²And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is my body." ²³he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. ²⁴And he said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

The phrase, "As they were eating, Jesus took bread." implies that they were eating other food not just the bread. This is a meal that they are eating so there would have been more food on the table than simply bread and wine, but only the bread and wine are mentioned because they are the focus of the story and symbols of the Lord's Body and blood.

NOTICE: they all drank from the same cup symbolising that we all have to drink of the Lord ourselves, no-one can save another person, but this does not mean that every church group should be drinking from the same cup when they take communion; the cup and wine is symbolism not doctrine and legalism.

This is my Blood of the Covenant, Poured Out for Many (v25).

These words of Jesus clearly show us two things: -

1. That Jesus knew beforehand that he was going to be mocked, brutally tortured and cruelly killed for the salvation of others.
2. That all of these events were in the preordained plan of God before the foundation of the world, nothing leading up to Christ's crucifixion was out of God's foreordained plans and purposes for the salvation of mankind.

Here is the beauty and wonder of Bible Language.

There is no mention of Jesus and the disciples actually eating a roasted Passover lamb at the Last Supper, yet it is almost certain that they would have had a cooked lamb, especially considering they are still under the law, it is in the evening, their normal meal time and it is hardly likely Jesus would send disciples out to prepare a room simply so they could have one sip of wine and one bite of bread to eat and drink.

This is the wonder of the Bible, because there is no mention of a Passover Lamb the astute Bible student leaps for joy, because the discerning reader quickly realises that the Passover Lamb is deliberately not mentioned, because that very day, Jesus Christ himself became the true and final Passover Lamb that was to be slain.

The New Kingdom.

Jesus said to his disciples: -

- Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God (v25).

This is referring to the return of the Lord Jesus Christ as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his millennial reign.

In the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-5) the dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish.

The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

I will Strike the Shepherd.

Mark 14:26-27 ----- ²⁶And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷And Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away, for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.

Mount of Olives is also called the Mount of Corruption; it is opposite the temple in Jerusalem, near Bethphage and Bethany. Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem was by way of the Mount of Olives and he was taken up to God from this same mountain (Acts 1:9-12). The words: -

- For it is written, "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered."

Is cited from the following words of the prophet Zechariah: -

- If one asks him, 'What are these wounds on your back?' he will say, 'The wounds I received in the house of my friends.' ⁷"Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones (Zech. 13:6-7).

The wounds on your back: clearly echo Christ.

The friends: refer to the nation of Israel.

The sword: (meaning the enemy of God) is echoing Judas.

The sheep being scattered: refers firstly to the apostles and secondly the Jews who did embrace Christ being scattered amongst the Gentile nation because of the aggressive persecution of the Jewish religious rulers at Jerusalem against all who confessed the Lord Jesus Christ.

After I am raised Up.

Mark 14:28 ----- ²⁸But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee."

These words of Jesus are fulfilled in the following verses of Matthew and John: -

- The angel said to the women (at the tomb) "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here for he has risen, as he said (in Mark 14:28) Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him" (Matt. 28:5-7).
- After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias (also called the Sea of Galilee) and he revealed himself (John 21:1) (as he said he would in Mark 14:28).

Once again we see that Jesus knew that he was about to be killed and that he also had absolute confidence that his Father would raise him from the dead.

Jesus tells Peter he will deny Him three Times.

Mark 14:29-31 ----- ²⁹Peter said to him "Even though they (the other eleven) all fall away, I will not." ³⁰And Jesus said to him "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." ³¹But he said emphatically, "If I must die with you, I will not deny you." And they all said the same.

Jesus had told the twelve when the shepherd is killed they would fall away and they all told him that they would rather die with him before they would deny him. Peter even told the Lord even if the other eleven deny him he never would, showing us that as much as Peter loved the Lord he did not realise how weak and shallow his faith really was until it was tested.

Perhaps many of the crises that come across our path in life are to reveal to us the depth and strength of our faith or the lack of it (i.e., will we fall away or stand with those who say, "Though He slay me yet will I praise Him)."

NOTE.

Though Jesus told the apostles he would be killed and rise again they never fully understood that he was going to give himself over to their enemies and allow them to torture and crucify him or that he would literally rise again from the grave. They thought Jesus was going to establish the literal Kingdom of Israel on earth so it is possible that had Jesus taken up the sword and fought the Roman soldiers they may have fought with him even to the death.

Peter was obviously prepared to fight he cut off one of the guard's ears, but when the apostles saw their great leader who had done many amazing miracles surrender his life to his enemies they were confounded and confused since they thought he was going to conquer Rome and become King they never fully understood what was happening until after the resurrection, this is a good example of the verse, "God's ways are not our ways."

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane.

Mark 14:32-38 ----- ³²And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴And he said to them "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch." ³⁵And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will." ³⁷And he came and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "Simon, are you asleep? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Gethsemane: the garden of Gethsemane was near Jerusalem east of the Temple Mount on the lower west slope of Mount of Olives. Gethsemane means oil-press. Geth carries the idea of treading out grapes (i.e. a wine press) while shemen is a perfume from the olive and figuratively speaks of richness, anointing and fruitful thus Gethsemane was a very apt name for the garden in which Jesus was praying just prior to his crucifixion.

Cup: figuratively means a lot or fate of sorrow, consolation, joy or salvation.

If there is any Other Way.

Jesus prays by himself while Peter James and John sleep, the Lord is in great distress is fully aware of the fate (cup) that is about to befall him and prays to his Father, asking Him, "If there is any other way to save mankind then remove the horror and terror he is about to face," But Jesus love for the Father and for mankind enabled him to pray, "Not my will but your will be done." Jesus had his own will but even though he was fully aware of the enormous pain he was about to suffer he surrendered his will to the will of his heavenly Father.

Watch and Pray that You may not Enter into Temptation.

When Jesus told Peter to pray that he would not enter into temptation (v38) he was probably referring to Peter's denial of him. Peter's temptation came through people at the campfire who asked him if he was a follower of Jesus, Peter loved Jesus and his heart desired to follow him, but fear of being taken by the Roman soldiers and tortured as Christ was caused him to deny the man he loved, his spirit was for the Lord, but his flesh was weak.

Peter thought he would never deny Jesus, he even said he would fight and die for him. If Peter after walking with Christ for three years was able to deny him to save his own life from suffering and even death, it shows that even though we may speculate or suppose what we would do in certain circumstances, most of us will probably not really know until we are faced with that situation or that circumstance.

This is one reason why we should not judge others. Jesus does not judge Peter instead, after his resurrection he has breakfast with him and makes him one of his greatest disciples. Jesus understood Peter's confusion and his fear, but knew that his heart was in the right place.

Prayer helps a believer to avoid temptation because prayer is communicating with God it is remaining in a relationship with God and keeping the mind on God. Prayer is being grateful and content knowing God's love and mercy is always present, it is being confident that God by His Spirit is always with those who belong to Christ, prayer is walking and living with God in our mind, in our thoughts and in our the heart.

Jesus Prays a Second time in Gethsemane.

Mark 14:39-42 ----- ³⁹And again he went away and prayed, saying the same words. ⁴⁰And again he came and found them (Peter James and John) sleeping, for their eyes were very heavy, and they did not know what to answer him. ⁴¹And he came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? It is enough; the hour has come. The Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand."

The words, "Peter James and John did not know what to answer the Lord" (v40) could imply that they did not know how to comfort him, because Jesus had told them he will be killed and raised the third day. The Lord was enormously stressed and weighed down with the future horror that he knew was awaiting him, but Peter James and John did not fully understand what was going on with Jesus, because of this lack of understanding they would not have known what to say to him or how to comfort him. Jesus seemed disappointed that they couldn't have at least just stayed awake and been with him.

A principal can be drawn here for all that are called upon to comfort others, many times there are no answers that will solve the problem or relieve the hurt, often just to be present with a person is the comfort, to leave a person on there own when they are in emotional pain will often magnify the pain, it appears that all Jesus wanted was for his friends Peter James and John to stay awake and be with him.

The Son of Man is betrayed into the Hands of Sinners.

Mark 14:43-49 ----- ⁴³And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard." ⁴⁵And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, "Rabbi!" And he kissed him. ⁴⁶And they laid hands on him and seized him. ⁴⁷But one of those who stood by drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁴⁸And Jesus said to them, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? ⁴⁹Day after day I was with you in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But let the Scriptures be fulfilled."

The chief priests' scribes and elders most likely thought they would have to take Jesus by force so they sent Judas with a crowd carrying weapons.

Ponder for a moment: the wickedness of Judas heart, he is walking with a crowd who are armed with weapons and have one purpose in mind, to seize Jesus, if Jesus hadn't given himself to the crowd they were ready to take him by force no matter how violent or who got killed and Judas was the led man and all for a thirty silver coins (thirty days wages).

Jesus words, "But let the Scriptures be fulfilled" is alluding to the following verses of Psalm twenty-two and Isaiah fifty-three: -

- I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people (Psalm 22:6).
- He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth (Isaiah 53:7).

Almost every verse of Psalm twenty-two and Isaiah fifty-three are echoing the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus Disciples Flee from Him.

Mark 14:50-52 ----- ⁵⁰And they (the eleven) all left him and fled. ⁵¹And a young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body. And they seized him, ⁵²but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked

The words, "A young man followed him, with nothing but a linen cloth about his body and they seized him, but he left the linen cloth and ran naked," may be referring to Mark himself since it is a Bible principal for Bible writers to hide themselves in the letter. Biblical writers very rarely use the word "I" they will often say that disciple with them or with him when they are referring to themselves. It is a style of writing that avoids boasting.

The spirit of the world is pride and the desire to feel important, if someone of the world has contact with a famous person they want to boast about it to their friends, biblical writers often avoid this by hiding themselves in their writings, but maybe in this situation if the young man is Mark he is feeling ashamed of his running and prefers to remain unknown.

NOTE: when the Bible uses the word naked it does not mean a prophet or man of God was walking around with no clothes on, it simply means the man of God did not have his robe on. During the era of the Old and New Testament to have your upper body and legs uncovered in public was considered being naked. The New Testament says Peter was naked while he was fishing, the apostles certainly would not have been out in public with no clothes on. Naked in this context means, they had taken their robes off to be able to work (John 21:7) (KJV) (the ESV says stripped for work).

The Council.

Mark 14:53-59 ----- ⁵³And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, ⁵⁸"We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹Yet even about this their testimony did not agree.

Some of the false witness accused Jesus of saying that he would destroy the Temple and in three days build another not made with hands. One of the reasons their stories would not agree with each other is firstly because he never said that he would destroy it, but that it would be destroyed. (Matt 24:1-2) (Mark 13:2) and secondly he did not say that he would rebuild the literal Temple of stones but that he would raise it up in three days, referring to his body which is now the Temple of God for all who belong to Christ. (Matt 26:61) (John 2:18).

The Temple Built with no Hands.

Stephen tells the Jewish priests, God the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, (Acts 7:1-60). The temple Jesus is building with no hands is a spiritual temple called the body of Christ, a new creation, a new nation in Christ, the church and the Kingdom of God which is now made up of whoever will come to Christ (i.e., Jew or Gentile).

For further information see the title: -

- Commonwealth of Israel (at the end of this chapter).

The Council continued: -

Mark 14:60-65 ----- ⁶⁰And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶¹But he remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?" ⁶²And Jesus said, "I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." ⁶³And the high priest tore his garments and said, "What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?" And they all condemned him as deserving death. ⁶⁵And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, "Prophecy!" And the guards received him with blows.

It is still early in the evening of Passover Day (Mark 14:12), Jesus has just finished eating the Last Supper with the twelve apostles and praying in Gethsemane and is now standing before a council consisting of the high priest, the chief priests, the elders and the scribes whose sole intention is to condemn Jesus so they can have him put to death.

Jesus Glorified: Jesus tells the high priest that he will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of heaven. When clouds are spoken of negatively they represent wrath, destruction, confusion, false prophets and people who lack knowledge of the truth. They are a symbol of God and his truth being hidden in confusion and false teaching, but when they are spoken of positively they are a symbol of strength, and when the word heaven is associated with clouds it gives the word cloud the meaning of light and truth.

NOTICE: The high priest condemned Jesus not for saying he was God as some teach, but because he said he was the Son of God. To the Jewish priests this was considered blasphemy so they condemned him, covered his face with some kind of rag or cloth and began to cruelly and brutally beat him.

Peter Denies Jesus three Times.

Mark 14:66-72 ----- ⁶⁶And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, "You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus." ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, "I neither know nor understand what you mean." And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." ⁷⁰But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean." ⁷¹But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know this man of whom you speak." ⁷²And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept. (Mark 14:30)

NOTE: it is still early in the evening of Passover Day (Mark 14:1) (Mark 14:12).

Peter is in the courtyard of the high priest and one of the high priest's servant girls asks Peter if he was with Jesus, Peter for fear of the high priest says no and the rooster crowed. To Peter's horror the same girl tells the people that Peter was one of the men with Jesus and again Peter denies it, but then to make matters even worse for Peter the bystanders accuse him of being with Jesus and Peter is now in absolute panic mode and swears that he is not and immediately the rooster crowed the second time.

Peter hears the rooster and remembers how Jesus had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice you will deny me three times." Peter is emotionally crushed and breaks down in tears (Mark 14:30).

Peter's Denial of Christ.

Even though Peter denied Jesus and even lied doing it did not mean he loved the Lord less, he denied Christ not from a willing heart but out of fear for his own life. The Lord understood Peter's fear, his motivation and his brokenness in denying him.

It is interesting to notice after Jesus resurrection Jesus appears a third time on the shore of Galilee and invites the disciples to have breakfast with him when they had finished eating Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved the Lord and the third time Peter was grieved (John 21:10-17), perhaps a little reminder of his denial of the Lord and the cost of truly loving him. What Jesus was saying to Peter by asking him three times "Do you love me" was, "do you love me enough to die for me."

The Commonwealth of Israel.

To understand God's promise to Abraham made thousands of years ago it is important to understand that the promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of David is Christ. All the eternal promises God made to Israel are now fulfilled in Christ therefore they are not limited to Israel only, but extend and embrace all those who belong to Christ because God is now creating one new nation in Christ made up of both Jew and Gentiles. (Gentiles are everyone who is not a Hebrew or Jew).

Jews and Gentiles become One New Nation in Christ.

The Apostle Paul said: -

Ephes. 2:11-22 ----- ¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision (Jews), which is made in the flesh by hands—
¹²remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the *COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL* and *STRANGERS* to the *COVENANTS* of *PROMISE*, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you (Gentiles) who once were far off (from God) have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our (Jews and Gentiles) peace, who has made us both *ONE* and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he (Jesus) might create in himself *ONE NEW MAN* (or Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles), so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us (Jews and Gentiles) both to God in *ONE BODY* through the cross, thereby killing the hostility (between the Jews and Gentiles). ¹⁷And he (Jesus) came and preached peace to you (Gentiles) who were far off (from God) and peace to those who were near (Jews). ¹⁸For through him (Jesus) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access in *ONE SPIRIT* to the Father. ¹⁹So then you (Gentiles) are *NO LONGER* strangers and aliens, but you are *FELLOW CITIZENS* with the *SAINTS* (the Jews) and members of the *HOUSEHOLD* of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone ²¹in whom the *WHOLE STRUCTURE* being joined together (Jews and Gentiles) grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you (Jews and Gentiles) also are being built together into a *DWELLING PLACE* for *GOD* by the Spirit.

Gentiles were separated from Christ, alienated from the, Commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus they have been brought to God by the blood of Christ. Jesus has made Jews and Gentiles both one by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances so that Jesus might create in himself one new man (Nation) in place of the two (Jews and Gentiles).

In Jesus both Jews and Gentiles are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Christ is the head of this new nation and its Jewish and Gentile citizens are now equal in status before God because in Christ we are all brothers and sisters in the same eternal family that God is now establishing in the Lord Jesus Christ throughout all nations of the world.

The practical application of what this means to you: -

If you belong to Christ, all the future and eternal promises God made to Israel also apply to you. The book of Revelation states: -

- When Christ returns in glory every eye will see him, even those who pierced him and all the tribes of the earth (Rev. 1:7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation (i.e., Jews and Gentiles) and he has made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:9-10).

For further information see: -

- Matthew 27 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Passover in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- Three Days and Three Nights in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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