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

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## Matthew 26.

(2013)

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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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## Matthew 26.

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### Topics.

- Two days to the Passover.
- A woman and an alabaster box.
- Judas and thirty pieces of silver.
- The Last Supper.
- This is my blood of the New Testament.
- Smite the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.
- Jesus prays in the garden of Gethsemane.
- Judas betrays Jesus.
- Caiaphas the high priest condemns Jesus to death.
- The Son of man will come in the clouds of heaven.
- Peter denies Jesus.

**The Previous Chapter:** in the previous chapter Jesus told the parable of the Kingdom of heaven and the ten virgins, the parable of the Kingdom of God and the talents and the parable of the sheep and goats.

**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.

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### Two Days to the Passover.

Matthew 26:1-4 ----- <sup>1</sup>When Jesus had finished all these sayings (in the previous chapters), he said to his disciples, <sup>2</sup>"You (the disciples) know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." <sup>3</sup>Then the chief priests and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, <sup>4</sup>and plotted together in order to arrest Jesus by stealth and kill him.

Passover day was held at sunset on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the first Jewish month Nisan (also called Abib), it was the exact time God lead Israel out of Egypt (called the house of bondage). The Feast of Passover was to remember that God by a mighty hand had delivered Israel out of slavery to freedom.

Mark in his Gospel tells the same story: -

- It 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, <sup>2</sup>for they said, "Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people (Mark 14:1-2).

How amazing is this, the religious leaders Caiaphas the high priest, the chief priest's scribes, elders of Jesus era call a meeting to discuss how they can murder Jesus. They knew they could not kill him during the Feast of Passover so they have a meeting of the religious leaders to plan when and how they can take him captive for the sole purpose of murdering him.

**NOTICE:** Matthew states the religious leaders knew they could not kill Jesus on the Feast day, while Mark says during the Feast, the actual Feast began with

Passover day (14<sup>th</sup>) and then was immediately followed by another seven days of Unleavened Bread. The first day after Passover day was a Sabbath day and the beginning of the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread, the last day of this Feast was also a Sabbath day.

### **A Woman and an Alabaster Box.**

Matthew 26:6-13 ----- <sup>6</sup>Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, <sup>7</sup>a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. <sup>8</sup>And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? <sup>9</sup>For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor." <sup>10</sup>But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. <sup>11</sup>For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. <sup>12</sup>In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. <sup>13</sup>Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her."

One or two days before the Passover Feast (v2) while disciples are gathered together with Jesus and eating a meal a woman comes to them and pours an alabaster box of very precious ointment over Jesus head. The disciples (not realising Jesus is about to be killed) are indignant and accuse her of wasting the valuable ointment, claiming they could have sold it and given the money to the poor.

The following verses show us that the ointment was valued at three hundred denarii.

- There were some who said to themselves indignantly, "Why was the ointment wasted like that? <sup>5</sup>For this ointment could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor." And they scolded her (Mark 14:4-5).

Mark tells us the ointment was worth three hundred denarii. One denarii was a day's wages, thus based on a five day working week this is over one year's wages.

For a woman in Jesus era to have ointment this valuable it is most likely she was mixing with the wealthy and those in authority and perhaps in doing so had heard rumours and whispers of the plans of the religious leaders to kill Jesus (v3) and so may have been fully aware that he was about to be killed (she would certainly have heard Jesus tell the disciples he would be killed at Jerusalem). Thus Jesus says that the woman has done a good thing, by preparing him for his death and burial.

### **Judas and Thirty Pieces of Silver.**

Matthew 26:14-16 ---- <sup>14</sup>Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup>and said, "What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?" And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. <sup>16</sup>And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

One or two days before the Passover Feast (v2, 17) Judas Iscariot an apostle and servant of Christ for three years goes to the chief priests and for thirty pieces of silver agrees to betray Christ. The most common coin during Jesus era was the Roman silver coin called the denarii, a Roman soldier was paid one denarii per day thus Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty days wages.

### **Ponder for a Moment.**

If such an evil and self serving servant existed amongst Jesus twelve apostles we should not be surprised to find ministers with selfish ambition serving in our religious organisations and churches for money, wealth, power and the sense of feeling important or famous.

This is the end of events that took place at Jerusalem during the two days prior to the Passover Feast beginning.

## **The Passover Feast.**

**NOTE:** the Jewish day began at sunset and ended at sunset.

The Sabbath days that are mentioned regarding the Passover had nothing to do with the Jewish weekly Sabbath that the Jews kept every Saturday. The Passover Feast was a celebration and a continual reminder throughout Israel's generations that God delivered Israel from Egypt (the house of bondage) on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Abib (also called Nisan) and it was on this 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 14<sup>th</sup> day of Abib.

The day after Passover day was a Sabbath day because it was the first day of the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread (15<sup>th</sup>), so Passover day and the Sabbath day could have fallen on any day of the week. Obviously over their four-thousand years of keeping this feast there were times when it did fall on Saturday (the Jewish weekly Sabbath) when this happened it was called a high Sabbath (meaning double Sabbath).

## **Jesus Death and Passover Day.**

In regards to Jesus death and resurrection, the first Sabbath day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (15<sup>th</sup>) did fall on Saturday, (the Jewish weekly Sabbath day). 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) so it was a double Sabbath, called a high Sabbath.

(Matt. 28:1) (Mark 16:1-2) (Luke 24:1-5) (John 20:1-2).

## **Passover Day and the Feast of Unleavened Bread.**

The Passover day was a day of unleavened Bread (Matt. 26:17-18) (Mark 14:12-18). The 14<sup>th</sup> day of Abib (also called Nisan) was Passover day, the actual Passover Meal was not eaten until sunset in the evening, when Passover day began, the actual Passover day was from sunset to sunset of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan. Prior to the Passover meal, the disciples were preparing for it and probably also for the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread that was to immediately follow it.

## **Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the Old Testament.**

Passover (14<sup>th</sup> day) (also called Preparation day) was held in the month of Abib because it was the first month of the Jewish calendar. On the 10<sup>th</sup> day each house was to take its own lamb without blemish then kill and eat it on the 14<sup>th</sup> day at sunset in the evening.

Eating unleavened bread began on the 14<sup>th</sup> day (Passover day) then immediately following Passover on the 15<sup>th</sup> day the seven day Feast of Unleavened Bread began and continued until the 21<sup>st</sup> day, (Exod. 12:18). On each of the seven days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread Israel was to present unleavened burnt (*cooked*) food offerings with their grain and drink offerings to the LORD, (they became food for the priests).

**For further detail see title: -**

- Passover in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## **The Last Supper.**

Matthew 26:17-25 ---- <sup>17</sup>Now on the first day of Un leavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?" <sup>18</sup>He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' " <sup>19</sup>And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover. <sup>20</sup>When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. <sup>21</sup>And

as they were eating, he said, "Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me." <sup>22</sup>And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, "Is it I, Lord?" <sup>23</sup>He answered, "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>Judas, who would betray him, answered, "Is it I, Rabbi?" He said to him, "You have said so."

Passover day (14<sup>th</sup>) began at sunset and ended at sunset.

So on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the feast of unleavened bread very early in the evening of Passover day the disciples ask Jesus where they will eat the Feast of Passover, he tells them to go to a city and when they find a certain man (we do not know who this man was) tell him that Jesus will eat the Passover in his house so they went and prepared the Passover meal in the mans house.

Jesus did not keep the Passover in the temple were it was normally kept instead he had the Passover in a man's house near the Mount of Olives (v31) with only his disciples. Then later in the evening of Passover day as they were eating the meal Jesus makes an astounding statement that shocks them all telling them that one of them is about to betray him.

Even more astounding is Judas response, knowing he has just agreed with the religious leaders to betray Jesus acts all innocent and asks Jesus if is him.

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### **This is my Blood of the New Testament.**

Matthew 26:26-30 --- <sup>26</sup>Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." <sup>27</sup>And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you, <sup>28</sup>for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>29</sup>I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." <sup>30</sup>And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

The bread becomes a symbol of Christ broken body while the wine becomes a symbol of Christ blood shed on the Cross of Calvary.

Remission means: -,

- A lessening of the symptoms of a disease or the severity of something.
- The reduction of somebody's prison sentence.
- A release from a debt, penalty or obligation by being forgiven and pardoned.

The Bible says, "The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23), therefore remission of sins means being forgiving pardoned and set free from the condemnation and penalty of sin which is eternal death, but it even goes beyond this because once a person is pardoned from sin and set free from eternal death they are granted eternal life.

**This is my blood of the New Testament:** my blood speaks of Christ death, his death and resurrection was the end of the old Covenant of circumcision, ceremonial sacrifices, religious feasts, holy days and the Levitical priesthood that had a human and mortal high priest mediating between man and God and the beginning of the New Covenant of grace with one eternal High Priest the Lord Jesus Christ mediating between man and God.

**I will not drink of this cup, until I am with you in my Father's Kingdom:** (v29) this verse clearly shows that when those who belong to Christ are resurrected they will recognise each other and be able to fellowship and talk with the Lord.

**The disciples sing a Hymn:** ponder for a moment this is a group of fishermen, men who for their faith suffered extreme persecution, yet these muscular tough men are not afraid or embarrassed to go (most likely without musical instruments as they were on a mountain) and sing a hymn together.

**NOTE:** it is still very early in the evening of Passover Day (14<sup>th</sup>).

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### **I will Smite the Shepherd, and the Sheep will be Scattered.**

Matthew 26:31-35 ---- <sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' <sup>32</sup>But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." <sup>33</sup>Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." <sup>35</sup>Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

### **Jesus cites the following verse: -**

- Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who stands next to me," "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered; I will turn my hand against the little ones (Zechariah 13:7).

Ponder for a moment, Jesus knew the Old Testament Scriptures spoke of him, Mary probably taught them to him as a child and no-doubt he read and studied them, thus he would have been fully aware that the humiliation and the extreme suffering and horrific death he is about to endure is only hours away. If any Christian believer ever has any doubt about God's love for them, all they have to do is consider what it cost God to save them and the horrendous torturous suffering and death that Jesus suffered so that we could be redeemed to eternal life.

How amazing is this thousands of years ago Zechariah echoed it and now it is about to take place, Jesus the shepherd will be killed and his followers will be scattered. Jesus knows he will be resurrected so he tells his disciples that after he has been killed he will go into Galilee to meet them. Consider for a moment, we know what Jesus was talking about because we can look back in history, but the disciples could not and therefore they had no idea of what Jesus was talking about.

**NOTICE:** when Jesus said to Peter that he will deny him three times before the cock crows (v34) all the disciples agreed with Peter when he told Jesus he will never be offended or deny the Lord not even if it means he will have to die. Not one of the disciples realised the weakness of their faith until it was tested, how much more should we examine the strength of our own faith?

### **Jesus goes to Gethsemane to Pray.**

Matthew 26:36-41 ---- <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here, while I go over there and pray." <sup>37</sup>And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup>Then he said to them (Peter James and John), "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me." <sup>39</sup>And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." <sup>40</sup>And he came to the disciples (Peter James and John) and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour? <sup>41</sup>Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

**NOTE:** it is still very early in the evening of Passover day (14<sup>th</sup>).

**Gethsemane:** means oil-press. Gath 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 near Jerusalem that Jesus was praying in just prior to his crucifixion.

**Peter James and John in the Garden of Gethsemane:** Peter James and John have just told Jesus that they would never deny him even unto death and yet when the Lord in an overwhelming state of sorrowful and grief ask them to be with him they can't even stay awake (v40).

**Jesus prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane:** Jesus is fully aware of the extreme pain and suffering he is about to endure, so in prayer he asks God if He can find some other way to save mankind so he would not have to endure the tortuous pain he is about to face, but because of Christ's great love for God and for the lost he ends his prayer with the words, "Not my will, but God's be done."

How sad it is today when some churches to increase the size of their congregations teach a Gospel that implies that the life of those who are loved by God will be manifested in prosperity, an abundance of wealth and success in all their endeavours, but this kind of prosperity teaching carries with it an underlying theme that God has withdrawn His favour from Christians whose life is in crisis mode or who struggle to balance the weekly budget and have to deal with family sickness etc. God's love for us should never be measured by our circumstances good or bad, but by what Christ willing suffered at Calvary to save us.

**Jesus had a will of his own:** from Jesus prayer we see that he had his own will, he could have refused to submit to the humiliation of the religious leaders of his era and the torture of the Roman soldiers, but the will of his Father and his love for you and me was of more importance to him than his own life.

**The Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak:** (v41) the Spirit refers to the higher nature within us, the godly nature that is not only God focused, but also others focused, and that part of us that desire to live righteously for God while the flesh refers at times to the physical body (i.e. Peter James and John feel asleep because of tiredness) (Matt. 26:36-41), but in other contexts it refers to "self" sometimes called the lower nature of humanity which is controlled by ego and pride, it is that part of us that says, "me first."

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#### **Jesus Prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane continued: -**

Matthew 26:42-45 ---- <sup>42</sup>He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. <sup>43</sup>he came and found them (Peter James and John) asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. <sup>45</sup>Then cometh he to his disciples and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take *your* rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Jesus at this time is in great agony as he ponders his fate three times he prays that God could find another way of saving mankind and three times he ended his prayer with, "Thy will be done." Perhaps we could all ponder a moment and consider how many times when we pray are we willing to accept from God's hand an answer to our prayer that may lead us through a difficult situation or circumstance. Most prayers are very much like Jesus prayer at Gethsemane (i.e. Lord deliver me from difficulty and hardship), but how many of us are truly prepared to accept that God's answer might be silence because it is a path we have to take.

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#### **Judas Betrays Jesus.**

Matthew 26:46-56 ---- <sup>46</sup>Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me. <sup>47</sup>And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. <sup>48</sup>Now he that betrayed him gave them (the chief priests and elders of the people) a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. <sup>49</sup>And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. <sup>50</sup>And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and

laid hands on Jesus, and took him. <sup>51</sup>And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out *his* hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. <sup>52</sup>Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. <sup>53</sup>Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? <sup>55</sup>In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. <sup>56</sup>But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled. (Psalm 88:8-18).

**NOTE:** it is still early in the evening of Passover day (14<sup>th</sup>).

Jesus knows he is about to be betrayed and that the chief priests and elders are coming with the support of a great multitude of people carrying swords to take him prisoner, yet he makes no attempt to hid. This is the beginning of the terror and horror of what he was asking God in prayer at the garden of Gethsemane to deliver him from (see notes following v45). Judas who Jesus calls friend betrays Jesus for thirty days wages (thirty silver coins) by greeting him with a kiss.

**They that take the sword shall perish with the sword:** means those that return violence for violence will die by violence, simply because it will breed even more hatred and a greater lust for revenge.

**The Scriptures fulfilled:** (v54, 56) everything that is happening is in the will of God, Jesus knew he could pray and God would send angels to deliver him, but Jesus doesn't pray such a prayer. This is because he knows the horror that is about to happen to him must happen for the Old Testament Scriptures to be fulfilled and for God's eternal plan of salvation to be accomplished and for mankind to be saved to eternal life.

**Prayer and Jesus:** Jesus wanted God to find some other way to save mankind so he would not have to endure the torture and horror of the Roman guards and the horror of the crucifixion, but he surrendered to his Father's will and God's eternal plan. Sometimes we may pray and like Jesus not get what we prayed for, in these situations we should surrender our will to God's will and be like Jesus and accept the difficulty even if it means death knowing that God is in control and has a higher eternal plan.

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### Jesus is taken to Caiaphas.

Matthew 26:57-68 ---- <sup>57</sup>And they that had laid hold on Jesus led *him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. <sup>58</sup>But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end. <sup>59</sup>Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; <sup>60</sup>But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, *yet* found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, <sup>61</sup>And said, This *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. <sup>62</sup>And the high priest (Caiaphas) arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what *is it which* these witness against thee? <sup>63</sup>But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. <sup>64</sup>Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. <sup>65</sup>Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy. <sup>66</sup>What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. <sup>67</sup>Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote *him* with the palms of their hands, <sup>68</sup>Saying, Prophesy unto us, thou Christ, Who is he that smote thee?

**NOTE:** it is still early in the evening of Passover day (14<sup>th</sup>).



**Caiaphas the high priest:** during the time of Christ the priesthood was almost a political office the priests were still coming from the descendants of Aaron, but were generally appointed to worldly considerations. The Roman rulers appointed not only the civil officers but also the high priest so the priesthood declined spiritually. Caiaphas held the office of high priest with Annas as a sort of high priest overseer.

The Pharisees feared that if Jesus were left alone many Jews would accept him and the Romans would destroy what was left of Jewish autonomy, so Caiaphas declared that it would be better for Jesus to die than that the Jewish nation be destroyed. Annas sent Jesus bound to Caiaphas to be tried by him then Caiaphas delivered Jesus to Pilate because the Jews could not legally execute him (John 11:41-53) (John 18:24-27).

**Jesus is taken to Caiaphas the high priest:** Jesus is taken by force to the palace of Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders are gathered to hold a council to judge Jesus, but they are already set to condemn and kill him, but could not find any wrong to accuse Jesus of so they accepted the testimony of two false witness who told the council that Jesus said, he could destroy the temple of God, and re-build it in three days.

**Jesus was accused of saying: -**

- He is able to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (Matt. 26:61).
- He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (Matt. 27:40).
- He will destroy the temple that is made with hands (Mark 14:58).
- He would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days (Mark 15:29).

But Jesus never made any of these statements.

**Jesus actually said: -**

- Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:19).

Jesus never said he would destroy the temple, he inferred they would destroy the temple, but he would raise it up, referring to his resurrection and meaning that he would build an entirely new temple, but this new temple is not a literal temple of mortar and bricks, but a spiritual temple made up of Jews and Gentiles who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

This new temple that Christ is raising up is also called, the body of Christ, a new nation in Christ, a new creation in Christ and the Kingdom of God.

**Jesus is condemned to death:** Caiaphas the high priest asks Jesus if he said he was the Christ the Son of God, Jesus indirectly says he is and then remains silent, but because Jesus never denied that he was the Christ or the Son of God Caiaphas and the entire counsel not only accuse him of blasphemy, but mock him, spit in his face, beat him and slap him with their hands.

**A lesson for Today.**

Caiaphas the high priest, the scribes and the elders would have had amazing intellectual knowledge of the Old Testament scrolls which no doubt intimidated the common Jewish people, but just because a spiritual leader may have tremendous intellectual and detailed knowledge of the Scriptures which may humble or intimidate others does not always mean that they know what is important to God.

Being able to quote Scripture and give an amazing detailed teaching from the Bible is not a guarantee that a person understands what things are important to God's heart.

## **The Son of Man will come in the Clouds of Heaven (v64).**

The Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven not only refers to his resurrection, but also to his return 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).

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## **Peter Denies Jesus.**

Matthew 26:69-75 ---- <sup>69</sup>Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. <sup>70</sup>But he denied before *them* all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. <sup>71</sup>And when he was gone out into the porch, another *maid* saw him, and said unto them that were there, This *fellow* was also with Jesus of Nazareth. <sup>72</sup>And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. <sup>73</sup>And after a while came unto *him* they that stood by, and

said to Peter, Surely thou also art *one* of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. <sup>74</sup>Then began he to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.

**NOTE:** it is still early evening of Passover day (14<sup>th</sup>).

While Peter is watching all the horror that is happening to Jesus he is asked three times if he was with him, sadly Peter not only pretends to have no idea of what those questioning him are saying he actually gets aggressive and swears to them that he has not been with Jesus.

**Peters brokenness and sorrow:** (v75) imagine Peters shock when after denying Jesus three times he immediately heard the rooster crow, no-doubt he would have remembered that Jesus only a few hours earlier had told him a rooster would crow after he had denied Jesus three times (Matt. 26:34). Peter was broken and wept bitterly. It is interesting to notice that Jesus used a simple and natural thing like a rooster's crow to convict Peter and bring him to tears and brokenness.

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End