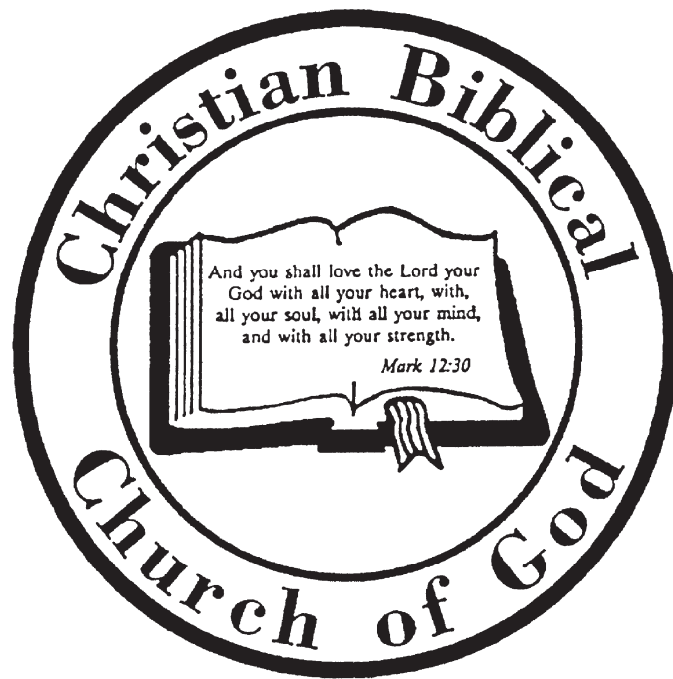


The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life



Transcript Book

By Fred R. Coulter

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Fred R. Coulter
Christian Biblical Church of God
P. O. Box 1442
Hollister, California 95024-1442

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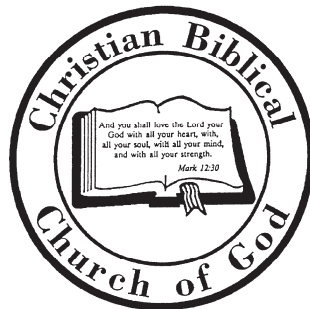
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The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life

Series of 5 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



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The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life

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The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life

Foreword

Fred R. Coulter, a minister of Jesus Christ for over 50 years, has done a series of sermons on the last ten days of Jesus Christ's life. It was noted that Jesus Christ provoked the Jewish priests and Pharisees, purposely driving them to plan to kill Him to remove Christ from their nation. In reading this you will come to understand how God brought about, through Jesus Christ, all the prophecies concerning the Messiah that were given hundreds and hundreds of years before Christ was born.

The first transcript, "The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life I – The Days of Provocation," covers the problems that a hierarchy creates in a Church of God, facts about the moon and the earth, facts about the Hebrew Calendar, and then the transcript starts covering the last days of the life of Jesus Christ. Other points that are mentioned are:

- Christ's ministry that covered three and one-half years had 44 months because two of the years were leap years in which each year had an extra month.
- There are two days every year that require a full moon. These days are the 15th day of the 1st month and the 15th day of the 7th month.
- There are rules of adjustment, postponements and so forth in the Calculated Hebrew Calendar to account for situations where at times the period from the new moon to the full moon is not even fourteen days and other times the period is as long as 16 days.
- Evil people give to the poor so that they may appear righteous.
- Homosexuality is rampant in the Catholic Church along with lesbianism in the nunneries.

The second transcript, "The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life II – A Day Great Provocation and Confrontation to Provoke Them to Crucify Him," is a continuation of an in-depth study, started in the first transcript, regarding what Christ did in the days before His death. Other points that are mentioned are:

- People need to take thought and be careful to note that they have nothing that was not received from God, the Creator of all. People get themselves in a trouble through having dwelling in their minds their authority, their traditions, their hierarchy instead of God's Word dwelling in their minds.
- There were many prophecies and all, every single prophecy about Christ, would have to be fulfilled.
- People are to render to man's government the things that belong to man's government. People are to render to God the things that belong to God. The things belonging to God are the love of people towards Him, the faith of people towards God, and the obedience of the people towards God.

The third transcript, "The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life III – Jesus' Secret Preparation for His Final Passover", covers in detail the warnings that Christ gave, and additional coverage of Matthew 24 is given. Other points that are mentioned are:

- Nisan 11, Sunday, 30 AD is the day of confrontation and provocation by Jesus.
- In all political systems the elite are never caught and judged.
- Small donations by the humble is worth more than large donations by the rich.
- Satan can make people happy and Satan can make people laugh

The fourth transcript, “The Last Ten Days of Jesus’ Life IV – From the Passover to the Crucifixion and the Last Seven Sayings of Jesus,” covers yet more actions and background surrounding the last days of Christ’s life. Other points that are mentioned are:

- Evil thoughts come from demons and Satan
- One of the first things that people stop doing when they are slipping away from the Truth is foot-washing at the Passover service.
- There is a difference between temptation and tribulation in that with temptation you have choices whereas with tribulation it comes upon you and you have no choice.
- In loving your enemies, the best way to love your enemies is to stay away from them.
- There are two aspects of the Spirit: (1) The Spirit of Christ (mind of Christ) and (2) The Spirit of the Father that makes one a son or daughter of God. These together dwell in those who belong to God.
- There were twenty-eight prophecies regarding the Messiah that Jesus fulfilled during the Crucifixion Day. Angels were working with circumstances to help these be fulfilled and the demons were carrying out what they were allowed to do.
- With Judas Iscariot, if one commits or is an accomplice in murder as Judas was, they must die also.
- Satan can bring people together, causing them to agree with each other, and being happy about it.

The fifth transcript, “The Last 10 Days of Jesus’ Life V – From the Death of Jesus to His Ascension and Acceptance by God the Father,” is a detailed study of what circumstances surrounded the Passover Day and what followed. Other points mentioned are:

- The sop of the Passover was unleavened and was much like today when you have unleavened chips and you scoop in some avocado or salsa.
- The authorities were frustrated in their efforts to kill Jesus before the Passover season because the Messiah had to die at the right time. There was a stark battle going on between the angels and Christ with Satan and all the religious authorities.
- Never will one word of God ever fail.
- When reading the Word of God, what you learn you need to do—you must do. If you do not do what you see is to be done and say that it is not important and probably just written by men, your mind will be shut again to understanding the Word of God.

A special thanks goes to Bonnie and Prentice Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts.

The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life I

The days of provocation

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, brethren, welcome to Sabbath services! Before we get into the sermon I want to bring up about *The Christian Passover* book. I got an e-mail from a woman the other day who said, 'Jesus died at the time the lambs were being killed at the temple.' Well, we will see that cannot be true.

Anybody remember what happened to the temple when He died? What else happened? *Earthquake!* They wouldn't be able to have any lambs there to offer, because the Holy of Holies was exposed, and everybody had to get out except the priests.

If you haven't received your book: *A Harmony of The Gospels*, yet, please order it. This is the third edition, second printing. When you get it, please read the commentaries. Those tell the story as we will see why that is so important. When we first did the *Harmony* in 1974, there are a lot of stories that go with that.

All the pictures that are in it—and we have many more in the other editions—we're all photos from the photo storage department from Ambassador College. I went in and asked the one who's in charge of it, and I said, do you have any photos that we could use? Well, by that time he heard I was doing the Gospel, he said, 'Here they are, all you want, just bring them back.'

So, I took them down to the printer. He took the printing photos of them, so they could be in the *Harmony*, and sized them to fit into different things. Also, these four pictures that are on the wall up here in the corner, they originally were in the original *Harmony*. Those sketches were done by Jay Vance. His profession was taking plans like Jonathan draws up and sketching how it would look in a three dimensional rendering.

Now then, all of those were done by Jay Vance, and he did it with a Rapidograph pen. That's a special pen that lets the ink out in very fine lines, almost like a needle. You can see it on the Passover book. Then he designed the York Publishing emblem, and York Publishing is the name that I use to publish it.

Dave Brady told me, 'You ought to write; you ought write a book.' That was because I was giving for the second time, and this was in 1972, the Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life. I said *no*, Rod Meredith ought to write it because he teaches first year Bible. I shouldn't write it.

Things changed because of all the politics and all of the coming after those who didn't bow

down and scrape down to the 'falsity' of the hierarchy. So, my sanity project was—by studying and putting together the *Harmony*—so I could get my mind on Christ and not get wrapped up that all the wars of politics.

That took two years to get that done and then published. Then the second edition we change the cover to green, and the printer R.R. Donnelley did a very bad mistake. You see the picture on the cover with the sunburst. Why did I choose the sunburst? One man said, 'Why did you have this? It looks like an orthodox cross.' I said, 'It's the sun.'

Jesus said that 'the sign of the Son of man will shine from the east to the west.' So that's why we had it. The artist who did this—we paid him for it—by blowing through a narrow straw. You get those little dots and things like that. So, we appreciate that.

Now we have *A Harmony of the Gospels*, third edition, second printing, which means that the total printed was 60,000. Probably close to little over 50,000 have been distributed.

How did I come up with York Publishing? Well, David Brady said that no one likes to buy from a church, and you can't have a long name. You can't use your own name: Coulter's Publishing. He says it has to be short; it has to be something that people can identify with, even though they've never seen it.

So, one day I was driving to go down to Torrance, and I was going down Orange Grove Boulevard, down to Highway 110. I started down the freeway and at the first overpass there was the sign 'Next Exit York Boulevard.' That's it! Why was that a good name?

If you think of York, what do you hear all the time? *New York!* York is something people can identify with, though they don't know exactly, in this case, what it would mean. I won't get into all of the wars and politics that we had to go through down in Pasadena, but I'll tell you this: there was a concerted effort to completely root me and Delores out of the ministry—*period!*

When it came to a climatic head, Rod Meredith was fired, and the next day Al Caruso left. I mean, we went through things because I stood for a man who had been disfellowship politically, and he kept trying to get back into church, his name was Nolan. And that was quite a thing!

When you have a hierarchy, you can't disagree with it; especially the one in Pasadena. I

won't get into that, but that gave time where I could get my mind off the politics, off the troubles and I did a paraphrase translation the first time because I didn't know enough Greek. I later I took Greek from Dr. Dorothy.

So, we are going to cover *The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life*; that includes to His resurrection. Now then, this is the only *Harmony of the Gospels* that follows the chronology based upon the Calculated Hebrew Calendar, which is different than the Roman calendar. You can go back in time clear to creation, and you can go forward in time because based on the sun, the moon and the earth and the rules of how it is determined, you're always correct with the Holy Days. You could never do it by observation.

Did you see the super moon? Do you know what happens when there's a super moon? The moon is thousands of miles closer to the earth, and instead of 250,000 it is 211,000 miles away. Do you know what happens? *It moves quicker!*

So, you can't really determine, unless it's by calculation to account for the variance with the sun, the earth and the moon. Then God has figured all the relationship with the rest of the things in the universe for the calendar. How do we know it's always correct? *There are two days you can check on!*

A lot of people think they have to check on the new moon. No, you check on the two days that has to be the full moon: 15th day of the 1st month and the 15th day of the 7th month, always a full moon. Furthermore, there has to be two days of full moon in order to go clear around the earth. So, all you 'flat-earthers,' forget it. It is waxing when it comes to New Zealand, comes to full, comes around over here to the Western Hemisphere, and it's full, but it is waning.

Passover night: When you leave Passover night you can see that the moon is not quite full. But the next night it is full. Since 1960 I have been checking it every year. The only time I haven't been able to see it, is if it's cloudy and I can't see the moon. But it's always on time.

Now then, one other thing before we start here. A lot of people say, well you can't trust the Jewish calendar because the Jews did this, that and the other thing. Well, not the official Jews who were in charge of the calendar. A lot in Babylon tried to change it and do a lot of things because they wanted to take power to themselves. But the priests and the Levites in the Jewish community kept the calculation of the calendar correct.

'Well, we can't trust that.' All right, why don't you throw away the Old Testament, because they preserved it, too! If you can't trust one, you

can't trust the other. If it's off, why is it always correct with the full moon? *Because there has to be adjustments for the new moon!* From the new moon to the full moon sometimes is not even 14 days. Sometimes it's almost 16 days. That's why there are the rules of adjustment, postponements and so forth, to keep it balanced.

Before we get into the last ten days, let's start out with the birth of Christ. You can study that in the Passover book. He was born in 5_{B.C.} I have a calendar from the Hebrew calendar. No other *Harmony* has anything like this, because they go by the Roman calendar and they have a Friday crucifixion, and they have a Palm Sunday, so they don't even know what they're talking about.

Jesus was born on the Feast of Trumpets, a Sabbath in 5_{B.C.} That means He was circumcised on the Sabbath before Atonement, which then made Him a legal resident of Israel. When Tabernacles came, He was tabernacling with all the people of God as an official member.

When He began His ministry—you can look up the calendar calculations in the appendices in the back of the *Harmony*—He started on the fourth day of the week in a Jubilee year. What is the Jubilee Year? What does the Jubilee stand for? *Release of slaves!* Jesus came to release people from the slavery of Satan and their sins.

But Jesus first had to be tempted by Satan the devil. His ministry was three and a half years. How many months are in three and a half years? Forty-two? *Wrong!* There were two years in His three and a half year ministry that were *leap years* and had an extra month in both of those. So, His ministry began on the fourth day, and was 44 months long. Then He was crucified on the fourth day, and He rose and ascended to the Father four days after He was crucified. So, #4 has a lot to do with Jesus' ministry and verifying it. Those signs are given, because the Jews always demand a sign.

How many days was He with the apostles before His final ascension? *Forty!* He starts out on the fourth day, 40 days temptation, then He is crucified on the fourth day of the week, three days in the grave, and then He ascends to the Father on the first day. Protestants look at that and say, 'That's why we keep Sunday.' *You have to read the Bible!*

What happened was, I heard a sermon by Dr. Hoeh about the last ten days of Jesus' life; that was in about 1963. I graduated in 1964 and then I heard a sermon by Dale Hampton on the last ten days of Jesus' life. In the first year of my ministry in Boise, Idaho—this would be the spring 1966—I decided to bring *The Last Ten Days of Jesus Life*.

So, I got my notes from Dr. Hoeh and Dale Hampton, and guess what I found? There was a one-day conflict. How did that happen? So, I got *Robertson's Harmony* to see if I could find where the one-day discrepancy was. Well, I couldn't find it, and that made it worse.

I took one Bible, opened it up to Matthew, one Bible opened it up to Mark, and one to Luke and one to John. I went through and started right here in John 12. I knew that we had to use a Calculated Hebrew Calendar. I'll show you where the extra day is recorded.

This is going to be easier than trying to go through the Scriptures in the Bible. The Scriptures will be the same here, but all in the organized manner.

From: *A Harmony of the Gospels* (third edition) by Fred R. Coulter

Section 282—Six Days Before His Last Passover, Jesus Comes to Bethany:

John 12:1: "Now, **six days before the Passover**, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had died, *and* whom He had raised from *the* dead."

Six Days Before Jesus' Last Passover

This chart combines the Roman calendar and the Hebrew calendar

- When does the day start in the Hebrew calendar? *Sunset! All days start at sunset!*
- When do they start on the Roman calendar? *Midnight!*

So, if you look carefully at the chart, you will see that I have it divided. I have sunset/sunrise, and then it overlaps on the bottom, I have the Roman dates. I want you to count forward—counting is inclusive—starting with the first day. Day five: Nisan 8, 1-2-3-4-5-6 days *before* the Passover. So, the Passover is the 7th day from when we started here in verse one.

Verse 2: "There they made a supper *for* Him, and Martha served; and Lazarus was one of those who sat with Him. Mary then..." (vs 2-3).

I want you to notice Mary is named, because we'll see something here in a minute, because Jesus was anointed twice, not once.

Verse 3: "**Mary** then took a pound of pure spikenard ointment..."

I don't know anything about spikenard ointment.

...worth a great price *and* anointed **Jesus' feet** wiping His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the aroma of the

ointment. As a result, one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, who was about to betray Him, said, 'Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred silver coins, and given to *the* poor?'" (vs 3-5).

What is one of the ways that evil people appear to be righteous? *By giving to the poor!*

Sidebar: I got a brand new book—a nice big thick one—called *In The Closet In The Vatican: Power, Homosexuality, Hypocrisy* by Frederic Martel. Homosexuality is rampant, all of them. It's quite a book. He took three years in writing it has been published in English and in French, and I don't know what the other language was simultaneously. Brand new publication, so I'll let you know about it, about how homosexuality is rampant in the Catholic Church. Guess what's rampant in the nunneries? *Lesbianism!* No wonder Rev. 17 says '**filled with abominations and blasphemies.**' That's what it is. So, Simon wanted to *appear* righteous.

Verse 6: "Now he said this, not because he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and carried what was put in *it*. Then Jesus said, 'Let her alone; she has been keeping it toward the day of My burial. For you have the poor with you always, but you do not always have Me.' Then a great crowd of the Jews found out that He was there..." (vs 6-9)

Notice it was a supper (v 2). So, this is at sunset, or the beginning of the day. That's why on the chart we have it where it is.

"...And they came, not only because of Jesus, but also that they might see Lazarus, whom He had raised from *the* dead. But the chief priests took counsel in order that they might kill Lazarus also..."

you have got to get rid of all the evidence

...because by reason of him, many of the Jews were leaving *them* and believing in Jesus" (vs 9-10).

You can see the picture in the *Harmony*. These are some of the pictures that we got from the Ambassador photo file of the model city. Now a key thing in the chronology:

Luke 19:47: "Now, He was teaching day-by-day in the temple; and the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people were seeking to destroy Him."

The Day Portion—Nisan 8—Thursday, March 30, 30 AD.

Section 283—Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

The Church of God used to say that this palm day was a palm Sabbath. Why did they say that? *Because the Catholics and Protestants say Palm Sunday!* Why do they say that? *Because they believe in a Friday crucifixion!*

So, the Church said it couldn't be on a Sunday; it had to be on a Sabbath; but it couldn't be on the Sabbath. Why could it not happen on the Sabbath? *We'll read it and will answer the question when we're done!*

Now we have all four accounts. John's account does not have where Jesus told him to go get the donkey. The reason I have John 12 here is because of the chronology.

John 12:12: "On the next day...
in the morning after their dinner

...a great crowd *of people* who had come for the Feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming into Jerusalem, took branches from palm trees and went out to meet Him, and were shouting, 'Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in *the* name of *the* Lord, the King of Israel'" (vs 12-13).

- What does this tell us?
- Why could this not happen on the Sabbath?

Matthew 21:7: "They brought the donkey and the colt, and put their garments upon them; and He sat on them. And a great number *of the* multitude spread their garments on the road; and others were cutting down branches from the trees and spreading *them* on the road. And the multitudes, those who were going before and those who were following behind, were shouting, saying, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He Who comes in *the* name of *the* Lord. Hosanna in the highest!'" (vs 7-9).

Then we have in the account in Luke 19 that the Pharisees said, 'Don't have them shouting. Jesus said, 'If I stopped, the stones would shout! If this was on the Sabbath, what would the Pharisees say? *You're teaching the disciples to break the Sabbath, because they're breaking down branches, and they're putting this on the road for you to go. This is why this has to be on a Thursday. We find that in the Luke account.*

Luke 19:39: "And some of the Pharisees in the multitude said to Him, 'Master, rebuke Your disciples.' But He answered *and* said to them, 'I tell you that if these were silent, the stones would cry out'" (vs 39-40).

How would that work? *I have no idea!* The closest we can come to understand it is Rev. 5, where every created thing is praising God the Father and Jesus Christ in heaven, on earth, under the earth and in the sea. I could see the whales doing it, but I can't see the minnows doing that. But that's all possible. Maybe the big frogs; I wonder what that would sound like? *Frogs praising God!*

Section 284—Jesus Weeps Over the City of Jerusalem

How many times did Jerusalem reject God? Just read the book of Jeremiah. Read the book of Isaiah. Read the problems that they had in Ezra and Nehemiah, just trying to keep the Jews from going out and apostatizing.

One account was that Nehemiah was so upset, he grabbed one of the renegade priests and punched him in the face, because he was having one of the Ashdod women, instead of having an Aaronic woman.

Luke 19:41: "And when He came near *and* saw the city, **He wept over it**, saying, 'If you had known, even you, at least in this your day, the things for your peace; but now they are hidden from your eyes'" (vs 41-42).

Why don't people understand? *'They close their eyes, they close their ears, they don't want to hear'* (Matt. 13).

Now try this on the Protestants sometime. Just walk up to them and say, 'I've got God's answer to the evangelicals. They use two main Scriptures, that don't even need the whole Bible. Ask them, 'Why don't you keep the Sabbath?' *Oh, that's for the Jews. We keep it on Sunday.*

They don't know what they are missing. They don't know that the Sabbath is God's day. If they kept the Sabbath and if they kept it to honor God, **would not God open up the Truth to them?** If they were seeking Him? *Yes, it would happen!*

Verse 43: "For *the* days shall come upon you that your enemies shall cast a rampart about you, and shall enclose you around and keep you in on every side."

You want to know the ghastly slaughter of what happened with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, read the account in *Josephus*. It was awful! When those who were trying to escape, they would be captured and they would cut them open to see if they had any gold or anything in their stomach. Those who they knew didn't have any they crucified them.

Josephus says that there were so many being crucified, that they were waiting for them to die on the cross, so they can put new ones up there. I mean, it was a slaughter.

- it's not a good thing to reject God
- it's not a good thing to reject the words of Christ

That sure happened!

Verse 44: "And shall level you to the ground, and your children within you; and they shall not leave in you a stone upon a stone..."

Sounds a little bit like Matt. 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, 'not one stone upon the stone.' That was not just for the temple. That was the whole city of Jerusalem. The Jews made themselves such an absolute stench in the nose of the Romans, that they took Jerusalem and did that, and plowed it like a field. That fulfilled the Scripture of the prophecy of the destruction of Jerusalem.

What everyone needs to do is realize that the Word of God is true. The only way you're going to understand it is to believe it, and what God says we need to do: ***obey it!***

Section 285—Jesus Goes into the Temple and Returns that Evening to Bethany

Mark 11:11: "And Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and *because* the hour was already late, after looking around at everything *there*, He went out to Bethany with the twelve."

Then He came back in the morning

Section 286—Jesus Teaches Daily in the Temple

Luke 19:47: "Now, He was **teaching day-by-day in the temple**; and the chief priests and the scribes and the chief of the people **were seeking to destroy Him**, but could not find what they might do; for all the people were listening *intently*, hanging on His *every word*" (vs 47-48).

These days were the days leading up to the crucifixion of Christ. ***Christ was provoking them!*** He knew what they were going to do, but he gave them good cause to think they were right in doing what they were doing.

Friday, March 31, 30 AD

Section 287 Jesus Curses the Fig Tree:

Mark 11:12: "And in the morning, after they left Bethany, He became hungry. Then, seeing a fig tree afar off that had leaves, He went *to it to see* if He might

possibly find something on it. But after coming to it, He found nothing except leaves because it was not yet *the* season for figs" (vs 12-13).

- Why would Jesus do that?
- What about Adam and Eve?
- What did they use to hide their nakedness?
Fig leaves!

Israel in the Old Testament is combined in a parable:

1. to a vineyard
2. to a fig tree

The reason that this is here is because Jerusalem and the temple, because this was on the way to the temple, and the priest and all of them there did not bring forth any fruit to eternal life. There was nothing. They had no spiritual fruit. That's the whole lesson.

Verse 14: "And Jesus responded *by* saying to it, 'Let no one eat fruit from you any more forever!' And His disciples heard *it*."

If you read Matt. 21, it looks like that cursing and shriveling up happen immediately. *But it didn't!* This is the missing day, between Dr. Hoeh and Dale Hampton. Here's the key.

Sabbath, Nisan 10—Saturday, April 1, 30 AD

Section 288—They Go Up to Jerusalem the Next Morning:

Mark 11:20: "And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from *the* roots...."

Jesus cursed it one day and in the morning they came back and found it dried up!

...Then Peter remembered *and* said to Him, 'Look, Master! The fig tree that You cursed has dried up'" (vs 20-21).

Since you have the pictures here in the *Harmony*, I want to show you something. Look at the picture on page 220; see the tree with all of its leaves on it. Look at the picture on page 221, see the tree was no leaves on it. *Same tree!* How did I get the picture of this? *This was a tree before the plague of locusts came on pgs 220-221!* This is how they left it. I thought that would be a good example of how they are drying up, *nothing on it!*

Verse 22: "And Jesus answered and said to them..."

This is very important, because now we're beginning to get into some of the things that we're going to learn for the Feast of Unleavened Bread. God is not

interested in just your exterior conduct. He's interested the **conversion that is in the mind and the heart!** He doesn't want a change of behavior, **He wants a conversion of thinking** so that your behavior will be as God wants it.

Even the worst criminal... Have you seen them do interviews of those who are lifers? They come in there and the reporters come up. 'This person is such a nice person, I just don't understand how it was possible.' Well, he can be very nice. Same way with a con man or a con woman, they can be very nice. You don't know how evil they are, until you've lost all your money! Then you know what happened!

Same way with 'religion.' Religion is a good factor in the society to give a little check on the carnal mind, to have a little better behavior. But nothing can display the evil that's in the heart and mind of even the religionists, than this latest book *In the Closet In The Vatican*. **They're all hypocrites and liars!**

(go to the next track)

Page 220—I want to go over this again about the two days concerning the cursing of the fig tree and it shriveling up.

Mark 11:15: "Then they came into Jerusalem; and after entering the temple, Jesus began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple; and He overthrew the tables of the money exchangers and the seats of those who were selling doves."

What we're going to see from this time forward through the next day is what I call **the days of provocation**. We need to look at it from the point of view:

- How was the atmosphere around Jerusalem?
- How many angels were there making sure everything works out the way that it should?
- How many demons and Satan were there?

We know that Satan possessed Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus!

What sort of spiritual battle was going on behind the scenes that we couldn't see? Here's the provocation. You go into the temple and you start doing all of this. Now remember, the first time Jesus went into the temple, He did it in John 2. Here again, He comes in, and in the most sacred place, He starts overthrowing everything, and chasing them all out.

Verse 16: "Moreover, He did not allow anyone to carry a vessel through the temple. And He taught, saying to them,

'Is it not written, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations"?....'" (vs 16-17).

Think about that! The Jews did not allow the Gentiles to come, except in a cordoned off area. They couldn't go any further unless they would be killed. But this is also a prophecy of the coming temple of God in heaven, which is a house of prayer for all people, all nations.

"... 'But you have made it a den of robbers.' Now, the chief priests and the scribes heard *this*, and they sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the multitudes marveled at His teaching. And when evening came, He went out of the city" (vs 17-19).

Of course, that's back to Bethany!

Section 288—They Go Up To Jerusalem

That's when they saw that the fig tree the next morning had dried up. Then Jesus taught them a lesson.

Mark 11:21: "Then Peter remembered *and* said to Him, 'Look, Master! The fig tree that You cursed has dried up.' And Jesus answered and said to them, '**Have faith from God**'" (vs 21-22).

The actual Greek means *have the faith of God*. It has to come from God to us. That's why I translated it, "...Have faith *from* God."

Verse 23: "For truly I say to you, whoever shall say to this mountain, 'Be taken away and be cast into the sea,' and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that what he said will take place, he shall have whatever he shall say."

That's the extreme of it. What is harder than moving a mountain? *Changing the carnal mind!* That's harder! And if you wanted a mountain removed, **it would have to be according to the will of God**, not according to your will. What He says is a very important key, one of the New Testament teachings that goes on into all of the epistles.

Verse 24: "For this reason I say to you, all the things that you ask *when* you are praying, believe that you will receive *them*, and *they* shall be *given* to you.

It goes from the mountain to all things. Sometimes prayers are answered almost immediately. Sometimes it takes a long time. Sometimes it even takes years. Have you ever had it that you're going along and all of a sudden you think: God answered that prayer! You even forgot that you prayed about it. But He gives another caveat.

Verse 25: "But when you stand praying... [or if you're kneeling]if you have **anything against anyone**... [Is that all inclusive?] ...forgive..."

Even if you have to do it reluctantly, still forgive. But do it from the heart!

"...so that your Father Who *is* in heaven may forgive you your offenses" (v 25).

Very interesting! Now in the series that we have *Keys To Answered Prayer*, we go through all kinds of prayer. Also, in the healing; healing is important. It is true, that you must forgive those in your own mind before God, who maybe they have already died! ***But it's in the mind, and that is a blockage of your faith to God!***

"...if you have **anything against anyone**... [that is all inclusive] ...forgive, so that your Father Who *is* in heaven may forgive you your offenses. For if you do not forgive, neither will your Father Who *is* in heaven forgive you your offenses" (vs 25-26).

That is instruction *in perfection*. Remember that Jesus identified that conversion is not just your outward behavior, but your inward thoughts.

Matthew 5:48 tells the ultimate of it: "Therefore, you shall be perfect, even as your Father Who *is* in heaven is perfect." *That's the ultimate highest standard, and that will not be fulfilled until the resurrection!*

Sabbath, Nisan 10—Saturday, April 1, 30 AD

Section 289: Certain Hellenist Jews Want to See Jesus

John 12:20: "Now there were certain Greeks among those who had come up to worship at the Feast. And these came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida of Galilee; and they asked him, saying, 'Sir, we desire to see Jesus.' Philip came and told Andrew, and Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus. But Jesus answered them, saying, 'The time has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; **but if it dies, it bears much fruit**'" (vs 20-24).

The only way for it to die is to plant it, and plant it in good soil. We've got some wheat at home, that we have had for, I would say about 40 years now; somewhere around there. It's still wheat! It's in these cans and nothing has changed. When they cleaned out one of these compartments in pyramids, they found some wheat that was over 3,000-years-

old. They planted it and it's sprouted and grew! So likewise here:

How do we die? How did Paul say he died? *He said, 'I die daily'!* That is overcoming human nature. We can't produce the fruit of God, until we are overcoming human nature on a regular basis. As long as we're in the flesh we still have human nature. We have to work against it. That's the process of conversion. We'll cover that more a little later during the Feast.

Verse 25: "The one who loves his life shall lose it..."

I don't know how many have gone through some of the things that John Gunether has done with the Waldensians, and so forth. I imagine they read this Scripture an awful lot. They were slaughtered and tortured.

"...and the one who hates his life in this world shall keep it unto eternal life" (v 25).

Because the very best of every human being, every single one of them has, and we do to, 'the law of sin and death.' But only when you receive the power of the Holy Spirit, are you able to overcome the lust of the flesh and all of the things of 'the law of sin and death' within us.

That's the struggle. And the struggle is defined by Paul in Rom. 7, which is one of the most difficult Scriptures in the Bible to understand, if you're only thinking about keeping the commandments to change your exterior behavior.

Verse 26: "If anyone will serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant be also. And if anyone serves Me, him shall the Father honor. Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? **But for this very purpose I have come to this hour**" (vs 26-27). *He knew!*

All right, next page, you'll see one of the etchings of Jay Vance. He very carefully hid his name in very small print. I can't even find it.

Section 290—Sabbath, Nisan 10—Saturday [Sabbath], April 1—30 AD

When were the Israelites to select the lamb for Passover? *Tenth day of the first month!* Keep it until the 14th. We'll see that they were to slay it right after sunset on the 13th. We'll find that section a little later. Now then, this is actually God the Father selecting Christ as 'the Lamb to take away the sin of the world.'

Why did John write it that way? Why didn't he say, 'Take away the **sins** of the world'? Why did he say, 'Take away the **sin** of the world'? *Because*

the sin of the world is the sin of Adam and Eve, and that nature was passed on to us! So, it is the sin of Adam that is the sin of the world, and every human being in every generation in every country, every nation.

John 12:28: "Father, glorify Your name..."

All you sacred-namers, think on this. Nowhere, *nowhere, nowhere* do you find any sacred name from the Hebrew language in the Greek New Testament. God had it written in Greek because it was not connected with the Old Testament and their practices.

Everyone who gives a translation, and puts *what they think* the name ought to be in Hebrew here translated into English, they're adding to and taking away from. What is the Father's sacred name? *The Father!* That's what it is!

"...Then a voice came from heaven, saying, 'I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again.' Then the people standing *there*, who heard *it*, said, 'It thundered.' Others said, 'An angel spoke to Him.' Jesus answered and said, 'This voice did not come because of Me, but because of you'" (vs 28-30).

The selection of the Lamb on the Sabbath Day for the removal of the sin of the world. But it is removed, one by one as God calls.

Verse 31: "Now is *the* judgment of this world. Now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself" (vs 31-32).

Remember, that's what he said to Nicodemus (John 3). If the Son of Man be lifted up, they knew that meant to be crucified. They understood that.

Verse 33: "But He said this to signify by what death He was about to die. The people answered Him, 'We have heard out of the law that the Christ lives forever, and why do You say that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?'" (vs 33-34).

In spite of everything that went on, they still didn't know.

Verse 35: "Then Jesus said to them, 'Yet, a little while the Light is with you....'"

Jesus is referred to as 'the Light of the world, Light of all men.

- John 1: 4, 7-9
- John 3:19-36

He is the Light and those who love God will come to the Light, those who do not will go away from the

Light. They don't want to come to the Light lest their deeds are exposed.

- John 8:12
- John 9:5

All showing the Christ is the Light!

Verse 35: "Then Jesus said to them, 'Yet, a little while the Light is with you. Walk while you have the Light, so that *the* darkness will not overtake you. For the one who walks in darkness does not know where he is going.'"

How can you have any real purpose in life if you don't know why you were born? Why you were called? Look at all the lives. Look at all the people. I've got at home a composite of world history called *Langer's Encyclopedia of World History*. You know what it really is? It's a history of every fight and battle in every nation, every country down through all time. *It is incredible!*

Section 291—Jesus Leaves the City Again:

"...Jesus spoke these things and *then* departed from them *and* was *in* hiding. Although He had done so many miracles in their presence, they did not believe in Him, so that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled who said, 'Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of *the* Lord been revealed?' For this *very* reason they could not believe because again Isaiah said, 'He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts...'" (vs 36-40).

Why would God do that? Protestants believe they've got to get out there and save everyone. Why would God do this? *Because, if they are not coming to conversion, He doesn't want them to know, so that they can do so in the second resurrection!* Now, you couldn't understand this, unless you have this knowledge of the second resurrection.

There are only two places in the Bible that talk about it. Ezek. 37 and Rev. 20:

- Ezek. 37 talks about Israel and the valley of dry bones. Meaning they lived once, but died.
- Rev. 20 says, the rest of the dead, who are not in the first resurrection, live again after the thousand years.

So, just those two Scriptures alone put together, answers the question, why God would do it. Now think on this. This is why the first fruits are so important. God doesn't do things like the way people think.

"...so that they would not see with *their*

eyes and understand with *their* hearts, and be converted, and I would heal them.' Isaiah said these things when he saw His glory and spoke concerning Him" (vs 40-41)

Now then, here is ***the day of provocation***, and what a day this is. This is something!

Section 293—Nisan 11, Sunday, April 2, 30 AD.

Mark 11:27: "Then they came again to Jerusalem. And as He was walking in the temple, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders came to Him; and they said to Him, 'By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority, that You do these things?'" (vs 27-28).

They asked this because they didn't give Him that authority. And they thought all authority for anything had to come through them.

Verse 29: "Then Jesus answered and said to them, 'I also will ask you one thing, and if you answer Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things.'"

Now remember this when you're trapped by anybody in a conversation. Don't answer them; ask a question. He put them really between a rock and a hard spot here.

Verse 30: "The baptism of John, was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me."

Remember that in John 1, Matt. 3 and Luke 3? Who came to John's baptism? *The scribes and the Pharisees!* They said to John, who are you? Are you the Christ? Are you that Prophet? John said, 'No, I'm not either one.' Who are you? *I'm a voice crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord!*

They knew from the beginning with John, but what did they do? If your heart is hardened, and your eyes are blinded, and you have your own satanic purpose, because here's this battle going on, ***on this day of provocation***. This is done deliberately by Christ to finalize their excuse to kill Him.

Verse 31: "And they reasoned among themselves, saying..."

I always get a kick out of this. They've got to have a little council meeting before they can answer it!

"... 'If we say, "From heaven," He will say, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "From men"; they feared the people, because everyone held that John was indeed a prophet. And they answered Jesus by saying, "We do not know."....' (vs 31-33).

They knew!

"...Then Jesus answered *and* said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things'" (v 33).

It's virtually the same in Matthew and in Luke. Then He got right with them.

Section 294—The Parable of The Two Sons

Jesus speaking right to them. He's pointing out what they're doing wrong, and He's also giving them an opportunity to repent if they would. Could they repent? *If they really wanted to they could!* So, He said:

Mathew 21:28: "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first one and said, 'Son, go work in my vineyard today.'"

Jesus uses the vineyard many times. He compares Israel to a vineyard (Isa. 5). When He came for the fruit, He found wild grapes. What happened?

Verse 29: "And he answered *and* said, 'I will not'; but afterwards he repented *and* went. Then he came to the second *son and* said the same thing. And he answered *and* said, 'Sir, I will go'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of the father?' They said to Him, 'The first *one*.' Jesus said to them, 'I tell you truly, the tax collectors and *the* harlots are going into the Kingdom of God before you'" (vs 29-31).

Think about that. Here's the elite. That's almost like going to Washington, DC, and telling all the elite you're all going to burn in hell because you are not doing what you're supposed to do. You say one thing and do another. You say we will take care of the people. But you take care of yourselves. Same thing. The lowest of the people:

Verse 32: "For John came to you..."

Did they go to John? *Yes, they did!*

...in *the* way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but the tax collectors and *the* harlots believed him. Yet, you, after seeing *this*, did not afterwards repent and believe him."

Quite a thing! We have a lot to cover on this day; it will take us a couple of sessions to get through. But here again He talks about the vineyard. What does he say in John 15 about Himself and the Church?

He says, 'I am the vine, My Father is the husbandman. Now some translations say farmer. Husbandman is better, because the husband is one who takes care of his wife and his family. So, the

Father is the One Who is working in us with Christ. What did He say? ***You are the branches!*** We have to stay attached to the vine. Otherwise we can't bring forth fruit.

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- 1) John 12:1-10
- 2) Luke 19:47
- 3) John 12:12-13
- 4) Matthew 21:7-9
- 5) Luke 19:39-44
- 6) Mark 11:11
- 7) Luke 19:41-48
- 8) Mark 11:11
- 9) Luke 19:47-48
- 10) Mark 11:12-14, 20-22, 15-19, 21-26
- 11) Matthew 5:48
- 12) John 12:20-41
- 13) Mark 11:27-33
- 14) Matthew 21:28-32

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 17; 5
- Matthew 13; 24
- Mark 13
- Luke 21
- John 2
- Romans 7
- John 3
- John 1:4, 7-9
- John 3:19-36
- John 8:12
- John 9:5
- Ezekiel 37
- Revelation 20
- Matthew 3
- Luke 3
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Sermon Series: *Keys To Answered Prayer*

FRC:bo

Transcribed: 3/6/19

The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life II

A day great provocation and confrontation to provoke them to crucify Him

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, brethren, welcome to Sabbath services.

This is more like a Bible study, word for word. So, if you have your *Harmony*, turn to page 225, because this is where we will begin. This is only the third time in 54 years that I've given this.

I think we need to grasp what was really happening, especially on *this day of provocation*. Let's see what we are dealing with, and how the religious leaders responded to Christ and how Christ responded to them, how He talked to them.

I imagine there would be a lot of people today, just like back then, that would be offended if they heard what Jesus said, and the way He said it. Remember the one where the man who said, 'I'll follow you, Lord.' If you Looking for followers you'd say, 'Oh yes, but I got to go bury my father.' Well why don't you do that and catch up with me a little later.

What did Jesus say? 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Think of how all the 'politically correct nuts' would go crazy over this kind of thing. He talked very straightforward. In the John 5:30—after He explained a little bit about the resurrection and so forth, and this is what we need to keep in mind with our selves.

Remember what Paul told the elders from Ephesus when they came to Miletus to see Paul for the last time, he said, '**Take heed to yourself.**' So, here is a good verse for us to understand *take heed to ourselves*, that whatever we have we received; **there's nothing that we didn't receive from God** even in the physical realm.

So, here's Jesus, Who was God manifested in the flesh, Who could do anything He wanted to do if He wanted to do it. But His choice was this:

John 5:30: "**I have no power to do anything of Myself...** [that means *out from within My own self, My own thoughts*] ...but as I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just because I do not seek My own will **but the will of the Father Who sent Me.** If I bear witness of Myself, My testimony is not true. There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the testimony that he witnesses concerning Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the Truth. Now, I do not receive witness from man, but I say these things so that you may be saved" (vs 30-34).

He's talking to the religious leaders, all the priests. Remember that He healed the man who had

been infirm for 38 years. Here's a man going around carrying his sleeping bag. They said, 'You're carrying a burden on the Sabbath!' He said, 'The man who healed me....' Who healed you? *He didn't know!* Later, Jesus found him, then he went and snatched and told all of the priests.

So, here they are all around right at the temple. If you really understand how these things were going on, it's quite a really big deal indeed.

Verse 35: "He was a burning and shining light, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light. But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works that the Father gave Me to complete, the *very* works that I am doing, themselves bear witness of Me..." (vs 35-36).

In other words, look at the man that was healed. Why aren't you rejoicing? I mean, 38 years. Isn't that long enough to be infirm? *Way too long!*

"...the *very* works that I am doing, themselves bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me" (v 36).

Now they understood *The Most High*. And in a series we did on that—*The Lord God and The Most High*—we know in the New Testament, *that's the Father*.

Verse 37: "And the Father Himself, Who sent Me, has borne witness of Me. You have neither heard His voice nor seen His form at any time."

Today we can think of it as if this were going on at St. Peter's Basilica during a conclave of the pope and all the cardinals and all of that thing.

Verse 38: "And **you do not have His Word dwelling in you...**" What did they have dwelling in them, in their minds? *Their authority, their traditions, their hierarchy!*

"...for you do not believe Him Whom He has sent. You search the Scriptures... [How many times did Jesus say, 'Have you never read?' or 'Didn't you read this?'] ...for in them you think that you have eternal life... [they didn't] ...and they are the ones that testify of Me. But you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life" (vs 39-40).

The rest of this is really about as sharp a two-edged sword coming out of Christ mouth that you could possibly want.

Verse 41: "**I do not receive glory from men;** but I have known you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves. I have come in My

Father's name, and you do not receive Me; *but* if another comes in his own name, you will receive him. How are you able to believe, you who receive glory from one another, and do not seek the glory that *comes* from the only God? Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is *one* who accuses you, *even* Moses, in whom you have hope. But if you believed Moses, you would have believed Me; for he wrote about Me. And if you do not believe his writings, how shall you believe My words?" (vs 41-47).

Very interesting verse, right there the last one. People say, well the Old Testaments is all done away. What do you know about that; if you don't believe Moses, you can't believe Jesus.

I tell you, for the apostle who was the one whom Jesus loved, you would think He would write some really nice wonderful things. But all of these are recording the Truth of Jesus' ministry to the hierarchy and those in the in Jerusalem and the priesthood. They kept saying, 'We're Abraham's seed, and that's why we are what we are.'

John 8:37: "**I know that you are Abraham's seed**; but you are seeking to kill Me, because My words do not enter into your *minds*. I speak the things that I have seen from My Father, and you do the things that you have seen from your father.' They answered and said to Him, 'Our father is Abraham.' Jesus said to them, 'If you were Abraham's children..." (vs 37-39).

He said, "**I know that you are Abraham's seed...**" What's the difference between *seed* and *children*? *The children obeyed!* The seed Esau did not!

"...'If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham. But now you seek to kill Me..." (vs 39-40).

Remember the first healing recorded (Mark 3), the man in the in the synagogue with the withered arm? When Jesus healed him, they were all mad and they got together and said, 'How are we going to eliminate this guy?' So, this is all building up and it's all building up to this one particular day, Sunday, the first day of the week, Nisan 11. And it has almost as many Scriptures as it does about the Passover, crucifixion and resurrection.

What we're going to read when we finish here is going to be mightily important.

"...a Man who has spoken the Truth to you, which I have heard from God; Abraham did not do this. You are doing the works of your father.' Then they said to Him, 'We have not been born of fornication.... [everything about Jesus was known] ...We have one Father, *and that is* God.' Therefore, Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you

would love Me, because I proceeded forth and came from God. For I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me. **Why don't you understand My speech? Because you cannot bear to hear My words. You are of your father the devil...**" (vs 41-44). *Try that with Sabbath with a staunch Sunday-keeper. You get about the same reaction.*

Now stop and think about this for a minute: Where does the devil like to come all the time? At the top! When the temptation occurred, it was Satan and Christ. And one apostle was picked because he was of Satan to betray Christ. How does Satan like to do? *Come in and change the teaching, the interpretation!*

"...and the lusts of your father you desire to practice. He was a murderer from *the* beginning, and has not stood in the Truth because there is no Truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he is speaking from his own *self*; for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I speak the Truth, you do not believe Me. Which *one* of you can convict Me of sin?...." (vs 44-46).

Let's come back to the *Harmony* here, page 225. All of these are very deliberate things to come against the religious leaders there, to provoke them to crucify Him. This is all done in public and they couldn't take Him, because the people thought Christ was a prophet and they would stone them, etc, as we saw.

A Harmony of the Gospels, pg. 225—Nisan 11—Sunday, April 2, 30 AD

Section 295—The Parable of the Vineyard

Mark 12:1: "And He began to speak to them in parables: 'A man planted a vineyard, and put a fence around *it*, and dug a wine vat, and built a tower, and leased it out to husbandmen, and *then* left the country.'"

Compare Isa. 5—Israel and Judah were compared to a vineyard that he planted. When he came for fruit he found wild grapes. So they knew, *they knew exactly what He was talking about!*

Verse 2: "And at the *harvest* season he sent a servant..."

Then he sent many servants. Finally He sent his son and they killed him.

Verse 7: "But those husbandmen said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours.' And after seizing him, they killed *him* and cast *him* out of the vineyard. Therefore, what will the lord of the vineyard do? He will come and destroy the

husbandmen..." (vs 7-9).

Matthew 21:41: "They said to Him, 'Evil men!....'"

talking about themselves

"... He will utterly destroy them, and he will lease his vineyard to other husbandmen..."

Luke 20:16: "He will come and destroy these husbandmen..."

Very interesting indeed! They knew that this was about them.

Matt. 21:43—notice what Jesus is saying, because here is what they were looking for: When the Messiah would come He would be human, He would come and join the hierarchy of the priests and set up a kingdom to rule the world from Jerusalem. He didn't do this. But that's how they were looking at it. So, He tells them:

Matthew 21:43: "Because of this, I say to you..."

Imagine that here are the most important people in the Old Testament religion, and the temple and the authority and the leaders and the elders.

"...the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and it shall be given to a nation that produces the fruits of it" (v 43).

Now you read in 1-Peter 2, that we are 'a royal priesthood, a royal nation.' So, he's talking about all of those who would come into the Church; they would receive the Kingdom, not the ones who thought they already had it in their hip pocket.

Verse 44: "And the one who falls on this Stone..."

Jesus is talking about Himself, because that was mentioned in an earlier one.

"...shall be broken; but on whomever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder" (v 44).

A prophecy of what was going to happen to Jerusalem.

Section 296, pg. 226—The Priests and Scribes Seek to Arrest Him

They knew!

Matthew 21:45: "Now, after hearing His parables, the chief priests and the Pharisees knew that He was speaking about them. And they sought to arrest Him, but they were afraid of the multitudes, because they held Him as a prophet" (vs 45-46).

All of this is building up and building up. I just imagine over Jerusalem there were thousands and thousands of angels. Remember what Jesus told the apostles? *If you believe I'm the Messiah*, what would you think if you saw angels ascending and descending on the Son of Man? There were a lot of angels there. Why? *Because every prophecy about His life, the confrontation here leading up to His crucifixion, all had to be fulfilled!* The angels were there to make sure that they would be fulfilled, and that Jesus would not be arrested beforehand.

Don't you think there was also Satan and demons? *Yes!* Don't you think the demons were right there pumping up all the priests and Sadducees and the elders and things like this? So, this was filled with trauma and tension this whole day. On the other hand, I like this section from John:

Section 297—Many Leaders Secretly Believed in Jesus

John 12:42: "But even so, many among the rulers believed in Him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *Him*..."

A good lesson for us! Don't be afraid! What is Truth is true. It strengthens you, and if it hurts the other person, that's too bad.

"...so that they would not be put out of the synagogue" (v 42).

Now notice how this cuts to the quick of everything. That's what's so good about the Bible. It's not telling us a bunch of fairy tales. It's not telling us lies, *it's telling us the truth!*

Verse 43: "For they loved the glory of men more than the glory of God"

That's what we all need to keep in mind, too. What we are, we are to serve. Anyone who is in the ministry is to serve and to teach; that's why we're here. How can there be those who will taught with the Truth of God so they can mature and be brought to perfection, if they're not taught? Like Paul said to the Jews, 'You claim you have the Scriptures when you read them, but don't you teach yourselves?' *We have to let the Word of God teach us!*

Section 298—To Believe in Jesus is to Believe in the Father

Verse 44: "Then Jesus called out and said, 'The one who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him Who sent Me. And the one who sees Me sees Him Who sent Me. I have come *as* a light into the world so that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness'" (vs 44-46).

In the Gospel of John, Jesus is called *the Light* 21 times. Twice John the Baptist. I'll let you search that out.

Verse 47: "But if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world...."

wait until He comes to judge

"...The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has one who judges him; the Word, which I have spoken, that shall judge him in the last day" (vs 47-48).

What was the judgment for those who didn't believe in Jesus, but professed His name, did works of power and did many wonderful things? What was Jesus answer to them the last day? ***Depart from me, you who work lawlessness. I never knew you!*** Quite powerful!

Nisan 11—Sunday, April 2, 30 AD

Verse 49: "For I have not spoken from Myself..."

Same thing! This is one of the biggest problems that faces ministers wherever they are. They get lifted up in their own vanity and carried away with what *they think* they know. And no one can tell them that they're wrong. *They won't listen!*

Verse 49: "For I have not spoken from Myself; but the Father, Who sent Me, gave Me commandment Himself, what I should say and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. Therefore, whatever I speak, I speak exactly as the Father has told Me" (vs 49-50).

All of these confrontations were occurring in the temple area. Of course, God made sure that there were thousands and thousands and thousands of Jews who came. And remember when it was the Feast of Tabernacles in John 7? The question was, don't the leaders know that this is the Christ?

Section 299—The Parable of the Wedding and the Wedding Feast

Where do we find the fulfillment of that? *Rev. 19 and the wedding supper!* What's that going to be like on the Sea of Glass, and the angels roll out the whole dining array? *And we're all seated there!*

Jesus said that He was going to go serve. So, here we are all sitting there, I don't know what kind of food we're going to get. I don't know what kind of food that spirit beings eat, but I hope it's not chicken! Heavenly birds! Ha! Jesus comes around with a wine flask and is pouring wine for us.

Because He said, 'I will drink it with you in that day in My Kingdom.' That's going to be an amazing thing, isn't it?

There are two parts to this Section 299

Matthew 22:1: "And again Jesus answered and spoke to them in parables, saying, 'The Kingdom of Heaven is compared to a man *who was* a king, who made a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast; but they refused to come...."

they refused Christ

...Afterwards he sent out other servants, saying "Say to those who have been invited, 'Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and the fatted beasts are killed, and all things *are* ready. Come to the wedding feast.'" But they paid no attention and went away, one to his farm, and another to his business. And the rest, after seizing his servants, insulted and killed *them*" (vs 1-6).

Didn't that happen to almost all the prophets? I mean, sometimes read the Prophets from the point of view of the prophet who wrote it, especially Jeremiah. He was so discouraged one time, there's one chapter you'll find. He says, 'Lord, I've done all of this and everybody hates me. This has been so bad, I've gone through so many difficulties.' And the Lord said in so many words, 'Now, Jeremiah, keep doing what you're doing. You're life will be your prize.' *Right after that he's thrown into the sewer!*

Verse 7: "Now, when the king heard *it*..."

Who's the king? *The Father!*

"...he became angry; and he sent his armies *and* destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city" (v 7).

- first part, *Jerusalem*
- second part, *preaching of the Gospel*

'Go therefore into all the world and preach the gospel making disciples' (Matt. 28:19). *Go to all nations*, and that begins with:

Verse 8: "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast indeed is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy; therefore, go into the well-traveled highways, and invite all that you find to the wedding feast.' And after going out into the highways, those servants brought together everyone that they found, both good and evil; and the wedding feast was filled with guests" (vs 8-10).

Now the next part is a little difficult for some people to figure out. But I'll try and explain it for you.

Verse 11: "And when the king came in to see the guests, *he* noticed a man there who was not dressed in *proper* attire for the wedding feast."

What is the proper attire for the wedding feast? Revelation 19:8: "...**the righteousness of the saints.**" In other words, he tried to get in there without properly having the right clothes. Sounds a little like Cain bringing his offering, and God didn't accept it. This is what it's conveying. ***You're not going to get into the Kingdom of God if you do not do it God's way!*** If you try, and think you're going to be there, you're going to be cast out.

Matthew 22:12: "And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you enter here without a garment *fit* for the wedding feast?' But he had no answer. Then the king said to the servants..."

This implies all of our personal works of righteousness and faith that we are to do. That becomes the potential for the wedding feast garments.

"...Bind his hands and feet, *and* take him away, and cast *him* into the outer darkness.' There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **For many are called, but few are chosen**" (vs 12-14).

We'll end this section here by saying, remember this—and all elders and ministers remember this, too—***God has called every one of the brethren, and He has called you!*** So therefore, *you are actually under in your position to serve. Not over, for you to be served!*

(go to the next track)

Nisan 11—Sunday, April 2, 30 AD—*this day of provocation.*

Section 300—Spies Are Sent To Entangled Him

Mark 12:13: "But they sent to Him some of the Pharisees and the Herodians, in order to entrap Him in His words."

Look at Matt. 22:15; notice the differences in the explanation, but those differences when you really put them together, adds a lot to what was going on with this confrontation.

Matthew 22:15: "Then the Pharisees went and took counsel *as to* how they might entrap Him in *His* speech."

Luke 20:20: "And they kept *Him* under surveillance, *and* sent out secret agents

who pretended that they were righteous, so that they might catch Him in His words, in order to deliver Him up to the power and authority of the governor."

This same thing has occurred here in America!

Verse 21: And they questioned Him, saying, 'Master...'"

I kind of think they did it this way

"...we realize that You speak and teach rightly, and do not accept *any man's* person, but teach the way of God in Truth. Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?" (vs 21-22).

Now here in America, there was a group who was saying that if you're a Christian you don't have to pay any taxes to the government. *Well, he's now in jail!* Same thing here! They wanted for Jesus to say that you don't have to pay tribute to the government. 'Hey, turn Him over to the authorities. Look, He is saying you don't have to pay tribute.'

Verse 23: "But perceiving their craftiness..."

Matthew 22:18: "But Jesus, knowing their wickedness..."

Mark 12:15: "...But perceiving their hypocrisy..."

Interesting: hypocrisy, wickedness, craftiness. Sounds like Washington, DC!

Section 301—Render to Caesar the Things of Caesar, and to God the things of God

Luke 20:24: "Show Me a silver coin. Whose image and inscription does it have?" And they answered *and* said, 'Caesar's.' Then He said to them, 'Render, therefore, the things of Caesar to Caesar, and the things of God to God'" (vs 24-25).

That's something we need to really know and understand, too.

- What do we render to God? ***Our love, our faith, our obedience!***
- How did Jesus express it in another way? ***Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God!***

There are some people who say that on the other side of the coin, you do not have to send tithes and offerings. You don't have to give those, because Jesus told the seventy to go out and preach the Gospel and you don't take anything. You only take one set of clothes and one set of shoes and your staff. So therefore, that's how you ought to run your ministry.

I actually had some people tell me that. But what did Jesus say later? Take your provision bag, take a sword, do the other things. That was a special one, as a lesson to those twelve and to the seventy, because he sent out the two groups, so that they could learn **God will provide**. Also, it was a sign, back toward Jesus, that He was the Messiah.

Today we don't offer animal sacrifices, we take up offerings and tithes, most of it in paper or digital. So, there's an obligation to do both. As we saw in the other one, the man who came in without the proper clothes, he was what you could say much like Cain. What did Cain do? He just brought any old thing you wanted to. *God says the tithe is His!* {note sermon series on *Tithing*}

If you have questions about it, we cover it. I'm sorry that and in the *Harmony*, that these coins did not come out very clear. But these were actual brass coins with Caesar's image from that time.

Section 302—The Question Concerning Marriage In The Resurrection

And this still goes on. A man came up to me one time and said, 'You know what I believe? I believe that we will have sex as spirit beings in the Kingdom of God.' I said, 'Where did you get that?' And he kind of looked at me and 'um, um' So, we will see.

Luke 20:27: "Then some of the Sadducees..."

Notice, wave after wave... I imagine that they had their council group somewhere by themselves, and different agents would come in and relay what was going on. They would take a council again, and send someone else out to bring something else. Here are the Sadducees, this is the priest party.

Verse 27: "...who do not believe there is a resurrection..."

Interesting! Even in the priesthood, they didn't believe God! That's what Christ said.

"...came and questioned Him, saying, 'Master, Moses wrote to us that if anyone's brother who had a wife should die, and he should die childless, his brother should take his *dead* brother's wife and raise up seed for his brother'" (vs 27-28).

Therefore, there were seven brothers!

Now, isn't it always the way in argument, to bring up a proposition that is outrageous to try and get an argument? So, here it is seven brothers. Well, you know the whole story. First one died, no children, second one, third one, fourth one, fifth one, sixth one, seventh one. About that time you wonder what's wrong with this family?

So they wanted to know in the resurrection, *which they didn't believe in*, whose husband would take the wife for all seven.

Luke 20:34: "And Jesus answered *and* said to them, 'The children of this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are accounted worthy to obtain that age...' (vs 34-35).

the coming age

"...and the resurrection from *the* dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage; and neither can they die anymore..." (vs 35-36).

there's no need to have children

"...for they are as *the* angels..." (v 36).

Now why didn't he say God? He could have, because we're going to be the sons and daughters of God. Why did he say angels? So, they wouldn't grab Him and take Him and arrest Him ahead of time.

"...and are *the* children of God, being children of the resurrection" (v 36).

John 10—notice what happened when He told them that He was the Son of God. When He did tell them that the Bible says 'we are to be gods.' He had a lot of confrontations leading up to this.

We're looking at the confrontation just before His crucifixion. If you take all the confrontations and stack them up end to end, outside of the people believing in Him and coming to be healed and all that sort of thing, *His ministry was a struggle!* Even the first part of His ministry with the apostles, He even said, 'Oh you of little faith.'

John 10:23: "And Jesus was walking in the temple in Solomon's porch. Then the Jews encircled Him and said to Him, 'How long are You going to hold us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly'" (vs 23-24).

Verse 25: "Jesus answered them, 'I have told you, but you do not believe. The works that I am doing in My Father's name, these bear witness of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you. My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; and no one shall take them out of My hand. My Father, Who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one has the power to seize *them* from My Father's hand. **I and the Father are one**'" (vs 25-30).

Whoa! Look at their response! You know, they didn't run and say, 'You're the Messiah' and bow down. *No!*

Verse 31: "Then the Jews again picked up stones so that they might stone Him.... [loving group] ...Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have showed you from My Father. For which of them are you about to stone Me?' The Jews answered Him, saying, 'We will not stone You for a good work, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a man, are making Yourself God.' Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your law, "I said, 'You are gods'"? If He called them gods, to whom the Word of God came (and the Scriptures cannot be broken)" (vs 31-35).

He's telling them If you don't believe the Scripture that makes no difference, ***you can't break it!***

Verse 36: "*Why* do you say *of Him* Whom the Father has sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am *the* Son of God'? If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me. But if I do, even if you do not believe Me, believe the works; so that you may perceive and may believe that the Father *is* in Me, and I in Him" (vs 36-38).

So, they, again, wanted to take Him, but He escaped away. I don't know how He did that. Jesus as you know can do different things. Remember, after the resurrection. He came across those two walking to Emmaus and they were all discouraged because they thought, well, it's all over. He says, 'What is this you are talking about?' They didn't recognize Him because He had changed His appearance.

Later He walked through the door. Anyone who says they're born again (John 3) just like the wind, go wherever, walk through the door! If you don't like that, try the wall!

He did say it back in John 10, but He said angels here:

Luke 20:36: "...for they are ***as the angels...***" [v 37]: But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed *by his words* at the *burning* bush, when he called *the* Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob; for He is not *the* God of *the* dead, but of *the* living; for all live unto Him.' And some of the scribes answered *and* said, 'Master, You have spoken well.' And *after that* they did not dare to ask Him any more *questions*" (36-40). *That is for a while!*

Now look what happened as we come to the next section here. So, this day was really a day of great confrontation. We will see, it gets even a little more intense.

Section 303—The Two Great Commandments: Love God and Love Your Neighbor

Mark 12:28: "And one of the scribes who had come up *to Him...*

I wonder if someone said He hasn't seen you, go up and ask Him a question.

"...after hearing them reasoning together *and* perceiving that He answered them well, asked Him, 'Which is *the* first commandment of all?' Then Jesus answered him, '*The* first of all the commandments *is*, "Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* Lord, *the* Lord'" (vs 28-29).

Now that's reflective of Deut. 6. Because what does the Bible teach all the way through the Bible? There are two in the Godhead. Not a monotheistic, not tri-theistic, but a dual-theistic. *The Lord!*

Verse 30: "And you shall love *the* Lord your God..."

How much involved are we to be with God, and what God wants us to do? This is what it's all about. This reflects a ***complete commitment, complete faith and complete reliance on God!***

Verse 30: "And you shall love *the* Lord your God with ***all*** your heart, and with ***all*** your soul, and with ***all*** your mind, and with ***all*** your strength.' This *is the* first commandment."

You could take each one of those; the heart, the soul, the mind, the strength, and do a word study through the Bible. What do we read in the Psalms? *The Lord is my strength, my rock and my salvation!* This is how we are to approach it. It's not becoming a religious nut or fanatic. But that's what God commands. Why? *Because he's going to give us eternal life!*

Think of it that way. Every difficulty or trial we come across is an experience so we can grow in grace and knowledge. Some of them are very difficult. Some of them are very trying. But nevertheless, God sees us through it. So, we have to look at the end result.

Verse 31: "And *the* second *is* like this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'..."

- the third one is that ***you shall love each other as I have loved you!***
- the fourth one is, ***you shall love your enemies and pray for those who despitefully use you.***

You can pray many ways for your enemies. Like the rabbi in Fiddler on the Roof, keeping them far from

us! Another one is, 'God deal with them and take care of them.'

I remember there was a man who came and was feigning wanting to work with us, *but he wanted to do his own work* and take everything away from what we had in the early part of what Christian Biblical Church of God was. He came to Monterey, and was going to go on a radio station and do his bit on a radio station. I didn't know that he was going to do that. I heard that he was in Monterey, but I didn't know anything about that. I knew that he was trying to get in and take everything, so I prayed about it, and just asked God to save us from this. Send him away.

Well, he exercised very heavily the night before he was to go on the radio, and after his exercise, he laid down on the floor had a heart attack and he was gone. I can't say God has delivered all of us out of all of our troubles in the same way, but that one particular one is one that I remember. I didn't even know that that happened until about two weeks afterward. Someone came and said, 'Did you know so and so died of a heart attack?' *I was flabbergasted!*

But God will take care of it. If we fall into the hands of the enemy, then we are to witness. Look at what John Gunether has done with all of the Waldensians and those in the Piedmont up there where God protected the people and they translated the Word of God into native languages, and so forth. *They went to their death singing praises to God!* Think about that!

Two comments were made: That the man who died of a heart attack in Monterey was also a false prophet, because he was preaching a lot of false things. They never came to pass. You see the reason why love is the first thing and love is the greatest, because from that comes ***faith, belief, hope, patience and understanding!***

The understanding that we derive from the Bible is not because we have anything greater than any other human being. We don't! But God will give understanding if we are yielding to Him and continuously following His way and the Truth.

Mark 12:32: "Then the scribe said to Him, 'Right, Master. You have spoken according to Truth that God is one, and there is not another besides Him; and to love Him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love *one's* neighbor as oneself, is more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.' And Jesus, seeing that he answered with understanding, said to him, **'You are not far from the Kingdom of God.'**...." (vs 32-34).

Question is, after Jesus' resurrection, did the scribe come into the Church to make it to the Kingdom of God? *Don't know!*

Section 304—How Is Christ the Son of David?

Matthew 22:41: "While the Pharisees were assembled together, Jesus questioned them."

So, it goes back the other way.

Verse 42: "Saying, 'What do you think concerning the Christ? Whose son is He?' They said to Him, '*The Son of David.*'"

Gotcha!

Verse 43: "He said to them, 'How then does David in spirit call Him Lord, saying, "The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet'?"'"

How are you going to answer that? *Next page at the top, second column:*

Verse 45: "Therefore, if David calls Him Lord, how is He his Son?" And no one was able to answer Him a word, neither dared anyone from that day to question Him anymore" (vs 45-46).

Now then, here we come to the great provocation and condemnation. This is, if you would, compare when we get to Mark 12, loving God, and then how Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees. This was the great confrontation, which I think really infuriated them. And this was deliberate, because they were to be infuriated. And they were frustrated, because they couldn't arrest Him, they couldn't do anything to get Him. That's why Judas. We'll see that in a little bit.

Section 305—A Warning Against the Scribes and Pharisees

Mark 12:38: "And He said to them in His teaching, 'Beware of the scribes, who take pleasure in walking around in robes, and in salutations in the marketplaces.'"

I never will forget this; I can still I can still look down and see it happening. I was at the University of San Francisco, which is a Catholic institution. That was before I went to Ambassador College. I couldn't get in there that year, but I was going to take a business course, so I went from College of San Mateo a junior college to University of San Francisco. *Catholic!*

Here I am getting the *Plain Truth* magazine for the first time, all about Satan's Great Deception; all about those things; how the Catholic Church was what it was. So, I'm on the third floor, and it's my fifth week there. My first week, guess what the first mandatory class was? *Study of Philosophy!*

I thought, why aren't they studying the Bible and creation. Here the fifth week and I have all of this, and here's statue of this person and statue that person, and a cross in front of every room and so forth. I'm standing up here looking out the window down, and between the buildings they had a big lawn area with sidewalks going through. Here are the Jesuits with their cassocks on, walking in the morning, reading their prayer book. The students come by and say, 'Good morning, father.' I thought, I just read that in the Bible or in an article, whichever one it was.

That is the day I decided *I must leave*. So, I did. I went down to the registrar's office, opened the door to walk in and guess what I saw? A huge picture, it must have been four feet by six feet, of a very melancholy looking Jesus, with the crown of thorns on His head and a big drop of blood coming down.

I said, 'Oh, I've got to get out of here.' So I did; I got out that very day, because that's what they're like. Now Delores could tell you some stories about archbishops and cardinals coming down to a land development company that she worked for. Once a year they would come down, and the three brothers, who were partners in that company, dreaded them to come because they always extorted \$100,000 or more from each of them. If I recall right, one of them hid in his office for two hours, but he finally gave up and came out, and the cardinal left with his bundle.

Verse 39: "And in *the* chief seats in the synagogues and *the* chief places in the feasts; Who devour the houses of widows, and for a pretext make long prayers. These shall receive *the* greater condemnation" (vs 39-40).

We can see that everything was planned out and worked out by God:

- confrontation between Christ and the religious leaders
- the angels of God
- the demons
- Satan the devil

So we'll see how all that comes together to bring about the crucifixion!

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 5:30-47
- 2) John 8:37-46
- 3) Mark 12:1-2, 7-9
- 4) Matthew 21:41
- 5) Luke 20:16
- 6) Matthew 21:45-46
- 7) Matthew 12:42-43
- 8) John 12:42-50
- 9) Matthew 22:1-14
- 10) Revelation 19:8
- 11) Matthew 22:12-14
- 12) Mark 12:13
- 13) Matthew 22:15
- 14) Luke 20:20-23
- 15) Matthew 22:18
- 16) Mark 12:15
- 17) Luke 20:24-25, 27-28, 34-36
- 18) John 10:23-38
- 19) Luke 20:36-40
- 20) Mark 12:28-34
- 21) Matthew 22:41-46
- 22) Mark 12:38-40

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Mark 3
- 1 Peter 2
- John 7
- Isaiah 5
- Matthew 28:19
- John 3
- Deuteronomy 6

Also referenced:

Sermon Series:

- *The Lord God and The Most High*
- *Tithing*

Book: *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter

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The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life III

Jesus' secret preparation for His final Passover

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

We're getting close, about five weeks away, to Passover and Unleavened Bread! Here is what we're advertising this week, which will be very, very helpful to you for Unleavened Bread: Sermon Series and CD: *How to Overcome the Sin Within!* That's important, because that's the whole key of Christianity.

Religion is to make you good living in the community one to another. True Christianity is *conversion*, which is a transformation of the mind and thinking with God's Spirit and His Word. That way your mind is being transformed by God's Spirit will produce good results on the outside.

As we're going to see, this is perfectly described by Jesus in talking to the scribes and Pharisees in exposing them.

Remember, this day—Nisan 11, Sunday April 2, 30 AD—is ***the day of confrontation and provocation!*** Jesus comes on them really strong and very hard. Remember, all of this took place at the temple area. There were thousands of people there, and hundreds and hundreds of Levites and probably scores of priests.

from: *A Harmony of the Gospels*, pg 231

Section 305—A Warning Against the Scribes and Pharisees

This is not like traditional sermons; this is like a Bible study, because we're going through most of the verses. Some of the areas, like in Matt. 24, we're not going to go into detail in great parts of it, because we've had so many sermons on it anyway.

Matthew 23:1: "Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, saying, 'The scribes and the Pharisees have **sat down on Moses' seat as judges**'" (vs 1-2).

Why was that translated that way? *This is to show that the priests and the Levites*—some of scribes were Levites, but not all—"...**sat down on Moses' seat**..." to make judgments.

But the Pharisees were not of the priestly line. Some may have been, but Pharisee was a *political party*. What Jesus is saying here is that He wants everything to be conducted in decent order through God's Word.

Verse 3: "Therefore, every judgment...

as judges

"...that they tell you to observe, observe and do..."

Their judgments were based upon the Word of God! They would come to the judgment seat with a problem, or defugalty, get it settled and they would give the judgment based on the Word of God.

"...But do not do according to their works; for they say and do not" (v 3).

Note Mark 7 about *the traditions of men*. When they kept their traditions, *they were rejecting the Word of God!* It was sort of a very obtuse thing that they did. Picture the Law of God in the middle; they designed the traditions *to go around the Law of God* so that if people did these traditions they wouldn't break the commandments. But after having so many of these traditions, the traditions themselves were breaking the commandments of God. This is why Jesus said,

"...do not do according to their works; for they say and do not For they bind heavy burdens and hard to bear, and lay *them* on the shoulders of men; but they will not move them with *one of their own fingers*" (vs 3-4).

Just like all political systems, the elite are never caught and judged. Look at it today right here in America with the Clinton and Obama eras, ***and they're all getting away with it!***

Verse 5: "And they do all their works to be seen by men. They make broad their phylacteries and enlarge the borders of their garments."

I thought of that when I saw a hearing with one of the so-called great generals. He had his stars, medals, ribbons on both sides of his chest; he was very impressive.

Verse 6: "And they love... [v 7] the salutations in the marketplaces, and to be called by men 'Rabbi, Rabbi.' But you are not to be called Rabbi; for one is your Master, the Christ..." (vs 6-8).

We're going to see that He says this the second time!

"...and all of you are brethren. Also, do not call *anyone* on the earth **your Father**..." (vs 8-9).

Very important! Years ago, about 1973, I was on the radio program called *Religion Online* four Sundays in a row. There was a rabbi, a Catholic priest, and

me. I was the so-called Protestant. Every time someone would call in and say to the priest, 'Why you call each other *Father* when the Bible says to not call anyone *your Father*?' They never could answer that. They would all stumble and so forth. A lot of people know that.

Verse 11: "But the greatest among you shall be your servant."

Serve the people, that's the whole thing! What was said that was wrong 'way back when' in the Church of God? *In order to be in the Kingdom of God you must learn to be ruled over by the ministry!* That's not correct! ***You must be ruled over by God! All of us individually! That's why we have the Spirit of God!***

Verse 9: "...for one is your Father..."

Father is the sacred name of God the Father (John 17). All of those who try to bring in Hebrew sacred names, and replace them in the New Testament, are adding to the Word of God, *that God never authorized to be!*

Don't you think that if Hebrew sacred names were necessary in the New Testament, that the apostles—being those who understood Hebrew and Greek—could have easily written the Hebrew name? *Of course!*

The Old Testament was more like a 'religion.' You corrected the mistakes that you did, and the sacrifice was given to forgive that action. ***It never the cleansed the mind!*** That's the key.

Verse 10: "Neither be called Master; for one is your Master, the Christ.

The word for master in the Greek is 'despotes'—from which we get the English word *despot*! Master is someone whom you give absolute love and obedience to, and that's Christ and God the Father. After saying all of this, why did He put this here? Because every one of the things He said *don't do* is what men do to exalt themselves.

Verse 12: "And whoever will exalt himself shall be humbled; and whoever will humble himself shall be exalted."

Our exaltation comes at the resurrection! In the mean time, we're to be brethren, and those who are elders and teachers are to teach the brethren and not rule over them.

The thing that is important with God's Holy Spirit is one of the fruits of the Spirit is *self-control*. Where does self-control come from? Your choosing *to do right* from your choosing to withhold *doing what is wrong*. You choose it! We all have certain things that we're working on that are hard to control. I do, you do, everybody does and that will continue

until we die or the resurrection, one of the two. There are eight *woes* to the scribes and Pharisees by Christ.

- every word of God is true
- every word of God is living
- every word of God will take place one way or the other

Verse 11: "But the greatest among you shall be your **servant**."

Greek is 'diakonos.' What do you suppose the English word is? *Deacon*! Christ came to 'diakono,' *to serve!*

- Was Christ a deacon?
- A teacher?
- A minister?
- *Yes!*
- Savior?

Verse 13: "But ^[#1]**woe** to you, scribes and Pharisees, **hypocrites!**..."

They are looking for the accumulation of things and notoriety in this world, that is *good* notoriety. But Christ is revealing their evil notoriety here. In the first edition of the *Harmony* I translated this is 'sanctimonious pretenders.' That is what they were!

"...For you devour widows' houses, and as a pretext you offer prayers of great length. Because of this, you shall receive *the* greater judgment. ^[#2]**Woe** to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven before men; for neither do you yourselves enter, nor do you allow those who are entering to enter. ^[#3]**Woe** to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel the sea and the land to make one proselyte, and when he has become one, you make him twofold more **a son of Gehenna** than yourselves" (vs 13-15).

What is he saying to him with this? What is Gehenna? *Lake a Fire*! So, they're making them converts to go into the Lake of Fire. Of course, that would be unless the person repented.

Verse 16: "^[#4]**Woe** to you, blind guides..."

- What makes people blind *spiritually*?
- What made the scribes and Pharisees blind?

Here is Christ fulfilling all the Scriptures; they had all the Scriptures! They wanted to kill Him because He was a competitor. When you read the book of Acts about the first eight chapters are pretty powerful against them. Did they ever have a witness?

We'll just project to head a little bit; we're going to see that when Judas Iscariot came to them to betray Jesus, *they rejoiced* and when Christ died they thought they had the problem solved. It wasn't; their problems just began! So, He's doing all of this to provoke them!

"...blind guides..." How does a person become blind? *John 9, about the man born blind!* The disciples asked Jesus, 'Who sinned? his parents? or him? How can a baby in the womb sin? What is sin? Transgression of the Law? What did Jesus say? *He didn't sin, nor did His parents sin, but for the glory of God!*

God Himself made that man blind for the very purpose of Jesus healing him. You read John 9. Jesus healed him and then the Pharisees found out about it and they brought him in and said, 'How do you receive sight?' *This man told me to put some clay on my eyes and went down Pool Shiloam and washed, and I can see!*

'Who was He?' *I don't know, He left and I can't find Him!* 'We don't believe you, bring in his parents. Is this your son?' *Yes, that's our son!* 'How does he see?' *We don't know, ask him!*

Then they said, 'This man, we know He's not from God.' And the blind man who could now see said to them, 'How can someone who is not of God do something that has never been done since the creation of the world to heal someone born blind so that they could see? 'You're altogether unclean' and they disfellowshipped him out of the synagogue! Sound like the experience some of you went through at the Church? The truth is, people become blind when they know the Word of God and avoid it, turn their back on it or walk away from it. *Automatic blinding!*

Why? *Because the deceitful nature within will generate and excuse as to why you're walking away is correct!* What that does makes them blind! That's why Jesus said, "...blind guides..." They're the ones who are supposed to guide the people, but they can't see the signs of the times, or the fact that it is Jesus Christ.

"...who say, 'Whoever shall swear by the temple..." (v 16).

Notice that it's always a picky little point that never amounts to anything.

"...it is not binding; but whoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is obligated to fulfill his oath" (v 16).

What is that based upon? *The covetous nature! Gold!*

Verse 17: "*You fools* and blind!...."

Greek: 'moranio'—from where we get the word *moron!* Idiots!

"...For which is greater, the gold, or the temple, which sanctifies the gold? And *you say*, 'Whoever shall swear by the altar, it is not binding; but whoever shall swear by the gift that is upon it, he is obligated to fulfill his oath.' *You fools and blind!....*" (vs 17-19).

Here are all these self-righteous officials out there thinking: Who is this coming after us this way? They thought all of these rules are correct. These define righteousness, and Who is this coming in here to knock it all down and say that 'we're fools and blind'?

"...For which is greater, the gift, or the altar, which sanctifies the gift? Therefore, the one who swears by the altar swears by it, and by all things that are upon it. And the one who swears by the temple swears by it, and by Him Who dwells in it. And the one who swears by heaven swears by the throne of God, and by Him Who sits upon it" (vs 19-22).

- What's the solution?
- What did Jesus say in Matt. 5 about what you should say?
- *Let your yes be 'yes' and your no be 'no'!*

Verse 23: ^[#5]**Woe** to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, but you have abandoned the more important *matters* of the law—judgment, and mercy and faith.

Luke 11:42: "**But woe to you, Pharisees!** For you pay tithes of mint and rue and every herb, **but you pass over the judgment and the love of God....**"

Matthew 23:23: "...These *you* were obligated to do, and not to leave the others undone"

In other words, the most important things of God are not how much money the organization can bring in. But those who are truly converted and truly love God will tithe and give offerings without having to be 'beaten over the head.' Almost every co-worker letter that went out there was an urgent plea for money. What happened to the whole organization? Not all at once, but where is it today? *I'll let you think on that!*

Verse 24: "Blind guides, who filter out a gnat, but swallow a camel! ^[#6]**Woe** to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and the dish..." (vs 24-25).

Outside you look great! Let's use another example of this today. At the Academy Awards they're all dressed up, looking sharp, but *within* what are they? *Most of them nothing but a sexual bunch of animals crawling all over the place!* There may be a good actor or two in there.

- What does God want from people? *The cleansing of the inside!*
- How does that happen? *With God's Word and God's Spirit, 'the washing of the water by the Word.'*

Verse 26: "Blind Pharisees! First cleanse the inside of the cup and the dish, so that the outside may also become clean."

There's the whole principle stated right here this one verse.

Verse 27: ^[#7]**Woe** to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful *on the outside*, but within are full of the bones of the dead, and of all uncleanness."

No telling what you find in there. Think about this: How is God going to resurrect all of those who died at sea; most of them were eaten by sharks or other sea animals. That's why when a man or woman dies, the spirit goes back to God. That's the key. Everything that you are is recorded on that spirit of man. If you're unconverted, everything that you are. ***If you are converted, your spirit of man within you is what then is the key for resurrection to eternal life!***

It doesn't make any difference how many are eaten up by sharks, the spirit of man goes back to God when they die. We know that the spirit of just men are under the altar of God (Heb. 12). Does God have a place for the spirits of those who did not commit the unpardonable sin, but are worthy of the second resurrection? *Of course, He would have to!*

How about for those who are wicked? We saw 'make him son of Gehenna. How about those who committed the unpardonable sin?

Sidebar: Can someone unconverted commit the unpardonable sin? *Yes!* Because when they're resurrected in the second resurrection, and there's no repentance, guess where you're going?

Do you think Hitler committed the unpardonable sin? *I don't know how bad a person could get!* Even to the end sending 12-16 year-olds out to try and save Berlin when it was surrounded by the Russians. They were going building to building, killing everyone they could find. What did Hitler do? *He went down 38-feet below the*

surface and took his poison pill and died along with the others!

Goebbels and his children all took cyanide capsules. Wonderful ending the Great Reich! How about that for a fulfillment of those who exalt themselves? *They shall be abased!* It doesn't say *humbled*, but ***abased!*** Is that an abasement? *Yes, in the basement!*

Verse 29: ^[#8]**Woe** to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!....

Isn't this the way that people always excuse themselves?

"...For you build the sepulchers of the prophets, and adorn the tombs of the righteous; and you say, 'If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.'" (vs 29-30).

Who were they going to kill and partake of blood? *Christ, the greatest of the Prophets!*

Verse 32: "And *as for* you, you are filling up the measure of your fathers. *You serpents, you offspring of vipers...*" (vs 32-33).

I remember going the zoo in San Diego, California, Jonathan and David always loved to go to the reptile house where the snakes were, and get up close to the glass and say, 'Dad, come and look!'

We came to the Palestinian Viper and I was astonished at that. I looked at that and said, 'I don't ever want to go to Palestine. I would always walk about six feet away from the glass where all the serpents were. You can't get it any worse than vipers!'

"...how shall you escape the judgment of Gehenna?" (v 33).

- How many times did Jesus say 'Gehenna' here? *At least three times!*
- Where were they headed?

Verse 34: "Because of this, behold, I send to you prophets and wise *men* and scribes; and *some* of them you shall kill and crucify, and *some* of them you shall scourge in your synagogues, and *some of them* you shall persecute from city to city; so that upon you may come all the righteous blood poured out upon the earth, from the blood of Abel the righteous, unto the blood of Zacharias..." (vs 34-35).

In English this is 'from A to Z!'

"...son of Barachias, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Truly I

say to you, **all these things shall come upon this generation**" (vs 35-36).

We will see the phrase "this generation" here applies to the current generation that He was speaking to. We will find in Matt. 24 the same phrase, but it has other qualifiers in the context to show that means *the last generation*.

Verse 37: "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *you* who kill the prophets and stone those who have been sent to you, how often would I have gathered your children together, even as a hen gathers her brood under *her* wings, but you refused!"

All the way through here, all of this is based upon choices. That's why it's important for us to know: What do we choose on a daily basis? You can't have a behavior out here that is exemplary but in your mind/heart you have a dual standard. That's called *a carnal mind*, and that's what we are to overcome.

Verse 38: "Behold, your house is left to you desolate. For I say to you, you shall not see Me at all from this time forward, until you shall say, Blessed is He Who comes in *the* name of *the* Lord'" (vs 38-39).

You see these coins (*Harmony* pg. 233). These are actual temple coins are the temple during Jesus' day. Now, what we did with it was we had the picture of one coin. So we had a photographer, take that one coin and do step and repeat, step and repeat until he came up with this batch of temple coins.

Section 306—A Widow's Mite is More Than Large Donations by the Rich

Now here's something that's always true, and this became a fallacy in the Church of God in the past.

Mark 12:41: "And after sitting down opposite the *temple* treasury, He observed how the people were casting money into the treasury; and many rich ones were putting *in* much."

One of the qualifications for someone to be an elder in the Church was the first thing they did was check up on the tithing record. If the person didn't tithe as much as they thought he should he couldn't be an elder. That's not necessarily buying an eldership, but that's coming pretty close to it!

I'm going to watch on the TBN and if someone refers to it here on Sunday. 'Now you all come here and look what they did. Those who are rich put in a lot.' They'll stop there. They won't talk about the widow. 'The more you send in the happier you'll be, and the more blessed you will be.'

- Can Satan give things to people to make it look like a blessing from God? *Yes!*
- Didn't Satan offer Jesus the whole world and rulership of it? Of course!

Verse 42: "And one poor widow came *and* dropped *in* two tiny coins, which is equal to one copper coin. Then He called His disciples to *Him* and said to them, 'Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put *in* more than all of those who are casting *money* into the treasury'" (vs 42-43).

It's not how much you give; it is *how faithful you are to God!* That's what counts! The widow was faithful and above and beyond with her two mites.

Verse 44: "For everyone *else* contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her destitution put *in* as much as she had, *giving* all her living."

I don't think that was all her living for the rest of her life, but all her living up to a certain point.

Section 307—Jesus and His Disciples Leave the Temple Area

We're going to just cover a few important points in Matt. 24 so that we understand where we're going with it. I could start almost every letter I write in Matt. 24 today. But we need to understand what happened here.

I was given an article by a man in one of the Churches of God that said that 'getting rid of all the stones did not mean the foundation stones.' He's giving the Jewish presentation where the Mosque of Omar is saying that if that's where the temple was then the foundation stones weren't counted. But that's not where the temple was or will be.

Matthew 24:1: "And after going out, Jesus departed from the temple; and His disciples came to *Him* to point out the buildings of the temple."

{Fred is describing—see video of this message—the placement of the temple and the Valley of Kidron, and showing that it's real steep up to the temple. Also, showing where the Mt. of Olives is and that it's higher than the temple area.}

On the Mt. of Olives was the Miphkad Altar, which was where they took all the sin offerings, because they had to be burned completely. none of the meat was to be eaten by any person or the priests and Jesus was crucified close to the Miphkad Altar outside the camp.

Verse 2: "But Jesus said to them, 'Do you not see all these things?....'"

Think about this in relationship to what you would think if you were one of the apostles there with Jesus

and He said this to you because you were impressed with the beautiful rocks, the beautiful stones and with the building of the temple and the wall and everything like that. They had all of it stone-covered 650-feet.

“...‘Do you not see all...” (v 2).

That means every bit of it!

- Why did the area where the Mosque of Omar is remain untouched?
- Who destroyed the temple? *The Romans!*
- Whose property was area where the Mosque of Omar was? *Fort Antonia!*

That was Roman property. So, the Romans didn't destroy it. Not because the temple was there, but because it was their own property. They wanted to destroy everything Jewish with the greatest hatred possible.

“...Do you not see all these things? Truly...” (v 2).

In truth!

“...I say to you, there shall not be left here even a stone upon a stone that shall not be thrown down” (v 2).

That's quite inclusive!

Mark 13:2: “Then Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Do you see these great buildings? There shall not be left a stone upon a stone that shall not be thrown down.’”

Luke 21:6: “As for these things that you now see, the days will come in which there shall not be left one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down.”

Section 308—On the Mount of Olives Jesus Prophesies to His Disciples about the Events Leading up to: 1) The Sign of His Second Coming; 2) The Completion of the Age

We will quickly go through Matthew 24:

- vs 3-5—false prophets
- v 6—wars and rumors of wars
- v 7—nation against nation
- v 9—deliver you up to affliction
- v 10—many will be led into sin
- v 11—many false prophets

Verse 12: “And because lawlessness shall be multiplied, the love of many shall grow cold. **But the one who endures to the end, that one shall be saved.**”

Verse 14 is a prelude to what will happen until Christ returns:

Verse 14: “And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world for a witness to all nations, and then shall the end come.”

Think about it today, how that with a cell phone anyone can connect with the Word of God, even the Protestant outlets Catholic outlets and we're seeing like we found with Chancy Normandon how that they searched as a group for eight years.

Mac search for how many years I think it was three years before he came to our first service when we were down at a little hall at the other end of the building. Then shall the end come. Verse 15 is a key. This is the key that tells us plan the end is going to begin.

Verse 15: “Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the Holy place.” **(The one who reads, let him understand.)**”

That phrase Jesus did not say! If you have *King James* with red letters, and they put that in red letters, understand that Jesus wasn't writing a thing! John put that there because in 70_{A.D.} the temple was destroyed. There was no *abomination of desolation* that stood in the holy place as described by Paul (2-Thess. 2), who declared himself to be ‘God’! ***Didn't happen!***

So, this is telling us: “...(The one who **reads, let him understand**)”--because John didn't understand it. He knew of 2-Thess. 2 and he knew the vision given to him of the temple was true, so therefore, he said, ‘I know there's go to be another temple built, but I don't understand it, so “...**The one who reads, let him understand.**”’

It could not be understood until getting down to our day.

Verse 16: “Then let those who are in Judea flee into the mountains. Let the one *who is* on the housetop not come down to take anything out of his house” (vs 16-17).

Verse 20: “And pray that your flight be not in the winter, nor on the Sabbath.”

(go to the next track)

I wonder what the apostles thought when Jesus said the Gospel is going to be proclaimed in all the world to all the nations? What was their concept of the world? Middle East? Asia Minor? North Africa? That was about it!

The actual earth is gigantic and is covered with more water than land. Of course, they didn't know. How is this going to work?

Imagine what they felt when Jerusalem was destroyed, the temple was destroyed, and Christ hadn't returned. We covered that in the apostasy series: *How Apostasy Starts*—how that the false teachers would say, 'Look, our interpretations are more correct because Jesus didn't return.'

Matthew 24:21: "For **then**..."

He said in v 20, 'Don't let your flight be in the winter or on the Sabbath,' which tells you that the time to flee—if you look at the chart of Daniel/Revelation series—it comes out about two weeks after the Feast of Tabernacle while it's still fall and before winter. Not in the summer, because you'd get some of those areas that are so hot that you would die.

What tells us **when** that fulfill the **then**? *The abomination of desolation* (v 15)—*the when*!

Verse 21: "For **then** shall there be great tribulation, such as has not been from *the* beginning of *the* world until this time, nor ever shall be *again*."

None this that we're reading now took place at the time of the destruction of the second temple and Jerusalem.

Verse 22: "And if those days were not limited..."

The *King James* says *cut short*. The preachers' ideal verse. 'You better get your life in order because God you got to cut the time short.' How many times did we hear that? *No! It's limited!* What is the limit of time? How long is the Tribulation? *Three and a half years! It's limited, not cut short!*

"...there would no flesh be saved; but for the elect's sake those days shall be limited. Then if anyone says to you, 'Behold, here is the Christ,' or, '*He is there*,' do not believe *it*." (v 22).

Now notice what's ahead of us:

Verse 24: "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets..."

We're going to be flooded with them!

"...and they shall present great signs and wonders..." (v 24).

What's going to happen with the false prophet in Rev. 13? *He's going to call down fire!* If you see that, 'seeing is believing.'

"...in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect" (v 24).

We haven't even come close to that kind of thing, yet! If the multitude believes it, you say, 'No, that's of Satan!' *How could this be of Satan?* Let's start with bringing *the beast* back to life. How could this be of Satan? *Look, he's bringing peace to the whole world!*

Verse 25: "Behold, I have foretold *it* to you. Therefore, if they say to you, '*Come and see! He is in the wilderness*'; do not go forth. '*Come and see! He is in the secret chambers*'; **do not believe it**. For as the light of day..." (vs 25-27).

Malachi 4:2^[transcriber's correction]: "...the **Sun** of Righteousness shall arise..." *Here it is:*

Matthew 24:27: "For as the light of day, which comes forth from *the* east and shines as far as *the* west, so also shall the coming of the Son of man be."

Here's what happens in Bible description: many times it will give you an introduction telling you what's going to come then a little further it defines what it is. This is what we have here.

Verse 28: "For wherever the carcass may be, there will the eagles be gathered together."

That's a hard one to figure except to say that if the eagles are angels and the Church is in a place of safety, that may be define it, possibly, the way it would be interpreted.

Verse 29: "But immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken."

What is that going to do for time based upon the Calculated Hebrew Calendar? *It's going to knock it all 'caddy wampus'!* That's why only the Father knows the time or the day. It's all out of sequence, out of order. What are you going to do? From new moon to full moon with all this going on, it turns out to be 17 or 18 days. That's why it's not going to happen until that time, because it too confusing for those who are keeping the Feast and Holy Days today.

Verse 30: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man..."

The sign of the Son of man is:

Verse 27: "For as the light of day, which comes forth from *the* east and shines as far as *the* west..."

That defines:

Verse 30: "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn and they shall see the Son of man coming upon the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

There's a gap of time between the sign of the Son of man and when He actually comes to the earth; that time is a little over one year, about 15 or 16 months.

Let's take the Bible and see when the sign of the Son of man appears. I'll direct you to any *Day 49* or *Day 50—Pentecost*—for more details on this to get how the sequence comes about. Rev. 6 is the opening of the seven seals.

Revelation 6:12: "And when He opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as *the hair of sackcloth*... [that's what we're talking about in Matt. 24] ...and the moon became as blood; and the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its untimely figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then *the heaven departed like a scroll*..." (vs 12-14).

A scroll is rolled up in two parts, generally speaking. It's opening up in the heavens. This didn't happen in 70 A.D.

"...that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place" (v 14). *That's going to be something!*

We've got this globe over here, and many people believe that if they can get a nice island in the South Seas 'I'll escape everything.' One tsunami takes care of you, and this is going to bring a lot of tsunamis. Other people think if they just get a cabin up in the mountains, nobody knows where they are. What are you going to do when you find you're down in the valley and not up in the mountain?

Verse 15: "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the powerful men, and every bondman, and every free *man* hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains."

This is devastation such has never, *never*, *never* has been. Isn't that what Christ said? *Yes!*

Verse 16: "And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from *the* face of Him Who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, because the great day of His wrath has come, and who has the power to stand?'" (vs 16-17).

That is introduced one heavens roll back and there looks like a second sun. Think about ancient aliens. Think about everyone believing the world is going to be attacked by aliens. How come they all

know it's Christ? Well, there'll be a lot of people who will know that. But if you are told by the leader and *the beast* and the *false prophet* that what this represents an existential threat to the world, and it's really not Christ. Did they do that with His first coming? So, what will they do with His second coming?

Things will change. Things will change when it comes to Rev. 7; things change to a terrible calm and the winds are not even blowing. Then the 144,000 and the great innumerable multitude are saved, and everybody is in a different posture by time we get to Rev. 8; they start fighting against each other with great intensity and demons join them and so forth.

If you want a real in-depth study on it, get the Daniel/Revelation series.

Matthew 24:31: "And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet; and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to *the other*."

It goes from His showing Himself with the heavens being rolled back up to the point of the resurrection; but there's a lot in between.

Verse 32: "Now, learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branches have already become tender, and it puts forth its leaves, you know that summer *is* near."

We're going to see a lot of things coming, and a lot of those things are going to look like good things for the world. People getting along with each other, *peace!* After all we've gone through, won't people want peace? Won't they be told by the *false prophet* that this is from God?

Verse 33: "In like manner also, when you see **all** these things, know that it is near, even at *the doors*."

Now, here's this phrase that we saw back in Matt. 23:

Verse 34: "Truly I say to you, **this generation** shall in no wise pass away until **all** these things have taken place."

That's the last generation! Who is the last generation? We thought that it was us many times.

Verse 36: "But concerning that day, and the hour, no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only."

In Mark it says that not even the Son knows.

Verse 37: "Now, as *it was in* the days of Noah, so shall *it* also be *at* the coming of the Son of man. For as in the days that

were before the Flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark" (vs 37-38).

- If the days are like the days of Noah, what do we have today? *We have all kinds of things!*
- Do you suppose that Noah and his sons had electric power? Power saws? (speculation)

If it was like today, we could say that that would be an assumption. So, think about it! We have decided that there could have been atomic power, or it could have been an explosion of the sun. But there are cities in India that have so much radioactivity that you have to conclude that it's possible that that is because of human warfare. They even have carved toys that look like jet planes. Either way it goes it's a bad situation.

Because we don't know the day or the hour, and the heavens are all going to be shaken, the sun, moon and stars, everything is going to be affected. Nevertheless, this applies down through time from v 42. We even have the record of the Waldensians when they saw everything going on: The crusaders coming down to the Holy Land. They said, 'The Day of the Lord is not far away'—*in 1120!*

Verse 42: "**Watch, therefore, because you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming.** But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have been watching, and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore, **you also be ready**" (vs 42-44).

- Can Christ come upon you at any time?
- How does He come upon you?
- Do you think that Christ came upon WCG to do the things that were done because of their sins?

That doesn't mean His bodily return to the earth!

"...For the Son of man is coming at a time that you do not think. Who then is the faithful and wise servant whom his lord has set over his household, to give them food in due season?" (vs 44-45).

Here's what we need to do, and this pretty well takes care of most of Matt. 24:

Verse 46: "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he comes shall find so doing. Truly I say to you, he will set him over all his property. But if that evil servant shall say in his heart, 'My lord delays *his* coming,' and shall begin to beat *his* fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken, the lord of that servant will come

in a day that he does not expect, and in an hour that he does not know. And he shall cut him asunder and shall appoint his portion with the hypocrites. **There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth**" (vs 46-51).

That last verse jumps ahead to the final judgment at the end. So, we must always be:

- moving forward
- doing what is right
- living by the Word of God

Not saying that Jesus' return is a long way off! A lot of us remember when we thought He was coming in 1975. He didn't come! What happened to the Church? Took a while! POOF!

Section 309—Jesus Leaves the City Each Night

Luke 21:37: "And during *the* day He was in the temple teaching, and at night He went out and lodged on the mountain called *the Mount* of Olives."

He had a camping place right there on the Mount of Olives!

Verse 38: "And all the people came to Him in the temple early in the morning to hear Him."

He would come there at sunrise and be there all day, go out and come back.

Section 310—The Parable of the Ten Virgins

This is the story of those who are faithful and those who are sleeping and what happens. To show what a vessel/lamp means, we have a picture of an actual oil lamp from that age. They put the oil in and had the wick where it burned the oil.

How long would that last? *Not very long!* So, the ones who are wise had reserve; they always carried reserves. The ones who were foolish do not have any reserve, which tells you what the story is:

- if you don't study
- if you don't pray
- if you're not preparing
- if you're not taking each day as it comes

Then you may end up going to sleep!

- Have you seen those who've gone to sleep?
- Have you seen those who don't wake up?
- Have you seen those who have been deceived?

This is the whole story of the parable of the virgins! Same way with:

Section 311—The Parable of the Talents

He gives the talents, and those who are successful, what does He say? *Well done, faithful servant!*

Now here is something is not known very much today: *a steward is someone who takes what the master gives them!* He gave them five pounds, two pounds and one pound. A steward is to take that money make a profit for the owner of it, and not take anything for himself.

It's likened to those who preach and teach. We are to be stewards:

1. of God's Word
2. of God's people

We are not to take anything to ourselves to ingratiate ourselves and exalt ourselves. But to teach! Remember where we started with the parable how the Gentiles are ruled over. Their great ones and religious leaders have authority over them. Jesus said, 'It's not to be that way with you.' We are to teach!

An interesting comment was made by a man recently when he was looking for a church that would provide for them—the materials and things like that, in listening to some of them, most of them *preach*, but 'what we found with Christian Biblical, all the ministers *teach!*'

Last night in our Go to Meeting, there was an excellent sermon by Roger Kendall and I was very happy to see it because he slowed down in his speaking which was a major thing for him. He did an excellent job! that's what we need to do. All the elders need to teach. And the best thing we can teach is *how you can run your own life with the Spirit of God and not have a minister be ruling over you!* That can't work! That never works! If you want that join the Catholic Church!

Section 312—The Judgment of the Nations

Section 313—After Two Days the Passover Comes

Matthew 26:1: "Now, it came to pass *that* when Jesus had finished all these sayings, He said to His disciples, '**You know...**'" (vs 1-2).

That tells us that they knew the times and all that sort of thing!

"...that after two days the Passover takes place, and the Son of man is delivered up to be crucified" (v 2).

But they didn't understand that last sentence.

Verse 3: "Then the chief priests and the

scribes and the elders of the people assembled together in the court of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas; and *they* took counsel together for the purpose of seizing Jesus by treachery, and killing *Him*. But they said, 'Not during the Feast, so that there will not be a riot among the people'" (vs 3-5).

Mark 14:1: "Now, after two days was the Passover **and** the *Feast of Unleavened Bread...*"

Luke 22:1: "Now, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which *is* called Passover, was approaching."

Luke is showing how the Jews interpreted it, because they kept the Passover on the 15th.

You'll have to read *The Christian Passover* book to get all the details of it. But I only found one rabbi who wrote and said that 'we do nothing on the 14th because we are in the Diaspora and our sins are following in the footsteps of our fathers.'

What they did in the Diaspora, they took the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread and called that *the Passover*, and instead of observing The Night Much to Be Remembered, they made that the night of the Seder.

When you read Deut. 16, if you misinterpret it, you may think that that authorizes the *Passover sacrifice* at the temple. Read it carefully and you will see that the offerings are to be from *the flock and the herd*. I challenge you to show me one place in the Bible that talks about the *Passover calf*. When you understand Exo. 13 about the redemption of the firstborn, you will see that all those sacrifices of the day portion of the 14th called *Passover Offerings* were offerings mostly for the redemption of the firstborn of man and beast.

Then they had the Night to be Much Remembered, and the instruction was to 'return to your tent in the morning.' *So, they stayed up all night on the Night to be Much Observed!*

Section 314—In Bethany, Jesus is Anointed for His Burial

He was anointed twice. Where was the first anointing? *Lazarus' house where Mary and Martha were!* Mary was the one who was doing Jesus' feet. This one here is in a different place.

Matthew 26:6: "Now, when Jesus was in Bethany, in **Simon the leper's house.**"

That is not Lazarus!

Verse 7: "A woman came to Him with an alabaster flask of ointment, very precious,

and poured it on His head...”

The first anointing was on His feet!

“...as He sat down to eat” (v 7).

- How did all of this come about?
- How did we have two flasks of alabaster ointment?
- Who was in charge of making sure that everything was carried out? *All the angels!*
- Who was in charge of the adversary trying to thwart everything that was being done? *Satan the devil and his minions the priests!*
- Who was the one who betrayed Jesus? *Judas Iscariot!*

We need to realize that there were angels, demons, high level demons. This was great, great thing to happen, and it was a combat of the ages, because here's the sacrifice of God in the person of the Son of God, His only Begotten Jesus Christ!

Verse 8: “But when His disciples saw it, they became indignant and said, ‘What reason is there for this waste? For this ointment could have been sold for much, and the money given to the poor.’ But Jesus knew this and said to them, ‘Why do you cause trouble for this woman? For she has performed a good work toward Me. For you have the poor with you always, but you do not always have Me. What this woman did in pouring this ointment on My body, she did for My burial!’” (vs 8-12).

After saying this will be preached in all the world (Matt. 26:13) both of them are talked about.

Nisan 12—Monday, April 3, 30 AD

Section 315—Judas Betrays Jesus to the Chief Priests for 30 Pieces of Silver

Luke 22:3: “Then Satan entered into Judas, who was surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went away, and spoke with the chief priests and the captains about a way by which he might betray Him to them. And they rejoiced...” (vs 3-5).

Think about that for a minute!

- Can Satan make people happy?
- Can Satan make people laugh?
- Yes!

I'm going to a couple of Church at Home {churchathome.org} called *Satan's Trickery of Children!*

There is a new movie coming out by Walt Disney... Think about this: when you understand

what comes out of Disney World, *everything there is based on satanism! Every single thing!* It starts out kind of funny and nice, but they are going to have a movie about a child who has four parents, instilling in children the confusion of gender reality. Is not that evil? *But it's going to be presented as funny!*

I remember when we first saw Star Wars. Jonathan, David and Stephen were all excited in the car going home. I said to them, ‘This is all satanism.’ *Ah, Dad!*

It is! Who was the god that they worshipped? *Yoda!* That starts with the same letter as Yahweh. *Things are getting more and more evil!*

They rejoiced! They thought this could never happen. We've been planning and plotting and scheming! Here it ‘fall into our lap.’ Think about how victorious they felt!

Luke 22:6: “And he promised, and sought an opportunity to betray Him to them away from the multitude.”

Mark 14:11: “And after hearing this, they were delighted and promised to give him money....”

Matthew 26:15: “And said, ‘What are you willing to give me, and I will deliver Him up to you?’ And they offered him thirty pieces of silver.”

There again, we took the temple coins and put thirty pieces of silver.

Here's to show you that there was a lot going on with the angels in making everything take place. We're going to see why Jesus did it this way. In order for Jesus to be arrested at the right place, at the right time, and not before hand.

This last Passover, Jesus didn't tell any of the disciples where they were going to keep it. This presented a problems for Judas. If Jesus had told them, Judas could have gone to the chief priest and told him where they were keeping the Passover, ‘come over and get Him there, and you can get all the disciples, as well.’ *Jesus didn't tell them!*

Section 316—The Disciples Prepare for the Passover

These are literal translations of the Greek:

Matthew 26:17: “Now, on the first of the unleaveneds...”

No day was there!

“...the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, ‘Where do You desire that we prepare for You to eat the Passover?’ And He said, ‘Go into the city to such a

man...” (vs 17-18).

He didn't tell them who or where!

“...and say to him, “The Teacher says, ‘My time is near; I will keep the Passover with My disciples at your house’”” (v 18).

Mark 14:12: “And on the first day of the unleaveneds...”

There's a footnote I want you to read. If this were the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, think of the problems that you would have. Passover Day would already be gone! How could Christ be our Passover if this were the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread?

In addition, think on this: Since the Jews kept the Passover a day later, they would have kept their Passover on the 16th and not the 15th. So, what is the answer? *Read in the Passover book, the Passover Day is an unleavened bread day in addition to the seven! Josephus* writes of eight days of Unleavened Bread.

It used to be in the past that the people would take the Passover on the correct day and they were told they could have a hamburger in the day portion and eat leavened bread on the day portion. If you eat the unleavened bread of Christ, why can you eat leaven after the Passover? *They didn't understand the Greek!*

Verse 12: “And on the first day of the unleaveneds...”

This is all explained in the footnote in the *Harmony* and you can get more detail in the Passover book.

“...when they were killing...” (v 12).

That is a literal actual translation; a present tense participle in the Greek. Not when they *killed*, but “...were killing...”

Where were the disciples? *Over in Bethany!* Bethany and Bethphage are on this side of the Mount of Olives (referring to map). So, as they're coming down to go into the town, the whole area of the Mount of Olives had tents of pilgrims coming there to keep the Passover and Unleavened Bread. Most of them at that time kept the 14th. You can read that in the Passover book.

It unlocks all the Truth and refutes every Jewish error. So, if you haven't read the Passover book, you get it and we'll send it to you free.

“...when they were killing the Passover lambs...” (v 12).

When were they to kill the Passover lambs according to Exo. 12? *Between the two evenings, which Exo. 16 shows is after sunset and before dark!*

Get the picture: here's all the disciples there and Jesus didn't tell them where they were going to keep the Passover.

“...His disciples said to Him, ‘Where do You desire that we go and prepare, so that You may eat the Passover?’” (v 12).

They could see all the pilgrims killing their Passover lambs right here, right now.

Verse 13: “And He sent two of His disciples...”

Peter and John (Luke 22:8).

“...and said to them, ‘Go into the city, and you shall meet a man,,,’” (v 13).

How many people were there? *Thousands and thousands!*

“...carrying a pitcher of water; follow him” (v 13).

How was that made possible? *The angels were working it all out to make sure that when the disciples hit a certain intersection the man carrying the water would be coming!*

Luke 22:10: “And He said to them, ‘Watch, *and* when you come into the city, you will meet a man carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the house that he enters.’”

Jesus did not keep a Passover with the temple sacrificed lamb. He did not tell the disciples that they were killing the lambs and ‘run over to the temple and get a Passover lamb.’ *No, He didn't!* Who prepared the lamb? *The master of the house!* So, everything was ready.

Nisan 13—Tuesday, April 4, 30 AD

Mark 14:14: “And whatever house he shall enter, say to the master of the house *that* the Teacher says, ‘Where is the guest chamber, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’”

What happened? *The master of the house was preparing everything and having it all ready to go!* Killed the lamb and probably had it beginning to roast. Here comes the man with the water. What was the water to be used for? *Washing of the feet!* The disciples come in and they don't know the man. The man doesn't know them, and the Master or Teacher says, “...Where is the guest chamber, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?”

All of that must have been worked out by the angels. It was so precise!

Verse 15: “And he shall show you a large upper room, furnished *and* ready. There

prepare for us.”

All they had to do was put out the unleavened bread and make sure that the lamb was going.

Verse 16: “And His disciples went away: and *when* they came into the city, they found *it* exactly as He had said to them; and they prepared the Passover.”

Reading assignment: Read the commentary that follows in *A Harmony of the Gospels*, pg. 245-255: Jesus' Last Passover and Crucifixion and 28 prophecies fulfilled on the Passover Day.

If anyone is into odds-making, what are the odds that 28 specific prophecies could be fulfilled in one day? That's why all of this had to be prearranged by prophecy, by the work of the angels, to make it all come together for the most important thing since the creation of man.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 23:1-10, 12, 11, 13-23
- 2) Luke 11:42
- 3) Matthew 23:23-27, 29-30, 32-39
- 4) Mark 12:41-44
- 5) Matthew 24:1-2
- 6) Mark 13:2
- 7) Luke 21:6
- 8) Matthew 24:12-17, 20-22, 24-27
- 9) Malachi 4:2
- 10) Matthew 24:27-30, 27, 30
- 11) Revelation 6:12-17
- 12) Matthew 24:31-34, 36-38, 42-51
- 13) Luke 21:37-38
- 14) Matthew 26:1-5
- 15) Mark 14:1
- 16) Luke 22:1
- 17) Matthew 26:6-12
- 18) Luke 22:3-6
- 19) Mark 14:11
- 20) Matthew 26:15, 17-18
- 21) Mark 14:12-13
- 22) Luke 22:10
- 23) Mark 14:14-16

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Mark 7
- John 17
- Acts 1-8
- John 9
- Matthew 5
- Hebrews 12
- Matthew 24:3-7, 9-11
- 2 Thessalonians 2
- Revelation 13, 7; 8
- Deuteronomy 16

- Exodus 13
- Matthew 26:13
- Exodus 12; 16
- Luke 22:8

Also referenced:

Sermon Series and CD:

- *How to Overcome the Sin Within!*
- *How Apostasy Starts*
- *Daniel/Revelation*

Books:

- *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter
- *The Christian Passover* by Fred R. Coulter

Church at Home {churchathome.org} *Satan's Trickery of Children!* (coming soon)

FRC: po/bo

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The Last Ten Days of Jesus' Life IV

From the Passover to the Crucifixion and the last seven sayings of Jesus

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, brethren! Welcome to Sabbath services!

We've been going through the last ten days of Jesus' life, and we've been using *A Harmony of the Gospels*. I ask you to please go through the commentary, pgs 245-255—Jesus' Last Passover and Crucifixion—about the gruesomeness of the crucifixion and so forth. When we go through here, we're going to learn an awful lot.

Advertisement: Sermon Series (Transcript Book and CD): *The Love of God and Passover Preparation*. The Passover demonstrates the love of God to nth degree. It shows us what Christ really did for us; only **He** could do it. Why is that? Why do you suppose that is true? **Only He could do it because He created mankind and everything on the earth!** Everything from the invisible to all the mountains, oceans, the sky and the universe out there. **He created us!**

- Why could only He do it?
- What else did He do?

In His judgment against Adam and Eve, He gave them 'the law of sin and death,' and that became part of human nature!

What He had to do is also take the 'law of sin and death' within Him, and His struggle was greater than any of ours *because He couldn't sin! That's why only He could do it!*

Around Jerusalem at that time there were legions and legions of angels. Remember that Jesus said one time when He was testing the apostles if they *really* believe Him. They said, 'Yes, we believe.' Jesus said, 'What would you do if you saw angels ascending and descending upon the Son of man?'

Also, Satan and the demons were there, so this was a real struggle at Jerusalem. The whole atmosphere was filled with this. That's why, as we saw in part three, Jesus did not tell them where they were going to keep the Passover, because He didn't want Judas coming in and messing up the Passover. So, Judas had to come along with them to the Passover. He couldn't betray them there, so as we will see later, it was out by the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus was betrayed.

A Harmony of the Gospels, pg 274—this is the first part of the New Covenant, the foot-washing. Remember there are three parts:

1. foot-washing
2. bread

3. wine

Passover Day, Nisan 14—Tuesday Evening, April 4, 30 AD

Section 318—Jesus Institutes the New Covenant Passover:

First part of the New Covenant Passover: The Foot-Washing:

John 13:2: "And after supper began..."

or during supper! The *King James* says 'when supper ended,' but if you read a little further, they were still eating because Jesus dipped the sop and gave it to Judas. So, that's a complete wrong translation and contrary to the Greek.

Verse 2: "And after supper began (the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, that he should betray Him)."

Stop and think about this. All of us have to fight against our own evil thoughts. Sometimes we get provoked, and sometimes we don't even know why we're provoked. I've done it, you've done it and everybody else has done it.

Also, another way the evil thoughts come are from demons and Satan. There's one person that every time I say that 'Satan inspires' I get a postcard saying that Satan can't inspire. But he can put it in the heart, 'the prince of the power of the air' (Eph. 2).

Verse 3: "Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into *His* hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside *His* garments; and after taking a towel, He secured it around Himself" (vs 3-4).

This is a tremendous thing for us to understand. What is one of the first things that people stop doing when they're slipping away from the Truth? *They give up foot-washing!* It is humbling! None of us have picture-perfect feet.

Verse 5: "Next, He poured water into a washing basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel, which He had secured. Then He came to Simon Peter; and he said to Him..." (vs 5-6).

Look at Peter's attitude. Peter had a real lesson to learn this night, and we'll see what that is.

“...‘Lord, are You going to wash my feet?’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘What I am doing you do not understand now, but you shall know after these things’” (vs 6-7).

After Jesus was done washing their feet!

Verse 8: “Peter said to Him, ‘You shall not wash my feet, not ever.’....”

- Can we ever tell Jesus what to do? *Think on that! NO!*
- Was Peter hardheaded? *Yes!*
- Did he learn some lessons? *Yes!*
- Did he repent? *Yes!*
- Was he humbled? *Yes!*

“...Jesus answered him, ‘If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me’” (v 8).

Look at how quickly his attitude change: *from no to everything!*

Verse 9: “Simon Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head.’”

Why did Peter say that? *Because the priests had to wash their hands and their head!*

Verse 10: “Jesus said to him, ‘The one who has been washed...’”

This has reference to baptism!

“...does not need to wash *anything other* than the feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all.’ For He knew the one who was betraying Him; this was the reason He said, ‘Not all of you are clean.’” (vs 10-12).

Here are some great lessons for us. Humility does not come because you make yourself humble. Humility comes because you are humbled by the magnitude of what God is doing. That’s how humility comes. *We don’t raise ourselves above other to make ourselves important!*

Jesus didn’t say to Peter, ‘Who do you think you are? I’m the Lord.’ Jesus could have said that.

Verse 12: “Therefore, when He had washed their feet, and had taken His garments, *and* had sat down again, He said to them, ‘Do you know what I have done to you?’”

They’re probably all thinking, ‘I don’t have a clue!’

Verse 13: “You call Me the Teacher and the Lord, and you speak rightly, because I am. Therefore, if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet...” (vs 13-

14).

Notice what He says; this is pretty powerful in the Greek:

“...you also are duty-bound to wash one another’s feet; for I have given you an example, to show that you also should do exactly as I have done to you. Truly, truly I tell you, a servant is not greater than his lord...” (vs 14-16).

Never happen!

“...nor a messenger...”

*This could also be **apostle!***

“...greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, **blessed are you if you do them**” (vs 16-17).

What happens when people quit foot-washing? *They’re throwing away a blessing!* Human nature is so basically evil that when they think they’re doing something good, *it’s really sin!*

Section 319—Judas Dips the Sop, and Leaves to Betray Jesus

John 13:18: “I am not speaking of you all; *for* I know whom I have chosen, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled: ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’ I am telling you at this time, before it happens, so that when it does happen, you may believe that **I AM**” (vs 18-19).

The double ‘ego emi’!

Verse 20: “Truly, truly I tell you, the one who receives whomever I send is receiving Me...”

This becomes important because you don’t receive this to be arrogant and over-lording on the brethren. That’s not the way. If you bring the Word of God, that is what is to be done.

“...and the one who receives Me is receiving Him Who sent Me” (v 20).

Think about that for a minute. God the Father is so involved with those who are going to be in the first resurrection, that those who are elders and servants of the people are actually representing the Father. Think of how loving, kind, generous and overwhelmingly good that God the Father is. Look at the attitude of Peter when he denied Christ three times. *Peter was forgiven and he knew better!* But he wasn’t going to tell Jesus what to do, and he wasn’t going to save Jesus from what was going to happen.

We need to realize that that being the case, it's a great responsibility and also a great humbling that God would do so.

Verse 21: "As *He* was saying these things, Jesus was troubled in spirit, and testified, saying, 'Truly, truly I tell you, one of you shall betray Me.'"

Isn't that always something? Someone also sneaks in and gets way up in authority. Then after a while—BANG!—it happens every time. This is how God gets rid of the tares. He scatters the Church and lets the tares stay where they are. But the Church is going on its own and the tares are stuck without God, *and they don't even know it!*

Verse 22: "Then the disciples looked at one another, wondering of whom He was speaking. Now one of His disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was leaning on Jesus' chest. And so, Simon Peter motioned to him to ask who was the one of whom He was speaking. Then he leaned back on Jesus' chest *and* asked Him, 'Lord, who is it?' Jesus answered, 'It is the one to whom I shall give a sop after I have dipped it.'" (vs 22-26).

People say, 'How can you dip a sop if you have unleavened bread?' Very simple, after services you can take some scooper corn chips and you can scoop up some avocado and salsa. Are the corn chips unleavened bread? Did you dip it in the salsa and avocado? So, He took a piece of unleavened bread and scooped up something with a little morsel and gave it to Judas.

"...And when He had dipped the sop, He gave *it* to Judas Iscariot, Simon's son. And after the sop, Satan entered into him..." (vs 26-27)

Right there at the Passover! Think about that!

"...Then Jesus said to him, 'What you do, do quickly.' But not one of those sitting at the table knew why He said *this* to him; for some thought, since Judas had the bag, that Jesus was telling him, 'Buy the things that we need for the feast'; or that he should give something to the poor. So then, after receiving the sop, he immediately went out; and it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now has the Son of man been glorified, and God has been glorified in Him. If God has been glorified in Him, God shall also glorify Him in Himself, and shall immediately glorify Him'" (vs 27-32).

That was a projection of the completion of all of the rest leading up to the resurrection. After Judas is gone:

Section 320—Second Part: Eating the Unleavened Bread

Matthew 26:26 "“And as they were eating, Jesus took the bread and blessed *it*; *then He* broke *it* and gave *it* to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.'"

Remember, He gave a preview of this in John 6, and that was a hard thing for a lot of the disciples to take. What does it mean to eat His body? Some would say that's kind of cannibalistic! *No, it's not!* Because everything has to come through Christ:

In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God! Everything came into being had to come into being because He brought it into being.

In this way God is projecting that He is going to share His life with us, ***IF*** we eat the Bread of Truth, the Word of God, compared to the stones that Satan said to make into bread. Jesus said, 'NO! Man is not to live by bread alone, but by word that proceeds out of the mouth of God!' *This fulfills that!*

Section 321—Third Part: Drinking the Wine

Verse 27: "And He took the cup; and after giving thanks, He gave *it* to them, saying, 'All of you drink of it; for this is My blood, the *blood* of the New Covenant...' (vs 27-28).

In Deut. 32 it talks about the 'blood of the grape.' This was wine. What is a noted feature of wine when it's ready to drink? *Unleavened! All the yeast is out of it!* When you have sparkling wine, they put a little bit of leaven back in it so you get the bubbles. Was Christ's blood pure? *Absolutely!*

"...for this is My blood, the *blood* of the New Covenant..." (v 28).

Page 258 (*Harmony*): Chart showing the comparison of the sacrifice of Christ, what He went through and the parallel account with Abraham and the Lord in the Old Testament, and it follows right along exactly.

What did He say about the experience that He was going to go through? *He said, 'I have a baptism that I'm going to be baptized by, and I'm in a straight until it's completed!'* How was Jesus baptized? ***In His own blood!***

"...the *blood* of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many for *the* remission of

sins" (v 28).

Think about sin, repentance and forgiveness. What did Jesus say concerning repentance? *Someone sins against you, Peter asked, 'What if he does it seven times? Should I forgive him?'* Jesus said, 'Yes! Seven times seventy!'

Why did He say that? *Because He understood the weakness of human nature!* It seems to work that way. Whenever you do something, and it's great and wonderful and 'I know that God was with me and helping me' and you turn around and sin! God is there to forgive you. *That's what the sacrifice of Christ is all about!*

Verse 29: "But I say to you, from this time forward I will not drink at all of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it anew with you in the Kingdom of My Father."

I imagine that that is going to be a spiritual wine. What's that going to taste like? Think of this, right in the middle of the Passover service they have an argument.

Section 322—Contention Among the Disciples as to Who Would be the Greatest

What does this tell you? *They understood that there were going to be some great things given, and so forth!* Remember 'mama' with James and John? *She came to Jesus and said, 'I have one thing to ask You.' What is it? 'That these, my two sons—the sons of thunder—one sit at Your right hand and one sit at your left hand.'* Jesus said, 'Woman, you don't know what you're asking.' Here it begins again:

Luke 22:24: "And there was also an argument among them, *even* this: which of them should be considered *the* greatest. And He said to them, 'The kings of the nations lord over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called benefactors'" (vs 24-25).

1. the rulers
2. religious leaders

Verse 26: But ***it shall not be this way among you***; rather, let the one who is greatest among you be as the younger, and the one who is leading as the one who is serving."

That's why a hierarchy is counter to what God really wants!

Verse 27: "For who *is* greater, the one who is sitting *at the table*, or the one who is serving? *Is* not the one who sits *at the table*? But I am among you as One Who is serving. Now, you are the ones who have continued with Me in My temptations" (vs

27-28).

On the Sabbath after the last Holy Day I've given a sermon for that day: *What is the Difference Between Temptation and Tribulation?* Do you know the difference?

- **temptation**—you have choices
- **tribulation**—it comes upon you and you have no choice

Verse 29: "And I appoint to you, as My Father has appointed to Me, a kingdom; so that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and may sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel" (vs 29-30).

Section 323—A New Commandment—Love Each Other as Jesus Love His Disciples

John 13:33: "Little children..."

They weren't too much younger than Jesus!

"...I am with you yet a little while. You shall seek Me; but as I told the Jews, 'Where I am going, you cannot come,' I am now telling you also. **A new commandment I give to you...**" (vs 33-34).

We have the commandments:

- love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being
- love your neighbor as yourself

And on those two hang all the Law! Here's the third one, and Jesus also gave a fourth one.

Verse 34: "**A new commandment I give to you that you love one another in the same way that I have loved you...**"

That's pretty strong! This is how you are to love one another. That's commandment #3 in love. Commandment #4 is ***love your enemies!*** The best way to love your enemies is to stay away from them.

Verse 35: "By this shall everyone know that you are My disciples—if you love one another."

Section 324—Jesus Prophecies that Peter Will Deny Him Three Times

Mark 14:27: "Then Jesus said to them, 'All of you shall be offended in Me in this night; for it is written, "I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered." But after I have risen, I will go before you into Galilee.' Then Peter said to

Him, 'Even if all shall be offended, yet, I **shall not**'" (vs 27-29).

The most powerful of human nature is not going to overcome what God has said. God has said, 'All are sinners! Some people say, 'I'm not.' **You're sinners by nature!**

Verse 30: "And Jesus said to him, 'Truly I say to you, **today, in this very night...**'"

That proves that God reckons the day from sunset to sunset!

"...before *the* cock crows twice, you shall deny Me three times.' But he spoke more adamantly, 'If it were necessary for me to die with You, I would not deny You in any way.' And they all spoke in the same manner also" (vs 30-31).

But what did Peter do? *He did it!* Think of that for a minute. Even your best effort to not do it, when God said you're going to do it, you don't have the strength to go against God. Amazing!

Section 325—The Beginning of the Final Message to His Disciples

We're going to cover John 14 during the Passover so I don't want to go deeply into this:

John 14:20: "In that day, you shall know that I am in My Father, and you *are* in Me, and I am in you."

Here's how you know. This is a test if you have Christ and the Father in you:

Verse 21: "The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me, and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.' Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?'" (vs 21-22).

How does God manifest, or Christ manifest Himself to us today? *By convincing you of the Truth! And you prove the Truth!* The Truth can be proved and reproved and reproved over and over again down through all time, because it is true and it's eternal!

Verse 23: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.'"

That's one of the most important verses in the Bible. You have two aspects of the Spirit:

- the Spirit of Christ, or the mind of Christ

- the Spirit of the Father, to be a son or daughter of God

Together! That is dwell in us!

When we sin, God doesn't take it away. God is merciful and kind, and will forgive. That's the whole purpose of the Passover and learning to love one another.

Section 326—Some Final Instructions to the Disciples

Luke 22:36: "Then He said to them, 'Now, however, let the one who has a purse take it...'"

Section 327—Take Two Swords

Verse 38: "And they said, 'Lord, see, here *are* two swords.' And He said to them, 'It is enough.'"

Section 328—They Sing a Hymn and Leave

Matthew 26:30: "And after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives."

Section 329—Jesus Christ is the True Vine—Last Command to His Disciples

We're going to cover the first part of John 15, because this becomes important. Remember how God compared Israel to a vine. Now He compares Himself to a vine and the Father to a husbandman. Some translate that as *the farmer*. But husbandman is much different, because husbandman means that *you are married to the land to take care of it as a possession of God!* So, Jesus makes this comparison:

John 15:1: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. He takes away every branch in Me *that* does not bear fruit; but He cleanses each one that bears fruit, in order that it may bear more fruit" (vs 1-2).

- How does He cleanse it? *By revealing the sin within so you can repent, that's how!*
- How much sin do we have stored in our mind?
- Do you want me to get a CD and play Christmas Carols? *You have them stored in the mind!*

You have them all right there!

- What else do you have there? *Every once in a while your human nature cuts loose!*

*It's happened to me! It's happened to you! The cleansing is **the pruning to get it out in the open so that you can repent!***

Verse 3: "You are already clean through the word that I have spoken to you. Dwell

in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can* you *bear fruit* unless you are dwelling in Me" (vs 3-4).

I remember one Feast of Tabernacles we were in a beautiful place for a Feast. We had for the first time people come from Michigan. We had 12 people! We thought this was something. So, we broke off some branches from a tree and we just put up where we were meeting so we could watch them. Every day of the Feast we looked at the branches. The second day looked like the first day. Third day they were drooping. Fourth day they were really getting bad. Fifth day they were getting very, very dry. Sixth-eight days there was nothing left.

That shows that we need to stay in Christ! How do we stay in Christ? *By loving, praying, repenting, overcoming, asking God to help us in everything!*

Verse 4: Dwell in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, but only if it remains in the vine, neither *can* you *bear fruit* unless you are dwelling in Me. I am the vine, *and* you *are* the branches. The one who is dwelling in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing" (vs 4-5).

What did Jesus say of Himself when He was here? *I do nothing of Myself, that is out from within Me!* The Father does the works.

Verse 6: "If anyone does not dwell in Me, he is cast out as a branch, and is dried up; and men gather them and cast *them* into a fire, and they are burned."

Here is a promise for prayer:

Verse 7: "If you dwell in Me, and My words dwell in you..."

Both!

"...you shall ask whatever you desire, and it shall come to pass for you. In this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be My disciples" (vs 7-8).

Then He tells how! It's very interesting and very important! There are 1700 *ifs* in the Bible, and all of them are contingent upon what people choose to do or not do.

Verse 10: "**If** you keep My commandments, you shall live in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and live in His love. These things I have spoken to you, in order that My joy may dwell in you, and that your joy may be full" (vs 10-11).

Think about poor Lot living in Sodom; that's about what it is for us today! He didn't have much joy because he was always upset over what was happening. Finally, when it came time to go, the only ones who went were he and his wife and two daughters. All the rest of the family said, 'You're nuts! It's not going to happen!'

So, they were going out and the angel said, 'Don't look behind!' Guess what happened? *Lot's wife looked behind and turned into a pillar of salt!* I don't know if it was true or not, but Josephus writes that that pillar of salt was still there in his day.

Section 330—Final Words of Encouragement

John 16:26: "In that day, you shall ask in My name; and I do not tell you that I will beseech the Father for you, for **the Father Himself loves you...**" (vs 26-27).

That is a profound statement! Whenever you're down at the bottom of the pit and you think all is lost, *it's not!* Whether you're way up here, and you're knocked down, remember that ***the Father—Who is Sovereign of the whole universe—loves you! He loved the Son—didn't He?*** But look what Jesus had to go through, and that had to be because of Jesus' love back to the Father and the love for the plan of God and what He's going to do for all human beings. *So, we pray to the Father directly!*

"...because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father" (vs 27-28).

Section 331—All Will be Scattered. Jesus Has Overcome the World

Verse 32: "Listen, the time is coming, and has already come, that you shall be scattered each to his own, and you shall leave Me alone; and *yet*, I am not alone because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you **so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation...**" (vs 32-33).

*A lot of difficulties and things come upon us that we have no control over! **That's tribulation!***

"...But be courageous! I have overcome the world" (v 33).

(go to the next track)

Section 334—Jesus Prays for Three Hours

They go out to the area of the Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:39: And after going forward a little, He fell on His face, praying, and saying, 'My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*.'

So, He had to overcome even the human element of knowing how bad that this would be that He was saying, 'Will You delay it?'

Verse 40: "Then He came to His disciples and found them sleeping. And *He* said to Peter, 'What! Were you not able to watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, so that you do not enter into temptation; the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh is weak'" (vs 40-41).

That's true for all human beings. Last time we had the best thought in the world, *we end up doing the worst thing in the world*.

Verse 42: "The second time He went again and prayed, saying, 'My Father, if this cup cannot pass from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.'"

Through prayer He was able to overcome that pull of human nature the first time!

Verse 43: "Now, when He came to them, He found them asleep again, because their eyes were heavy. And leaving them, He went again and prayed the third time, saying the same thing" (vs 43-44).

Luke 22:44: "And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat became **as great drops of blood** falling down to the ground."

This shows how deeply He had to pray!

Passover Day, Nisan 14—Wednesday Morning, April 5, 30 AD

Section 335—The Lord's Prayer

When you really analyze it, this shows you the whole plan of God in that one chapter (John 17). Just to give you something to think on: How did John know this prayer if he was sleeping? *Jesus had to give him this prayer sometime later! It's word for word of what Jesus was saying, and it's the whole plan of God!* So much so that I'm going to save that for a separate sermon, because if I get too deeply involved in it here, we won't get to where we need to be.

John 17:11: "And I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, those whom You have given Me, so that they may be one, even as We

are one."

Sidebar on this with the *name*: If you meet a sacred-namer and he says that you have to have this Hebrew name, this name and the other name. If you turn to John 17, in the Greek it is 'ho pater': *Father!* That's His sacred name for the New Testament. There's no other name. It's not here. So, keep that in mind.

Verse 12: "When I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. I protected those whom You have given Me, and not one of them has perished except the son of perdition, in order that the Scriptures might be fulfilled."

Then it shows that we are to become at-one with Christ and the Father!

Verse 20: "I do not pray for these only, but also for those who shall believe in Me through their word."

That's us! Everybody all down through time who had the Word of God, the New Testament! He's praying, and He makes intercession for us. Notice how Jesus always keeps His mind on the goal.

Verse 21: "That they all may be one, even as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, in order that the world may believe that You did send Me."

Section 336—The time of the Betrayal Approximately 12:20 A.M.

There's a two page chart—pgs 256-7—showing the whole thing hour by hour down through the time.

Matthew 26:45: "Then He came to His disciples and said to them, 'Sleep on now, and take your rest. Behold, the hour has drawn near, and the Son of man is betrayed into *the* hands of sinners. Arise! Let us be going. Look, the one who is betraying Me is approaching'" (vs 45-46).

That was quite a thing!

Section 337—Judas Betrays Jesus with a Kiss

John 18:1: "After saying these things, Jesus went out with His disciples to a place beyond the winter stream of Kidron, where *there* was a garden into which He and His disciples entered. And Judas, who was betraying Him, also knew of the place because Jesus had often gathered there with His disciples. Then Judas, after receiving a band and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with torches and

lamps and weapons. Jesus, therefore, knowing all *the* things that were coming upon Him, went forward *and* said to them, 'Who are you seeking?' They answered Him, 'Jesus the Nazarean.' Jesus said to them, 'I AM.' And Judas, who was betraying Him, was also standing with them. But when He said to them, 'I AM,' they went backward and fell to *the* ground" (vs 1-6).

He gave them a chance to not do it!

Verse 7: "Then He asked them again, 'Who are you seeking?' And they said, 'Jesus the Nazarean.' Jesus answered, 'I told you that I AM. Therefore, if you are seeking Me, allow these to go their way'; so that the saying might be fulfilled which He had said, 'Of those whom You have given Me, not one of them have I lost'" (vs 7-9).

Section 338—Peter Cuts Off an Ear of the High Priest's Servant, and Jesus Heals Him

I often wondered what happened with this, because Peter cut off the ear of a servant of the high priest. Then He healed it by putting it back on. If I were that soldier, I would be feeling my ear all night. 'It's still there. I saw that Peter cut off and this Man put it back on!' You could say today, *and no stitches!*

John 18:10: "Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And the servant's name was Malchus. But Jesus said to Peter, 'Put your sword into the sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given Me?' Then the band and the chief captain and the officers of the Jews took hold of Jesus, and bound Him" (vs 10-12).

Section 339—All Was Done to Fulfill Prophecy

Matthew 26:56: "But all this has happened so that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled...."

Think about that. There's a section on pgs 268-273: Twenty-Eight Prophecies Fulfilled on the Crucifixion Day.

How were all of those fulfilled? *The angels were making sure that they were done!* The demons were carrying out what they were allowed to do.

"...Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled" (v 56).

Section 340—Jesus is Led Away to the Priest's House

John 18:13: "and they led Him away to Annas first; for he was *the* father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was high priest that year. Now, it was Caiaphas who had given counsel to the Jews that it was profitable for one man to perish for the people" (vs 13-14).

Section 341—Peter Follows Them into the Courtyard

- Why did Peter follow along?
- Why didn't he just follow the others?
- What had to happen to Peter?
- *Peter had to deny Christ three times, so he couldn't go off by himself!*

John 18:15: "But Simon Peter and the other disciple followed Jesus. And that disciple was known to the high priest, and entered with Jesus into the court of the high priest. But Peter stood outside at the door. Then the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper, and brought Peter in" (vs 15-16).

The angels must have been really, really busy at that time making sure that everything was done!

Verse 18: "Now, the servants and the officers had made a fire, for it was cold; and they were standing *there* warming themselves, and Peter was *also* standing and warming himself."

- I wonder what he thought, because who was there with the healed ear?
- Who was the one who had the sword to cut it off? *Peter!*

Section 342—Annas Questions Jesus and Sends Him to Caiaphas

John 18:19: "Then the high priest questioned Jesus concerning His disciples and concerning His teachings. Jesus answered him, 'I spoke openly to the world; I always taught in the synagogue and in the temple, where the Jews always assemble, and I spoke nothing in secret. Why do you question Me? Ask those who have heard what I spoke to them; behold, they know what I said'" (vs 19-21).

A good lesson: *you don't answer every question directly, but answer with a question! Put the burden of proof on them!*

Approximately 2 AM

John 18:22: "But after He said these things, one of the officers who was standing by struck Jesus on the face, saying, 'Do You answer the high priest in that way?' Jesus answered him, 'If I have spoken evil, testify of the evil; but if well, why do you strike Me?' Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest" (vs 22-24).

Section 343—The Chief Priests Illegally Condemn Jesus

Matthew 26:59: "Now, the chief priests and the elders and the whole Sanhedrin..."

The whole Sanhedrin was 120!

"...sought false evidence against Jesus, so that they might put Him to death; but they did not find any. Although many false witnesses came forward, they did not find any evidence. Then at the last, two false witnesses came forward and said, 'This man said, "I have the power to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days"' (vs 59-61).

This sounds like the hearings of the Democrats today! 'We've got to find a crime...'

Verse 62: "And the high priest rose up and said to Him, 'Have You no answer for what these are testifying against You?' But Jesus was silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, 'I adjure You by the living God that You tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God.' Jesus said to him, 'You have said it. Moreover, I say to you, in the future you shall see the Son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven'" (vs 62-64).

Projecting clear forward to His second coming! They understood this because they knew Dan. 7, that 'the Son of man came to the Ancient of Days.' They knew that!

Verse 65: "Then the high priest ripped his own garments, saying, 'He has blasphemed! Why do we need any more witnesses? Behold, you have just now heard His blasphemy. What do you think?' They answered and said, 'He is deserving of death!' Then they spit in His face and hit Him with their fists; and some struck Him with rods, saying, 'Prophecy to us, Christ. Who is the one that struck You?'" (vs 65-68).

Section 344—Peter Denies Jesus Three Times

Luke 22:56: "And a certain maid saw him sitting by the light; and after looking at him intently, she said, 'Now this one was with Him.' But he denied Him, saying, 'Woman, I do not know Him.' And after a little while, another saw him and said, 'You also are one of them.' But Peter said, 'Man, I am not.' Now, after about an hour had passed, a certain other man strongly affirmed, saying, 'In truth, this one also was with Him, for he is indeed a Galilean.' And Peter said, 'Man, I do not know what you are talking about.' And immediately, while he was yet speaking, the cock crowed" (vs 56-60).

This scene always intrigues me:

Verse 61: "Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter; and **Peter remembered the word of the Lord**, how He had said to him, 'Before the cock crows, you shall deny Me three times.' And Peter went outside and wept bitterly" (vs 61-62).

- How great a sin was that? *Pretty powerful!*
- Did Peter remember this the rest of His life? *Yes, he did!*

We'll see that later, right before Jesus ascended, He had a special message for Peter because of this!

Section 345—The Sanhedrin Condemns Jesus and Sends Him to Pilate

Luke 22:66: "Now, as soon as it was day, the elders of the people assembled together, with both the chief priests and the scribes, and they led Him into their Sanhedrin, saying, 'If You are the Christ, tell us.' And He said to them, 'If I should tell you, you would not believe Me at all; and if I should also ask you, you would not answer Me at all, nor let Me go. Hereafter, shall the Son of man be sitting at the right hand of the power of God.' And they all said, 'Then You are the Son of God?' And He said to them, 'I am that One, as you say.' Then they said, 'What need do we have of any other witness? For we ourselves have heard from His own mouth'" (vs 66-71).

Luke 23:1: "And when the entire assembly of them arose, they led Him to Pilate."

Note sermon: *The Enigma of Judas Iscariot*. Why did he have to die the way that he did? If you commit or are an accomplice in murder, you have to die, too.

- Would the Jews execute him?
- Would the Romans execute him?
- Could the disciples execute him?
- *No!*
- Who executed Judas? *Himself!*

That was the only way that he could have been given the death penalty, because no one else would have done it.

Section 346—Judas Repents and Hangs Himself—The Chief Priests Buy Potter's Field

Matthew 27:3: "Now, when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He was condemned, he changed his mind *and* returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, 'I have sinned and have betrayed innocent blood.' But they said, 'What *is that* to us? You see *to it* yourself.' And after throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he went out and hanged himself" (vs 3-5).

Look at how 'righteous' they were!

Verse 6: "But the chief priests took the pieces of silver *and* said, 'It is not lawful...'"

Here they are killing Christ, and now they're saying

"... 'It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is *the* price of blood.' And after taking counsel, they bought a potter's field with the *pieces of silver*, for a burial ground for strangers. Therefore, that field is called The Field of Blood to this day" (vs 6-8).

Section 347—Jesus is Condemned Before Pilate; He Questions Jesus

Matthew 27:11: "Then Jesus stood before the governor..."

Who was it that killed Jesus? *All of us!* But Jesus' death covers the sins of the whole world. So, what do we find here? *Pilate represented the Roman Empire—government! Pilate was symbolic of all governments of the world!*

The high priest was symbolic of... Remember that Jesus said, 'You are of your father the devil.' Are all the religions of the world of the devil? *Yes!* So, *the high priest was symbolic of all the religions of the world!*

All the people who said, 'Crucify Him! Crucify Him!' *was symbolic of all of the people of the world who rejected Christ!*

This was a great and fantastic thing that was going on; way beyond just the account there that we have in the Bible. It has great ramifications.

"...and the governor questioned Him, saying, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' And Jesus said to him, '*It is as* you said.' And when He was accused by the chief priests and the elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, 'Don't You hear how many things they testify against You?' And He did not answer even one word to him, so that the governor was greatly amazed" (vs 11-14).

Then Pilate finds out that Jesus was from Galilee!

Section 348—Pilate Sends Jesus to Herod

Luke 23:5: "But they were insistent, saying, 'He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all of Judea, beginning from Galilee even to here.' And when he heard Galilee *named*, Pilate asked whether the Man were a Galilean; and after determining that He was from Herod's jurisdiction, he sent Him to Herod, *since* he also was in Jerusalem in those days. And when Herod saw Jesus, he rejoiced greatly; for he had long been desiring to see Him because he had heard many things about Him, and he was hoping to see a miracle done by Him. And he questioned Him with many words; but He answered him nothing. All the while, the chief priests and the scribes stood vehemently accusing Him. Then Herod and his soldiers treated Him with contempt; and after mocking *Him*, he put a splendid robe on Him *and* sent Him back to Pilate. And **on that same day, Pilate and Herod became friends with each other, because before there was enmity between them**" (vs 5-12).

- Can Satan bring people together?
- Bring them so they agree with each other and they're happy about it?
- *Yes, he can!*

Remember that in WWII Germany made a peace alliance with Russia and they were happy and glad that it occurred. But that turned out to be a total disaster.

Section 349—Pilate Finds Jesus Innocent

John 18:31: "Then Pilate said to them, 'You take Him and judge Him according to your *own* law.' But the Jews said to him, 'It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death'; so that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He had spoken to signify

by what death He was about to die" (vs 31-32).

What did Jesus tell Nicodemus on that night? *When the Son of man is lifted up! He knew how He was going to die!* Nicodemus didn't know a thing. His mind was closed and later it was opened. But I tell you, he had to come at night because he was afraid of the other ones. 'We know You're a man from God, but tell us something.' *He didn't tell them anything!* Unless you are born again you're not going to see the Kingdom of God.

I imagine Nicodemus was saying, 'What is this?' Jesus said, 'If I tell you earthly things, what would you do if I told you heavenly things? Here we have it that they could not kill Jesus.'

Verse 33: "Then Pilate returned to the judgment hall and called Jesus, and said to Him, 'Are You the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered him, 'Do you ask this of yourself, or did others say *it* to you concerning Me?' Pilate answered Him, 'Am I a Jew?....'" (vs 33-35).

How am I supposed to know?

"...The chief priests and your own nation have delivered You up to me. What have You done?' Jesus answered, 'My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, so that I might not be delivered up to the Jews. However, My kingdom is not of this world.' Pilate, therefore, answered Him, 'Then You are a king?' Jesus answered, 'As you say, I am a king. For this *purpose* I was born, and for this *reason* I came into the world, that I may bear witness to the Truth. Everyone who is of the Truth hears My voice.' Pilate said to Him, 'What is Truth?' And after saying this, he went out again to the Jews and said to them, '**I do not find any fault in Him**'" (vs 35-38).

But it shows mob action!

Section 350—Pilate Releases Barabbas and Crucifies Jesus, 8 AM

John 18:39: "'And it is a custom with you that I release one to you at the Passover. Do you then desire *that* I release the King of the Jews to you?' But they all shouted again, saying, 'Not this one, but Barabbas.'...." (vs 39-40).

Do you know what that name means? *Bar-Abbas, son/father, so of the father.* How ironic.

"...Now, Barabbas was a robber" (v 40).

Luke 23:19: "*He was the one who had been*

cast into prison on account of making a certain insurrection in the city and committing murder."

Sounds almost like our justice system in Washington, DC, today!

Verse 20: "Therefore, Pilate again called to *them*, wishing to release Jesus. But they kept crying out, saying, 'Crucify *Him*, crucify *Him*!' And a third *time* he said to them, 'But what evil did this *Man* commit? I have not found any cause *worthy* of death in Him. Therefore, after chastising Him, I will release *Him*.' But they were urgent with loud voices, asking for Him to be crucified. And their voices, and *those* of the chief priests, prevailed" (vs 20-23).

Section 351—Pilate Washes His Hands in a Show of Innocence

Political! He gave in!

Matthew 27:24: "Now Pilate, seeing that he was accomplishing nothing, but *that* a riot was developing instead, took water *and* washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, 'I am guiltless of the blood of this righteous *man*. You see *to it*.'

Section 352—Pilate Releases Barabbas; Jesus is Beaten and Scourged

Matthew 27:26: "Then he released Barabbas to them; but after scourging Jesus, he delivered *Him* up so that He might be crucified. Then the governor's soldiers, after taking Jesus with *them* into the Praetorium, gathered the entire band against Him; and they stripped Him *and* put a scarlet cloak around Him. And after plating a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a rod in His right hand; and bowing *on* their knees before Him, they mocked Him, and *kept on* saying, 'Hail, King of the Jews!'" (vs 26-29).

Remember, He's got the crown of thorns on His head!

Verse 30: "Then, after spitting on Him..."

I'm sure it wasn't just a little water!

"...they took the rod and struck *Him* on the head" (v 30).

So, those thorns would go right in under the skin right next to His skull!

Verse 31: "When they were done mocking Him, they took the cloak off Him; and they put His own garments on Him and led Him

away to crucify Him.”

Section 354, pg 300—the Soldiers Lead Jesus Away to be Crucified, and Make Simon of Cyrene Carry His Cross

Luke 23:26: “And as they led Him away, they laid hold on a certain Cyrenian *named* Simon, who was coming from a field; *and* they put the cross on him...”

The cross that you see in movies is not anything like this. They would take a tree and they would put huge iron clasps on it, u-shaped so they could take a cross-bar and put it right there. When the person died they would take it out and put someone else there.

So, when Jesus was carrying His cross, He was carrying the crossbar, not the whole thing. That's why it says in other places that He was crucified on a tree, because it was a tree, and there were two trees, one on each side, for the other malefactors.

Verse 27: “And following Him was a great multitude of people with *many* women, who also were bewailing and lamenting Him. But Jesus turned to them *and* said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, *the* days are coming in which they shall say, “Blessed *are* the barren, and *the* wombs that did not bear, and *the* breasts that did not give suck.” Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, “Fall on us”; and to the hills, “Cover us.”....” (vs 27-30).

He goes right from that time to the destruction of Jerusalem, and then on into the part of Rev. 6 where the heavens roll back as a scroll and the mountains, earth and everything is shaken, and they go to the holes in the ground.

Section 355—Jesus Refuses Wine and Myrrh (Vinegar and Gall)—They Crucify Him

Matthew 27:34: “They gave Him vinegar mingled with gall to drink; but after tasting it, He would not drink.”

Section 356—The Soldiers Cast Lots for His Garments—Jesus Asks the Father to Forgive Them for Crucifying Him

Matthew 27:35: “And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments *by* casting lots; so that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, ‘They divided My garments among themselves,

and for My vesture they cast lots.’ And they sat down there to keep guard over Him” (vs 35-36).

How did the soldiers know to do that? *Probably was an angel right there!* Couldn't see him, but making sure that this prophecy was fulfilled! That's how it had to be done.

Section 357—Pilate Has a Title and Accusation Written and Put on the Cross

Luke 23:38: “And there also was an inscription over Him written in Greek and Latin and Hebrew: ‘This is the King of the Jews.’

John 19:20: “As a result, many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, in Greek *and* in Latin. Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, ‘Do not write, “The King of the Jews”; but that He said, “I am King of the Jews.”’ Pilate answered, ‘What I have written, I have written’” (vs 20-22).

Even down to the last thing, try and change it all!

Section 358—Two Malefactors (Thieves) Crucified with Jesus

Matthew 27:38: “And two robbers were crucified with Him, one at *the* right hand and one at *the* left.”

I do not know how one commentator said that there were two on the right hand and two on the left hand. I couldn't find it. But that's what some people believe.

Mark 15:28: “Then the Scripture was fulfilled, which says, ‘And He was numbered among lawbreakers.’”

All of that! Why were two others crucified? Why didn't they just crucify one? *They were busy getting rid of ‘bad’ people!*

Section 359—The People, Priests and Two thieves Mock and Reville Him. Darkness From the Sixth Hour to the Ninth Hour (Approximately Noon to 3 PM)

Matthew 27:39: “Then those who were passing by railed at Him, shaking their heads, and saying, ‘You Who *would* destroy the temple and rebuild *it* in three days, save Yourself....” (vs 39-40).

Could Jesus have done that? *But that would have been against the will of God, so He didn't!*

“...If You are *the* Son of God, come down

from the cross.' And in the same way also the chief priests were mocking, with the scribes and elders, saying, 'He saved others, *but* He does not have the power to save Himself. If He is the King of Israel, let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him. For He said, "I am *the* Son of God.'" And the two robbers who were crucified with Him also reproached Him with the same words. Now, from *the* sixth hour until *the* ninth hour, darkness was over all the land" (vs 40-45).

Luke 23:39: "Then one of the malefactors who was hanging *there* railed at Him, saying, 'If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us.' But the other *one* answered and rebuked him, saying, 'Do not even you fear God, you who are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving due payment for what we did; but this *Man* did nothing wrong.' Then he said to Jesus, 'Remember me, Lord, when You come into Your kingdom'" (vs 39-42).

The Seven Sayings of Jesus:

Verse 43: "And Jesus said to him, ^[#1]**Truly, I tell you today, you shall be with Me in paradise.**"

Why could it not be *that day*? He was saying today that 'you shall be with Me in paradise.' He didn't say that 'today you shall be in paradise.'

Section 360—Jesus Makes John Responsible for His Mother: Mary

John 19:25: "And Jesus' mother stood by the cross, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Cleopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw *His* mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, ^[#2]**Woman, behold your son.** Then He said to the disciple, ^[#3]**Behold your mother.** And from that time, the disciple took her into his own *home*" (vs 25-26).

Section 361—At the Ninth Hour Jesus is Forsaken and Offered Vinegar—A Spear is Truth into His side and He Dies—The temple veil is torn in Two

Matthew 27:46: "And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ^[#4]**Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?** That is, '**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**'"

He had to be forsaken by the Father completely in order to be that perfect sacrifice!

Verse 47: "And some of those who were standing there heard *and* said, 'This *one* is calling for Elijah.'"

Luke 23:46: "And after crying out with a loud voice, Jesus said, ^[#5]**Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.** And when He had said these things, He expired.

John 19:28: "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had now been finished, so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ^[#6]**I thirst.** Now, a vessel full of vinegar was sitting *there*. And after filling a sponge with vinegar and putting *it* on a *stick* of hyssop, they put it up to *His* mouth And so, when Jesus had received the vinegar, He said, ^[#7]**It is finished.**" (vs 28-30).

Scriptural References:

- 1) John 13:2-32
- 2) Matthew 26:26-29
- 3) Luke 22:24-30
- 4) John 13:33-35
- 5) Mark 14:27-31
- 6) John 14:20-23
- 7) Luke 22:36, 38
- 8) Matthew 26:30
- 9) John 15:1-8, 10-11
- 10) John 16:26-28, 32-33
- 11) Matthew 26:39, 40-44
- 12) Luke 22:44
- 13) John 17:11-12, 20-21
- 14) Mathew 26:45-46
- 15) John 18:1-12
- 16) Matthew 26:56
- 17) John 18:13-24
- 18) Matthew 26:59-68
- 19) Luke 22:56-62, 66-71
- 20) Luke 23:1
- 21) Matthew 27:3-8, 11-14
- 22) Luke 23:5-12
- 23) John 18:31-40
- 24) Luke 23:19-23
- 25) Matthew 27:24, 26-31
- 26) Luke 23:26-30
- 27) Matthew 27:34-36
- 28) Luke 23:38
- 29) John 19:20-22
- 30) Matthew 27:38
- 31) Mark 15:28
- 32) Matthew 27:39-45
- 33) Luke 23:39-43
- 34) John 19:25-26
- 35) Matthew 27:46-47
- 36) Luke 23:46

37) John 19:28-30

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Ephesians 2
- John 6
- Deuteronomy 32
- Daniel 7
- Revelation 6

Also referenced:

Book: *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter

Sermon Series (Transcript Book and CD):

- *The Love of God*
- *Passover Preparation*

Sermon:

- *What is the Difference Between Temptation and Tribulation?*
- *The Enigma of Judas Iscariot (#4 Assaults Against Jesus)*

FRC:bo

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The Last 10 Days of Jesus' Life V

From the Death of Jesus to His ascension and acceptance by God the Father

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to the Sabbath services!

Since we're getting close to the Passover, and there is always a dispute about whether the bread for the Passover should be on unleavened or leavened. Maybe some of you never heard of that, but that exists.

Remember, every time there may be something a little difficult to understand, someone's going to have the theory to explain it, something other than what it really is. So, our advertisement today, thanks to Ken:

What kind of bread? Article: *Christ's Last Passover, Leavened or Unleavened?* by Ben Ambrose {truthofGod.org} He wrote this years ago, because it came up. And it's keyed on *the sop*. Now remember that we covered that. That if today you have unleavened chips and you can scoop in some avocado, (guacamole) or salsa, then that's *a sop*.

Now, last time we finished up page 304, and we will finish it with this, so that everyone will have everything before Passover. Because it wouldn't be any good to have this as a special series for Passover, and half of it comes after the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That wouldn't work out too well.

Now, I have to make one correction, and that was, I said last time (part 4), that when the vinegar was given to Him. He refused it. That was not correct, *He received it*. The first time they gave it to Him, He refused it. The last time He received it, and then He died.

Now remember, this was a tremendous event in the world. There was:

- Satan
- the angels
- Christ
- all of the religious authorities

A stark battle going on back and forth! Christ had to die at the right time. That's why the authorities were frustrated in their efforts to get Jesus ahead of time, because it had to happen at the right time.

from *A Harmony of the Gospels*:

Passover Day Nisan 14—Wednesday
afternoon, April 5, 30 AD

Section 362—An Earthquake Opens Some Graves for a Resurrection of Some of the Saints to Another Physical Life as a Sign and a Witness

Matthew 27:51: "...the earth shook..."

How much of a shock was it?

"...and the rocks were split."

Here in California, we have quite a few earthquakes, so we know what it is. Every once in a while, we have an earthquake at night, before you go to sleep and you're laying there and all of a sudden the house starts moving. We have a lot of minor earthquakes that aren't even felt. So, this was a fantastic thing to declare how important His death was.

Verse 52: "So that the tombs were opened...."

The tombs were different from what we have today. They would, dig a small cave inside the rocks, then—just like Jesus' tomb—they rolled the big stone in front of it. They would have this stone cut and put right alongside the opening. They would have a wedge right under the bottom of it, so it wouldn't move until that wedge was released. These tombs opened, meaning in the front of those caves the stones came off. Now notice what happened:

"...And many bodies of the saints who had died, **were resurrected** after His resurrection..." (vs 52-53).

They weren't resurrected before Jesus' resurrection. Couldn't be, because the firstborn from the dead was Christ.

Verse 53: "After His resurrection; *and* they came out of the tombs...."

This happens a lot in the Bible. Make a statement to declare what's going to happen. It says: "...were resurrected..." (v 52). But the question is *when*? A lot of people think that they were resurrected right away, but they weren't.

Verse 53: "After His resurrection; *and* they came out of the tombs. *Then* they entered into the Holy City, and appeared to many."

What if you had one of your relatives just buried the week before, and you were still mourning? Since others were resurrected before, there was no conflict. But after His resurrection, they went into the city, which says then that they didn't stay alive in the tomb for three days. They had to be resurrected *after* He was resurrected. I think on the day that Christ was resurrected, it's important that He was *first*. When that happened there was the earthquake

Section 363—The Centurion Acknowledges that Jesus was the Son of God

Verse 54: "Then the centurion and those with him who had been keeping guard over Jesus, after seeing the earthquake..."

Remember what happened with the earthquake. The veil was split in two and opened so that the Holy of Holies was seen. That means, they could not have had any sacrifices at the temple on the day that Jesus died; they would have to move everyone out. Plus whatever damage was done to the temple area.

"...and the things that took place, were filled with fear, *and* said 'Truly this was the Son of God!'" (v 54).

Now then, notice what has to happen. Whenever you have a scheme, you've got to have some way to make it appear right? *Well now, Jesus was buried!* You can tie this in with Psa. 63, how Jesus really died. It says He died of a broken heart. That means a heart that was pierced, not emotionally, not that His emotions were broken.

Section 364—The Jews Want Jesus' Body Off the Cross Before the Holy Day Begins at Sunset

John 19:31: "The Jews, therefore, so that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the Sabbath, because it was a preparation day (for that Sabbath...[that is the one coming] ...was a High Day)..."

This tells us this is the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That's the only day that comes after the Passover Day.

"...requested of Pilate that their legs might be broken and *the bodies* be taken away. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first *one*, and *the legs* of the other who was crucified with Him. But when they came to Jesus *and* saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs" (vs 31-33).

Now there's also fulfilled another prophecy: 'not a bone would be broken.' That's why I want you to go through the *Twenty-eight Prophecies Fulfilled on the Crucifixion Day (Harmony, pgs 268-273)*. If you do a little mathematics it's impossible that all of those would have happened coincidentally.

Verse 34 tells you why: "But one of the soldiers had pierced..."

that's what it is in the Greek—*past tense*

"...His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water had come out."

Now the way that that spear was put in, it was put in from the right side and thrust up and got His heart. Because all of His blood had to be shed. He could not have died with blood in His heart. It had to be shed.

Verse 35: "And he who saw *this* has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that *what* he says *is* true, so that you may believe."

This is John telling you that 'What I'm writing is true. I saw it; I was there!'

Verse 36: "For these things took place so that the Scripture might be fulfilled, 'Not a bone of Him shall be broken.' And again another Scripture says, 'They shall look upon Him Whom they pierced'" (vs 36-37).

Section 365—Many of the Women Watch to the End

The women are there; they're watching this. Now think about this. They were hoping, as the two men from Emmaus were, that He was going to be the Messiah. What was the version of the Messiah they were looking for? A man to come and take over the government and raise up an army and get rid of the Romans!

So, when He died they didn't know what to do. They were still blinded, even the disciples. They didn't understand what He meant three days and three nights, and the third day, and being raised from the dead. They were watching a far off, and I imagine a lot of them were really disappointed.

How could it be that the One Who is the Messiah was dying, when the prophecies we read say He's going to save us from our enemies? The answer is, *because God has a greater plan than anyone has ever thought of!*

Section 366: Just Before Sunset, Joseph Of Arimathea Gets the Body of Jesus and Lays It In the Tomb

John 19:38: "Now, after these things, Joseph (the one from Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but having concealed it for fear of the Jews) asked Pilate that he might take Jesus' body away; and Pilate gave *him* permission. Then he came and took away the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus, who had come to Jesus by night at *the* first, also came, bearing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Then they took Jesus' body and wound it in linen cloths with the aromatics, as is the custom among the Jews

to prepare for burial” (vs 38-40).

So, the Shroud of Turin *is a complete fake!* When they wrapped Jesus' body, what did they do? *All of the flesh that was there that was misplaced by the beating, was probably put back in as they wrapped it!* You look at the Shroud. If the Shroud was just placed over Jesus, where are all the beaten marks on His chest and on His arm? *Not there!* So, they wound it!

Verse 41: “Now, there was a garden in the place where He was crucified, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because of the preparation of the Jews, they laid Jesus there; for the tomb was near” (vs 41-42).

Then I'll let you read the commentary on the three days and three nights. All of this is very important, because in order to say there were three days and three nights between Friday evening and Sunday morning, to have a resurrection on Sunday, *which it wasn't*. Some of the commentaries even say that when it was dark, between the sixth hour and ninth hour, that that was the first night. How could it be the first night? *Jesus was still on the cross, not in the tomb!* So, that could not be it. There is no way, anybody, anywhere at anytime, can get three full days from Friday night to Sunday morning.

Then you go through the whole commentary that we have written there. Now let's come to the two-page map on pages 320-321. I will have to confess to one typo in all the *Harmonies*. It's one very hard to catch because it's very small. I'll show you what that is in a minute. Look how it's laid out. The Hebrew days of the week:

- 5th day—Nisan 15
- 6th day—Nisan 16
- 7th day—Nisan 17
- 1st day—Nisan 18

Right across the top!

Now notice we have sunset/sunrise, sunset/sunrise, all the way through. Now for there to be three whole days and three whole nights, the only way that could be is with a Passover in the middle of the week. This year, with the way that the Passover is, it's not a week in which that could happen in this sequence.

But next year and the next five years, we will have three Passovers out of five with a Wednesday Passover. So, we've got each day:

- 1st night/1st day
- 2nd night/2nd day
- 3rd night/3rd day

Come to 3rd night/3rd day where it says Mark 16:1, that should read Matthew 28:1.

And you see that? See where it is? Come to Nisan 17. That's on the right hand page—321. Look at the day portion, come down to the very bottom where it says Mark 16:1 See that? That should be Matthew 28:1_[transcriber's correction]. And we'll see why in just a little bit.

Now I want to read something important. Now, remember when all of these things were being put together with the Harmony, we didn't have instant search on Google. We had to get the book. We had to get the quote. We had to correctly copy it and everything. But notice this. Even though when you read the apostolic fathers and Ignatius, he was the first one to start out with the Sunday resurrection and coinciding that with the Passover time. But how many years did they understand it was a Wednesday crucifixion?

footnote on pg 321: Knowledge of a Wednesday crucifixion was passed down for at least three centuries after the founding of the apostolic church.

Remember that the Romans had the Julian calendar, and every four years, they would lose a day, which meant that spring was moving closer and closer to winter. And pretty soon, Easter was beyond the spring equinox.

Now that continued all the way down to Pope Gregory, when they finally corrected the calendar. They had to take ten days out of the calendar. Have you ever read that? How did they do that? They saw that they lost ten days so they had October 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th, and the next day was the 15th. They put in the one quarter day accumulated to have a leap year every four years.

The Calculated Hebrew Calendar was always on time. The Catholics couldn't figure out how the Passover was getting further away from their traditional Easter. You look at it this year. Easter Sunday is the day after the first Holy Day. and the first Holy Day is a regular Sabbath, and that Sunday is the 1st day of the count toward Pentecost. Whenever that happens, the Church, the Catholics and the Jews all have Pentecost on the right day. *That's the only time!*

continue footnote: The Didascalia, which dates from the third century, offers historical evidence that the belief in a Friday crucifixion was a change from the original teaching. The following description of the day of Jesus' crucifixion appears in Book V of the Apostolic Constitutions, which contains the original words of the Didascalia: “For they began to hold a

council against the Lord on the second day of the week, in the first month, which is Xanthicus; and the deliberation continued on the third day of the week; but on the fourth day [Wednesday] they determined to take away His life by crucifixion" (Apostolic Constitutions—Didascalia Apostolorum, book V, section I, paragraph xiv)

Now today, you might pop that up in a few seconds on a Google Search. But that shows *they knew*.

A church historian explains the significance of this record in the Didascalia: "...the only reason can have been that Jesus' passion began on a Wednesday, i.e., the day when He was arrested [and crucified]" (Lietzmann, A History of the Early Church, p. 69).

Let's see what happened after that. When you read these Scriptures the way they should be, let's also understand that the Passover Day was always a preparation for The Night to be Much Observed. Because you have the Passover Day, you began with the Passover at night. Then comes a day portion, and you're preparing for The Night to be Much Observed. When it becomes sunset, that's beginning the 15th day.

That means that whenever the Passover is on a Wednesday, you have Thursday as a Holy Day. Friday is a workday, or preparation day, for the weekly Sabbath. That's where the confusion comes, with people. They can't understand, that in the Passover week when the Passover is on a Wednesday, that the day portion of the Passover is preparation for the Holy Day, which is a Sabbath, and then Friday, the day after is preparation for the weekly Sabbath.

The First Day Of Unleavened Bread Nisan 15—Thursday, April 6, 30 AD

Section 367—On the Holy Day, Guards Are Placed At the Tomb

Matthew 27:62: "Now, on the next day, which followed the preparation *day*, the chief priests and the Pharisees came together to Pilate, saying, 'Sir, we remember that that deceiver said while *He* was living, "After three days I *will* rise." Therefore, command *that* the sepulcher be secured until the third day; lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, "He is risen from the dead"; and the last deception shall be worse than the first'" (vs 62-64).

They had no idea what was going to happen. Let's think about our petty little trials today. We may have some emotional ups and some emotional downs. But is anyone coming to knock on your door, ready to take you out and throw you in jail? Is anyone ready to thrust of the spear through your stomach and kill you instantly? *No!*

Our biggest problem is, we have so much of everything everywhere that we have become so blatantly calcified in Laodiceanism, it's hard for anyone to put up with anyone who has any passion or zeal. Oh well, you can't talk like that. You know, just like they do with Trump: 'You shouldn't tweet.' If he didn't, do you think they would tell the truth? *Of course not!*

Verse 65: "Then Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard. Go, make *it as* secure as you know *how*.' And they went *and* made the sepulcher secure, sealing the stone *and* setting the guard" (vs 65-66).

What does it mean to seal the stone? Do they put glue around it? *No!* I suspect they used their fine hard limestone concrete, and sealed the stone, and when that dried there was no way it was going to be opened. Let's go on with that in mind.

The Preparation Day For the Weekly Sabbath Nisan 6—Friday, April 7, 30 AD

Section 368—After the Holy Day Is Over, The Women Buy and Prepare Spices

Mark 16:1: "Now, when the Sabbath had passed..."

the first Holy Day

"...Mary Magdalene and Mary, the *mother* of James; and Salome bought aromatic oils, so that they might come and anoint Him" (v 1).

Luke 23:56: "And they returned *to the city*, and prepared spices and ointments..."

That was a whole day affair. What was coming on after that day? *The weekly Sabbath!* It shows here that they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment. This could not be the Holy Day, because the Holy Day, you can have a feast. You can do a lot of things. You can do whatever is necessary in preparing food and so forth. But you can't do that on a regular Sabbath. Because there's a commandment: You shall not do any work. We got that picture with the setting sun to show Sabbath is ending.

Section 370—Toward the End of the Weekly Sabbath, Mary Magdalene and Mary Go To Observe the Tomb

This was quite interesting when I was preparing this, because the Greek does not say when the sun was rising. It says when it was dusking toward the first day of the week. So that also tells us this Sabbath was the seventh day.

Matthew 28:1: "Now, late on the Sabbath, as *the first day of the weeks* was drawing near, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to observe the sepulcher."

Why did they go to see it? *They just wanted to find out...* You're wondering:

- What happened?
- Is the guard there?
- How did they seal it?

So they went to look!

You've got all the commentary to read: Events of The First Day of The Week—Wave Sheaf Day To the Ascension.

Let's come all the way through that commentary. I'll leave you to read it, we'll come back to some of it a little later. All of this can become a little confusing, unless you have all four accounts, pg 334, on the first day of the week, and the women coming. Most people have the idea that all the women came together at the same time. But they didn't.

Nisan 18--Sunday Morning, April 9, 30 AD

Section 371—Early the First Day of the Week, Just Before Women Arrive At the Tomb, An Angel Opens the Tomb

Let's see what it took to open the tomb.

Matthew 28:2: "And *in the morning* suddenly there was a great earthquake..."

It had to have that hard concrete, lime concrete there to seal it!

...for an angel of *the* Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled away the stone from the door, and sat upon it" (v 2).

The angels are busy, the demons are busy, Satan is busy, everybody's going crazy trying to get this thing done.

Verse 3: "Now, his appearance was as lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him, those who were keeping guard trembled, and became as dead *men*" (vs 3-4).

That had to be revealed to them by Christ a little later on, because no one was there to see it.

Section 372—Early the First Day of the Week, Women Come To The Tomb, But Jesus Has Already Been Resurrected

Let's see the progression. Here's something interesting.

John 20:1: "Now, on the first *day* of the weeks..."

'*ton Sabbaton*', that means the first day toward counting the Pentecost—the first day of the weeks. Now, plural in Sabbath otherwise can be {twice saw the coins}. So this is a special, special one.

"...while it was still dark..." (v 1).

So this was say five in the morning? It was still dark!

"...Mary Magdalene..." (v 1).

she comes first alone

"...came early to the tomb; and she saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb" (v 1).

she saw it, and then she left

Verse 2: "Then she ran and came to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken away the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him'" (vs 1-2).

They still didn't understand about the resurrection. So, the first one (John 20), Mary Magdalene—while it was dark.

Luke 24:1: "Now, on the first *day* of the weeks, they came to the tomb at early dawn, bringing *the* spices that they had prepared; and certain *others* came with them."

But not all of them! Let's come to Mark now. So we have before—while it was still dark, we have early dawn. Now let's come here to;

Mark 16:2: "And very early on the first *day* of the weeks, at the rising of the sun, they were coming to the tomb."

there were these groups of women

Verse 3: "And they were asking themselves, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' For it was a massive *stone*. But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. And after entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right, clothed in a white robe; and they were very frightened. But he said to them, 'Do not be afraid. You are seeking Jesus the Nazarene,

Who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here. Look, *there is* the place where they laid Him” (vs 3-6).

we will see what that is in just a minute

Verse 7: “But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He goes before you into Galilee...”

and so forth! The account in Matt. 28 just summarizes that.

John 20:4: “Now, the two ran together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and came to the tomb first; and he stooped down *and* saw the linen cloths lying *there*, but he did not enter” (vs 4-5).

He was wrapped. Saw the linen cloths rising. Does a spirit being need to be unwrapped, or can he just come through the cloths? He can come through the cloths. So they saw the outline where Jesus body was where the cloths were, and then probably dipped in the middle because his body wasn't there.

That's quite a thing to see. Just picture it if you're one of the disciples, and you came down there. Remember, all the women—if you think God is against women—who discovered that He was resurrected *first? The women!*

Verse 6: “Then Simon Peter came following him, and he went into the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying, and the napkin that had been on His head... [especially covering His head] ...not lying with the linen cloths but folded up in a place by itself” (vs 6-7).

What does this tell you? Jesus was resurrected out of the linen. It stayed there in the form of His body with a dip in the middle, because his body was gone. But Jesus took the napkin off His head and folded it and put it in a different place. All who do laundry know clothes do not fold themselves! Just think how much you could make if you could have clothes that could fold themselves. This tells you that He's alive! Amazing!

Verse 8: Then the other disciple, who had come to the tomb first, also went in and saw *these things*; and he believed.”

John was the very first one to believe about the resurrection

Verse 9: “For they did not yet understand the Scripture, *which decreed* that He must rise from *the* dead. Then the disciples went away again to their *home*” (vs 9-10).

Now then, no one has seen Jesus, yet. They've only seen the tomb open. They've only seen the linen cloths and the folded up napkin. Mary Magdalene

didn't come running with Peter and John. She went and told them, but she probably walked, probably rapidly. Imagine how she was dressed, and the way they dressed then, women are not going to be running.

Mark 16:9. “Now, after *Jesus* had risen, early *the* first *day* of the weeks He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons. She went *and* told *it* to those who had been with Him, *who* were grieving and weeping” (vs 9-10)—*didn't believe her!*

Now we come to the details in John 20. This is quite a thing here. Quite a story! All of these tell us how important that everything about the life of Christ really was. We can't take it for granted like the Protestants do. The whole thing they want to get to, is have your sins forgiven. They think everything is accomplished at that point. But that's only the beginning.

John 20:11: “But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping; and as she wept, she stooped down *and* looked into the tomb.”

Double-checking, is His body really gone?

Verse 12: “And she saw two angels in white who were sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been laid.”

So, we have some of them who saw one angel, probably got so excited didn't even see that there was another one, so here there are two:

Verse 13: “And they said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.’ And after saying these things, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?’ Thinking that He was the gardener, she said to Him, ‘Sir, if you have carried Him off, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary.’ Turning around, she said to Him, ‘Rabboni’; that is to say, ‘Teacher.’” (vs 13-16).

probably more like ‘Rabboni’

Verse 17: “Jesus said to her, ‘Do not touch Me, because I have not yet ascended to My Father. But go to My brethren and tell them that I am ascending...’”

This is a tremendous understanding of what God is doing!

“...to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.’ Mary Magdalene came to the disciples, bringing word that she had seen the Lord, and that He had said these things to her” (vs 17-18).

(go to the next track)

Now then like every scheme that is crooked, something goes wrong because the truth always prevails. That is the resurrection. However, come to

Section 374—Soldiers Bribed to Lie

Mathew 28:11: “And as they were going, behold, some of the guard went into the city *and* reported to the chief priests all the things that were done.”

I get a kick out of this. Always in the *Harmony* in the Gospels, when the Jews want to do something, they have counsel.

Verse 12: “Then, after gathering together with the elders and taking counsel, they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, saying, ‘Tell *everyone* that His disciples came by night and stole Him while you were sleeping’” (vs 12-13).

How could that be, if the cement that they had, had sealed it? *The earthquake took care of that!*

Verse 14: “And if the governor hears of this, we will persuade him to release you from responsibility.’ And they took the money...” (vs 14-15).

I bet they were happy; these soldiers must have been happy as a lark!

“...and did as they were instructed, and **this report has been spread abroad among the Jews to this day**” (v 15)

and even to this day!

He told Mary, ‘I’m ascending to My God and your God and My Father and your Father.’ That was approximately nine in the morning. Remember: ***this is the day after the weekly Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread!***

What was commanded by God on that day? *The Wave Sheaf Offering* symbolic of Christ ascending! Now picture this: Here’s the priest and he’s waving the sheaf of firstfruits. While at the same time, Christ is ascending into heaven, to present Himself to the Father. After He presented himself, He comes back to the earth, because there’s more to be done. So, here are two disciples going to Emmaus. Jesus comes up to them, and they are probably disappointed.

Now, the third day is already over and ‘we don’t know what happened to Him. We don’t know where He is. Oh, if He had just stayed alive.’ Jesus comes along and said, ‘What are you talking about?’ They didn’t recognize Him because He could make Himself into whatever form He wanted to make. ‘Oh, Jesus of Nazareth, the Prophet.’ *Oh, really? What happened?* ‘We were thinking He was going to be the Messiah.’ *Oh, really? What happened?* ‘They got Him, arrested Him, tried Him and killed Him.’

They were virtually saying to Him that ‘the jig is up.’ So, they finally got to Emmaus and they said, ‘Come on in and eat with us.’ So, they went in, sat down with Him, after He explained a lot of things out of the Scriptures before they got there, and then sat down with them. When He asked the blessing and broke the bread, they knew it was Jesus.

- Can you imagine what they felt like?
- Can you imagine this surge of adrenaline!

So, Jesus disappeared, and they said, we’ve got to go tell the apostles. So they could get up there and tell them.

Section 375—Jesus Appears to Two Disciples on a Journey to Emmaus

Luke 24:31: “Then their eyes were opened... [v 32]: And they said to one another, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us...’ [v34]: ...’In truth, the Lord has risen!....”

Section 376—At Sunset, as the First Day of the Week is Ending, Jesus Appears to the Disciples Behind Closed Doors

Now then, they got to the apostles:

Luke 24:34: saying, ‘In truth, the Lord has risen!....’ [v 36]: Now, as they were telling these things, Jesus Himself stood in their midst...”

What Scripture proves that a spirit being does not need to have doors open? *That which is born in spirit is spirit, and it’s like the wind!* Nobody’s ever seen the wind. You only see the effect of the wind. Here He is! Did He walk through the door? *Don’t know!* Did He walk through the wall? *Don’t know, but He appeared!* Who knows, maybe He just came in came through the roof. Either way He was there.

“...and said to them, ‘Peace *be* to you.’ But they were terrified and filled with fear, thinking *that* they beheld a spirit apparition. Then He said to them, ‘Why are you troubled? And why do doubts come up in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I. Touch Me and see *for*

yourselves; for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see Me having.” (vs 36-39).

What does that mean? *He did not say flesh and blood! He said flesh and bone!* A spirit being does not need blood, but can manifest himself as a human being, to appear as flesh. So, this was special for them so that they could know that this was true.

Verse 40: “And after saying this, He showed them *His* hands and *His* feet. But while they were still disbelieving and wondering for joy, He said to them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’ Then they gave Him part of a broiled fish and a *piece* of honeycomb. And He took these *and* ate in their presence” (vs 40-43).

Now, for those who are technical, what happens to food that a spirit being eats? *Don’t ask me, I don’t know!*

Verse 44: “And He said to them, ‘These *are* the words that I spoke to you when I was yet with you, that ***all the things which were written concerning Me in the Law of Moses and in the Prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.***”

Not one word of God is ever, ever going to fail!
Everything:

- about His whole life
- about His ministry
- about his death
- about his resurrection

You can go back to Psalms 17 where it says, ‘I will be satisfied when I awake with your righteousness, or like you.’ That was a *Psalm of the resurrection*.

Verse 45: “Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.”

- How does that happen with us?
- How are the keys given that tell us what we must do?

All of them were:

- Sabbath-keepers
- Holy Day keepers
- keeping the commandments of God

Not like our world living out here in the satanic world!

The first thing we have to start with is to believe God and the Sabbath. You’ve got to start with the Sabbath. Then when you read the Word of God, what you learn you need to do—you must do. The minute you read it and say, ‘Oh well, that’s not important; it’s probably written by men.’ *Your mind is shut again! It’ll happen!*

Betty was talking about some of those who were saying how wonderful you’re going to find Sunday-keeping is, if you just open your mind. Well, in order for Sunday-keeping to be wonderful, you’ve got to close your mind, ***because no man can tell God what to do!*** He said to ‘remember the Sabbath,’ not reject it and forget it. God’s Spirit is sent by the Father—seven spirits. He draws us, and our minds are opened. That’s how they’re opened.

And the only way you understand *spiritual* Truth—because Jesus said, ‘The words that I speak they’re Spirit and Life, which includes all the words in the Bible—is to love God and keep His commandments and grow in grace and knowledge. He wants to teach us as much as we can learn before the resurrection. How’s that’s going to work out? *I don’t know!* Not everybody’s going to have the same job. How that’s going to work out? *I don’t know! God does!*

Verse 45: “Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, ‘According as it is written...’” (vs 45-46).

Whenever you see, “...it is written...” rarely do you say, ‘*was* written,’ because the Word of God is always active in the present tense.

“...it was necessary for the Christ to suffer, and to rise from *the* dead the third day. And in His name, repentance and remission of sins should be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. For you are witnesses of these things” (vs 46-48).

Just imagine what it would have been like to be in that room. They’ve spent three and a half years with Christ in a ministry, seeing all the miracles, seeing everything that was done: tried and crucified. And then:

- He’s risen
- He comes to them
- He shows them that He’s the One
- He eats food
- He opens their minds to understanding

That must have taken most of the night. But that was easy that night, because it was so filled with adrenaline they couldn’t have slept anyway. Here’s another one: remember what the lie was? *The disciples came and stole the body away!* So, the disciples were still afraid of the Jews. Don’t you think the Jews would like to come and get them and kill them, as well? *Yes!*

Section 377—Eight Days Later, Jesus Appears to His Disciples Again

John 20:26: “Now after eight days...

so, you go Sunday-to-Sunday; that’s eight days

"...His disciples again were within, and Thomas with them...." (v 26).

And Thomas said, 'Hey, I'm not going to believe You until I can see Your hands and feet and Your side (v 25)

Verse 26: "...Jesus came after the doors were shut, and stood in the midst and said, 'Peace *be* to you.' Then He said to Thomas..." (vs 26-27).

Tommy boy, come here

"...Put forth your finger, and see My hands; and reach *out* your hand, and put *it* into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing.' And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and My God'" (vs 27-28).

Now, think about that statement, because Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, and after His resurrection, He was God wholly again, or completely. Because don't misconstrue that as Holy meaning Divine, but it is. He was Holy Divine God in their presence in appearing as if He had flesh.

Verse 29: "Jesus said to him, 'Because you have seen Me, Thomas, you have believed; blessed are the ones who have not seen, but have believed.'"

What happened during the 40 days? *He was with them on and off for 40 days!* Then they had a meeting over in Galilee for over 500 brethren that saw Him at the same time. Here's what John writes:

John 20:30: "Now then, Jesus did many other miracles in *the* presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book. But these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing, you may have life through His name" (vs 30-31).

Then we come here to Acts 1:3. This is Luke writing to Theophilus; that means *lover of God*.

Acts 1:3: "To whom also, by many infallible proofs, He presented Himself alive after He had suffered, being seen by them for forty days, and speaking the things concerning the Kingdom of God."

Now I have quite a few Scriptures here, so we will follow along in the commentary. But putting the Scriptures together, what we have in the Old Testament what we have in the New Testament: What was it like when Jesus Christ was accepted by God the Father as the sin offering for the sins of all mankind?

commentary, pg. 330: Jesus Christ Accepted by God the Father

The ascension of Jesus to God the Father was an awesome event. Jesus Christ had finished the work that the Father had given Him to do. As God manifest in the flesh, He had lived a perfect, sinless life and had died by crucifixion to become the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. God the Father had raised Jesus back to life, and on the Wave Sheaf Day He was ready to ascend to the throne of God the Father to be accepted as the first of the firstfruits, the firstborn among many brethren, and the perfect sacrifice to propitiate the sins of the world.

So let's see if we can grasp the meaning and feeling of this fantastic day.

As He was ascending to the Father, Jesus must have been filled with great joy and anticipation. He would see the Father face to face for the first time since He had become a pinpoint of life when He divested Himself of His power and glory as God to be born of the virgin Mary. Again, the Psalms help us comprehend some of the thoughts and feelings that Jesus might have experienced as He looked forward to being reunited with the Father: "**O God, You are my God**, earnestly I will seek You! My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is, **to see Your power and Your glory—as I have seen You in the sanctuary**. Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You" (Psa. 63:1-3).

As previously noted, Psalm 23 foreshadowed the prayers of Jesus after He was resurrected from the dead. The psalm to follow, Psalm 24, is in prophetic sequence and depicts Jesus' ascension to be received of God the Father. When He arrived in heaven, the angels sang and shouted for joy. Perhaps this psalm was sung by the angels as they opened the everlasting doors and announced that the King of glory was entering into the presence of God the Father: "The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness of it, the world, and those who dwell in it, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters. **Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to vanity**

and has not sworn deceitfully [the perfect life of Jesus Christ]. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”

Lift up your heads, O you gates; and be lifted up, O you everlasting doors; that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle [He was victorious over human nature, sin, Satan the devil and death]. **Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you everlasting doors; that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory”** (Psa. 24:1-5, 7-10).

What a magnificent scene of splendor and glory Jesus would have seen when He entered through the everlasting gates of heaven! Standing on the sea of glass, He would have seen the resplendent glory and awesome majesty of God the Father seated on His throne with the heavenly host round about. The apostle John, the one whom Jesus loved, saw a vision of God's throne and recorded it in the book of Revelation. What John recorded is what Jesus would have seen when He ascended to the Father.

“After these things I looked, and behold, **a door opened in heaven**; and the first voice that I heard *was* as if a trumpet were speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.’ And immediately I was in *the* Spirit; and **behold, a throne was set in heaven, and One was sitting on the throne**. And He Who was sitting was in appearance like a jasper stone and a sardius stone; and a rainbow *was* around the throne, like an emerald in its appearance.

“And around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments; and they had on their heads golden crowns. **And proceeding from the throne were lightnings and thunders and voices**; and seven lamps of fire, which are the seven Spirits of God, were burning before the throne. **And before the throne was a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne and over the throne were four living creatures, full of eyes before and behind**; and the first living creature was like a lion, and the second living creature was like a bull, and the third

living creature had the face of a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. And each of the four living creatures had six wings respectively; and around and within they were full of eyes; **and day and night they cease not saying, ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and Who is, and Who is to come.’**

“And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanksgiving to Him Who sits on the throne, Who lives into the ages of eternity, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him Who sits on the throne; and they worship Him Who lives into the ages of eternity, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **‘Worthy are You, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power because You did create all things, and for Your will they were created and exist’**” (Rev. 4:1-11).

Quite a magnificent scene, indeed. Just think what it's going to be like when we're resurrected!

This was the scene that Jesus would have seen as He walked forward to present Himself to the Father as the perfect sacrifice for sin. He was the first of the firstfruits and the firstborn from the dead. As He walked on the sea of glass toward the Father sitting on His throne, the angels, the twenty-four elders and God the Father would see on His body the scars of the lashes that He had received when He was beaten with the cat-of-nine-tails which tore open His flesh. They would see the scars in His hands and feet where the soldiers had nailed Him to the cross. When the Father's beloved Son greeted His Father, They must have opened their arms and embraced each other in profound love and tears of joy. Thus Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, was accepted by God the Father on the Wave Sheaf Day.

After He was accepted of the Father, Jesus was selected to open the seven seals. He and He alone was qualified, because He had overcome all. The apostle John saw this tremendous scene in the vision and recorded it: “And in the right hand of Him Who sits on the throne I saw a book, written within and on the back, which had been sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, **‘Who is worthy to open the book and to loose its seals?’** But no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth was able to open the book, or to look inside it. And I [John] was weeping greatly because no one

was found worthy to open and to read the book, or to look into it.

“Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion Who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome to open the book, and to loose its seven seals.’ **Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, was standing a Lamb as having been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God that are sent into all the earth; and **He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him Who sits on the throne.**

“And when He took the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, **‘Worthy are You to take the book, and to open its seals because You were slain, and did redeem us to God by Your own blood, out of every tribe and language and people and nation,** and did make us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.’

“**And I saw, and I heard the voices of many angels around the throne, and the voices of the living creatures and the elders, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing.’ And every creature that is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and those that are on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying, ‘To Him Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing, and honor, and glory, and sovereignty into the ages of eternity.’** And the four living creatures said, ‘Amen.’ And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped *Him Who lives into the ages of eternity*” (Rev. 5:1-12).

This is the glory and majesty that Jesus Christ received when He was accepted by God the Father as the Savior and Redeemer of mankind on the Wave Sheaf Day. Jesus had overcome sin in the flesh and gained complete victory over death, opening the way for the redemption and salvation of all mankind through faith in Him. Now He lives in eternal glory, as the first of many sons of God who will be resurrected at His

second coming to share His eternal glory and immortality. Those who are Jesus Christ's are now being perfected through the love, grace and power of God the Father. They will be granted the identical spiritual existence that the Father and the Son have. They will be the sons and daughters of God the Father, and the brethren of Jesus Christ. Jesus shared human existence with mankind in order to become the sin offering for the world so that all who believe in Him may ultimately share His eternal existence and glory in the Family of God throughout the ages of eternity. Amen.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 27:51-54
- 2) John 19:31-42
- 3) Matthew 27:62-66
- 4) Mark 16:1
- 5) Luke 23:56
- 6) Matthew 28:1-4
- 7) John 20:1-2
- 8) Luke 24:1
- 9) Mark 16:2-7
- 10) John 20:4-10
- 11) Mark 16:9-10
- 12) John 20:11-18
- 13) Matthew 28:8-15
- 14) Luke 24:31-32, 34, 36-48
- 15) John 20:26-31
- 16) Acts 1:3

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Psalm 63:1-3
- John 20:25

Also referenced:

- Article: *Christ's Last Passover, Leavened or Unleavened?* by Ben Ambrose {truthofGod.org}
- Book: *A Harmony of the Gospels* by Fred R. Coulter

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Malaysia

WDT 00009
Semenyih,
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