

GETHSEMANE TO GOLGOTHA

by Dr. Dennis Spackman MB, ChB, GradTheol.

Is a simple, step-by-step guide, on how the Christian can open up the riches of the Word of God. In this, the first book by Dr. Dennis Spackman, the reader follows the Lord from the Passover meal in the upper room, to the Garden of Gethsemane, and thence every step of the way, until the Lord finally faces the last steps to Calvary.

This is not a book for the squeamish, as it accurately and clinically details the

sufferings of the Lord. One of the highlights of this book is the insight into the Lord's hour of decision, while another is the Spiritual dual being fought between the Lord and Satan.

This book is loaded with basic Bible doctrine. Nothing is assumed, as the author carefully explains the doctrine. Authoritative, comprehensive, and easy to use, this book belongs in the back of every Christian's bible.

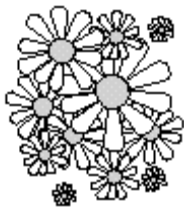
Correspondence: 25 Ngaroma Road, Epsom. Auckland. NZ 1003

Telephone: 64 96254123 [2 hrs. ahead of Aust.]

Email: denspack@iconz.co.nz

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CONTACT:

Wendy Howard..... 07 54941672

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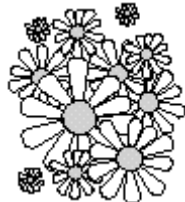
P.O.B. 238, Landsborough. Q. 4550

Fax: 07 54948617

Mobile: 0407 636611

Email: despatch@mail.cth.com.au

76 **Website:** <http://www.despatch.cth.com.au>



GETHSEMANE TO GOLGOTHA

**THE ARREST AND TRIAL OF
THE MAN CHRIST JESUS**

**HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE AT HOME
ALSO FOR USE IN STUDY GROUPS**

BOOK ONE



DR DENNIS SPACKMAN

MB, ChB, Grad.Theol.

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” - John 5:39



May 1998

PREFACE

“ How do I study my Bible? ”

This is one of the commonest questions I am asked. It takes me back almost forty years when I was asking the very same question myself, having just previously “accepted the Lord” at the Billy Graham Crusade in Auckland in 1959. In those days, I would arise early and begin my day with half an hour in the Word of God, using study notes that, in hindsight, were little more than the author’s opinions, and had very little to do with real Bible study.

However, the Lord knows our needs, and He didn’t leave me stumbling on my own for long. Four men were used of God to meet my spiritual needs. God never abandons the sincere seeker who is adrift, but searching. God brought each of these men to me at just the right time.

George Curle was my early mentor, answering my hundreds of Bible queries, and making me aware of the need for solid Bible study. His evangelism and soul winning highlighted the tragedy of so many lost sinners indifferent to their need of salvation

Pastor Rolland Star opened my eyes to the Bible “issue” and the absolute need to be able to trust One Book. God had preserved His word [Matt.24:35, Ps.12:7, 1Pet.1:25] and now God gave me the faith, and the subsequent proof, that I could actually hold His Holy Word in my own two hands.

Dr. Dave Reese unlocked the Dispensations, and the simplicity of understanding the Bible once it is “rightly divided”. The apparent contradictions vanished, and the Book could be totally trusted. The Word of God came alive, and its riches were opened before me.

Pastor Willy Mullan gave me a love for the Book, and its central message of “Christ crucified and risen for me”. He taught me how to teach, - keeping my eyes always on the Lord Jesus Christ, and providing “milk” for young Christians, and “meat” for mature believers. He gave me a love for the Lord, a concern for the lost, and a shame for the many lukewarm believers.

To these four men I will forever be grateful and in part, this book is a tribute to them.

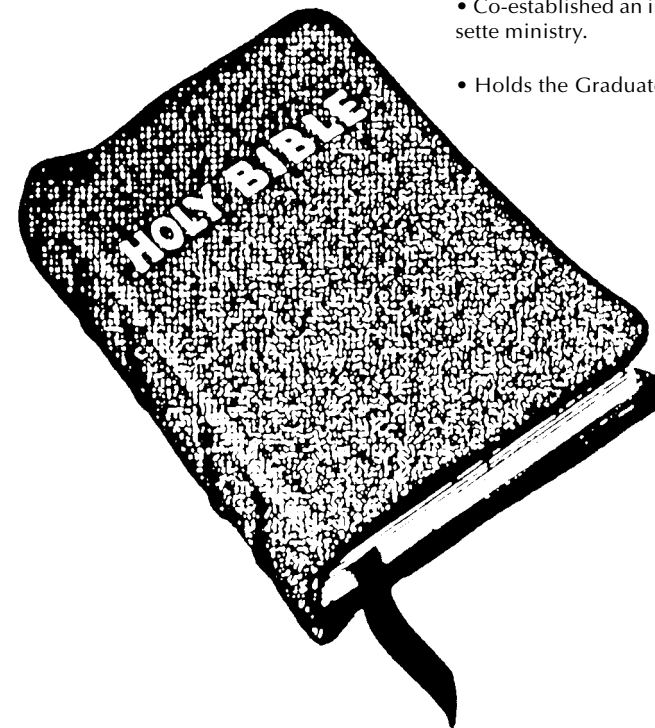
Gethsemane To Golgotha.

How To Study Your Bible At Home is designed to do just as its title suggests. The Believer will be able to sit down with

F. Special passages relating to the Word:

Matt.4:3-11 Jesus tempted by devil, quotes the Word
 Matt.7:21-27 The parable of the house on the rock & on the sand
 Matt.13:1-23 Parable of the sower [the seed is the Word]
 Jer.36:1-32 Preservation of God’s Word. EXCITING READING!
 Ps.119:1-176 King David’s beautiful tribute to the Word. Every verse.

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” Acts 17:11



PROFILE INFORMATION

Dr. Dennis Spackman is a medical doctor still active in medical practice after 42 years.

His Christian background includes:

- Co-Founder of FaithFinder Films evangelistic ministry.
- Active in the Gideons until KJ Bible distribution discontinued.
- Broadcast weekly radio programmes over HCJB for 2 years.
- Founded an Independent Baptist Church.
- Church Pastor and lecturer on Bible for 6 years.
- Initiated and established the Diploma of Bible Study ministry.
- Provided teaching material for 3 overseas Bible colleges.
- Co-established an international Christian cassette ministry.
- Holds the Graduate of Theology degree.

Ps.119:162

I rejoice at Thy Word,
as one that findeth great spoil

Ps.119:40

Behold, I have longed
after Thy precepts [Word]

Ps.119:72

Law of Thy mouth [Word]
better than thousands of gold

Ps.119:127

I love Thy commandments [Word]
above gold

13. A WARNING RE FALSE TEACHERS OF THE WORD

Isa.8:20

If they speak not according to this Word...
no light in them

1 Tim.4:1-2

Some shall depart from the faith....
speaking lies

1 Tim.6:3-5

If any man teach otherwise...
he is Proud, knowing nothing

Rom.16:17

Mark them which cause divisions...contrary
to doctrine

Gal.1:8-9

If any preach any other gospel...
let him be accursed

14. WHAT YOU SHOULD NOT DO WITH THE WORD

**A. Don't read it skeptically
or doubtfully:**

Heb.4:2 Word did not profit....not mixed
with faith in them...heard

**B. Don't err by being
ignorant of the Word:**

Matt.22:29 ye do err, NOT knowing the
Scriptures.

[see also Matt.12:3, 19:47,21:42,
Jn.20:9, Acts 13:27]

**C. Don't "wrest" and
twist the Scriptures:**

2 Cor.2:17 Not as many which corrupt
the Word of God

2 Cor.4:2 Not...handling the Word of God
deceitfully

2 Pet.3:14-17 They that are unlearned &
unstable wres...Scriptures

**D. Don't harden your heart
& despise the Word:**

Prov.13:13 Whoso despiseth the Word
shall be destroyed

Zech.7:12-13 They made their hearts as
stone, lest...hear...Words

2 Chron.36:16 They mocked messengers
of God & despised His Words

Isa.5:24 They cast away the law [Word]&
despised the Word

**E. The fate of those who doubt
& despise the word:**

Jn.12:48 He that receiveth not my
Words...the Word shall judge...

Zech.7:11-12 They refused to hearken...
therefore came a great wrath

Isa.5:24 Their root shall be as
rottenness...they despised the Word

Ps.50: 17,21 Thou castest My Words be-
hind thee....I will reprove thee

2 Cor.4:4 The god of this world [Satan]
hath blinded the minds....

Lk.8:12 They hear, then cometh devil &
taketh away the Word

the Bible, and using this book begin a
journey of discovery and understanding
of the Word of God. Not only will the
Christian learn the meaning of the text
being studied, but he or she will also be
introduced to the bonus of marginal
notes, the use of the Concordance and
how to recognise and understand Bible
doctrine.

This book frequently and purposely takes
the reader down side-tracks of unex-
pected discovery, where some real
"gems" will be brought to light. This is
intended to broaden the Bible knowledge
of the reader, and encourage further side-
tracking.

Gethsemane To Golgotha is also written
for the retired and elderly Christian.
There are elderly couples who always
share a time of devotion, prayer and Bi-
ble study together at the table, before
they commence their breakfast. This
book will be useful for them.

Genuine Bible study leaves no place for
the opinions of man, but instead teaches,
with authority, - "Thus sayeth the Word!"
This book should find a place in every
church-based home bible-study group
that is genuinely desirous of spiritual
growth.

Obviously, a sequel to this first study
book will be needed, if only to take the
reader to the Cross, and to follow the Lord
until His Ascension. To look beyond the
next book would be speculation, but if
there is appetite for such material, then I
will trust the Lord for guidance and di-
rection.

Dr. Dennis Spackman.

Dedicated To Rowan

My beloved wife, and

My very best friend

GETHSEMANE TO GOLGOTHA



HOW TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE AT HOME ALSO FOR USE IN STUDY GROUPS

THE ARREST & TRIAL OF THE MAN, CHRIST JESUS

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1. LEAVING FOR THE GARDEN

We begin this Bible study with the conclusion of the meal in the upper room. You will recall that the Lord sent two of His disciples to prepare the Passover meal, that they were to share together. We find the passage in Mk.14:12-16

Whenever a bible reference is mentioned, you should **always** look it up in your own Bible, including the texts which are printed out in full in these notes, because otherwise, you will not see the marginal notes which you have previously written in your Bible, and more importantly, you could miss out on some of the riches “gems” in the Bible, which God is just wanting you to discover.

How did the disciples choose the location? In the margin of your Bible, beside verse 13, write the names of the two disciples whom Jesus sent. You will find their names in the parallel account in **Lk.22:8**, which you should also write beside **Mk.14:13**. As your marginal notes gradually increase in number, you will find that your Bible becomes more and more valuable to you, and you will become more and more familiar with its contents, and where to find them.

When making marginal notes, I suggest you use a fin-tipped fibre pen, rather than a ball point. Ball point pens have a tendency to “bleed” through the paper. I use the Artline 220 super fine 0.2 pen, or the Espresso extra fine point pen. Both of these are readily obtainable from most stationers. I tend to use re, green and purple. It is also a good idea to use a Stabilo Boss yellow highlighter pen to highlight important verses, but do so sparingly, - otherwise your entire Bible will

be highlighted!

Throughout these studies, you will be prompted to write marginal notes alongside certain bible verses, and suggestions will be given as to what you should write. However, **you will only be reminded from time to time. It is suggested that EVERY relevant cross-reference, or note, or comment be written in the margin of your Bible. ALL OF THEM.** If you get into the habit of doing this, your Bible will become immeasurably more valuable and precious, and your Bible knowledge will improve dramatically. This cannot be overemphasised. Truly.

The twelve disciples and the Lord ate the meal in the upper room. How do we know that all twelve were there?

Turn to **Mk.14:17.**

“And in the evening he cometh with the twelve”.

What else do you learn from this little verse? What time was it? Well it must have been some time after 6pm., because the Jewish day begins with the evening, and the evening starts at 6pm. So we know that this meal begins some time after 6pm. This explains why the Creation account is always stated as *“the evening and the morning were the first day”* etc. in Gen. 1:5,8,13,19,23,31. The evening always precedes the day, since the Jewish day begins at 6pm.

The disciples and the Lord eat the meal together, and we don’t know how long this meal lasted, but look what happens next in **Mk.14:26**. They sing a hymn. I wonder what they sang? It would almost certainly have been one of the Psalms of David, since many of these were written to be sung as praise to the Lord. Look up **Ps.47:6-9**, and **Ps.150:1-6**. Try to imag-

Ps.119:105

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet & light unto my path

Ps.119:130

The entrance of Thy Words giveth light

Heb.4:12

Word is...discerner of thoughts and intents of heart

Jn.8:31 -32

If ye continue in My Word... truth shall make you free

Ps. 11 9:11

Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin

Ps.119:9

A young man cleanse his way? ..taking heed to the Word

9. WE SHOULD FEED ON THE WORD FOR SPIRITUAL FOOD

1 Pet.2:2

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word

Matt.4:4

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word

Jer.15:16

Thy Words were found, and I did eat them

Job.23: 12

I have esteemed Words more than my necessary food

10. TEACH “MILK” TO BABES, AND “MEAT” TO THE MATURE

Heb.5:13

Every one that useth milk...is a babe

Heb.5:14

But strong meat belongeth to them that are [mature]

1 Cor.3:1-2

I have fed you with milk, and not with meat

Heb.6: 1 -3

Leaving the principles of the doctrine... let us go on

2 Tim.2:15

A workman....rightly dividing the word of truth

2 Tim.4:2

Preach the Word...reprove, rebuke exhort

1 Cor.2:4,13

Not with enticing words of man’s wisdom

Acts 8:25

They testified & preached the Word of the Lord

Jer.23:28

He that hath My Word, let him speak [it] faithfully

11. STUDY THE WORD & SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Jn.5:39

Search the Scriptures...they testify of Me

Acts 17:11

Received the Word... & searched the Scriptures daily

1 Tim.4:16

Take heed unto the doctrine; continue in them.

2 Tim.2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God...

12. LOVE THE WORD & LET IT DWELL IN OUR HEARTS

Deut.6:6-7

These Words...shall be in thine heart

1 Tim:4:15

Meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly

Col.3:16

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly

4. GOD'S WORD IS OUR SPIRITUAL WEAPON

Ephes.6:17

The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God

Jer.5:14

I will make My Words in thy mouth fire

Jer.23:29

Is not My Word like as a fire? and like a hammer?

Matt.4:4

Jesus said to [Satan], it is written. Then devil leaveth

Heb.4:12

Word is quick & powerful & sharper than any...sword

1 Jn.2:14

The Word of God abideth in you... overcome the wicked

5. THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN FOR OUR BENEFIT

Ps.102:18

This shall be written for the generation to come

Jn.19:35

He [John] saw that it bare record that ye might believe

Jn.20:31

These are written that ye might believe

Rom .15:4

Written for our learning... the Scriptures...might have hope

1 Cor.10:11

And they are written for our admonition

6. BIBLE GIVES FAITH, TRUTH, WISDOM AND STRENGTH

Rom.10:17

Faith cometh by hearing the Word of God

Ps.19:7

Testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple

Ps.119:99-100

I have more understanding than all my teachers

Jn.17:17

Thy Word is truth

Acts 20:32

Word of His grace, which is able to build you up

2 Tim.2:15-17

Scriptures...are able to make thee wise

7. MEDITATING IN THE WORD GIVES PROSPERITY/SUCCESS

Josh 1:8

Meditate thy way prosperous have good success

Ps.1:2-3

In His law doth he meditate. . whatsoever shall prosper

1 Tim.4:15

Meditate upon these things thy profiting may appear

8. THE WORD GIVES US GUIDANCE & LIGHTS OUR WAY

Ps.19:8

Commandments of Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes

Ps.25:10

Paths of the Lord are mercy & truth.. keep His testimonies

ine the scene. It important whenever you are doing Bible-study that you try and picture the event, and while doing so, meditate and think about the scene. Doing so, will impress it more permanently on your memory.

How many hymns did they sing? It is always very important to handle the Word of God carefully and accurately, and never take liberties with it.

Mk.14:26 give the answer, and tells us what they all did next.

"... they went out into the Mount of Olives."

What time would it be now? We don't know because the Bible is silent on this, but it is reasonable to assume that it is most likely some time between 9-10pm. allowing time for the meal, the conversation, and the singing of the hymn.

They cross over the Kedron brook. This is a small ravine which in the winter contains water and is known as the brook Kedron. It is also spelt "Cedron". How do we know that the Lord and His disciples crossed this small stream which separates Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives? Well we can be sure that they did, because it is mentioned elsewhere. Look up the cross-reference in John's gospel which tells of their walk to the Garden of Gethsemane. You will find it in **Jn.18:1**.

As they are walking towards the Garden of Gethsemane, the Lord makes a statement to his disciples which surprises them. Turn to

Mk.14:27-28

"And Jesus said unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the

sheep shall be scattered.

But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee"

From verse 27, we learn that the Lord Jesus Christ quotes from the scriptures, because He says *"it is written"* Can you recall another time when the Lord used those very words? Yes, He quoted scripture when He was being tempted by Satan [see Matt.4:4,7,10]

As the Lord is walking with His disciples towards the Garden of Gethsemane, He quotes **Zechariah 13:7**. Most bibles have a small alphabet letter beside the word *"written"* referring the reader to a marginal note that gives the source of the quote. It is always wise to look up such quotes, because often **the Lord rewards the reader** who does so, by giving a blessing that would otherwise not be possible. Zech.13:7 is a case in point. This was written in BC 487 and it is a direct reference to the events which are to about happen in the Garden of Gethsemane, some 500 years later. In the margin beside **Zech.13:7** we should write the reference *"see Mk.14:27"*, and have you noted what **Zech.13:6** says?

Beside this verse write *"Lord Jesus Christ"* because He was the One whose hands were pierced. Isn't it amazing how Old Testament prophecy was fulfilled exactly. Reading such prophecies as these, gives us confidence in knowing that our Bible is truly the Word of God, and that it is without any error, contradictions or mistakes.

How did Peter react? Look at **Mk.14:29**. Peter was one of the great apostles, yet he tended to shoot his mouth off without really thinking too deeply. Did you note that the Lord talked about **His resurrection** in **verse 28**, [*"after that I am risen"*].

Do you think that Peter and the other disciples knew what was going to happen to the Lord? Did they know about the crucifixion? **Did they understand the significance of the Cross?** Did they know that their Lord and Saviour was about to be killed, and would die, and would rise again? Now before you give an answer, think carefully. Here, the Lord has just mentioned His resurrection, so does this mean that Peter and the other disciples knew what He was talking about? What do you think? Pause for a moment and consider.

Well, we don't have to guess the answer, - and we should **NEVER try and guess things about the Bible**, because if God wants us to know something, then He will have the answer in His Book, the Bible, - and our job is simply to *search the scriptures*" [Jn.5:39] " and find the answer. [You did look up Jn.5:39 in your own Bible, didn't you? And did you write a marginal note beside it? I have highlighted this entire verse in yellow marker, and underlined in red, the 3 first words.]

God does not "spoon-feed" believers, - He expects us to study and work hard at discovering what He is WANTING to teach us from His Bible. And when we do this, He richly rewards us. Some people think that the Bible is old fashioned, and was only written to the Jews, or the very early Christians, but that is not so. Much of the Bible is for the Jews and the Jewish nation, but **much of the Bible is specifically for Gentiles** [non Jews]. How do I know this? I know it, because the apostle Paul, over and over again, tells us that he [Paul] is the apostle to the Gentiles. We are gentiles, so he is the apostle who writes specifically to us. Look up the following Bible verses which explain that Paul is the apostle to the gentiles:

1. Rom.15:15-16
2. Rom.11:13
3. Ephes.3:1
4. Ephes.3:7-9

Beside each of these verses in your Bible, write a marginal note "*Paul apostle to Gentiles - that's me*" and also write the 3 other references beside each of the verses, so that if, for example, you turn to Ephes.3:1, you will see the other 3 references listed in your margin, plus the fact that "*Paul is the apostle to Gentiles - that's me.*" Very soon, your Bible will become a living Book that contains so much that you have put into it, and this will keep your memory refreshed.

Thus, if we wish to know Bible Doctrine that is applicable to Gentiles, - and that is you and me, living today, - then we should pay heed to what the apostle Paul writes. But aren't the words of the Lord Jesus Christ more important? He is the Saviour, so **shouldn't we heed what the Lord says, in preference to what an apostle, - even Paul, wrote?**

That is a good question, and of course the words spoken by the Saviour are important, but your question overlooks the fact that **all Scripture is FOR us, but not all Scripture is TO us**. Noah was commanded to build an ark. We don't have to build an ark. The commandment was to Noah, not to us, yet we can learn many lessons from the ark and the flood, so this scripture, while not specifically **to** us, is very much **for** us..

Before we return to the Garden of Gethsemane, let us take just **one more side-track**, that is extremely important, and yet quite often not really understood by some Christians. It has to do with the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, so it is very relevant to our study.

APPENDIX THREE

BIBLE VERSES CONCERNING THE WORD OF GOD

1. THE BIBLE IS DIVINELY INSPIRED.

2 Tim.3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God

1 Thes.2:13

Received not as word of men, but as truth, Word of God

Heb.1 :1

God...spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets

2 Pet.1:21

Men of God spake as they were moved by Holy Ghost

2. GOD'S WORD IS ETERNALLY TRUE & NEVER FAILS

1 Ki.8:56

There hath not failed one word of all His good promise

Ps.119:89

Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in Heaven

Ps.119:160

Every one of thy judgments endureth forever

Isa.40:8

The Word of God shall stand forever

Isa.55: 10-11

So shall My Word be... it shall accomplish...and prosper

Matt.24:35

Heaven & earth shall pass away, but My Words [never]

Jn.10:35

The Scripture cannot be broken [cancelled, annulled]

1 Pet.1:25

The Word of the Lord endureth forever

3. THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD'S WORD

Deut.32:46-47

Set your heart unto all the Words... it is your life

Ps.138:2

Thou [God] hast magnified Thy Word above all Thy name

Rev.19:11-13

His [Jesus] name is called the Word of God

Jn .6:63

The words that I speak, they are spirit, and they are life

Ps.33:6,9

By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made...

Rom.1:16

Gospel of Christ... is the power of God unto salvation

Heb.11:3

The worlds were framed by the Word of God

2 Pet.3:5-7

Earth...by the Word, kept in store, reserved unto fire

Jn.1:1

In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God

Jn.1:14

The Word [Jesus] was made flesh & dwelt among us

verses. If all the verses of the King James Bible are carefully counted, it is possible to determine the very middle Bible verse in the King James Bible. This verse consists of just one sentence of 14 words [*two perfect 7's*], and it is

Psalm 118:8

"It is better to trust in THE LORD than to put confidence in man".

And the two CENTRAL WORDS of this central verse are ...

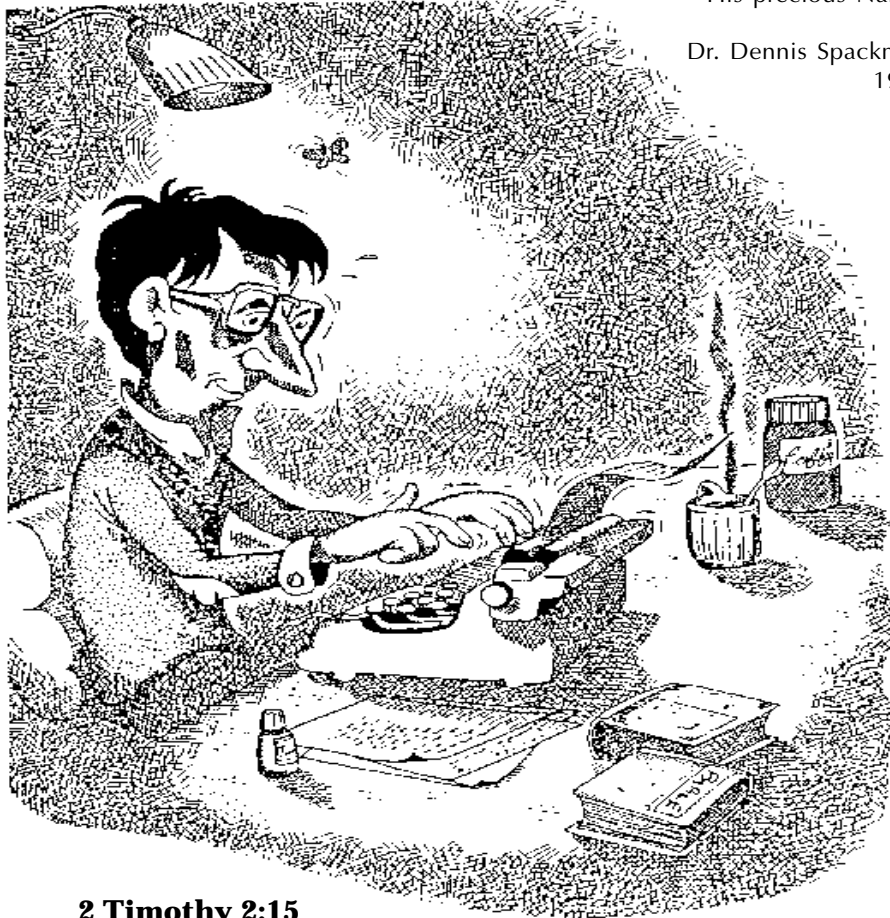
"THE LORD"

May the reader ever keep this verse central in his or her heart, trust totally the Word of God, and always keep the eyes firmly turned towards the Lord.

I wish you may wonderful hours of fellowship with God, as you study your Bible at home.

Yours in
His precious Name.

Dr. Dennis Spackman
1998



2 Timothy 2:15

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

When the Lord came to the Earth, taught the disciples, performed the miracles, gave the Sermon on the Mount, and was finally taken before Pontius Pilate, **this was all before the Cross**. A believer was saved by keeping the Law. The Lord strictly adhered to the Law, and kept the Sabbath. He was a Jew [born of Mary], and **He came to the Jewish nation**, fulfilling the Law, and showing by signs and wonders His perfect life, and thus proving that He was indeed the promised Messiah. This was still in the Age or dispensation of Law. This was the period of time which Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote about in their gospels.

Although the four gospels begin the New Testament, they are about times and events that were still associated with the Old Testament, and the keeping of the Jewish Law. The earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, detailed in the four gospels, belongs to the Dispensation of Law. **The Age or Dispensation of Grace, also known as the Church Age, does not begin until after the Holy Ghost is given on the Day of Pentecost.** This is recorded in the Book of Acts, chapter 2. [An in-depth study of the dispensations will be the subject in a future *Home Bible Study Series*.]

Now if you are becoming just a little bored, please "hang in" for just a few moments longer and you will be richly rewarded. There are some surprises that are worth waiting for!

The Jewish nation was God's chosen people, [Gen.12:2, Deut.7:6, Ps.33:12], and **the Lord Jesus Christ came first to present Himself as the Messiah to the Jewish nation. He did not come to the Gentiles**, even though His subsequent death on the cross was of course for all of mankind, both Jew and Gentile, and we all worship Him as God and Saviour

of the world. Can I prove, from the Bible what I have just stated? Sure I can. Everything in this booklet must and can, be supported by the Word of God. Let me show you two very clear-cut examples.

Example 1.

When the Lord instructed the twelve disciples, and sent them forth, He specifically told them to keep away from the Gentiles, and only to go to the Jews. The Lord is speaking, - now turn to

Matt.10:5

"...Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not."



Matt.10:6

"But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

Example 2.

Do not be in a hurry with this example. It is extremely important, and provides an understanding of the Lord's determination to minister to the Jewish nation, and not to the Gentiles. Turn to

Matt.15:21-23

This is a very touching episode. The woman asks the Lord for help, because

her daughter is sick. How does the Lord answer her? *“But he answered her not a word....”* The Lord Jesus Christ totally ignores her cry for help, and the disciples tell Him to send her away! Can you imagine the compassionate Lord doing this? Why does He ignore this woman? The Bible leaves us in no doubt, because, after the disciples speak, the Lord continues in the next verse. Turn to

Matt.15:24

“But he answered an said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”

The Lord is emphasising that the Father sent Him **only to the Jews**. [*The lost sheep of the house of Israel*], and this is why He ignored this woman who is **not a Jew, but a Gentile!** How do we know that she is a gentile? Please write the answer as a marginal reference beside verse 23. The answer is *“see Mk.7:26 - Greek (=Gentile) woman”*. Now you should read the full account in Matthew’s gospel. [and in Mark too]. Turn to

Matt.15:21-28

The woman did not give up, did she? She persevered, and you will note in v.25 that she **“worshipped”** Him. She did far more than just *“kneel before him”* as in some modern bible versions. **To “kneel” and to “worship” are two entirely different things.** I would kneel before the Queen, [if I was knighted!] but I would never worship her. **Worship is reserved for the Lord.** Note the Lord’s use of the word **“dogs”** in v.26. This was a common term used by the Jews to describe a Gentile. Check **Matt.7:6**, and I hope you are making marginal notes for all these references? This story has a happy ending, because the Lord does heal the woman’s daughter, after the woman has **worshipped him as Lord.**

Many bibles have the words of the Lord Jesus Christ printed in red letters to give them prominence. Such Bibles are known as **red-letter bibles**, and they make it easy to spot the words of the Lord. However, such bibles can sometimes cause confusion for the new Christian, who thinks that the red words, being from the Lord Jesus Christ, are the only words which the Christian is to follow, regarding **Bible Doctrine**. This is not so. The words of the Lord Jesus Christ are very important, and give basic principles of Godly living, which have always been unchanged, throughout all of the Bible. The Bible teaches that present day Christians are to be followers of the apostle Paul, who in turn is a follower of the Lord. **1 Cor.11:1**

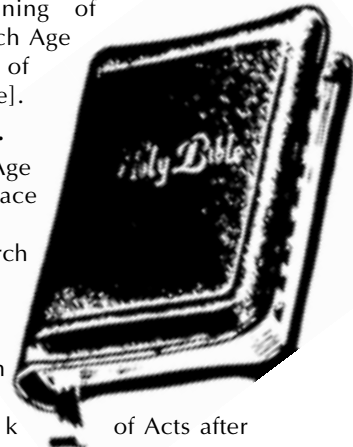
Our **side-track** may have seemed tedious to you, but it has been necessary to establish that

1. The Lord Jesus Christ was sent [Matt.15:24] only to the Jews. His earthly ministry was to the Jews, under the law.

2. The four Gospels detail events in the Dispensation of Law, before the beginning of Church Age [Age of Grace].

3. The Age of Grace [the Church Age], commences in the

Book of Acts after chapter 2, when the Holy Ghost comes.



As I have studied the Bible, I have discovered that verse number 17 seems to have a significance associated with the Word of God.

I recall my Bible College Principal, **Dr. Dave Reese** saying, many years ago,

“The only thing that the Spirit of God uses in the Age of Grace is the Word of God’ and it is true!

Look at these wonderful Bible verses that God has placed in our Bible associated with the verse number 17. Seventeen is a prime number and I am sure that is of significance, although I do not understand in what way. But I DO know that these following verses are all precious, and all have to do with the Word of God, or the Spirit of God, and all are verse number 17.

Jn.17:17

“Sanctify them through they truth: they word is truth.”

Ephes.6:17

“ And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

2Tim.3:17

“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

Jn.14:17

“Even the Spirit of truth: whom the world cannot receive because it sees him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

Rom.10:17

“So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

These are just a few verses which I have noted inside the fly leaf of my Bible, over the years. I have not gone through my Bible systematically to search out the **“verses 17”** although if I did, I am sure that God would have some more “treasures hidden away for me.

Bible Numerics is a fascinating interest, and The Companion Bible, which is a King James Bible, and was published early in this century by that great Bible scholar, Dr. Ethelbert Bullinger, analyses in a mathematical way, every book, chapter, verse and word in the Bible. The symmetry and patterns revealed are mind blowing.

An easy-to-follow book which also deals with this subject, as well as ay others [including Evolution versus Creation] is The Seal of God, by **F. C. Payne** and I very highly recommend that EVERY Christian should have this book, to read, to lend, and to give away. It is still available from the local Christian bookshops [price in 1998 is \$17.95 NZ Curr. Aust. Curr. much less] and it will “blow you out of your sox”!

It is an excellent book to give a non believer, or a non-christian person, and is particularly good for the academic, secondary school, or university type of person. This book has been instrumental in thousands of souls being saved.

What better way to end this Appendix than by showing you something that never ceases to thrill my soul, and is only found in the king James Bible, and no other... The King James Bible has 31,173

“Well, the King James Bible was good enough for the Apostle Paul, then I guess it’s good enough for me. Ha! Ha! Ha!”

Well, as a true Bible-believer I can reply (and I’ve listed 4 examples above, and there are many more):

“Yes, the King James Bible WAS good enough for the Apostles Peter and Paul, and for the Lord Jesus Christ, so it IS good enough for me!”

Let me give you one last extreme example of God’s over-riding Hand in the preservation of His Word.

Turn to
1 John 2: 23.

In 1611, when the King James Bible translators came to this verse of Scripture, they added ten words in italics, because there was no manuscript evidence to complete the verse. None anywhere. Was God guiding them or not? You be the judge. In the year 1844 an old, but well preserved manuscript was discovered in a monastery. It dated way back to the fourth century, and had been “lost” for all the intervening years.

When examined, it was found to contain in 1 John 2: 23 the exact words which the KJ translators had added.



APPENDIX TWO

THE SEVENTEENS IN SCRIPTURE

One of the interesting aspects of Bible study, is the way in which the placing of the chapters and verses in the Bible seems to have a numerical significance. It is the same with the words themselves, and even with the number of letters in the words.

This opens up an entire field of study known as Bible Numerics, and not everyone accepts the claims made. I tend to be somewhat sceptical about the meaning and significance of numbers, although it is hard to ignore such “coincidences” as the number 13 being associated with evil, or things “bad”. There are 26 names in the King James Bible that have 13 letters, [eg Judas Iscariot] and 25 of those names are evil or bad through and through! How do you explain it? You can’t - if you leave God out of the very planning and layout of the Word of God.

Even the chapter and verse construction of the king James Bible has a numeric key to it. That is not found in other versions. eg Perhaps it is just “coincidence” that Gen.13:18 which is describing the “Number of the Beast” just happens to be in this chapter, and the number 666 just “coincides” with the verse number 18, which just happens to be 6+6+6.

Now some folk won’t go along with numeric, but there IS a form of numerics in the Bible which you just cannot ignore, and that has to do with chapter and verse numbers. eg 3:16 is a good combination. Look up Jn3:16. 1Tim.3:16 and 2Tim.3:16, these are a powerful trio aren’t they?

4. Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles. As we are Gentiles, we will receive doctrine or instructions that are specific to us, from Paul’s writings. 1 Cor.11:1.

Having learnt all this let’s put it to some practical use. Let us see what the apostle Paul has to say to you and to me as Gentiles. Turn to

1 Cor.14:37

“if any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that he things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.”



Let’s just pause here for a moment.

Do you want to be a spiritual person?

Do you want to have close fellowship with the Lord?

Do you

want God to be able to use you to tell others about Him?

[that’s what a prophet does.]

Do you really, really want to KNOW the Lord Jesus Christ in a real and personal way?

If so, then you need to pay attention to the verse that Paul has just written. He says:

“the things that I WRITE UNTO YOU, are the COMMANDMENTS of the Lord.”

[and by the way, look at verse 38 as well!]

A commandment is not something that is optional is it? And if it is a commandment of the Lord, then we should really pay attention to it, because God must have had Paul write it to us for a reason. Let’s look at one of the commandments of the Lord which Paul has written for us Gentiles. Turn to

2 Tim.2:15

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

If you are not using an Authorised Version, King James (1611) Bible, then you will not see the word “study”, and that’s a pity, because that is HOW we learn what God wants us to know. Every household usually has a KJ [King James] Bible somewhere, so if you use a modern version bible, I suggest that you always check out any text in BOTH your modern version, and the King James Bible as well. By doing his, GOD, will show you things that otherwise would have been hidden from you. The word “study” and the term “rightly divide” are such examples.

It is important that a Christian has full and total confidence in the Bible, - the actual book he can hold in his two hands, - since this is the ONLY source of his spiritual food. Yet there are very many differences between the various bible versions, and understandably this can cause confusion for the sincere seeker of Truth. By comparing the texts of the various modern versions with each other, and with the King James Bible, and prayerfully seeking guidance from the Lord, God will very clearly show you which Bible really IS the True Word of God, without any error or contradictions.

He, and ONLY He, can do this. This is not something that I, or any person, can persuade or convince you on. **ONLY GOD can convince a person that an actual book, which he can hold in his two hands, really IS the, infallible and inspired Word of God totally without error.** Once you have this Book, then God will give you a love and respect for it, and a total trust in it, that is beyond imagination, and your Bible-study will enter a new and exciting dimension. Truly!!

We are to “study” the Bible, and we are to be “a workman”, [ie not lazy] so that we won’t be “ashamed” of our study, and we have to “rightly divide” God’s word, which means that we have to know how to handle it, and how to **divide** it, and divide “rightly” or correctly. This indicates that it is possible to *wrongly* divide it, or not divide it, and this must be avoided, by following simple bible-study rules. There really are divisions in the bible, and you already know some of them, eg Jew/Gentile/Body of Christ. Old Testament / New Testament, and there are many others, particularly to do with time, such as past / present / future. You will learn how to “rightly divide” as you use the Bible more and more, and it will be explained in these *Home Bible Study Series*.

So, back to Peter. No, he [and the other disciples] doesn’t know anything about the coming crucifixion, or the meaning of the Cross, or the resurrection.

This usually surprises some Christians who have been taught that the disciples were always “looking towards the Cross”. This is just not so at all, and can easily be proved by turning to the Bible itself, and believing what the Word of God



says, rather than that which some person [no matter how “ Godly” or educated] has told you.

In these *Home Bible Study Series*, every statement that is ever made will always be backed up with Scripture, - book, chapter and verse, - and you should get into the habit of expecting nothing less from those who teach or preach from the Bible.

None of the disciples knew anything of the coming Cross and crucifixion, even when the Lord began to tell them. Does that surprise you? Well, let’s prove it from the Word of God. Turn to

Lk.18:31-33

Here the Lord tells them plainly about His death and resurrection. Turn to this passage in your Bible, and read it carefully. Now look at their response in

Lk.18:34

“And they understood none of these things: and this saying was hid from them, neither knew they the things which were spoken.”

The Bible makes it very clear that the comments of the Lord in verses 31-33 came as a **complete “bombshell” to the disciples**, and almost to reinforce it, the Bible gives their reaction, in three different ways, almost like the “stop-look-listen” warning by the railway crossings.

1. They understood none of these things.
2. It was hid from them
3. **They** didn’t know these things.

Word, and down through the ages He has overseen the translation of the “originals” into copies, and copies of copies, and later into Bibles, including the King James Bible.

Can this be proved?

It certainly can. Let me show you. Turn to

Deut.8: 3

“...but by every **word** that proceedeth out of the mouth...”

The King James translators added the word “word” because it was not in any of the manuscripts.

Did they do wrong by adding to God’s Bible?

Only if they have added some word or words which are not part of God’s “original”.

Now if we turn to Matt.4: 4 we find the Lord Jesus Christ quoting scripture, and He quotes **Deut.8: 3** from the Old Testament, and includes the word “**word**” which the KJ translators have added! They were right to add it, and they did so, because **God was ensuring that His precious Word was being preserved accurately.**

Matt.4: 4

“...It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth if God.”

Do you grasp the importance of this?

While quoting **Deut.8: 3** Jesus quotes the entire verse, **including the King James italicised word!**

There are many hundreds of such examples. You should check out just these few so you will understand this more clearly.

Examples:

Paul quotes

Deut.25: 4 *italicised words,*
and all in 1 Cor.9: 9

Peter quotes

Psalms 16: 8 *italicised words,*
and all in Act. 2: 25

Paul quotes

Isa.65: 1 *italicised words,*
and all in Rom.10: 20

Paul quotes

Psalms 94: 11 *italicised words,*
and all in 1 Cor.3: 20

Italics are very important really.

Let me ask you a question of which I am sure you will know the answer:

“Who killed the giant Goliath?”

Yes, David killed Goliath.

Are you sure?

Well turn to a passage in your bible that may surprise you.

Turn to

2 Samuel 21: 19.

If you are using a modern version, it will tell you that **Elhanan killed Goliath.** That is wrong! Elhanan did NOT kill Goliath, and if your bible says so, then it not only has error in it, but it also contradicts itself in **1 Sam.17: 50.**

If you turn to the King James Bible, you will learn that Elhanan killed the brother of Goliath, and there is no error or contradiction in the King James Bible.

In the early days, when I first took a stand on the King James Bible as being the preserved inerrant Word of God, some of the bible-correctors and critics of the KJB would joke and sarcastically say:

I am forced to side-track for a moment as we look at the doctrine of Bible preservation. All Christians believe that God gave us His Holy Word, and that it was inspired, inerrant, and God-breathed. I don't know of any Christian who doesn't believe that. And this is in accordance with

2 Tim.3: 16

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

Put a ring around the word "All". Also put a ring around the word "is" in the phrase "IS given". It is not "WAS given". It is not past tense. Scripture IS given by God, and this is present tense.

God IS STILL involved in His Word, and His involvement is in the Preservation of His wonderful Word.

The Bible teaches a seven-fold chain in the preservation of the Word of God. Seven is the number of perfection

Fact 1: The word of the Lord Jesus Christ state, (John 17: 8), that the Father gave to Him (Jesus) "words". "Words" are just what they say, ie. individual word..

Fact 2: The Lord in turn gave them to His disciples, and they received them. (Jn.17: 8).

Fact 3: The Holy Ghost (emphasis on the Person) brought ALL these word to the remembrance of the writers of the original manuscripts, fallible men though they were. (Jn.14: 26).

See also 2 Peter 1: 21; 2 Tim.3: 16; 1 Col.2: 13; Act.1: 16.

Fact 4: Every (individual) word is pure. (Prov.30: 5) also Psalm 12: 7 (KJB).

Fact 5: God promised to preserve every word. (Matt.24: 35), Psalm 12: 7; Matt.5: 18; Psalm 119: 160; 1 Peter 1: 25. Preservation is at word-level, not just principles, or teachings. No, the very WORDS!

Fact 6: We are commanded to live by every word. (Matt.4: 4), see 1Tim..5: 21; 6: 3.

Fact 7. We are forbidden to add to, or take away from the Word of God. (Deut.4: 2)

See also Prov.30: 6; Rev. 22: 11

The Bible summarises all of this in Psalm 12: 6-7 (KJB) which plainly states:

Verse 6.

"The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."

Verse 7.

"Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever."

Now what does Bible Preservation have to do with the italics in the King James Bible? A tremendous lot.

Today we do not have any of the original manuscripts that God divinely inspired. We do however have thousands of copies, of copies of copies etc. of these manuscripts, but most of these copies have bits and pieces missing. Also, there are a small number of bad, corrupt and inaccurate manuscripts in circulation as well. So how do the translators know about the words that are missing from the reliable, good manuscripts?

God has promised to preserve His True

It couldn't be clearer, could it? And even after the death and burial and resurrection of the Lord, they still didn't understand it! Can I prove that? Sure I can, because on the morning of the resurrection, after Mary Magdalene had found the tomb empty, she ran to Peter and John and told them.

Jn.20:2

"They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him"

They rushed to the tomb, and we read in **Jn.20:8** that after they had looked into the tomb, it says of the apostle John

"...he saw and believed."

Now what did he believe?

Did he believe that Jesus had risen from the Dead?

No, it doesn't say that, but if you carefully read the entire passage of **Jn. 20:1-8**, [please do so now], you will see that he now believed what Mary had told him in verse 2, because that's what it says. We know that he did not yet believe in the resurrection, - why not? - because the very next verse says:

Jn.20:9

"For as yet they know not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead."

Incidentally, , some folk may suggest that "of course the disciples know all about the Cross and Calvary" Why? Because it is "pictured" in **Ps 22**, and **Isaiah 53** and other places, [which it is], and the disciples would be familiar with these scriptures. Yes they would be familiar with them, but **the meaning was hidden from them, - because Lk.18:34 tells us**

this!! We must never substitute man's ideas for the clear facts of scripture.

Later, the disciples would read Ps.22 and Isa.53, and **in hindsight** they would see the meanings, but hindsight is always an excellent teacher! Even Satan knew absolutely nothing of the Cross, for had he know of its significance, then he would never have wanted the Lord crucified. This is plainly stated in **1 Cor.2:8**. Look it up, and why not write a short marginal note giving the facts of previous paragraphs beside **Lk.18:31-34**, which I have nicknamed **the "Bombshell" Text!** Then you will be reminded each time you turn to that text.

I have highlighted all of **Lk.18:31-34**, written marginal notes [as suggested above] beside the passage, and in **v34**, using my red pen, I have written a small 1 before the first word "And", a small 2 before the second "and" and a small 3 before the word "neither".

Back to the Lord and the disciples as they approach the Garden of Gethsemane. Peter has blabbed out his reply in **Mk. 14:29**, and now the Lord adds to His previous comment by stating that Peter will deny Him

"even in this night, before the cock crow twice..."

It is now sometime near 10pm., and the Lord is saying that before the morning, say 5-6am., when the rooster crows, that Peter will deny Him. Can you see the time frame? A lot is going to happen within the next 6-8 hours.

But note something else. We always tend to remember Peter as having been the apostle who denied the Lord, [which he did], but what about all the other disciples? Look at **verse 31**. All of them said the very same thing, [that they would not

deny the Lord], and yet, when the Lord was tried and suffered, and finally put to death, He was entirely on His own. All the disciples had forsaken Him.

I wonder if we would have been any different, had we been in their shoes? **Do we deny the Lord, today**, when we have opportunities to witness for Him, and choose not to do so? Do we deny Him, when we hear someone take His Name in vain? **Do we deny Him when we stay home from church** to watch TV, or read a book, or just sleep in, - when we could so easily have attended? It is worth thinking about, isn't it? Draw a ring around the last word "all" in verse 31, with a line out to the margin and write a marginal note "Not just Peter!" If you have marginal notes of your own, then add them too.

Before we leave Peter and the other disciples, and the Lord's prophecy of Peter's denial, it is worth doing another **side-track** which is relevant for the believer who is serious about his or her Bible study. We can learn an incredible law which will greatly improve our understanding of the Bible, and yet this is a law of which most Christians are totally ignorant.

Turn in your Bible, to the account of Peter's denial as recorded in Luke's gospel. Turn to

Lk22:31

" And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for **thee**, that **thy** faith may not fail: and when **thou** art converted, strengthen **thy** brethren.

33 And **he** said unto him, Lord, I am ready to go with **thee**, both into prison, and to death.

34 And he said, I tell **thee**, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day, before that thou shall thrice deny that **thou** knowest me.

35 And he said unto **them**. When I sent **you** without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked **ye** anything? And **they** said nothing"

Whenever the words "**thee**" "**thou**" "**thy**" "**thine**" are used in scripture, they are **ALWAYS SINGULAR**, ie, they refer to ONE person.

However, the words "**you**" "**your**" "**ye**" when used in scripture are **ALWAYS PLURAL**, ie they refer to MORE than one person.

Often it is extremely important to know whether a verse is referring to just one person, or to more than one person. The above passage is a case in point.

In verses 32-34, the Lord refers only to Peter, because He uses the words "**thee**", "**thy**", "**thou**", and these are all singular. ie, The Lord has prayed ONLY or specifically for Peter, and it is Peter ONLY who will deny the Lord before the cock crows. This prediction is to Peter only.

Then in **verse 35**, the Lord addresses the entire group, because He uses the words "**you**" and "**ye**" which are plural. ie Satan desires ALL of the group. The Bible really is a wonderful Book, isn't it?

APPENDIX ONE

Italicised Words in the King James Bible

Words that are printed in italics in the King James Bible, are words that are not found in any Greek or Hebrew manuscript, and have been added by the translators. They are printed in italics, so that the reader will know that they have been added.

ALL translators do this when translating the Bible, because it is necessary to complete the sentence structure of the new language. The King James translators were men of integrity, so they put the added words in italics.

Let us look at some examples;

Psalm 23: 1

"The Lord **is** my shepherd"
(King James Bible)

Psalm 23: 1

"The Lord is My Shepherd"
(New International)

BOTH sets of translators added the same word to complete the sentence. Yet the KJ translators put the word in italics to inform the reader that they had added it.

John 1: 8

"He was not that Light, but **was sent** to bear witness of that Light."
(King James Bible)

John 1: 8

"He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light."
(New King James Version)

Again, BOTH sets of translators have added words to their translation so that it would make sense. Here, it is the phrase "**was sent**".

Yet again, it is only the King James translators who have put their addition in italics for clarity.

All modern translations and versions of the bible have words added to texts, to preserve the sense and meaning, but these translators, unlike the KJ translators, never reveal which word they have added.

It is important for the Bible student to KNOW when words have been added by the translators, as otherwise many rich blessing will be missed.

You have already seen this on pages 27-28 of this book, where the Lord Jesus Christ says "**I am he**". Without the word "**HE**" being in italics, the reader would miss the fact that the Lord is using the Divine title "**I AM**" spoken by Jehovah to Moses in Ex.3:14 and used later in John 8: 58.

Look these verses up and check them out.

If words have been added to translation, then shouldn't they be removed because they do not belong to the "originals". No, not necessarily, and I will show you why in a moment, and prove it from the Bible.

We must never forget that God has promised to preserve His Word. Not only did God inspire every sentence, word and letter in the Holy Bible, but He has preserved those very words, so that today I can hold my Bible in my hands and say, "This Book is God's Holy Bible, and it contains the very words, the exact words, which God has preserved down the ages for me to read, study, meditate on, feed upon, receive guidance from, and grow in the love and knowledge of the Lord."

John 3: 16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life”

So now we reluctantly leave this study, as the Lord sets His face towards Calvary and the Cross.

In the next Home Bible Study Series, (Book Two), we will watch, and shudder with the Lord, as He is brutally nailed to the cross. We will consider all that the Bible has to say about those terrible six hours, and placed in the garden tomb.

We will learn of the work He performed during those three days and three nights, and we will prove, from the Bible, that it really was three full days and three full nights. We will learn much about the resurrection, and His wonderful ascension, and there will be so many wondrous and amazing “gems” just waiting to be discovered by us, that we, with the Psalmist will cry out

Psalm 98: 1

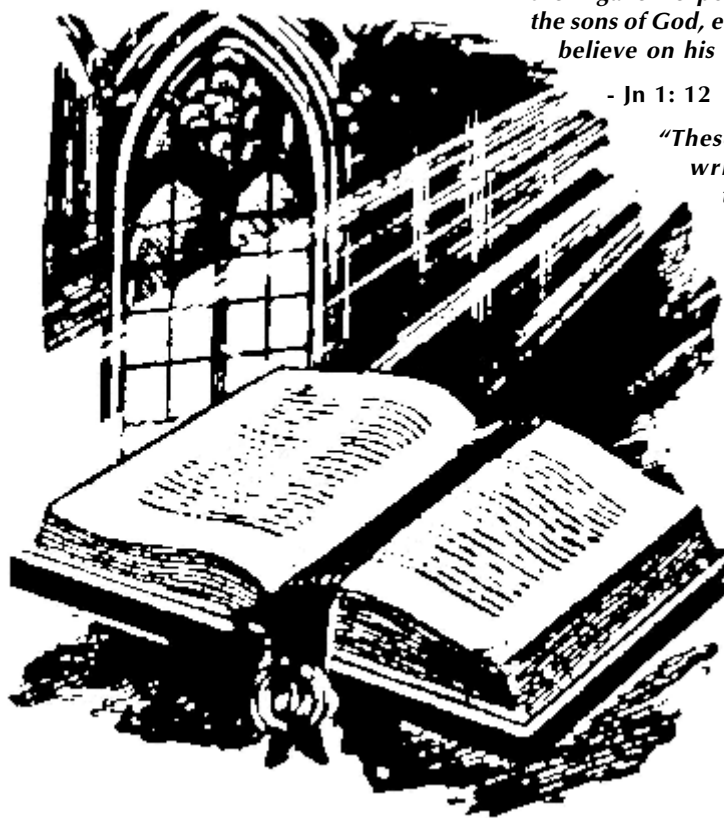
“O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things; his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.”

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:”

- Jn 1: 12

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

-1 Jn 5:13.



2. THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

When the Lord Jesus Christ was down here on planet Earth, He wasn't just a sightseer visiting the Holy Land! This comment is not meant to be blasphemous, but today there are people who think of Jesus of Nazareth as just another man who may have been a great Teacher, or a Master, but still He was no different from other great prophets who have walked the earth. But they are totally wrong. The Lord Jesus Christ is God the son, and is equal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit as the One Almighty God, - One Almighty god, but a Trinity of Father, son and Holy Spirit. [In a future set of *Home Bible Study Series*, we will look, in depth, at the Trinity and the Godhead, but we do not have space here.]

The Lord Jesus Christ is God the Son. He came into the world as a **sinless baby**, conceived by the Holy Ghost, and born of the virgin Mary, and He grew into a **sinless man**, - BUT - He never ceased to be God! We should never forget this. He was the God-Man, but He deliberately chose to put aside His Glory, and His Heavenly reputation when He was down here on planet earth. There is a theological term which is used to describe this humbling of Himself. It is known as the **doctrine of the Kenosis**. The term “kenosis” is not important, but the meaning is very important. The key bible passage that teaches the kenosis is in **Philip.2:5-8**.

5. “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus;

6. Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God;

7. But made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men;

8. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Beside this passage, write the marginal note “*the doctrine of the Kenosis*” and also the words “*Christ humbles Himself from 3rd Heaven [v.6] to Death [v.8] and Hell*” [We will learn later, that after His resurrection, the Lord Jesus Christ did in fact, of His own choice, go down to the very pit of Hell, and hence the contrast in your marginal notes.] I have also written in the margin, the cross-reference to **John 14:30**, which refers to the **sinlessness or impeccability of Christ**. Satan could not find even one thing against Christ. Beside **John 14:30** write the marginal note “*impeccability of Christ.*”

What do you think is the key word in the passage in Philippians? Yes, you guessed it, it is “*obedient*”. You should underline this word in your Bible, and I have also highlighted the whole passage, because it is so important. Now how can Jesus Christ, who of course is God the Son, become 100% man - and yet still be God? It is difficult for us to understand, but look at the analogy of a cup of water. It is H²O. It is a liquid, but when you freeze it, it becomes a block of ice. It is the same H²O but it is different. Chemically they are the same, but physically they are totally different. You can tip over a cup of water, and put a fire out with it, but you cannot do so with a block of ice. God is so much more wonderful than a cup of water, so His being able to distance Himself from His Deity, [yet still retain it] while here on earth, is not a

problem for Him.

Now what has all this got to do with the Garden of Gethsemane? A tremendous lot, so pay very close attention. When Jesus Christ came to planet earth nearly 2,000 years ago, He chose to walk the streets as **A MAN!** A very special Man. A unique Man. **A sinless Man.** While He was here on earth, He faced much hard work, and He faced temptations. You will recall that He faced Satan in the wilderness, and at that time He was engaged in a duel with Satan, and the man Jesus emerged triumphant. He faced Satan as **the MAN Christ Jesus,**

and at no stage did He use His Deity to defeat Satan. Jesus was a sinless man who defeated Satan by quoting scripture, and by not being “conned” by Satan, the Prince of this world.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, we are about to witness something similar to the temptation of the Lord in the wilderness, - yet totally different. We will discover that the events which occurred in the Garden of Gethsemane represent the absolute CLIMAX of the Lord’s OBEDIENCE to the Will of God the Father. This is why we took time to look at the doctrine of the kenosis in Philippians 2, and particularly at that key word “obedience”. This particular work of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane is IT! This is the BIG ONE!

Does this mean that I think less of the Cross? Heaven forbid! The Cross was the supreme **sacrifice** of the Lord Jesus Christ, but what we are going to learn as we stay with the Lord in the Garden of Gethsemane, in this study, is that this hour in the Garden, is the absolute **climax**, the very hour, for which God the Son, came into the world as a MAN. Now please read this paragraph again,

and think about it, and consider it, - because you are about to receive one of the richest blessings possible as you study the wonderful Word of God.

[Bible Study really is exciting isn’t it? Turn with me in your Bible to

Matt.26:14-16

In these 3 verses, Judas plots with the priests to betray Jesus. [These verses alone would put me on my guard against anyone who is called “*a priest!*”] Beside v. 15 I have put the marginal-note, “*Judas is a materialist*” and I have underlined the words, “*What will you give me?*”

Now turn to **verses 19-20.** Here Jesus and the twelve disciples eat the Passover supper together, and **Matt.26:30** sets the scene for what is to follow. Please read it. Now turn in your Bible, and read carefully and thoughtfully:

Matt.26:36-46

We are going to look at his passage in great detail because it is so important. In fact, it is so important, that it is also recorded in **Mark 14, Luke 22, and John 18,** as well as Matthew 26, so you will need four bookmarks to keep the places because we are going to do what the Bible tells us to do when we study the Scriptures.

What are we going to do?

Turn in your Bible to

1 Cor.2:9-14

and read each verse in the passage, slowly and carefully. In **verse 10,** God tells us that He is going to reveal things to us Through His Spirit. In **verses 11-12** He tells us that our own spirit is not able to reveal spiritual things to us, but

Mark 15: 20-22

Three times the Word of God makes it very clear that the heavy wooden cross is carried by Simon the Cyrenian who is compelled to do so, from the very beginning. Now let us look at John’s account in

John 19: 16-17

Verse 17, referring to Jesus clearly states “**And he bearing his cross went forth....**” The heavy cross was placed on the shoulders of the Lord, and He began the journey. However, we must remember the dehydrated, exhausted and debilitated condition He is now in. Under the weight of the cross, He would almost certainly collapse, because He refuses to call on the Father or to invoke His deity to assist Himself. This is the man Jesus. Let us never forget that! He is suffering in YOUR place! The heavy cross is placed on His back and shoulders, He struggles a few paces, and in accordance with the other three gospels, Simon of Cyrene is compelled to carry the cross for the entire journey, apart from the first few, faltering, weakened steps made by the Lord from within the courtyard of the judgment hall.

Can you picture the heart-rending scene? The man Christ Jesus, who is the very Son of God, the Creator of the universe, is now just a mess of blood and spittle, a walking pulp of flesh, with no skin on His back or torso, or buttocks, or groins. His face is now totally unrecognisable. He is exhausted beyond anything that man has ever experienced, and yet the freedom and deliverance of an ordinary, blessed death is denied Him,- because He is the immortal Son of God.

He alone will decide when to lay down His life (John 10: 17-18)

and He has no intention of doing so until the Work of Redemption is complete, and He is able to shout victoriously “it is finished!”.

And so, He suffer....and suffers....and suffers, for YOU and for ME.

In excruciating pain, and in the full knowledge that the agony and suffering of the barbaric cross is still ahead of Him, He staggers and shuffles and falls and drags Himself along the stony road that takes Him along the via Dolorosa and through the Damascus Gate. Simon of Cyrene carries the heavy cross for the Lord, and follows His bloodstained footprints as the Lord drags Himself beyond the city walls, to Golgotha, a place of a skull (Matt.27: 33), to a place also called CALVARY.

The pain and suffering of the six hours on the cross, still to be endured, will be so extreme, and so unimaginable, and yet, it will be borne without complaint. Oh He will suffer, and He will endure it, because it is the only way that your sins and my sins, and all the sin of the world can be blotted out. So He WILL suffer!

Yet it will pale into insignificance alongside the awesome despondency and horror yet to be experienced by the Lord, as He feels the full wrath and hatred of God the Father, Who, for the very first time in all eternity, will turn His Face from Jesus, and forsake Him, and leave Him in total darkness for those last three awful hours on the cross, as He bears all the putrid sin of the world,- including yours and mine.

The Lord Jesus Christ is about to experience something that no human being will ever be able to comprehend.

Now here is a good question. Are we Gentiles any better than the Jews? No, absolutely not! We too have ALL sinned, and our sins required His crucifixion just as much as did their response in Matt.27:25. The Jews are still God's chosen people, even though today, in this age or dispensation of Grace in which we live, there is no difference between Jew and Gentile (Rom.10:12-13). A Bible-believing Christian should always support the nation of Israel and the Jewish people in light of the warnings and information given in Gen.12:2p3, (put a ring around "them"- plural, and "him"- the individual, of verse 3), Rom.2:10; Rom.3:1-2.

After Pontius Pilate has washed his hands, he delivers Jesus to be crucified. Turn to the account in

John 19: 16-17

The Lord Jesus Christ begins this journey, which is a fifteen minute climb, north of Jerusalem, and the destination is, without doubt, the hill known today as Gordon's Calvary. This is outside the city gate. Why mention this? Because Heb:13:12 confirms that the place is outside the city gate. Gordon's Calvary looks just like a skull with the two eye sockets and the mouth, and it is outside the city walls, whereas the Roman catholic so-called "Calvary" on which stands the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, is inside the city walls, and is grotesque perversion of what the Scriptures teach. When ever we study the Word of God, we must do so "according to the scriptures". Check out 1 Cor. 15:3-4.

Now it is important that we do not lose sight of something which has been repeated throughout these study notes. During all of His suffering, the Lord Jesus Christ has not once called on the Father, or exercised His own deity, to re-

duce or avoid His suffering. He is the MAN Jesus,- and of course He is also God. The Man Jesus has absorbed, and suffered every measure of the gruesome, barbaric and hideous pain forced upon Him.

By this time, the man Jesus will have lost two litres or more of His precious blood. As the man Jesus, He is now physically exhausted, and totally drained of all strength. His body is just a blood drenched pulp, covered in bruises and drying spittle,- and now they place on His back and shoulders, the large wooden cross that even a fit, robust, healthy man would have difficulty in carrying.

If we look carefully at the three accounts in the other gospels, we notice something that is important. How far does Jesus carry the cross? At Easter, many Christians in many countries re-enact the Lord's carrying the cross through the "stations of the cross", but do these re-enactments fit with the facts?

No they Don't. Simon the Cyrenian carries the cross virtually from the very start! Let us look at the accounts in the other three gospels.

Matt.27: 31-32

Read these two verses very carefully, otherwise you will miss the true significance of the words, "they led him away to crucify him, and as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene.... him they compelled to bear his cross".

Luke 23: 26

This verse is even more forceful.

".... Simon a Cyrenian.... on him they laid the cross...."

God's Spirit does reveal things to us, and we may KNOW what He wants to show us, and tell us. In **verse 14**, God emphasises again that we don't learn spiritual things by our own understanding, and in fact such things are "*foolishness*" to us. Now look carefully at the "key" verse in the passage, verse 13.

1 Cor. 2:13

"Which things we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

Do you see who is going to do the teaching? **You are about to be instructed by the HOLY GHOST.** And how does this happen? Look at the last five words "*comparing spiritual things with spiritual*". These are the key words in the key verse! They are referring to your comparing one passage of scripture to another passage of scripture in the Bible, and **this is how you study the Bible**, and how the Holy Ghost teaches the believer.

Read **1 Thes.2:13**. Here Paul is instructing us that the Word of God is not the word of men, but truly it is

"the Word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."

As a marginal note beside **1 Cor.2:13** you should write see **1 Thes.2:13**, also **Heb.3:7**, and **Isa.28:9-10**. The passage in Isaiah gives a graphic description of the believer searching the scriptures and comparing spiritual things with spiritual,

"...line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little."

Why do you think I have mentioned Heb.3:7?

I have highlighted all of the verse in **1**

Cor.2:13, because it is so important, and have underlined comparing spiritual things with spiritual, and put a ring around the word "*comparing*". We are to compare one scripture in the Bible, with another scripture elsewhere in the Bible, and we are looking at **the very words** in these Bible verses, that's why I have also put a ring around the word "*words*" in the same verse.

Back to our study in the Garden of Gethsemane. Look at **Matt.26:36**. Do you know what the name "*Gethsemane*" means? It means "olive press". How do I know this, because it doesn't say so anywhere in the Bible? True, it doesn't, but it is simply the Aramaic word which means "olive press", so we have no doubt about its meaning. An olive press is used to crush and squeeze olives, so that they give their oil.

Now here is a thought, - and it is always worthwhile getting "side-tracked" when studying God's word, because you just don't know what He is about to show you, so **let's side-track for a moment**, - What does olive oil signify or 'picture' in the Bible? What is it a "type" of in the Bible.? Let us discover this, and also see how the Bible explains meanings.

Turn to.

1 Jn.2:20,27,

In verse 20, the word "*unction*" is used, and in verse 27 the word "*anointing*" is used. This is an example of how the Holy Spirit teaches the believer who compares scripture with scripture, you have just learnt that unction and anointing mean the same thing. Anointing involves the use of oil. There are many other Bible references that picture olive oil as being a "type" of the Holy Spirit, eg, Look up **2 Cor.1:21**.

Let's get back to Gethsemane, now that

we know the meaning of this name. So, straight away, the name Gethsemane should give us an indication that something unusual, something “crushing” is possibly going to happen here. Look at the instructions which the Lord gives to his disciples in **Matt.26:36**.

What does the Lord intend to do? He has come to pray! And this is our second clue. He hasn't come to pick olives, and let's not forget it is night time anyway. He has come to pray.

This garden which He has chosen is on the Mount of Olives, and let's notice something else about it. Turn in your Bible to **Jn.18:1**. It really is a garden. Now turn back to our main passage in

Matt.26:36-37.

Read this carefully. What do we learn? We learn that the Lord leaves all the disciples behind, and takes with Him, Peter and the two Zebedee brothers. Who are these two brothers? Well be comparing scripture with scripture in a parallel account of this event, as found in **Mk.14:32-33**, we learn that the two brother's names are James and John. Write their names in your margin beside the words “sons of Zebedee” in **Matt.26:37**, which you have underlined, and connected to your marginal note.

Isn't it wonderful the way in which the Holy Spirit is able to teach you, provided you are prepared to turn the pages of your Bible, and compare scripture with scripture! These are the two simple “secrets”!

So Jesus goes into the garden with Peter, James and John. Now here's a puzzling question. Why would He choose the garden of Gethsemane in which to go and pray, - and why at this time of night? As we study the scriptures, we will learn

three important things;

🕒 **1. Jesus knew the garden well.** It was a favourite rendezvous with His disciples. Look up **Jn.18-2**,

🕒 **2. In particular, Judas Iscariot knew it.** So what does this tell us? This tells us that Christ was going willingly, voluntarily and deliberately into a trap which Judas could organise, and more importantly to an ordeal which lay ahead of Him. Yes,

“*...Judas...knew the place.*”

🕒 **3. The third reason is a vivid indication of the supernatural structure of the Bible, and it demonstrates that the Author of the Bible, can ONLY be God Almighty, because of the types, pictures and examples which are woven into every verse of scripture.**

This place is a **garden [Jn.18:1]**

One of the very important laws about the Bible is what is known as “**The Law of First Mention**”. The first mention of a word in the Bible invariably gives a clue to its use and meaning and significance elsewhere in the Bible. Only God could “organise” such a law. In your Bible, turn with me to **Gen.2:8** [This is the verse where the word “garden” is first mentioned.] Here God placed the first man, **the “First Adam”**, in a garden. As the acme of Creation, he is “*to have dominion over every living thing upon the earth, and of the air, and of the sea*” [Gen.1:28] and of course, you know what happened, - Adam blew it! He sinned, and as a result came death, ruin, darkness and sin upon the whole of mankind. In this first garden, sin came to planet earth.

And now, here in Gethsemane, again in a garden, **the “Last Adam”** goes. Gen.2:8 is the first mention of a garden, but do you know where the last mention of a

some churches and assemblies within our own faith. Turn to

Matt.27: 24

Now look carefully or you will miss it. Why did Pilate “*wash his hands*” of the situation? He did so, because he wanted to avoid trouble,-

“*...that rather a tumult was made....*”. Pilate does the convenient thing. He doesn't want any fuss, even though he is going against the truth.

Sadly, today there are many churches and assemblies that are prepared to compromise with the truth, rather than having any “tumult” in the membership. Such churches are truly “lukewarm” (Rev.3: 16) and it is little wonder that the Lord “... will spue thee out...”. It is sad but true that a church that will stand for nothing, will fall for anything!

Pontius Pilate knows that Jesus is innocent. He KNOWS it! He has stated so, publicly on three occasions (John 188: 38; 19: 4; 19:6).

As a side-track, have you realised that also on three separate occasions during the earthly life of the Lord, a voice from Heaven also verified that God was pleased with His Son. These occasions were at:

1. His Baptism
Mark 1:11; Matt.3:17
2. Mount of Transfiguration.
Matt.17: 5
3. When praying to the Father
John 12: 27-30

Of course, this hand washing of Pontius Pilate is both literal and symbolic. We use the expression “I'll wash my hands of the whole affair” in our language today. Pilate does not realise that there is

only one thing that will wash away sin,-

“What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus”!!!

Now turn to one of the most far reaching and awesome verses in the entire Bible. Turn to

Matt.27: 25

This response of these Jewish people has set the scene, for the history of the Jews and the Jewish nation, ever since. It explains why children went into the incineration and gas chambers of Auschwitz, Buchenwald, Belsen, and Treblinka, along with their parents. It is amazing and breathtaking, and scary, that the wonderful Word of God prophesied this more than 1,000 years before Israel spoke these terrible words of Matt.27: 25. Beside this verse, write these prophetic verses found in the book of Deuteronomy. Deut.28: 32, 41, 51, 53, 65-66 which you should look up, and meditate upon. There are also many other verses which give the same prophetic warning. Draw a ring around the word “all” in Matt.27: 25 and highlight the entire verse.

Historians, sociologists, political scientists and all the world's experts are at a loss to explain why the Jewish nation is on the receiving-end of so much persecution. And they have been, for so long. Only God's Holy Bible can give the answer to this seemingly unsolvable puzzle. And there is still more ahead for the Jews! Already, the Jewish nation has suffered so much persecution and wrath,- and yet this is peanuts compared to the wrath which they will soon endure during the Tribulation Period, until ultimately they will recognise the Lord Jesus Christ as the Messiah whom they had crucified.

2. The "Pavement" in the Greek language = "Gabbatha" in the Hebrew language. Bible critics often state that one language cannot be translated into another without loss of accuracy. This is not so. The Bible has 391 verses in the New Testament which are God's translations of Old Testament portions. Within the New Testament alone, there are many examples of translation from one language to another. eg. Mark 15: 34, in which 4 Aramaic words are translated by God into 9 English words in my Bible. (In the Greek text, these 4 Aramaic words become 10 Greek words). Translation is nothing new to God!

3. "The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar." The authority that these chief priests looked to, was Caesar, ie. Rome. And it is no different today. The only authority for the Roman Catholic church is Rome, and this will become even more apparent during the Tribulation Period after the Church has been Raptured away. The book of Revelation, chapter 17 gives a vivid portrayal of this when it speaks of the "great whore" and identifies the system of Roman catholicism in v.6, and the city of Rome by the seven mountains or hills in v.9, for which Rome is famous. (The seven Hills of Rome are: Capitol, Palatine, Aventine, Caelian, Oppian, Esquiline, and Viminal.) The Book of Revelation will be a future study booklet in the Home Bible Study Series.

Do you see the situation for Pontius Pilate?

He can choose Jesus or he can choose Rome. The Jews have already chosen. Think about this carefully:

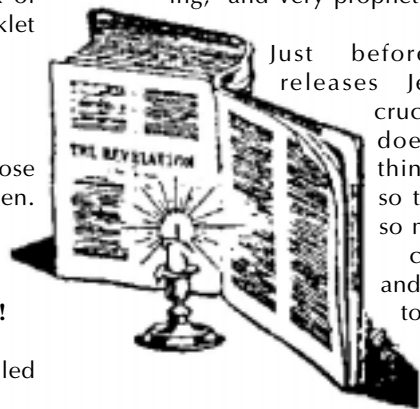
They officially choose Rome, instead of God, to rule over them!

This is the nation which God had called

a "chosen people" (Deut.7: 6; Ps.33: 12,)- and how they are turning their back on the very God who loved them and made them His special people. It is upon THEIR CHOICE that their history is determined for the next 1900 years.

This is mind-boggling, but it is true! From 33 AD, right through until the Second Coming of the Lord at the end of the Great Tribulation and the battle of Armageddon, the Roman "harlot" of Revelation 17 will reign over the kings of the earth, (Rev.17: 18) and will guide the world to its catastrophic end under the leadership of Satan.

In my original notes for this Bible study, which I taught back in 1989, I noted an article in the NZ Herald dated 20/9/89 in which the then Anglican Archbishop Runcie stated that "Anglicans are beginning to recognise and favourably accepting to recognise and favourably accepting in the Office of Bishop of Rome (the Pope), the universal primacy." Isn't this revealing? Rome hasn't moved even one inch, and by the time of the Tribulation, she will be in full control. Since that article appeared, Runcie has had further meetings with Rome, and he stated that the Anglican church would accept the Pope as the Head. The Pope, in turn, stated that he would not be just a figure-head. Very interesting, and very revealing,- and very prophetic!



Just before Pilate releases Jesus to be crucified, he does something that is so typical of so many churches and religions today. Yes,- even

garden is found?

To find your way around the Bible, you will be greatly helped if you use a **Concordance**. This is simply a directory of all the words in your Bible, and it is used in much the same way as a telephone book is used, except that beside each word listed, it gives the "address" in your Bible where that word can be found.

A concordance is a very useful study-help when doing your Bible study. There are various types of Concordances available, but I still use my good old faithful **Cruden's Bible Concordance** more than any other, because it is not gigantic in size like my Strong's or Young's concordances, and it lists all the words. I also occasionally use a Topical Concordance, which lists various "topics" together for easy reference. If you do not have a Concordance, then put it on the top of your birthday wish-list. It will be worth its weight in gold.

The last mention of the word "garden" in the entire Bible, is found in John's gospel in **Jn.19:41**. Beside this verse write the marginal note, "last mention in Bible, of 1st mention in Gen.2:8" Read **Jn.19:41-42**. The "First Adam" is in the first garden in Eden, and the "Last Adam", in Christ's burial tomb is in the last garden mentioned. Isn't the contrast awesome? Also check out **1 Cor.15:45-47, 15:22, Rom.5:12,15-19**, which show the Lord Jesus Christ as the "Last Adam."

Let's see what happens now, in the Garden of Gethsemane, but before doing so, turn to a very significant passage in...

Matt.26:37-38

Can you picture His despair? He is

"sorrowful and very heavy"

and he is

"exceeding sorrowful, even unto death".

Try to picture this scene.

Why is the Lord so sorrowful?

It is not because of the coming threat of death. In fact, Jesus didn't ever have to worry about dying, because no one could kill him.

Concerning these two verses, a preacher once said, "Jesus was worried about dying". What garbage!

How do I know that Jesus was not worried about dying?

Well turn to

Jn.8:59

Here, when Jesus was threatened with death, He simply made Himself invisible and walked right through the midst of the crowd, but more importantly, look up **Jn.10:17-18**. The Devil could not have killed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, if he had tried all night long.

No, Jesus was not troubled and sorrowful about death itself. He knew that He had come into the world, for the specific purpose of facing death, and choosing death. By looking up the word "cross" in our Concordance, we come to **Coloss.2:14-15**. In your Bible, put a ring around the word "triumphing". By His enduring of the cross, He would triumph over Satan and sin. Look up **Heb.12:2**, and put a ring around the word "joy". To the Lord Jesus Christ, **He counted in JOY to endure the Cross for the salvation that it would bring.** His suffering would not be joyful, - it would be terrible, - but the end result would be joy. No, the Lord Jesus Christ wasn't a coward. To the contrary, He faced the endurance of the Cross with a bravery

which we can never comprehend. Did you realise that Jesus never once complained when He was on the cross? Not once! Back to the garden of Gethsemane. Look at

Matt.26:38

“watch with me”

Watch what? This little word “watch” is used over and over again in the Bible, and it means a lot more than just keeping your eyes open, - which they didn’t do anyway! One of the joys of possessing a concordance, is that all the locations of a word such as “watch” can be found in your Bible, and if they are compared, or listed, or thought about, then God can teach many wonderful lessons. Here is an example, using the letter of the word to emphasise each lesson.

Watch What?

- W watch your Words**
- James 3:3-6,8-1)
- A watch your Actions**
- Coloss.3:17
- T watch your Thoughts**
- Ps. 139:2
- C watch your Companions**
- 2 Cor.6:14
- H watch your Heart**
- Jer.17:9

Turn again to **Matt.26:38**

Note that the Lord is sorrowful “...even unto death.” For sorrow to be this deep, then it must be really bad. But let me show you something: This sorrow of the Lord’s is far worse than any sorrow we could possibly imagine.

Turn in your Bible to

Mk14:33-34

Note the expression describing the feel-

ings of the Lord, “sore amazed” and “very heavy”. What does it mean? This is not surprise or astonishment, - because Christ KNEW what lay ahead of Him, but rather this shows the HORROR of what He was experiencing. Now look carefully at the next two verses.

Mk.14:35-36

Note that He prays

“if it were possible, the hour might pass from him”

and note that He is talking about “a cup”. What does He mean? To get another viewpoint, and in obedience to the Scriptures, let us compare how Luke the Physician, describes the scene: Turn in your bible to

Lk.22:41-44

Wow! What a scene! We are going to learn a lot from this passage. Note the little word “agony”. This is the only place that this word is found in the entire Bible. [Write that in the margin beside this verse.] It is used once only, and we will discover that it is the word which describes an “indescribable” suffering to Christ. [A valuable exercise with your Concordance is to find other words which occur once only. eg. “*success*” is only found in Josh.1:8. Note the context.] Back to our study, turn to

verse 42.

“...Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me...”

What cup?

What is the Lord talking about?

Does He have a literal cup, like you serve tea and coffee in?

No, of course not. He is alone in a garden. This isn’t a literal cup, - and yet, - in a sense, it is very real. “Cup” is a

divine Light and understanding,- yet, because of Pride, or inconvenience, or Fear of Man, they reject that Light, and by their ignoring God, they force God to ignore them. They have only themselves to blame if their Christian walk becomes lonely and impotent.

Pilate now becomes infuriated and angry. He is being ignored by this pathetic Jesus. Turn to

John 19: 10-11

This is the sixth question asked by Pilate. This time, Jesus does answer him. Let me ask you something. You have just read these two verses, now without looking at them again, what is the very last word that Pilate hears from the Son of God? It is so easy to miss little things like this if we just hasten through the verses of Scripture. We should always think about, meditate, and contemplate EVERY word of every verse of scripture that we read.

Do you know why?

God gives the answer in Prov.30: 5;Psalm 12: 6-7 (KJ Bible), and Matt.4: 4.

Do check out these verses.

The last word that Pilate hears spoken to him by the Lord Jesus Christ is that little word “sin”! Jesus is clearly telling Pontius Pilate that he is a sinner, but that the Jews who delivered Him, “have the greater sin.” This word “sin” sticks in Pilate’s throat!

We need to appreciate something that is very important, and yet could be so easily overlooked. This Man Jesus, is bound, has been viciously scourged, and is terribly weak from loss of much blood. He wears only the bloodstained robe, and has been beaten almost to a pulp. He is bruised beyond recognition, has been

reviled, and is dripping with globs of spittle. He has a stupid, but cruel crown of thorns forced onto His head and into His scalp. He is the captive of more than 600 soldiers and temple guards, and yet HE IS STILL IN CONTROL OF THE SITUATION!

Look carefully at the few chosen words that the Lord uses in His reply: “...*Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above:....*” These words hit home, and reveal to Pilate the true situation. Look at his immediate reaction in

John 19: 12

“And from thenceforth, Pilate sought to release him....”

So Pilate goes out of the judgment hall again. This is the fourth time he has done so! Once more he faces the restless and angry mob, and tells them of his decision,- but they won’t have any of it! These Jews are showing Pilate that they can be just as crafty and determined as he. Now they use the Roman Law to bait Pontius Pilate. It is at this point that Pilate finally demonstrates his compromising cowardice. Turn to

John 19: 13-15

Notice three important points about this passage

1. It is “the sixth hour”. Jesus is in the hands of the Roman Procurator, and the time given is the Roman time, which is 6 am. Roman time begins at midnight, the same as ours does today. This is in contrast to the Jewish time which is used in Mark 5: 25 (3rd hour = 9 am) and Mark 15: 33 (6th hour = midday) and also in Mark 15: 34 (9th hour = 3 pm). Jewish time begins at 6 pm at night.

Not only are they “astonied” =astonished + astounded at His face, but His “form” or body is damaged beyond anything they have ever seen before. He is grotesque! We need to appreciate this, because down through the ages, artists have depicted this very scene, and invariably they have the Lord standing before the crowd, looking sorrowful, but still fresh and strong, dressed in a robe, and with little or no evidence of blood. Dear brethren, that is not what He looks like at all! Certainly they do not picture Him as He would be after all that has happened to Him. Let us try and picture this scene in all its horror and barbarity,- because He suffered ALL of this for you and for me. Turn now to

John 19: 5-6

Who calls out?

It is the chief priests and the officers (of the temple guard). Now note how Pilate replies. He says “Take YE him, and crucify him, for I find no fault in him.” Do you grasp what Pilate is doing? He is tempting the mob to take the responsibility for themselves, and thereby to rebel against the Government. But even this clever ploy doesn’t work. They throw it right back in his face. Turn to

John 19: 7

For the first time, Pontius Pilate begins to be a little frightened. Until this time, Pilate has just been trying to “pass the buck” and avoid his responsibility. He is a coward and a compromiser. Look at this verse carefully and you will note the reason for Pilate’s fear. It is “because he made himself the Son of God” there really is the possibility that this man Jesus might be supernatural after all! That puts a different complexion on things. Let’s remember that Pontius Pilate had been called upon to make a

decision about Jesus. He had examined Him, and he had called in Herod to examine Him. He had punished Jesus when it was not even warranted, and three times he had stated publicly that Jesus was innocent. It is at this point, that he is told that Jesus claims to be “the Son of God”.

So now, perhaps for the very first time, Pilate begins to doubt himself. Could He? Pilate had already asked Jesus four questions face to face, before he had ordered Him to be scourged, but now, Pilate is uncertain, so what does he do? He asks two more questions. Turn to

John 19: 8-9

This is the fifth question. **“Whence art thou?”** Of course Pilate already knows that Jesus comes from

Galilee, because that was the reason why Pilate sent Him to King Herod, (see Luke 23:6-7). Pilate is not asking about Christ’s earthly origin, but **“Whence art thou?”**- ie. Do you REALLY come from God?

“But Jesus gave him no answer.” Why not? Because Pontius Pilate has sinned against all the light and evidence that he had been given, and there comes a time in the life of EVERY person who continues to reject Jesus, or the light that He is giving, that the Lord Jesus Christ will no longer respond to the questions of the unbeliever. And do you know something?

It is just the same with all of us. If we refuse to accept the leading and teaching and guidance of the Lord, then the time will come when He will take His Hand off us, and leave us to our own desires and devices. He will answer us not! He will give us no further Light. Sadly, there are Christians who are given

term which can mean several things in the Bible, so we need to find out exactly what it means here. To do so, we use our Concordance, and look up the word “cup” and by comparing scripture with scripture, the Lord will teach us what His Word means.

Turn to **Ps.11:6**.

Here, the “cup” is a symbol of something. In this verse, their “cup” clearly means the settlement or harvest resulting from their action, which God forces them to drink. And “*the cup*” means **the entire contents** of this symbolic cup. All of it! In this example, it is bad news indeed. Turn to **Ps.23:5**, here it is more in the nature of a reward, and it means good news and a blessing, and you will note that this “*cup runneth over*”. Again, it is the contents that is important.

Let’s look at one more example where the Lord Jesus Himself uses the expression, when He is describing His future suffering on the cross to James and John, - turn to **Matt.20:20-22**. Here Jesus is talking about the contents of suffering that filled the figurative “cup” He was describing. We use this expression every time we sing Auld Lang Syne, “*We’ll take a cup of kindness yet, for Auld Lang Syne*”. We’ll partake of the contents of kindness. Let’s leave Robbie Burns and get back to the Bible. In our context, of **Lk.22:42** “this cup” simply means **the contents** of this figurative cup. With this in mind turn again to

Lk.22:42

Jesus is praying to be released from drinking a cup. And this is a cup which is given specifically to Him, from the Father. To Him? Yes, to Him! Can I prove it? Sure I can.

Turn to **Jn.18:11**. [put a ring around the two words “*given me*” underline the

word “*me*”.]

What is this cup?

This is the cup, the total contents of GOD’S WRATH which is to be poured out on Jesus, while Jesus is being crucified, thus making Him to be Sin for us. So, is it just physical suffering? No, not at all. That would be “easy”, - well, easy compared to what the “cup” is really about. For example, I could offer you a physical, literal cup of bad, horrible tasting medicine, and you could force it down, - no matter how bad it tasted. You could do that. But this is something far worse than a physical, actual cup. Somehow, God the Father presented a “cup” to Jesus. Not a physical cup, but in every other way a very real cup, and this cup was the CUP OF SIN.

In **Isa.53:6** [Do look it up] it says

“...the LORD hath laid on him, the iniquity of us all.”

and when Jesus was praying in the Garden, God the Father puts an imaginary cup before Jesus, and as Jesus looks into that cup, He sees all the putrid dregs of all the sin, of all humanity. Can you imagine what He sees? As I picture this scene [and you should always try and do this] I think of a TV camera that has the Lord looking into a cup, and the camera gradually comes in close, until only the interior of the cup fill the entire screen. And what does the Lord see?

In that cup is ALL the filth and stench of EVERYTHING that is rotten in mankind, from the very first Adam, right through past our present year of 1998, and through into the very last days of the thousand year future Kingdom of the Lord on this earth. ALL OF IT! ALL the sin of ALL the world!! Try and picture it. **A seething mass of horrible, disgusting, filthy sin.**

As God the Father offered that cup to the

Lord Jesus Christ, it was as though God was saying,

"If you are to save poor lost sinners, you must take their sin, YOU MUST DRINK THIS CUP!"

With this in mind, check out **2 Cor.5:21**.

Do you know something, dear reader . As Jesus looked into that cup of indescribable sin, with all its writhing putrid depths, coming up from Hell itself,

Do you know what He saw?

Do you know?

- ☞ He saw your sin and my sin.
 - ☞ He saw our dishonesty.
 - ☞ He saw our selfishness.
 - ☞ He saw our lying.
 - ☞ He saw our cursing.
 - ☞ He saw our pride.
 - ☞ He saw our arrogance.
 - ☞ He saw our impurity.
 - ☞ He saw our lust.
 - ☞ He saw all the dregs of man's degraded life.
 - ☞ He saw everything about you and me that is rotten.
- Everything! And when
- ☞ He SAW this, - look what happened.

Turn to

Lk.22:44

"...his sweat was as it were, great drops of blood falling down to the ground."

And here is something that is very important for us to realise. This NEVER happened on the Cross, - but it happened HERE! Could this distress in the Garden have been comparable to the suffering

on the cross? Could it? What do you think? And note His plea in **verse 42**. First of all, He is praying [v.41] and his prayer is scriptural in that it is addressed to God the Father.

"Father, if thou be willing..."

And He is praying for a definite answer, hoping to get it, - YET - also recognising that it might be contrary to God's purpose at this time. And that is how we should always pray.

Let's see what happens next, but we will look at the account in Matthew's gospel, so turn with me to

Matt.26:39-41

Read it all, but in particular, look at the **last part of verse 41**. Isn't this something that all of us have experienced? I have highlighted the last part of verse 41, and underlined in red the words *"the flesh is weak."* and beside this, in the margin, I have written two bible references, which you should also mark in your Bible, and also look up now, as you are contemplating and meditating on Matt.26:39-41. The two bible references are **Gal.5:16-17,24** and **Rom.7:19,24-25**

I am sure that all of us have experienced the strife which Paul describes so vividly in Rom.7, and we have all grieved the Holy Spirit. But Jesus doesn't grieve God! Jesus experienced our frustrations, but much, much more as well.

So, Jesus looks into this imaginary, but very real cup which the Father offers Him.. And what happens? Jesus, the pure, Holy, spotless Son of God, undefiled and perfect, looks into this cup and **His Holy soul shrinks back in horror** from the corruption and the cesspool of your sin, and my sin, and all the disgusting sins of all mankind,- and Jesus

Can you picture the scene? That is how we will conclude this portion of our study. I want to ask you to "Behold the man".

All that terrible suffering was for YOU. He endured it for YOU.

Do you know why?

Because He love you and me in a way that we will never ever comprehend. If you have never ever trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as your own personal saviour, then I urge you to do so, before you sleep tonight. If God has shown you some truths concerning His Word, for the very first time, and you are "kicking against the pricks", why not bury your pride, and SUBMIT to Him, by thanking Him for His patience, and accepting His Word as The Truth?

Rom.12: 1-2

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God"

5. THE FINAL FOOTSTEPS.

Pilate brings forth Jesus, and says "Behold the man." The Lord is bow beyond recognition. He is barefooted His hands bound, and the crown of cruel thorns has been forced into His head. His back, legs, buttocks, neck and shoulders are virtually without any skin and the underlying flesh is now just a bloody pulp. He is dripping with spittle. He is naked (Mark 15: 20) except for the purple robe which is now saturated with blood and spittle.

He has lost at least two litres of blood. His blood pressure would be so low as to be unreadable, and His pulse would be racing yet imperceptible to the touch. He would be in an extreme state of shock. Sweat would be pouring out of what skin was still left, and this would congeal with ribbons of flayed flesh. The bones of His upper arms and thighs would be visible where the overlying muscle has been torn away. Most certainly all of His ribs would be laid bare, since they would have caught the full force of the jagged metal and bone slivers in the ends of the thongs.

But all of this is as nothing when compared to His face. As the crowd see His face for the first time since His scourging, even they would recoil in horror! His face,- that Beautiful Face,- is now just a mash, and totally unrecognisable. How do we know that this is so? Because the Bible graphically describes His face in a prophetic passage of scripture in **Isaiah 52 14**

"As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men."

the top of the page above Ephesians 1. Now do you see the importance of marginal notes?

As we return to the terrible scene in the basement of the judgment fall, we have to wonder why 600 men officers could be so brutal. The actions of these men can really only be explained by Ephesians 2: 2. The Gestapo and the SS were no different. Mankind is no different today. The apostle Paul warns us of this in

Ephesians 6: 12

Note the phrase *"...rulers of the darkness of this world..."* If you turn to Gen. 1:5 you will note that "Night" has a capital letter. Do you grasp the significance of this? darkness = Night. Light = Day. Think about this verse then turn to John 1: 1-10 and read it carefully, and note the same capital letters here too. Likewise Paul reminds us of the conflict that faces true born-again believers in 1 Thes. 5: 4-5.

This same conflict is being fought in the praetorium or basement of the judgment hall, between Satan and Jesus. - But Jesus knows that the Cross is still ahead of him, - so He doesn't lay down His life to escape the incredible suffering. He is obedient to the Father. The Bible says (Isaiah 53: 5) *"...with his stripes we are healed..."* and Jesus endures every one of them for you and for me. The Lord Jesus Christ is in total control of the situation by His total obedience to the permissive will of God.

However, so not imagine that because He is in control, He reduces or limits the pain that He is suffering. This is the sinless Son of God, the MAN Christ Jesus, who has put aside His "privileges" of Deity, and has chosen to suffer here

as a man, JUST THE SAME AS WE WOULD HAVE SUFFERED, had we been in His place. Let us never forget this.

How so I know that this is so? Because the Lord told the two travellers on the road to Emmaus that He had suffered. See Luke 24: 26 He had also mentioned this suffering in advance, to Peter, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration in Mark 9: 12.

How did I find these verses? By using my Concordance, and looking up the word "suffer". Get into the habit of using your Concordance, and you will always run out of time when you are studying the Wonderful Word of God. There is SO much to discover, and so many blessing on the way.

Pilate is not finished with Jesus yet. What does he do next? Turn to

John 19: 1-5

"Behold the man!" And Jesus stumbles forward into the early morning sunlight. His body has been reduced to pulp, there is no skin on His back, He is covered in blood, and is dripping with spittle. There stands the Son of God in all His agony, - *"....a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief..."* (Isaiah 53: 3).

Pilate looks at Him, and I am certain he would be deeply impressed, and like the soldiers, convinced that this is no ordinary man. Just look at Him! He might as well be dead, considering the amount of brutality He has received at their hands. No doubt Pilate is convinced the mob will now let Jesus go, and they can execute Barabbas.

So Pilate turns to the crowd and says *"Behold the man!"*

prayed - and He prayed, - and He prayed again. Three times He goes through this agony. In effect He is saying to God the Father, *"Is there NO other way?"*

Carefully read **Matt. 26:42-44**

Can you picture the scene? Three times He goes through this indescribable agony. Now I want you to notice something carefully. Up to the end of verse 44, Jesus has been praying to God, - He's been agonising. He's been sweating great drops of blood. He's been enduring incredible agony, - but why? Why do you think this has been happening? Pause for a moment and think about it. Why?

Because in a sense, He has been fighting a duel with Himself, and this duel has to do with **obedience**. What is happening is that His Humanity shrinks from what He sees before Him. Let us never forget that Jesus as a sinless, perfect Man, has enjoyed perfect communion and fellowship with God the Father, during His entire life on planet Earth. His relationship was not contaminated with sin, because He was sinless, conceived by the Holy Spirit. But it is much more than that.

This Jesus is also the son of God, and He has enjoyed perfect fellowship with God the Father, since eternity! Do you recall our talking about the kenosis? [Where do you find the relevant passage in your Bible?] Jesus Christ deliberately submitted Himself to the limitations of our manhood. Why did He do this? Why the "kenosis"? He did so in order that He might be our **substitute** in life and death, - BUT - He never relinquished His rightful title as Creator and Master of the Universe, and from way back in eternity, He has enjoyed perfect fellowship with

God the Father, since eternity.

And Jesus knows that IF He is to take and drain this cup of sin, then He will be for-saken by God the Father Himself. Why? I'll tell you why. Because **God cannot have fellowship with sin**. The two just don't mix and they are not compatible. There are many verses in the Bible which prove this over and over again, eg.

Hab. 1:13

"Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity."

Also check out **Isa. 57:15, Ps. 99:9, 1Pet. 1:15-16**. God's personal name is Holy, see **Jn. 17:11**

When Jesus takes that cup, He will stand before God the Father, NOT as His loving son, but as a sinner, a criminal, a thief, a murderer, a.....etc. etc.,and on, and on, and on, etc., etc. - and here, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus faces **the supreme test of His obedience to His Father**. This is IT! THIS is the Big One!! But how do we know that his is the ultimate test?

Because three times Jesus says, *"Is there no other way?"* and the Father, in effect says *"No, are to be perfectly obedient to if you are to save just one sinner."* You **MUST drink this cup if you Me,**

And do you know what happened?

The Lord Jesus Christ looked ahead into the future, - and He saw ME, - and He saw YOU, and you, and you, andetc. And we, all of us, were all headed for the devil's hell, and the Lake of Fire, and the LOVE OF CHRIST overcame any hesitation that He had, and, in effect He said.

"Give me this cup. I will drink it that

the lost soul of you, the reader,

 [write your name here]
may be saved from that hell, that you may live."

HE TOOK THAT CUP, and became sin for you and for me, and finally, on the Cross, He drains the last bitter dregs, and cries out **"it is finished!"** and the price of sin has been paid. Even if one drop had remained in that cup, it would not have been finished, and He would not have risen from the grave.

Dear Reader, I want you to listen carefully, and listen tenderly, and listen with all your mind, and with all your heart to what I am about to say. **In Matthew 26, between verses 44 and 45, unwritten in the Bible, is the ACCEPTANCE of God's awesome demand for the salvation of mankind. This was the BEGINNING of the Payment for the sin of the world.** The death on the cross was the **COMPLETION** of the draining, of this cup of sin and the wrath of God, which He drained to the very last drop.

The Bible tells us in **2 Cor.5:21**, that
"God made Him to be sin for us..."

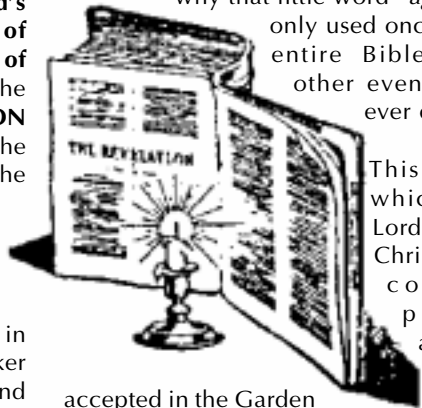
Look up this verse and highlight it all in yellow and mark it with your red marker as follows: Put a ring around the second word "he" and write "God" beside this ring. Put a ring around the word "him" and write "Christ" beside this second ring. Underline the phrase "who knew no sin" and take a line to the margin and label the underlining "Jesus", and finally draw a ring around the very last word "him" and label it "Jesus Christ". Already you should have "see Isa.53:6" written beside this verse.

How do we know that something great happened between verses **44 and 45?**

You can easily miss this if you don't read your Bible carefully, [and prayerfully, asking the Lord to SHOW you such things]. Read **verses 39-44 again**. Try to picture the scene, and imagine how the Lord must have recoiled in horror at the filth He saw. Try and picture His agony. Close your eyes and imagine this event in the Garden. Now read

Matt.26:45-46.

Look at the incredible change of attitude of the Lord!! What a contrast to the previous verses, even to verse 44. NOW look at Him! He has taken the cup! and what is to follow, - His scourging, His crucifixion, His being forsaken by the Father, are all **consequences** of His AGONY in the Garden. Now do you see why that little word "agony" is only used once in the entire Bible? No other event could ever equal it.



This agony which the Lord Jesus Christ contemplated and

then accepted in the Garden of Gethsemane, was to be the beginning of the work of redemption which He ended on the Cross, when He shouted **"it is finished!"** This was the "beginning of the end", and He began it here in the Garden of Gethsemane, and entirely on His own.

The Bible says

"....and without the shedding of blood is no remission."

[Using your Concordance see if you can

have ended this work very easily:

1. He could have laid down His life here if He so chose to do,- and that would have ended all of His indescribable suffering, and Satan would have won a victory Him.
2. Likewise, the Lord could have destroyed all of the soldiers, and all of the crowd at any time of His suffering, of even before it began.
3. Furthermore, He could have called upon legions of angels to do this for Him.

Jesus could have done all of these things, at any time from the moment of His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, right through to the present situation,- but He **CHOSE** not to do so. Jesus was in **CONTROL** of His own life, and this makes the scourging all the more incredible. If He had been an ordinary man, then by now He would have been dead. There is absolutely no doubt about that at all. Jesus was in total control of His own life. But He had no control over the pain and suffering. Turn to

John10:17-18

These two verses must be two of the most wonderful verses in the whole Bible. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke these words long before His present ordeal at the hands of Herod, Pilate, and the band of 600 soldiers. He spoke these words long before He had even hinted about the Cross. These words show that the Lord Jesus Christ, as He is being brutally and painfully tortured just hours before the Cross, is not deviating from His divine destiny. Neither Satan, nor "premature" death, will rob Him of His destiny. Highlight these two verses, and also write a marginal note referring to them alongside the passages in Mark 15 and John 19.

Satan is undoubtedly trying to kill Jesus tight here in the basement of the judgment hall. But unlike God, Satan is not omniscient (all knowing), and he knows **NOTHING** about Christ's soon-coming sacrificial, voluntary death on the Cross to save all believers from eternal damnation. Satan knows nothing about that. He wants to kill Christ, but he is ignorant of God's plan. How can we be sure that he really is ignorant? Turn to

1 Cor.2: 7-8

I often wonder at the reaction of Satan, when he finally realised that the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross, was a **VICTORY** for the Lord, salvation for sinners, and had been planned or ordained by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit from the beginning of eternity. Paul refers to this in Rom.16: 25.

As a side-track, we should remember that our salvation was also known to God from before the foundation of the world. Read Ephes.1: 3-14. Just as the Lord Jesus Christ was faithful to achieve our salvation, so too this passage shows that we have a responsibility. When we were chosen of predestinated by God, He expected two things from us, not for our salvation, but for our response to Him. Verse 4 shows that God expects us to be 1. Holy, and 2. Without blame. How do WE measure up? I recall Dr. Dave Reese, my Bible College Principal, once saying,

"God the Father thought us (v.4), God the Son bought us (v.7), and the Holy Spirit brought us (to Christ) (v.13-14)."

How so I remember these words which Dave mentioned so many years ago? I have written them as a marginal note at

each with 12 thongs is a TOTAL of 468 lashes or stripes. If a stripe hit where a previous lash had landed, then it cut so much deeper.

After 39 lashes, there was virtually no skin left on the back. None! But that is not all. Where the lashes had curled around the abdomen, they would often open up gaping holes so that the intestines would gush out, and if this happened, the shock would kill the victim. This was not the objective of scourging. The objective was to inflict maximum unbelievable pain, yet keep the victim alive to ensure his suffering, and confession of evidence. Thus, the officer doing the scourging was careful to take as much skin off the back, buttocks and loins as possible, and yet keep the victim alive. Most victims would become unconscious long before the 39 lashes were completed, in which case they would be revived and the torture then continued. It was barbaric in the extreme. The victim's back would be reduced to a pulp of raw flesh, with virtually no skin left at all. He would bleed profusely, losing much blood.

The Lord Jesus Christ was scourged. Just a small sentence, but giving a picture of incredible suffering, that is often overlooked, as the believer thinks more of the Cross. The suffering on the Cross would be indescribable, but so too was the suffering of the Lord Jesus Christ in His being scourged. The 39 lashes would cut to ribbons His back, arms, legs, shoulders, wrists, neck, buttocks and His sides. The thongs would have curled around His body, to lash and cut His face, His breast, and His stomach. His kidneys would have been almost laid bare. He would writhe and twist under this extreme torture, but Jesus never uttered a word. Turn to a prophetic passage describing His suffering in

Isaiah 53: 5-7

One would imagine that after such a brutal scourging, Jesus would be left alone by the soldiers, and the mob's lust for blood would be satisfied,- but not at all. The scourging has been expertly inflicted, and Jesus is still alive. Turn to the account in Mark's gospel

Mark 15: 15-20

Note some of the facts which could easily be missed, if this passage isn't read slowly and carefully. Verse 15 simply says "...when he had scourged him..." Can you picture the depth of suffering in those few words? Verse 16 reminds us that "...the whole band..." was present. Pause for a moment and imagine what Jesus would look like after He has already suffered so much, and now 600 men have spat, and spat and spat all over Him. The blood,- so much of it,- the globs of spittle the putrid yellow phlegm, the mocking.

Now it is important that the reader be reminded of something that was mentioned earlier in these study notes.

What is taking place here, in the basement of the judgment hall is NOT just a barbaric flogging, and a mocking, and unbridled brutality. Sure, it is ALL of those, but it is much more than that.

This is a Battle Royal between the Lord Jesus Christ, God's anointed Son, and Satan himself who is called the prince of the power of the air (Ephes.2: 2; John12:31; 1 John 5:19; 2 Cor.4: 3-4.) Do look up these passages, and meditate upon them for a moment.

Satan is trying to get Jesus to quit, to submit, to surrender to him,- but the Man Jesus is doing a WORK here! He could

find this verse, under "remission" or "shedding".]

We have just learnt that His blood was shed here in the Garden of Gethsemane, well before it was shed by the cruel scourge, or the crown of thorns, or the nails that pierced His hands and feet. **Isn't it wonderful that His precious blood was shed, even before man laid a hand on Him**, - so intense was His agony in the Garden that He sweated

"great drops of blood falling down to the ground"

Using a Concordance, and comparing scripture with scripture, [**1Cor.2:13**], and checking line upon line, [**Is.28:10**], and studying [**2Tim.2:15**] what you have been reading and searching [**Jn.5:39**], will always bring you closer to the Lord, and sometimes He will bless you with an extra **reward or gem** for the work that you have been doing in the Bible. Let me show you just such a reward which I received when I studied these passages many years ago. It is a reward which I wish to share with you.

In the account of the Lord's agony in the garden, it is easy to miss the last two words of **Matt.26:40**. They are "**one hour**". Now turn over to **Mk.14:37**, and comparing scripture with scripture, there are the same two words again "**one hour**". But go back just two verses to **verse 35**, and what do you find? Here the Lord talks about "**the hour**".

Is there something special about this hour for Him to call it "THE hour?" Well, by looking up our concordance again, we discover the real reward for our searching. Turn back to **Jn.12:23** "**the hour**" is here mentioned re a future event that is still many days away. Now look at

Jn.12:27

"Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour."

"Father save me from this hour"

- wasn't this what Jesus was praying in the Garden when He cried

"O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, ..."

Now turn to another passage where the Lord is praying to the Father [this is the real "Lord's Prayer", whereas the "Our Father....." is actually the "Disciples' Prayer", - but that is getting sidetracked!] Turn to **Jn.18:1**, this is when the Lord and the disciples start out for the Garden of Gethsemane, but note that the verse commences

"When Jesus had spoken these words....."

What words did He speak?

To find the answer, turn back to

Jn.17:1

"These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father the hour is come; glorify thy son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:"

Do you see the incredible significance of these words in this prayer to the Father? These are spoken just immediately before the Lord goes to the Garden of Gethsemane. To me they have such a poignant meaning.

Seven times this special period of ONE HOUR is mentioned.

God is wanting us to learn something, and I believe that He is telling us that this hour of agony that the Lord Jesus Christ endured in the Garden of Gethse-

3. THE ARREST

This hour was the greatest test of His obedience to the Father

This hour was the greatest test of His submission to the Father

This hour was his TOTAL ACCEPTANCE of the full horror to come

This was

THE GREAT HOUR OF DECISION FOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

This hour does not in any way detract from His work of redemption on the Cross - a work that was to last for six shocking, painful hours. Between this time in the Garden, and the time when He would be brutally nailed to the Cross, He would endure additional pain and suffering which is beyond our comprehension. But here, in the garden, this first hour was the supreme test of the Lord's obedience to the Father, and **the beginning** of the work of redemption which was to end on the Cross with the triumphant cry **"It is finished!"**

How does one end such a wonderful Bible study?

There is only one way, and that is by our being reminded that Christ's work is done, it is finished, but I must receive it personally.

You must receive it.

You must receive HIM, and do you know why this is so?

Because ----->

He **became** sin for you.

He endured the full fury of the wrath of God for you.

What happens next in the Garden of Gethsemane? The Lord has prayed three times to the Father, and has agonised over the cup of sin and wrath, which the Father has offered to Him, - and which He had accepted. Let's pick up the scene in

Matt.26:44-47

What time of night is this? Well, the Bible doesn't tell us, but it is reasonable to assume that it is probably about 10-11pm., because sometime after 6pm [when evening begins] they had had their meal together, a leisurely event, sang a hymn together, crossed the brook Kedron and climbed up the other side of the valley on the Mount of Olives, and entered the Garden of Gethsemane, where the Lord prayed for approximately one hour.

Jesus has just got to His feet from praying, and is about to go when "a great multitude" [v47] let by Judas comes upon Him. And they are armed. With swords and staves. The staves, in the hands of these men could be just as lethal as the modern-day P-24 police baton. Now I want you to picture the scene. Try and imagine it. How many people would

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The Bible says in Jn.1:12

".....as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God."

Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Turn in your Bible to

Matt.27: 19

3. Pilate has really got the pressure on him, hasn't he? His wife Claudia Procula (her name is known from the writings of historian Josephus) knows that Jesus is innocent because of a dream she has had.

Whether or not this dream was a revelation from God, or was due to too much wine and cheese before she went to bed, we will never know, but Pontius Pilate ignores her pleas for mercy. Why does he ignore her? Look at the next verse

Matt.27: 20

The chief priest and elders have managed to inflame the crowd. See how Mark pictures the scene, and his little phrase "moved the people" in

Mark 15: 7-15

This passage has so much material, and so much tension in it, that it really needs to be read several times, and "chewed over and digested" before proceeding further. Try and picture the scene and the words being spoken by Pilate, and the response of the crowd. Look at such phrases as "they cried out the more exceedingly" and "willing to content the people". So much meaning in so few words.

So Barabbas is released, but Jesus, who is already bruised, beaten and still bound, is handed over to the Roman soldiers. Is that what it says? Is it? No, it doesn't say that at all! It is SO very easy to miss a small but extremely important phrase in **Mark 15: 15**

"....then he had scourged him...."

Jesus was scourged. What does this mean? Scourging was the severest form of punishment that the Roman authorities could inflict. It was designed to extract confession and secrets from its victims. It was such a horrible and painful TORTURE that it was forbidden to be given to Roman citizens! It was the ultimate in pain.

You may remember what happened to the apostle Paul, when he was almost lynched, outside the temple in Jerusalem. He was rescued by the band of 600 soldiers, but the Captain ordered that Paul be scourged. He wanted to extract information from Paul. The most "effective" and painful form of torture for extracting information was the scourge. Turn to

Acts 22: 24-29

The moment Paul declares his Roman citizenship, he is released. In fact, the chief Captain is now afraid, because he came so close to scourging a Roman citizen, which was totally forbidden, and would have cost him his own life.

What was the scourge? It consisted of a 50 cm wooden handle, to which twelve leather thongs were attached. Each thong was approximately one metre long with a piece of jagged bone or metal fastened at the end so as to tear the flesh of the one being scourged. It was not a cat-o-twelve tails, and each tipped with bone or metal.

How was the scourge used? When a person was scourged, his back and buttocks was bared, his hands were tied with thongs and stretched up above his head. His feet were tied around the base of a stone pillar. He was given 39 lashes, to the back, buttocks and loins. 39 lashed,

No doubt, Pilate thought he was well rid of Jesus. But do you know something? Jesus Christ is the hardest Person in all the world to get off your hands! Why is this so? Because the Bible says "He ever liveth" and He is "not willing that any should perish". Using your Concordance find this verse in 2 Peter, highlight it since it is so important and answer the question "why" is he not willing... This is another of our little sidetracks, but all of them give us a blessing, don't they?

So the Lord Jesus is marched right back to Pilate and Pilate has Him back on his hands again. The Lord must be even more exhausted now, - but there is still much ahead of Him. As a result of all this pushing and shoving of Jesus from Pilate to Herod, and then back to Pilate again, the two of them become good friends, even though they were once at odds with each other. (Luke 23: 12). Do you realise why this is so? It is simply because they have a common enemy!

And it is no different today. Jesus Christ unites enemies in a common bond of hatred against Himself and His faithful believers. Check out 2 Tim.3:12 Does this verse apply to you? Put a ring around the word "all". It applies to "...ALL who will live godly IN CHRIST JESUS...." It is not just good social works, it has to do with the Saviour. Are you a persecuted Christian for what you stand for, or are you a comfortable Christian? No persecution simply means no effective godly witness. You should be in the "firing line" for your Lord and Saviour.

The Lord is back in the custody of Pilate, and the crowd is becoming restless for His death. So what happens next? At the time of the Passover, there is a Jewish custom which makes a beg show of MERCY. Pilate has just received Jesus

back from Herod, and he doesn't quite know what to do, so he tries to be somewhat clever. Turn to

John 18: 39-40

Barabbas is a robber alright, but he is much worse than that. Turn to

Luke 23: 18-19

Barabbas is also guilty of sedition, which is rebellion or treason against the Government, and he is guilty of murder. No doubt, Pilate figured that the mob would let an innocent Prophet go, before they would release a thief and a murderer. It is for this reason that Pilate appeals, not only to the mob but also the chief priests and rulers. Turn to this in

Luke 23: 13-20

Now why was Pilate "...willing to release Jesus..."? willing = wanting. He was wanting to release Jesus for three reasons, and each of them is very sound.

1. First of all the Lord Jesus Christ was innocent. Surely, this was a very good reason, all on its own! He was doubly innocent in that both Herod and Pilate had found "no fault in him".

But there is another reason. Turn to

Matt.27: 15-18 and Mark 15: 10

2. Pilate knew why Jesus had been arrested, and bound, and brought to him. It was sheer jealousy and envy on the part of the religious leaders. Imagine what a bad, negative testimony this Jewish religion must have given to Pontius Pilate.

But there is a third reason why Pilate wanted to release the Lord Jesus Christ.

there have been? What is your guess? A "multitude" by itself means a lot of people, and a *great multitude* means a great number of people. So there are not just a handful of people present, - could there be as many as 50-100? What do you think?

You know, the Holy Bible really is an amazing Book!! If we dig a little deeper, we can learn so much more about this multitude of people, that otherwise we might not have noticed. Some of these people came from the chief priests, - this is the Temple Guard. Some came from the elders, - these are the city leaders. And it is not just an undisciplined

group of trouble-makers, - not at all.

Turn to

Jn.18:3

By comparing scripture with scripture we learn a lot more. They are carrying lanterns, so we know that it must be dark. But we learn a lot more, if only we will carefully study this verse. As well as the lanterns, they have weapons and they have torches [burning brush soaked in pitch and wrapped around the end of a stick] but is there anything else you note about this verse? Look carefully. Yes, Pharisees and chief priests are mentioned, but there is something else that you could easily miss. [You will only find it in a King James Bible] Look again.

In **Jn.18:3** it says "*a band of men and officers*". Can you recall another verse where the word "band" is used? By using your Concordance, you will find the same word in **Acts 10:1**, where Cornelius is mentioned as being a Centurion in the Italian band. [As a Sunday-School child, I thought the *Italian Band* was some sort of dance-band!] The Greek word for "band" is "*speira*", and do you know how

many people were in a band? It means a cohort or battalion, or regiment, and it contained **600 men!** And what is more, it contained 6 officers or centurions, each in charge of 100 men.

Now you can see why **Matt.26:47** says "*a great multitude*". We are not looking at even 50-100, we are looking at an organised contingent of some 600 men and officers, with Judas in the front. Perhaps you are still not "fully persuaded"? It is a surprise isn't it? Well, turn to another passage in the scriptures where the very same word "*the band*", the *speira*, the regiment, is used. You see this is HOW you do real Bible study, by comparing

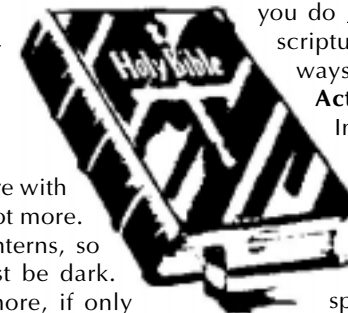
scripture with scripture, and God always blesses you. Always! Turn to

Acts 21:31-33

In Acts 21:31 "*all Jerusalem*" is in uproar, [not just some of Jerusalem, - and that's a lot of people!] - but they [*all Jerusalem*] are subdued by "*the band*", the *speira*, the regiment. And note that "*centurions*" in the text, is plural, [a centurion is in charge of 100 men], there would be 6 of them. 600 officers and men would certainly be needed to subdue all Jerusalem..

Turn back again to the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Note in **Jn.18:3**, that Judas has received "*a band of men and officers*", not just some men and officers from a regiment. Can you picture the scene? My wife and I have walked on the Mount of Olives, and into the Garden of Gethsemane, and I can imagine that an officer who wanted to be sure of capturing some person at night, among all these gnarled olive trees, in this very large dark area, would need a full band to ensure that the person he was seeking did not slip quietly away in the shadows.



Now look at

Jn.18:4

“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth and said unto them, Whom seek ye?”

An atheist once told me that this verse is either a contradiction, or else it proves that Jesus is not omniscient [knows everything]. But **the Bible critic** is wrong on both counts, and in any case he it is foolishness to him [1 Cor.2:14, **1 cannot understand the Bible because Cor.1:18-20, 2 Cor.4:3-4, Ephes.4:18.** Please look up these verses, and write them in the margin beside **1 Cor.2:14**]

Let’s never forget that Jesus is a sinless Man, with perfect communion with God, and in fact He IS God. One of the attributes of God is **omniscience or all-knowing**, and you should just check the following 3 verses to prove that this is really so. **Jn.1:48, Jn.16:30, Jn.21:17.** So if Jesus knows all things, - and He does, - then why does He ask the question *“whom seek ye?”* in Jn.18:4? Note very carefully what you are about to read:

Christ does not ask a question to get an answer. He knows the answer.

So, why does He ask a question then? He asks a question so that others will commit themselves.

That is worth thinking about, isn’t it?

And what is more, the Lord Jesus Christ still does this today through His Word.

If you will pause and meditate as you study God’s Holy Bible, you will find yourself being faced with questions which require an answer. You can sit on the fence and avoid answering the question, but sooner or later you will HAVE to answer the probing questions asked by

the Lord. eg: Is it OK to cheat on your income tax, - if that is what you have been doing? It is irrelevant what your thoughts might be concerning the Tax Department, **you will come under the searchlight of God’s questioning as you study His word**, and He will put the question to you, so that by answering Him, you are committing yourself.

The Bible will always question the BELIEVER.

This seems strange, because we tend to think that it is the other way around, and it is the reader who questions the Book, and not vice-versa. But **the Bible is not just any old book, it is the Word of God.** Look carefully at **Heb.4:12-13.** What or who is the discerner? Check carefully again. In verse 12 it is the Book, but in verse 13 it refers to a Person [*“his sight”*]. Do you see how God equates His Bible [the written Word] with His Son [the living Word]? Also look up and compare **Jn1:1** with **Jn.1:14**, and **Jn.14:6** with **Jn.17:17.** It is worth while making some marginal notes beside these wonderful verses. You did check them all out, didn’t you?

Now let’s turn to an amazing passage in your Bible.

Jesus has just been confronted by some 600 officers and men, with Judas in the forefront, and the Lord has just risen from praying to the Father, and He approaches the multitude that is closing in around Him, [that’s significant isn’t it, - He approaches them.] and asks them *“Whom seek ye?”* Now turn to this amazing passage. If you use a modern bible version, you will also need to check this out in a King James Bible, because the importance and significance of the subsequent conversation is not found in any of the many modern versions of the bible. To miss the significance of this next passage would be to deny you a very rich bless-

be, according to Rev.20: 15.

We have just learnt (Philip.2: 9) that God has highly exalted the Lord Jesus Christ, and given Him a NAME *“which is above every name.”* You will recall we earlier discovered the divine *“interrelationship”* between the Lord Jesus Christ (the Living Word), and the Holy Bible (the written Word). So, does God give the same honour and glory and respect to His Word (the Holy Bible) that He gives to His precious Son, whose Name God has exalted above every name? We would expect this to be so. In Psalm 138, David is praising God. Now look carefully at what the Holy Spirit has inspired him to write.

Ps.138: 2

“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise the name for thy loving kindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

Wow! Do you grasp the significance of this? We have just seen in Philipians 2 that God has exalted the name of Jesus above every other name, and yet, here in Psalm 138 He has MAGNIFIED His word *“above all thy name”*- and this includes the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Does this mean that the Word of God is more important than the Lord Jesus Christ? Of course not, and the verse doesn’t say that, and to suggest that it does, (as some bible-critics do) is to ***“handle the word of God deceitfully”*** (2 Cor.4: 2). *“Exalted”* and *“Magnified”* are not the same. Ps.138:2 shows the tremendous respect which God has for His word.

Many times a true Bible-believer will be called a *“bible worshipper”* by those who

are intent in criticising or *“correcting”* the Bible, and who are offended by the believer’s God-given faith and trust in the Word of God. Sadly, some academics are more concerned with parading their bookish knowledge, than simply trusting in the Book. A true Bible believer does not worship the Bible, but he does trust it totally, and he accords it the same respect and awe which God demonstrates in Ps.138: 2.

Let me ask your a very important question. As you hold your Bible in your two hands, are you able to turn its pages and say, in the words of the Psalmist, *“Thou has magnified thy word above all thy name.”?* If you cannot honestly say this, then you should prayerfully ask God to give you the same measure of faith in His Word, as you have in His Son. He expects nothing less.

Let us return to our main study again. Already the Lord has suffered so much at the hands of those who have Him. However, such suffering has only been foretaste of what is still to come.

Turn to

Luke 23: 9-11

Now it is the turn of Herod and his soldiers! They treat Jesus with contempt and mock Him, and place on Him a *“gorgeous robe”*. What colour is this robe? We are not told, but it could be the scarlet robe which is mentioned in Matt.27: 28, in contrast to the purple robe which was placed on Him at the time the crown of thorns was forced on His head in John 19: 2. Jesus is now badly ill-treated by Herod and his men. Just imagine how tired and bruised and fatigued He would be by now. When Herod and his men have finished with Jesus, they return Him again to Pontius Pilate.

that Jesus was John the Baptist risen from the dead. Now he would be able to check it out for himself. He also had another motive for wanting to see Jesus, "...he hoped to have seen some miracle done by him." We must remember that the Lord Jesus Christ was famous throughout all the land, and naturally, Herod would want to be able to tell his friends that he had had Jesus before him, and Jesus had performed a miracle, - a bit like a conjuror doing a card trick!

Lk.23:9 "Then he questioned with him in many words; **but he answered him nothing.**"

The phrase "many words" carries so much meaning doesn't it? Pilate probably gave Jesus quite a grilling. And all the time, Jesus is standing before him, bound and bruised, - and Jesus answers him NOTHING!

Why not? Because here is King Herod, who has already ignored John the Baptist, and then beheaded John the Baptist. That was three years ago. For three years, the Lord Jesus Christ has been performing miracles, healing the sick, preaching to the lost, and fulfilling every claim that He was the Messiah. If Herod had been genuine and sincere in his seeking for truth, then he had ample time and opportunity to satisfy himself that Jesus was whom He claimed to be. Herod wasn't the least bit interested in discovering the truth, and really, he was just a hypocrite. So Jesus didn't even give him the satisfaction of an answer. Surely we can learn something from this event. Turn to a relevant bible verse in

Prov.1:23-29

This passage has a solemn warning for every person, lost and saved. We are to respond to God at GOD'S timetable, and

not ours! Jesus never spoke even one word to Herod! In Luke 23: 8 er read "...and when Herod saw Jesus, he was exceeding glad;..." However, the next time Herod sees the Lord Jesus Christ, Herod will be exceeding sad, and he is going to be in eternal remorse over his many sins. Herod will one day stand before the Lord Jesus Christ again, and he will remember that this very Man whom he questioned and mocked could have saved his soul from eternal Hell.

Just a slight side-track here is justified. Turn to a passage with which you are now familiar. It has to do with the kenosis. Do you recall that term, and what it means? Can you find it in your Bible? Turn to this passage, and look at the three verses that follow.

Philip.2: 5-8 The Kenosis

Philip.2: 9-11

Herod will stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and he will bow his knee to the name of Jesus, and just as importantly, Herod will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, (not Lord as his Saviour, but Lord as his Judge.) What a contrast to Herod's questioning of the Lord. In V.9 draw a ring around the word "him" and take a line out to the margin and write the words "see V.5, Christ Jesus". In V.10 draw a ring around "name", and also draw rings around the word "every" and do the same to the word "every" in V.11. When will this event take place? It will occur at the Great White Throne Judgement of Rev.20: 11-14. And who does the judging? Draw a ring around the word "him" in Rev.20: 11 and connect it with a line to a note in the margin which says "Lord Jesus Christ, see Jn.5: 22". You should check out these verses, and contemplate what the final destination of Herod will

ing in your Bible study.

Turn to

Jn.18:5-9

Now what is so amazing in the passage? The answer is to be found in verses 5,6, and 8. I will print verse 5 just as it is found in the KJ Bible.

John 18:5

"They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them."

Note the word "**he**" which is in italics in the KJ Bible. This means that under the inspiration and direction of God, the King James translators have put that word "**he**" into the text, because it is not found in any manuscript. Sure, the word IS inferred, but **there isn't an actual word in any Greek manuscript for "he"**. So that you would know that, the KJ translators put it in italics, and the KJ Bible is the only Bible that does this consistently. [The New KJB which is not a KJB at all, only puts some of its words in italics] The King James Bible is an honest Bible in doing this.. [For those readers who are still unsure about the italics, or want to learn more, please read **Appendix 1** at the back of these notes.]

Let us again look at our text of **Jn.18:5** in the KJV Bible

The expression "**I am he**" is mentioned three times, in verses 5,6, and 8. So if you had been there in the Garden of Gethsemane that night, how would the conversation have gone? What would you have heard?

verse 4 "**Whom seek ye?**"
verse 5 "**Jesus of Nazareth.**"
"I AM"

Jesus doesn't say "**I am He**", - Instead, He says just the two words "**I AM**" [as the KJ Bible shows] And look what happens when Jesus answers with those two words "**I AM**". Look at **John 18:6**

"As soon then as he had said unto them, I am....."

They are all thrown backward onto the ground, it is an immediate response!! "**As soon as He said it**" - WHAM! They are all bowled over, just by hearing those two words "**I AM**". - Now, does this expression "**I AM**" remind you of some previous episode in the Bible? Turn back in your Bible and check out **Ex.3:2-14**. Pay particular attention to **verse 14**. "**I AM**" is a term which God uses to describe Himself.

You may recall a similar event involving the Lord Jesus Christ, earlier in John's Gospel.

Turn to **Jn. 8:58**, where the Lord uses the same expression "**I am**", and look at the reaction of the people in **verse 59**. Here, Jesus says "**before Abraham was I am**", and this drives them into a frenzy, because they realise He is claiming to be God, by using this expression.

To absolutely clinch the matter, check out **Jn. 17:5**. This verse teaches the eternity of Jesus Christ with the Father.

It is worthwhile doing a little "**side-track**" whenever you are doing Bible study, and our looking at the "**I am**" expression is a case in point. We tend to think of Jesus by the different "**I am's**" that He uses in John's gospel.

You will note that there are 7 of them, the perfect number in Scripture lists.

- | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | Bread of Life | Jn.6:35 |
| 2. | Light of the world | Jn.8:12 |
| 3. | Door | Jn.10:7 |
| 4. | Good Shepherd | Jn.10:11 |

5. **Resurrection & life** Jn.11:25
6. **Way, Truth, Life** Jn.14:6
7. **True vine.** Jn.15:1

He is all these, but most important of all,
He is "I AM" - Jehovah God.!

You should write a marginal note such as "7 I am's, #1 etc." beside each of these in your Bible. You will find such notes very helpful. Beside **Jn. 18:5** I have written the marginal note: "he is" in italics, therefore "I am" =Deity". I have highlighted in yellow the three "I am's" in verses 5,6,8 and have drawn a ring in red around the italic words "he" in the same verses. By doing this, the true meaning of these three verses stands out very clearly.

Back to **Jn 18:7**.

Again Jesus forces them to answer Him, and now **He demonstrates His authority** over them. Read **Jn.18:8-9**. To what is Jesus referring? He is referring to a comment He made when He was praying to the Father. Let's find it. Turn back to **Jn.17:6-12**. This is a tremendous passage of scripture, and it is worth "chewing over" each verse, word by word, slowly. Now do you see what happened in **Jn.18:6-9?** He had "flattened" them all with the fact of His deity. **He had given them proof of His power over them**, - but He was also saying that He was prepared to protect His sheep, that little band of eleven disciples with Him. And so He says [v8], ".....let these go their way." And now Judas pick himself up, and finally steps forward.

Let's turn back to Matthew to get some further details.

Matt.26:47-50

If you read this passage carefully, you will notice little points that could easily be missed if you just read from start to fin-

ish without thinking about each word that you read. When doing Bible-study, you should always "chew over" the words you are reading. For example, do you note anything of importance in **verse 49?** Look again. I have drawn a ring around the word "master", and in the margin written *Not "Lord!"* To Judas, the Lord Jesus Christ is just the "Master".

In preparing these notes for you, I became **sidetracked** by recalling a verse somewhere in the Bible which had to do with calling Jesus "Lord". I could not recall its exact "address", so using my Concordance, I found the passage in **1Cor.12:3**. Please look this up. Look at the last part of the verse, ".....that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." I thought about this as I imagined the scene in the Garden of Gethsemane. I also recalled another passage which I located with my Concordance where people had called Jesus "Lord". It is in **Matt.7:21-23**. So how does one explain the fact that these people DO call Jesus "Lord"?

They do so, because they are just **imitators, they are not true believers**.

Beside Matt.26:49 I have added the marginal note "see 1 Cor.12:3", and beside 1 Cor.12:3 I have written the marginal note "but see Matt.7:22 for many imitators". This sidetracking has taken me a good ten minutes, because I also looked up one or two other verses which I thought might be relevant as well. These 10 minutes have been very worthwhile, and I have added some valuable marginal notes to my Bible. Never worry about getting sidetracked when you are studying your Bible, as long as you ultimately return to the main line of study.

In **verse 50** note how the Lord addresses Judas.

"Friend, wherefore art thou

Hence his title of King Herod, and of his living in a palace. It is important to understand his role as an appointed King over the Jews, and his allegiance to Rome.

He would be in Jerusalem for two reasons. He would have come in his official capacity to see **the Jewish Passover**. Many foreigners did so including Cornelius [Acts 10] and the Ethiopian eunuch [Acts 8].

But more importantly he would also have come to enjoy the festivities of **pagan Easter** which was also about this same time of the year. We know that this is so, because in **Acts 12:4** "Easter" is specifically mentioned in the King James Bible. If your bible has "Passover" then it is incorrect, as can easily be proved, because the Bible clearly teaches that the Passover ALWAYS precedes "the days of unleavened bread" mentioned in Acts 12:3 So, in **Acts 12:1-4**, "Passover must already be passed, - it is over. How can I be sure? - Because then were the days of unleavened bread." And Passover always occurs BEFORE "the days of unleavened bread" Can you see this? It is very important that you do. What about Easter? In the year of the crucifixion, Pagan "Easter" is still future.

For advanced students, check the following Bible references, **Ex.12:13-18**, **Lev.23:5-6**, **Num.28:16-18**, **Deut.16:1-8**, **Ezra 6:19-22** proving the sequence of "Passover first, then followed by "days of unleavened bread." The Greek word which is translated "Easter" in Acts 12:4 is the word "pascha". This word appears 29 times in the New Testament, and for 28 of those times, the word is rendered "Passover" in reference to the night when the Lord passed over Egypt, and killed all the firstborn of Egypt [Ex12:12], thus setting Egypt free of 400 years of bond-

age. However, in **Acts 12:4** it is rendered "Easter" because (1) it **cannot** be Passover, and (2) in **this** verse, Easter IS the correct rendering, in accordance with the text and the context.

Acts 12:4 is a good verse to separate a true Bible-Believer from a bible-corrector. Bible "correctors", and KJ critics invariably quote the opinions of academics and "scholars" to ridicule the King James' proper and precise use of "Easter" in Acts 12:4. They choose to ignore **Bible facts** [of Passover then Unleavened Bread], preferring the wisdom" of men. **[Rom.1:22]** Perhaps it is PRIDE that prevents some from accepting such a simple "built in" proven demonstration of the accuracy and truth of God's wonderful Word. By not facing facts, those who trample on God's Word, miss out on so much blessing.

Are you a Bible-believer? Really? **Acts 12:14** is not just a game with words. It is a simple test of whether or not you are a Bible believer, or a bible-corrector. **God has given you light**, and even now He could be testing your faith in His revealed Word. Depending on either your acceptance or your rejection of His Truth, so will be the measure of blessing you can expect. So do meditate upon this. It is truly important.

Let us now return to the events taking place in Herod's palace. Turn to

Lk.23:8

Why was Herod "exceeding glad"? Do you recall what Herod had said concerning Jesus back in Matt.14? Before you check out the verses, see if you can remember. It is always good to do this rather than immediately checking the text. How good is your memory? The answer is in **Matt.14:1-2** Herod thought

Lk.23:4-5

Pilate's comment only inflames the crowd further. Now they are hopping mad! But on hearing the word "Galilee", Pilate pricks up his ears with interest. Here is an easy way out for him to pass the responsibility to someone else. Let's read on

Lk:6-7

Let us remember that Pontius Pilate has declared Jesus innocent, and he should have released Him then and there, - but he doesn't. To appease the crowd, and to get rid of the responsibility of Jesus, he sends Jesus over to **Herod**. Who happens to be in Jerusalem at this same time.

In the Bible, the name of Herod is familiar, because there are several Herods that are mentioned.. So which Herod is this? It is the same **Herod Antipas**, the governor of Galilee who had earlier caused John the Baptist to be beheaded. [He was the son of Herod the Great, who built the temple and slaughtered the infants, in his attempt to destroy the baby Jesus.] Let us turn back and digress for a moment as we learn a little about Herod Antipas, so that we can get a picture of him in our minds. This is always important when studying the Bible, because it then impresses the study into the memory of the student. Please turn to

Matt.14:1-12

This is a truly sad and moving account, isn't it?
Here are a few facts which should be noted as marginal notes in your Bible.
V1: A "tetrarch" is a ruler over one quarter of the province.
V3: write "see Luke 3:19-20"
V5: write "Prov.29:25".
V6: write "Salome is the daughter. His-

torical record in Josephus Antiquities 18-5-4"

[The Bible does not give this information, but the great Roman historian Josephus, has carefully noted the family members, and he identifies the daughter as Salome.]

Finally,

V9: underline "and them which sat with him at meat" and continue the line to the margin and write beside it "For his PRIDE."

Do look up all of these Bible references, and in **Prov.29:25** draw a ring around the word "man". Every time that you make a marginal reference, or highlight or underline or put a ring around some text, you are really increasing the value of your Bible. One day, when it is battered, and ragged, and worn thin, it will be virtually priceless to you! That's a fact! Now turn over to

Lk.23:7

So Jesus is once more forced to walk, even though bound, bruised and exhausted.

Why would Herod be at Jerusalem at this time?

You should always ask these type of questions to yourself when studying God's Bible, and invariably **the Holy Spirit will lead you** into the knowledge you are seeking.

At times you will also discover some sparkling Bible "gems" which you will be able to treasure forever.

Let us see if this is so here.

Herod would certainly be at Jerusalem at this time of the year, and we will see why in a moment. Herod was not a Jew. He was an Edomite [from the country of Edom] and was appointed by Rome as a Tetrarch or Governor over part of Palestine, and also as a King over the Jews.

come...".

Even at this very moment of betrayal, the Lord does not "disown" Judas. Doesn't this prove something? It proves the love of Jesus for the individual, but it also shown that a man can know what he is doing, know that he is wrong, know the result of it, - and still go ahead and do it, knowing that it is deliberate and wilful sin, and merits only death. Judas KNEW that Jesus wasn't just a prophet, - but was in fact **The Creator**, the "I AM", - But he goes ahead, and betrays Him anyway.

And here is a sobering thought. All of US have done things we have known to be wrong, - but we have still gone ahead and done them - "with pleasure". Turn to **Rom.1:32**. And if you want a little more sidetrack on this thought, then the greatest passage of Scripture would be that which was written by Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, to us, in **Rom.7:15-25**. You should read this passage, but perhaps not dwell too long on it here, as it is really a full study in itself, and much more than just a sidetrack.

Judas is about to learn the lesson of **Prov.13:15**, that "the way of the transgressor is hard.", as he will discover very shortly. What happens next is quite a surprise.. Remember that Jesus and His eleven disciples are facing a band of 600 armed men and officers, - and hot-headed Peter does a silly thing. He totally "blows his cool"! Turn to the passage in

Jn.18:10

If Malchus had not ducked, it would have been his head that was severed! Before moving from this verse, have you ever wondered why Peter was wearing a sword? [You wonder about these things, when you "chew" the verses of scripture

slowly.] Think about it. Disciples are always pictured as being so very peaceable, and "turning the other cheek" etc., so why would Peter wear a sword? Turn back to


Lk.22:35-36

Here the Lord is preparing the disciples for a rough time ahead. Beside this verse write the marginal note "Hence Peter used this sword in Jn.18:10". And look what the disciples said to the Lord in **v.38**. So we have learnt that at least two of the disciples had swords, and this conversation took place immediately before they enter the Garden of Gethsemane in **verse 39**.

Let us get back to what is happening. Since we are in Luke's gospel, let's pick up the action in

Lk.22:47-51

Only John's gospel tells us the name of the man, - Malchus, and only Luke tells us about the miraculous healing in verse 51.

 Do you see why it is ALWAYS necessary to **compare scripture with scripture to get the TOTAL picture?**

And here's a funny little thing to think about. [Bible study is not something that is grim. But it IS exciting!]

Look carefully at **Lk.22:50**.

What did Peter do?

He "cut off the right ear" of Malchus. He didn't just cut it, - he cut it OFF!

Now you think about that verse. The ear is probably lying on the ground, and Malchus has a hole in the side of his head that is pouring blood, - but his ear is on the ground. Now with that in mind, look at **Lk.22:51**. Jesus touches the stump of

the ear that has just been amputated, and - zapp!! - the blood stops flowing, and a new ear pops onto his head, - or maybe the old ear jumps back onto his head, - a little like running a TV picture backwards!! Now, we can laugh at the scene, - but do you see what the Lord Jesus Christ is doing? He has just performed an incredible miracle, - one which it is easy to overlook in all the activity that is going on.

Why did the Lord heal the ear of this man Malchus?

If we carefully check the gospel accounts, we will find two very important, and easily overlooked reasons. Turn to

Jn18:10-11

Look carefully at **verse 11**.

Why do you think that the Lord spoke these words to Peter?

Think about it for a moment, before you read any further. There is tremendous meaning to these words. Here is the answer: The Lord is making it quite clear to Peter, that **He is not going to have His work on the Cross sabotaged** by a fight breaking out here in the Garden. Do you see how determined and steadfast the Lord is in His obedience to the Father? Do you recall what the Lord said to the Father, when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the Father showed Him the cup of all the sin of all the world, and all the wrath of God, and Jesus recoiled in horror from it?

[Just to remind you again, please look at **Matt.26:39,42,44**]

So the Lord says to Peter in **Jn.18:11**

“.....the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”

The second reason why the Lord healed Malchus is also important. There is no doubt that this instant miracle would be

a very potent proof to the soldiers that **Jesus was totally in charge of the situation**, and that in fact, they would be powerless to act without His consent. They would see His power, and they would realise that He was not just an ordinary man. But Jesus goes further and He leaves absolutely no doubt in their minds, because of what He says in

Matt.26:51-54

Read this passage carefully. Now here's a good question. Does **verse 52** mean that Christ is a pacifist? [opposed to war]. This was one of the verses quoted by some students and staff from various Theological colleges to justify their “peace marches” and anti-war activities a few years ago. But such people are just hypocrites, and they are not reading what the verse says. Is Jesus against war? Of course not! He is simply telling Peter, that if he doesn't put his sword away, he'll get killed. That's ALL He says. **Never read something into a verse, that is not actually there.** Bible study requires honesty and integrity, if the Lord is to bless you.

Here is **an interesting sidetrack** for more knowledgeable believers, which can be ignored by Christians who are new to Bible study. -

The Lord, in verse 52, is not making some great dogmatic statement about war. Can I prove it? Sure I can. Let me ask you a question.

How is the Great Tribulation going to end?

It is going to end with the battle of Armageddon.

And who will be the victor in this war?

You know the answer, - it is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Look at something very interesting in **Rev.19:11**.

Did you notice the little phrase “.....and

Do you see the significance of this passage?

Jesus is speaking here to **believers**, “....those Jews which believed on Him....”

Note what He says to them concerning **discipleship**.

“If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;”

There is a lesson here for everyone of us reading this passage. We are believers [I hope!], but **are we DISCIPLES?**

Are you just a luke warm, nominal Christian, or are you a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ?

What is the test or the criterion for discipleship?

The Lord gives the answer Himself when He says

“I ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;”

To “continue” means to “endure” or “persevere”, and if you only open your Bible occasionally, then you cannot be a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Note that discipleship is conditional.

The passage begins with an “**IF**”. Did you notice that **verse 31** does not end with a full stop? It ends with a semicolon [These little things ARE important when studying God's wonderful Word!] and the context continues into verse 32.

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

Do you want to know the truth about something?

Then “continue” in the Word of God, and you will soon “**know**” the truth. This is a promise from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Note that Jn.8:31 says “**continue in MY WORD**” Many modern versions change the word “word” to “teachings”. But are they the same thing? No, they are NOT

the same thing at all.

The word of God is not the same as the teachings of Jesus.

Nobody is saved by the TEACHINGS of Jesus, whereas **Rom.10:13-17** shows that the WORD OF GOD does save.

Rom.10:17 says

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

The Greek manuscripts have “logos”, and this correctly means “word”.

Unless you check Jn.8:31 with the King James Bible, you will be led into error concerning **the Lord's command re discipleship of believers**. [And this is a passage that is teaching about truth!!]

Do you see why you should always check any modern version of the bible against the King James Bible?

Is this important? What do you think?

Back to Pilate and Jesus in the judgement hall.

Pilate isn't really interested in the truth. His mind is made up, and he wants to be rid of the whole affair. So he goes out from the judgement hall, and look at his comment in

Jn.18:38

“....I find in him no fault at all.”

In fact, we will see that **three times** Pontius Pilate pronounces this official judicial decision [Jn.18:38, 19:4, 19:6]. Does this not emphasise just how weak and compromising he is?

Let us pick up the same scene in Luke's account.

Turn to

No! It doesn't say that at all, does it? The verse reads

"....when he had said this...."

Do you see the importance of individual words? Pilate wasn't really asking. He didn't really want to know. If he had wanted to know, he would have asked, and then waited for an answer. But he doesn't do either. He tosses back a glib reply, and goes back out to the Jewish crown again. He's running in and out like a waitress serving a table!

Imagine how history might have changed, had he waited for an answer to "*What is the truth?*" This reply is crying out for us to do a "**side-track**" isn't it! Using our Concordance, we look up the word "**truth**" and what do we find? Beside this verse [Jn.18:38] write in the margin **Jn.14:6** and **Jn.17:17**. Look at the power of these two incredible verses.

Jn.14:6

"Jesus saith unto him, I AM the way, THE TRUTH, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jn.17:17.

"Sanctify them through thy truth: THY WORD IS TRUTH."

By comparing scripture with scripture, and particularly these two verses, we learn that **both the Lord Jesus Christ, and His Word are equated with TRUTH.**

**LORD JESUS CHRIST
=TRUTH
=WORD OF GOD**

Another two verses that should be remembered are **Jn.1:1** and **Jn.1:14** in which the same thing is seen. **A Christian cannot separate the true Word of**

God from the Lord Jesus Christ. One is the written Word, [Bible] and the other is the Living Word. {Lord Jesus Christ}. Just as the Lord Jesus Christ is **impeccable** [without fault and flawless}, so too the true Word of God is **inerrant and infallible** [without any error or mistake]. Both are absolute "Truth". Again, we see the same link in

Heb.4:12-13

"For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

In **verse 12**, the reference is to the word of God [a book] yet it has the ability to know or "*discern*" the reader, and in **verse 13** this book seems to have taken on life, because the verse says "*his sight*" not "*its sight*". You will only grasp the significance of this in a King James Bible, because "*his sight*" in the KJ Bible has been changed to "*God's sight*" in many modern versions, thus breaking the link between verses 12 and 13, and totally destroying the vitality or life-force of the Word of God. While still sidetracked on "truth" we must look at

Jn.8:31-32

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

did make war."? He [the Lord Jesus Christ] makes war! And look at **verse 15**, "*he smites the nations*", Never ever suggest that Christ was a pacifist. Of course there is an even greater battle than Armageddon, and it takes place at the end of the one thousand year reign,

And does the Lord shrink from that battle?

Not at all, turn to **Rev.20:7-10**. And while you are in the book of Revelation, turn also to **Rev.12:7-9**, - "*And there was war in heaven.....*" My personal belief is that pacifism is just another name for being a coward, because if you are a Bible-believer, you will fight for your country, and you will protect your wife and children. Isn't it wonderful how just one little Bible verse can set you on a **sidetrack journey of discovery** as you compare scripture with scripture, using your trusty Concordance to look up the **WORDS** which God has placed in His Holy Bible for us to read and study? Back to our study. Turn to

Matt.26:53

Note the phrase

"...more than twelve legions of angels."

So here is a question.

How many soldiers are there in a legion?

A Legion was the largest unit in the Roman army. In a modern-day army it would be equivalent to a regiment, and so **a legion was 6,000 men.**

The Roman army was composed as follows:

1 Century. =100 soldiers ~ under a Centurion
6 Centuries =600 soldiers
=1 Band or Cohort under a Captain
10 Bands =6,000 soldiers =1 Legion

[Note: In some modern versions of the

bible, the term "regiment" is used for the "band" in Jn. 18:3, and Acts 10:1 to denote the large multitude of people involved. This is not strictly correct, but it does convey the idea of size]

So the Lord is saying that He could have more than 12 legions of angels. That is 12 x 6,000 = 72,000 angels at His disposal. How effective is one angel as a soldier? Well, back in **Isa.37:36**, [and also mentioned in **2 Kings 19:35**] One angel, in just one night, killed 185,000 men! One angel! And Jesus is talking about more than 72,000 angels. If each of these was to kill 185,000 men, than the total killed would be 13.32 billion people, and that is more than twice the entire population of the entire world today! We could easily get sidetracked here couldn't we? The Bible has so much to say about angels, and **Heb. 12:22** talks about

".....an innumerable company of angels."

and **Rev.5:11** says

".....the number of them is ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands....."

Did you know that angels watch and observe us?

Check out **1Cor.4:9**. Let's get back to our Bible study. I hope you have noted some of these interesting things in your marginal notes.

From what the Lord has just said about the legions of angels, it is clear that **the Lord is not**

of Judas and the band of 600 soldiers who have come to arrest Him. To the contrary, **Jesus is totally in charge of the situation**, and He is not going to allow Peter's impetuosity or anger interfere with God's plan. Read these last two sentences again, and think about them

for a moment, because they are pretty mind-blowing.

Matt.26:54

What scriptures is the Lord talking about?

There are **more than 300 prophecies which were fulfilled** in exact detail, by the time the Lord Jesus Christ had finished His work on the Cross, but let us look at one that is being fulfilled right at this very moment in the Garden of Gethsemane. Turn to **Ps.41:9**, - but hang on a minute, isn't this Psalm about David? Yes it is, but it is ALSO about the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we know? Because He tells us that it is about Him. Keep a finger at Ps.41:9 and turn over to **Jn. 13:18-19**.

Do you see how the Lord makes it clear?

And did you notice again in verse 19 that the last word "he" is in italics in the KJV Bible?

I have drawn a square box around the two words "I am" since this verse proves the omniscience [all-knowing] of Jesus, and is a good verse to show to a Jehovah's Witness, that Jesus is the "I AM", the Jehovah God.

Isn't it amazing how much information is packed into just one little verse of scripture, if you will only chew it over slowly?

And don't forget to write a marginal note about the omniscience of Jesus = God. Of course the expression "his heel" will immediately remind you of **Gen.3:15**

".....it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

So, Ps.41:9 is being fulfilled right here in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Here's another one.

Turn to

Zech.11:12

This is a very specific prophecy concerning the Lord, and it was written more than 500 years before it was fulfilled. And how did Judas plan the betrayal? Turn to

Matt.26:14-16

There are so many other prophecies that were fulfilled, that it would make an interesting Home Bible Study Series on its own. If you are interested, [and who isn't?] then why not check out the following, just to whet your appetite:

Prediction	Description	Fulfillment
Ps.22:18	Gambling for His garments.	Jn.19:24
Ps.69:3	Jesus thirsty	Jn.19:28
Ps.69:21	Vinegar to drink	Jn.19:29
Ps.22:16	Hands & feet pierced	Mk.15:25

and of course there are many other prophecies which were fulfilled exactly as the Bible predicted, but we do not have time or space to mention them in this study. Please turn now to

Matt.26:55

Before just reading this verse and passing on to the next one, it is wise to ask the question, "Why didn't they arrest Jesus in the temple?" The answer is straightforward, - the authorities had nothing on Him, so their only way is with swords and staves, under the cover of darkness. If you think about it, this is no different from the way thousands of true believers have been persecuted and taken away, back in the dark ages during the

Jn.18-37

Jesus admits that He IS a King, - but that He is a King that is not from this world NOW.

What does he mean?

We will need to very briefly digress to explain this. Do look up the few Bible verses given. There are many hundreds of other Bible references that are not mentioned here.

Today we are living in the very last days of the Church Age, or the Age of Grace. These "last days" are explained in **2 Tim.3.1-17**. The first 13 verses describe the "pretend" or make-believe Christian, who is not a Christian at all, but a lost man. The remaining verses give the "marching orders" for the born-again Christian. Note the progression from "the child" [v.15] to "the man of God" [v.17]. **Spiritual growth in "the last days" is ONLY through study of the Word of God.**

{Not now, but later, see **Appendix 2** at the end of this book, re the "Seventeens", - so fascinating, and an example of God's Hand in His Book}.

The Church Age will end very soon, [perhaps today? - perhaps tonight?] With the imminent Rapture [1 Thess.4:16-18, 1 Cor.15:51-57] when all true Christians will be "caught up" and meet the Lord in the air, and go with Him to Heaven, **At the Rapture, the Lord does not return down to Earth**. He meets the changed believers, those alive and previously dead, in the clouds in the air, and they all go with Him up into Heaven. Then will follow, down on Earth, the terrible seven year Tribulation Period, with the last three and a half years known as the Great Tribulation [Matt.24:21, Rev.6:15-17] and this will only end when the Lord Jesus Christ returns, this time, right down to the Earth for the second time. The first

time was as the Baby Jesus at Bethlehem.

This **Second Coming, also known as the Second Advent**, will be when He comes as Lord of Lords, and **King of Kings**, [Rev.19:11-20:6, Matt.24:29-30] and His feet stand for the second time, on the Earth, on the Mount of Olives. It is at this time, that the thousand year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ down here on Earth begins. He will truly be **King**, reigning over a literal, physical **kingdom**, and it is this kingdom that Jesus is referring to, when He answers Pontius Pilate in **Jn.18:36**.

[This is just a "thumb-nail sketch" of "things to come" [Jn.16:13]. A future Home Bible Study Series entitled "**Things To Come**" will deal in detail with all these events.]

Back to the scene taking place in the judgement hall. Jesus admits that He is a King, - but only that **He is a King of a kingdom that is not from this world NOW**. And then the Lord adds the comment about "*the truth*".

Look at the last sentence in verse 37. You should highlight this entire sentence in your Bible.

Jn.18:37

"....Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice."

This sentence is absolutely loaded with information!

But look how Pilate responds in

Jn.18:38

Pilate asks his **fourth question**.

Now look at this verse very carefully.

Let me show you what it doesn't say:

"Pilate saith unto Him, what is truth? And when he had asked this, he went out again."

Jn.18:34

“....Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?”

In effect, Jesus is saying to Pilate “Are you really interested in whether I am or not? Do you really want to know, or are you just playing cat and mouse with me, on the strength of some gossip you’ve heard about me?”

Pilate’s reaction is immediate. He fairly bristles! Here he is, the supreme Roman representative in Palestine, being spoken to by a bound prisoner whose face has been beaten out of recognition, who is bruised and covered with spittle, and who is not even asking for mercy! Pilate replies

Jn.18:35

Now did you notice something about verses 33-35 that seems odd? Look at them again, and consider the first question in verse 33. Pilate’s first question is

“Art thou the King of the Jews?”

That is a good question isn’t it? But now, in verse 35, Pilate is asking a second question

“....what hast thou done?” -

and he doesn’t even know the answer to the first question!

Did you notice that? What does this tell you? [Whenever you are doing Bible study, you must always “chew over” each verse very carefully, before you move to the next, otherwise you will miss such intriguing and important points as this one.]

Pilate’s not waiting for the reply to the first question, shows that he isn’t really

interested in whether Jesus is King of the Jews or not! He couldn’t care less, and so he blurts out his **second question** “....what have you done?”

How does Jesus answer him? He answers Pilate by telling him a quite incredible piece of information, and totally ignores both of Pilate’s previous question.

Look at this information in

Jn.18-36

Now here is a question for the student who is doing this Bible study. What do you think is the most important word in verse 36, and why do you think so? [If you are the Bible teacher, then have your class cover up this page, before asking the question, so that they cannot see the answer inadvertently]

The most important word in this verse is the word “now”! Why is this so? Because it makes all the difference to the meaning of the verse. This is a very simple, but important example of “Right Division” mentioned earlier concerning **2Tim.2:15**. To understand the Bible, one MUST “rightly divide” it, otherwise it makes no sense at all, and causes confusion.

Christ is telling Pilate, that one day Christ’s Kingdom WILL be “of this world” - but not NOW Christ is a Dispensationalist through and through, - ie.

He teaches that there are different dispensations or time periods in the Bible.

Look now at Pontius Pilate’s **third question** in

Inquisition, - or even today in communist China, or Russia or South America. And look what Luke says in

Lk.22:52-53

Look very carefully at the last part of **verse 53**

“.....this is your hour, and the power of darkness.”

Why does the Lord use this particular phrase? Well, there is something very EVIL about all of this. This is no legal arrest by ordinary men. It is evil, through and through. And He uses the phrase “the power of darkness”! Back in John’s gospel, Christ had said “I am the light of the world” [Using your concordance, find where this verse is written, and write a note in the margin beside Luke 22:53 referring to it, so that you have the contrast].

Here in the Garden of Gethsemane, at this time, we can see and feel the power of darkness. Turn to

Jn.3:19-21

These are the words of Jesus, so they are important. The apostle Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, emphasises again and again that we are to keep away from this darkness. Check out **Ephes.5:8,11**.

So, in this evil atmosphere, Jesus and his 11 disciples face an evil multitude led by Judas Iscariot, whom Jesus has already said is “a devil” [**Jn.6:70**]. Of course to get the full picture of what is happening in the Garden of Gethsemane, it is important to refer to all four accounts in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. For what happens next, we must turn to the only account that records the details. Turn to

Mk.14:48-52

There is much to be learnt from this passage. In **verse 50**, I have drawn a ring around the little word “all”. Would we have been any different had we been in the shoes of the disciples? I think not. They ALL forsook Him and fled. Verses 50-51 are interesting. Who is this “certain young man”? Well, the Bible doesn’t tell us, but we do know that he is one particular young man. Some think that he is John Mark, the writer of the gospel, while others think that he could have been Lazarus. But God doesn’t tell us, so we mustn’t take liberties with His Word, and assume something that He obviously has decided to withhold from us.

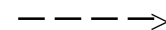
Jesus is alone. We have just read, regarding the disciples,

“.....they all forsook him and fled.”

This too is a fulfilment of Bible prophecy written more than 500 year previously. Check it out in **Zech.13:7**. Yes, Jesus is all alone now. Alone in this evil setting but it is all part of God’s divine plan. This is no “accident”, even though the evil “power of darkness” thinks that Jesus is about to be wiped out. No way will the Lord allow this to happen. The events in the Garden of Gethsemane conclude with a very pathetic and totally unnecessary scene. Turn to

Jn.18:12

Note the term *band*. There are some 600 men and officers and servants, and those from the chief priests, and the scribes and the elders, and they “took Jesus and bound Him.” As we look back on the happenings in the past hour in the Garden of Gethsemane, when the



3. THE COUNCIL AND THE CONSEQUENCES

The secret of success in all Bible study is “comparing spiritual things with spiritual.” Can you remember where you find this verse? The “spiritual things” that we are comparing, are verses of scripture in God’s Word, the Holy Bible. You find the verse in **1Cor.2:13**, but the entire passage, from **verse 9-16** is important, and worth reading again. However, when comparing scripture with scripture, one has to be careful, otherwise it is possible to trip one’s self up. And remember, that we will only get ALL the events, by looking at all the accounts. So as we proceed with our study we will need 4 bookmarks, to make it easy to turn between Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Now turn to

Jn.18:12-24

Can you picture the scene? The Lord Jesus Christ is bound, and escorted by “the band” of 600 men of the Roman garrison, under its 6 centurions, but there is also another group involved, - the captain and officers of the Jews. “The band”

— —>

cont’d from p. 33

Lord prayed to the Father, when He took the “cup”, when He allowed Himself to be “led as a lamb to the slaughter” [Isa.53:7], when He was taken and bound, this concluded “His Greatest Hour of Decision

is of Roman men only, and no Jews would be serving in this unit. So who are “the captain and officers”? To find the answer, and all such details are important if you want to really STUDY the Bible, you need to turn to a parallel account of the event in

Mk. 14:43

These captains and officers are the leaders of the Jewish contingent which came from the Temple. Turn back to **Jn.18:12** again. They bind Jesus. Doesn’t this seem somewhat unnecessary? And from the next verse, [Jn.18:13] we learn that they lead Him away “to Annas first.” Note the little word “first”. The Lord will be travelling far this evening.

The verse tells us that Annas is the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest for that year. However, we can learn a little more about Annas by using our concordance and finding that his is mentioned in **Luke 3:2**. Turn to this verse. We learn that Annas too was a high priest. He was an important man. History tells us that he had five sons, and all of them became high priests. He was a man of incredible influence, but was later deposed in AD 16, although he retained his title even though others succeeded him. This is seen in **Acts 4:6** where he is with members of the high priest family, prior to the arrest of Peter and John. Even 16-17 years after he was deposed, Annas still retained the influence which made people fear him.

But Annas is astute enough to realise that this bound prisoner who is brought to him some time after 11pm. in the evening, is far too important for him to handle. So, to pick up the sequence of events, it is necessary that we turn to Matthew’s gospel. Annas was the high priest to whom Jesus was taken “first”, but He didn’t stay

the Roman laws which say that only the Roman authorities can execute a man. He, Pontius Pilate, is the Governor, and so the responsibility comes right back into his lap!

So what does he do?

Look at

Jn.18:33

Pilate turns his back on the crowd, goes back into the judgement hall, and calls Jesus, so that he can question this Man, himself.

In the **next section** of this study, we will discover that Pontius Pilate asks the Lord **six very important questions**, and that there is still a lot that will happen before Pilate is rid of Jesus, and even when Pilate thinks that he is finally finished with this troublesome Man, he discovers that he is not finished with Him at all!



4. THE PERPLEXITIES OF PONTIUS PILATE

Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor in Palestine, at the time of the arrest of the Lord Jesus Christ, was not a happy man as he turned and walked back into the Judgement hall. In fact, he was worried. He did not want to be held responsible for the death of this man, Jesus of Nazareth. Why not? Well, he know that Jesus had a reputation for performing miracles and attracting large crowds of people, - why he’d even heard about two occasions when there had been four thousand people, and five thousand people and Jesus had fed them all from just a few loaves and fishes!

Let us follow the events by turning to Pilate’s **first question** in

Jn.18:33

Pilate has some questions to ask of this man, Jesus. And now, back in the judgement hall, it is just Pontius Pilate and Jesus and the Roman guards. They are inside the all, and the crowd is outside. Pilate is about to ask Jesus **six questions**, and it is helpful to write in your margin beside verse 33, **6 Questions. # 1** and put a ring around the word “again” in v.33, and underline “and called Jesus”.

These little markings and marginal notes add real study value to your Bible. Look how Jesus answers Pilate, in

demus that He [the Lord] would be crucified, way back in **Jn.3:14**. Look up this verse. What is Jesus referring to here? We find the answer in **Numb.21:5-9**. As you read this passage, you will see the tremendous “picture” that we have, way back in the book of Numbers, of the crucifixion of the Lord. And crucifixion, as a method of death, had not even been invented at this time!!

What is meant by a “**picture**”? Look at the passage in Numbers 21 again. A serpent of brass cured the people. It was made in the shape of a fiery serpent, and yet it had no poison and no sting. This was representing Christ as harmless as a serpent of brass. It was lifted up on a pole [numb. 21:8], and what did Jesus say in **John 3:14**? “.....so must the Son of man be lifted up.” How were the people saved here in Numbers? By looking up at the brass serpent, and that was a result of their believing in Moses.

Christ says:

“Whosoever believeth on me shall not perish.” [Jn.3:15-18]

And look what else the Lord says: This is SO important, and is a “picture” of His coming death, and yet the people refused to believe Him. Turn to

Jn.12:31-33

and check out the **people’s response in verses 34-40**. In fact there is a little **built-in progressive revelation** of their hardness in **v.37**

[1. “they believed not” ie they would not believe], then in **v.39**

[2. “they could not believe”], and finally in **v.40** [“they should not see” ie they are not blinded!]]

As a sidetrack exercise, can you find the

progressive revelation in **Ps.1:1** and another in **Ruth 1:1,2,4**?

The Bible is full of such “gems”.

Back to our study.

Way back in Numbers, nearly 3,500 years ago, we have a “picture” of Christ’s death on the Cross by crucifixion, - even though crucifixion was not to be “invented” until more than ten centuries later. Now here is something that is very important. Turn to

Acts 2:22-23

Here the Holy Spirit, through the apostle Peter, makes it clear that God knew all about the crucifixion of the Lord, long before it happened. God IS omniscient (all-knowing) so of course He knows, but isn’t it amazing how every detail of Scripture fits together.

Let’s bring this particular part of our study to a close. Pontius Pilate is outside the judgement hall, with Jesus bound and standing beside him. Pilate is questioning all the mob, and it is plain that Pontius Pilate intends to “pass the buck” back to THEM. Turn to

Jn.18:29-32

“Take ye him....”

says Pilate, but the crowd of Jews won’t be denied the death of the Lord, and they immediately reply

“....it is not lawful for us....”

and suddenly Pilate sees trouble heading his way. He is keen to give Jesus back to Caiaphas, and the crown and the Sanhedrin, and get Him off his hands, -

BUT - if he does so, he will be breaking

there long. The mob take Him over to Caiaphas the high priest, because Annas sent Him there, as mentioned in **Jn.18:24**, and note that He is still bound! Now turn to

Matt.26:57

This high priest, Caiaphas, is not reticent like his father-in-law. He is the “Big Cheese” in temple circles, he is the “Top Dog”! How do we know this? Well, look carefully at the verse again. We note that the scribes and elders are assembled with him. For this to have been so, Caiaphas must have commanded obedience from these leaders, particularly in that the time is now probably around midnight.

Can you imagine a City Mayor being able to assemble his councillors at midnight? And where exactly are all these scribes and elders assembled? They are in the palace of the high priest, as mentioned in

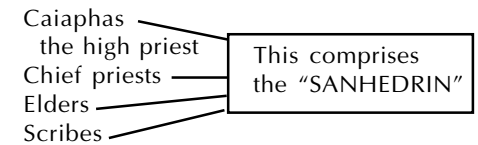
Matt.26:58

Now here is a thought. I wonder if we would have been any different, if we had been in Peter’s shoes? Do you recall that it was only two to three hours earlier that Peter had vowed that he would never leave the Lord, and in fact was prepared to die for Him. And remember, ALL of the disciples promised that they would not deny Him. Pause for a moment and read again **Mk.14:26-31**. Now turn back to

Matt.26:59

Isn’t this a revealing verse? It is not exactly a picture of honest justice is it? **The minds of these people are ALREADY made up!** This is not going to be a fair trial in anybody’s language. Who do we have assembled here? Seated in this pal-

ace of the high priest are



The terms “**Sanhedrin**” and “**Council**” are often used for each other, the Council was the highest Jewish Court in the land, and was composed of 70 members. It was somewhat like our Supreme court or High Court., and **it had the power to decree capital punishment**. During the Roman occupation, the sentence decreed by the Sanhedrin had to be approved [rubber-stamped!] by the Roman authorities before it could be deemed “lawful”. Hence the comment by the Jewish mob in **Jn.18:31**.

The Sanhedrin was not just concerned with religious matters, but had far reaching powers. The high priest, in this case Caiaphas, was the president of the Sanhedrin. He was someone similar to our Chief Justice, or the President of our Court of Appeal, or a combination of the two. The trouble is, this Court, this Council, is corrupt through and through! Look what they plan to do. Turn to

Matt.26:59

They “*sought false witness*” and they want “*to put Him to death.*”

Is this the way that the Jewish Law was normally administered?

Not at all!

Jewish Law was equal to that of the later British system in its fairness. Can we prove that? Sure we can. Turn back to just one of many passages in the Bible which gives us an idea of true Jewish law. Turn to

Deut.19:15-19

Note that the accused stand before “*the priests and judges*”. And who is it that makes “*diligent inquisition*” or examines and cross-examines the witnesses and the accused? **Verse 18** states that “*the judges*” do this. Not the priests, - but the judges. But here in Matt.26 it is the priests who are trying to condemn Jesus, and they are seeking false witnesses. Look at what else we learn in

Mk.14:55-56

The priests were determined to “*put Jesus to DEATH*” - not just convict Him, and to do so they needed witnesses, but couldn’t find any. Not a problem for a corrupt council such as this. They simply fabricated false evidence, but the trouble was that the evidence of the false witnesses contradicted each other! Can you imagine the scene? Note too, that “many” bare false witness against Him. There is more lying going on here, than ever occurred at Watergate with Richard Nixon, or more recently with President Clinton. But perseverance pays off, because finally the council manages to get two people to give evidence against Him, and they stand before the council. Let’s pick up the scene in

Matt.26:59-61

So here, for the first time, is a clear-cut allegation from these witnesses. But IS it clear cut? You would not know if you only used Matthew’s gospel, but by turning to Marks account we get further insight. Turn to

Mk.14:58-61

No, their evidence is not clear-cut at all! Even the evidence of these two is contradictory. So now the high priest gets a bit short tempered with proceedings, and

jumps to his feet. Remember that it is now past midnight, and normally all of them would have been fast asleep in their beds. Under such circumstances, tempers could get somewhat frayed! The high priest is becoming more and more angry and frustrated, because things are not going quite as smoothly as he had expected. And so now he “loses his cool”. Let us read what Matthew has to say in

Matt.26:62-63

Do you see how things are going? The high priest who is doing the questioning, is becoming frustrated and angry. Remember that Jesus is still bound, and is all alone, and He is facing these 70 angry members of the council. Is Jesus intimidated? Not at all. Look how He handles the situation. **Verse 63** tells it all “*But Jesus held his peace.*” We are going to see this happen over and over again during the events of the next eight hours. **Jesus speaks when HE wants to, but He is also silent when He could so easily acquit Himself of the false accusations being made against Him.**

The Bible says: “*Jesus held his peace.*” And the high priest is too stupid to realise that right before him, right now, **Bible prophecy is being fulfilled**, - right in front of his own eyes! **Where is this prophecy found?** In **Is.53:7**, and **Matt.26:63** showing the link between the two.

**...He openeth not his mouth”
and “...Jesus held his peace.”**

Bible study is certainly exciting isn’t it?

So now, the high priest changes his approach. He doesn’t bother any more with the false witnesses. Let’s face it, he knew that they were just a “plant”, so he decides to get down to the basic problem.

Turn back to

**Jn.3:14
Matt.20:19,
Lk.18:32-33**

and see “**Progressive Revelation**” below.

Recall also the words which Jesus had spoken to Caiaphas earlier, in

Mk.14:61-62

These words of Jesus were considered “blasphemy” [**verse 64**] by Caiaphas and the councillors. And the consequence of such blasphemy was decreed in **Lev.24:16**, namely “stoning”. This was the death that He should die, but we must never forget the wonderful Hand of God in the fulfilment of Bible prophecy. God uses the Roman occupation to fulfil prophecy.

Do you recall what Jesus had said to His disciples just six days before He appeared to Peter, James and John on the Mount of Transfiguration?

Let us take a very important sidetrack to learn a little about **PROGRESSIVE REVELATION**.

This is a term we use to explain those instances where some doctrine or event or prophecy is unfolded step-by-step as one proceeds through the Bible. The Lord revealed His death to the disciples in a series of progressive stages, which are easily followed in your Bible.

Let’s look at how He revealed His coming death to them.

You should **look up all these references**, and make marginal notes alongside them, so that your Bible will be more meaningful for you, as you read it.

PROGRESSIVE

REVELATION RE THE DEATH OF CHRIST.

1. Matt.16:21 This is the very first direct reference that the Lord makes to his disciples re His future suffering, death and resurrection. This was just after the time of Peter’s confession [**Matt.16:16**]. What Jesus told them never really registered, as we know from the ‘bombshell’ verses of **Lk.18:31-34** [see the reference to this on page of this booklet]

2. Matt.17:22-23 In this passage, the Lord adds that He will be betrayed. This is new information for the disciples.

3. Matt.20:18-19. Now for the first time, the Lord tells the disciples that His betrayal is to the chief priests and scribes. He tells of His being mocked, scourged, and for the very first time He explains the manner of His death, - by crucifixion.

4. Matt.26.1-2 For the first time, the Lord gives the time of His betrayal and death, - in two days at the time of the feast of the Passover.

5. Matt.26:21-22. With only hours to go until He is arrested, Jesus now tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. This causes sorrow and confusion as they each ask, “*Lord, is it I ?*”

There are many places in the wonderful Word of God where Progressive Revelation can be found. It is always a good idea to make marginal notes beside each reference, listing the place of that event [eg 1st mention, etc.] and giving the next step to turn to as well. You will soon have many “chains” in your Bible margins, and they will help you in your study. Actually, the Lord had implied to Nico-

“forbidding to give tribute to Caesar”.

This is another lie.

In **Matt.17:24-27** we read the story of the miracle of the tribute money. How much was the tribute money? It was originally a tax of 1/3rd shekel paid annually to the Temple, but later when Israel was conquered and occupied by the Romans, it became a tax payable to the Roman treasury. Did Jesus evade this tax? No He didn't. He told Peter to cast a hook into the sea, and the first fish caught would have a coin in its mouth. *“Take and give unto them for me and thee.”* The Lord paid not only His own tax, but also Peter's as well, and there was still a 1/3rd of a shekel to spare.

The real reason the council have delivered Jesus is very well understood by Pilate, and is recorded in **Matt.27:18**

Let us turn again to John's gospel to get the sequence of events that is about to take place. Remember that Pilate is out on the balcony, and Jesus has obviously been brought out as well, since Pilate points to him and refers to Him as *“this man”*. Turn to

Jn.18:29-31

The Jews have ALREADY judged Jesus! How do we know? Because that is why He was brought before Caiaphas the high priest and the seventy members of the council or Sanhedrin. Look at the word *“malefactor”* in **verse 30**.

It comes from the Latin words *“male”* = evil, and *“facere”* = to do. **“Malefactor”** = evil doer or **criminal**. In **verse 31**

“it is not lawful for us to put any man to death...”

What they are saying is “He's been found

guilty, and He's been condemned TO DEATH, but because of the Roman law, WE can't carry out the execution.”

The Sanhedrin was the most powerful Jewish court in the land. Until the Romans occupied their country, the Sanhedrin not only condemned criminals to death, but its officers carried out the executions as well. How was this done? By stoning to death the guilty person. Stoning was the penalty for blasphemy [**Lev.24:16**] idolatry [**Deut.13:6-9**], desecration of the Sabbath [**Num.15:32-36**], and numerous other crimes as well. You may recall that Jesus rebuked Jerusalem for stoning the prophets **Matt.23:37**], - but it wasn't Jerusalem who passed sentence and carried out the execution of the prophets, it was the council or Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was so powerful that the Jewish King could be summoned to appear before it. The noted historian, Josephus, relates that even Herod did not dare to disobey its summons.

So Jesus had been condemned to death by the Sanhedrin, but the actual execution must, at this time in Jewish history, be carried out by the Roman authorities who control the country. And now we see **the wonderful Hand of God** in all this.....

The Romans do not execute by stoning! They have their own methods, in fact quite a variety, but never stoning because it was too quick and didn't have the spectator appeal of being tossed to the Lions, or burnt at the stake, or put against their gladiators, or crucifixion. Turn now to

Jn.18:31-32

What *“saying of Jesus”* is this? What words did Jesus speak? The words which He spoke to Caiaphas the high priest.

The priests, scribes and elders have Jesus here before them because they are jealous of him. And why shouldn't they be? They are the “professionals”. They are the ones who have been through Theological College, and yet, here is this carpenter from Nazareth who is upsetting their comfortable careers. So the high priest not only demands to know who Jesus thinks He is, but he also zeroes in on doctrinal beliefs. Turn to

Jn.18:19-20

This time, Jesus chooses to answer Caiaphas. Incidentally, let's just sidetrack for a moment. In our present day world, there are groups of so-called “spiritual” people, who claim special enlightenment” from the Scriptures or from God. In particular they claim to have received secret instructions from the “Master”. The Rosicrucians and Theosophists belong to these groups. But Jesus says *“...in secret have I said nothing.”* There is no such thing as “the secret teachings of the Master”. Let us get back to the events in the palace of the high priest, as Jesus stands bound before the Sanhedrin. Jesus continues

Jn.18:21

This reply by the Lord could easily have been checked, but it is disregarded. *“...they KNOW what I said”* is ignored, because if it had been checked, there would not have been any case against the Lord. And now, one of the officers flanking Jesus loses his cool!

Jn.18:22-24

Remember that the Lord is still bound and is unable to defend Himself. But again we see that He is in control of the situation, even though He is bound, and has been slapped in the face by this officer,

and is facing a council of 70 dishonest men, hell-bent on putting Him to death. Let's face the facts: The whole trial is a FARCE! Jesus has been dragged off at night, with no official judge present, two bribed witnesses against Him, no witnesses allowed for His defence, no lawyer to represent Him, - and now, - violence unchecked in the courtroom! Jesus is just a victim who has been totally condemned by everyone present, even BEFORE the accusations are made against Him. Turn back once more to

Matt.26:63

There is no mistaking what Caiaphas is asking here. *...tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.”* Let's see how Mark records the event, and the clear definite answer given by the Lord in

Mk.14:61-62

Note the two little words *“I am”*. Do you recall when He used that title last, in the Garden of Gethsemane: [Jn.18:6], and the multitude was thrown backwards? Now, Jesus uses the same phrase again, and the result is immediate and explosive. Look at the next three verses

Mk.14:63-65

Now I want you to try and picture the scene. Remember that the Lord is bound. They start pushing Him from person to person, and it is not just a gentle shove. **Verse 65** says they *“buffet him”*. The apostle Paul uses the same word in **1 Cor.4:11**, and it has the idea of being “pushed from pillar to post”. Moreover, they are all spitting on Him, and even the servants are allowed into the act, as they slap Him, spit upon Him, and buffet Him as well.

Did you notice that little word “all” in

verse 64?

Draw a ring around it, because it is important. "They ALL condemned Him to be guilty of death." Here is one man, bound so that He cannot protect Himself, or even keep His balance, being buffeted by people who would normally have total composure and self control. But these men here are possessed, and radiating hatred, and they are totally out of control! Yet they go further. To make it even worse for the Lord, they now blindfold Him, so that He can't see what is happening [verse 65], and now, in addition to the buffeting, and the spitting, they begin striking Him as well. Luke gives an even more graphic picture in

Lk.22:63-65

They have gone completely berserk! He is bound and blindfolded, and is being pushed and buffeted from person to person, while at the same time they are all spitting at Him, striking Him, mocking Him and now they are swearing at Him as well.

Do try and picture the scene, because **He endured all of this as part of the payment for YOUR sins.**

He endured all of this for YOU. And when they have finished with Him, HE IS A MESS!

He is covered with slimy spittle. His face would hardly be recognisable, if at all. These 70 men and their servants have been consumed with evil hatred, and the whole atmosphere is crackling with evil, and they have had a "field day" with Him.

Yet while they have been pulverising the Lord Jesus Christ, they have been fulfilling Bible prophecy that was written more than 700 years earlier, and the Lord deliberately allowed their ill-treatment to continue so that prophecy would not be broken. Turn to

Isa.50:6 and Isa.52:14

His "visage" or face

"was so marred more than any man".

I believe that by now it would be totally unrecognisable. If you check out **Isa.52:14** in the **KJ Bible**, you will note an unusual word "**astonied**" is used. This is not a spelling mistake, and this same word is used in 9 other places in the KJ Bible. It is a combination of the two words "**astonished**" and "**astounded**" and is perhaps the ONLY word that could be used to give the special depth of meaning to this event. Turn now to Matthew's account.

Matt.26:67-68

Again, note the phrase "*they buffeted Him*" Peter talks about "*buffeting*" in **1 Pet.2:20-23**. Peter says "*...when He was reviled, reviled not again.*" Jesus simply absorbs this "softening up" that these pharisees, scribes, elders, chief priests, servants and the high priest are giving Him. He doesn't kick back, or revile them, or lose His temper. Have you wondered why not? Think about it. This is why not, - because although He is the one being beaten up, He is the one who is really in control of the situation. Perhaps you say "I can't see it." OK, but let us never forget that **Satan is still the main adversary of the Lord Jesus Christ.**

True, Jesus defeated him in the wilderness during the temptation, - but that was just Round One of the fight to the death. During these early hours of the morning, when it is still dark, Satan is the true adversary here at the Sanhedrin. This is more than just a roomful of shouting, venomous, cursing pharisees "taking it out" on a Prophet named Jesus.

Here in the half-light of the early morning, amidst the slappings, buffetings, blows and spittle, the soul of the Sinless Son of God faces another soul in the spirit realm.

Can I prove that this is so?

Yes, by turning once again to the prophetic passage back in

Isa.50:6-8

Look carefully at **verse 8**.

"...who is mine adversary let him COME NEAR TO ME'!!! "

The Lord in not talking about the men who are beating and buffeting Him. This is an OPEN CHALLENGE to Satan, the prince of the power of the air, the ruler of spiritual darkness, to come into close quarters "*Let him come near to me.*"

And so the terrible ordeal goes on and on, an on, and on...until gradually the darkness of night turns into daybreak. Jesus has been beaten, systematically and cold-bloodedly, by a mob of probably close in one hundred men, for four or five hours, while bound and blindfolded. Can you imagine the suffering and the ordeal, - through which He never uttered a word!

What does the early morning bring? Possibly in the cold, half-light of day, they realise that perhaps they had better get back some semblance of order. So, once again they bring Jesus before the council, but this time, they ALL question Him, not just Caiaphas. Turn to

Lk22:66-71 and Lk.23:1

Note the little word "*all*" in **verse 70**. As a marginal note beside this verse, I have written "*not just Caiaphas as in Mk.14:61*" and I have drawn a ring

around "*all*". Caiaphas and the council have been frustrated, in spite of all their efforts, and so now [**Lk.23:1**], they decide it is time to "pass the buck" to a higher authority, and take Jesus to Pontius Pilate. What time is it now? Well, in the month of Nissan, which this is, daylight is beginning to become evident at about 4.30 am - 5 am. So Pontius Pilate is woken up. What happens next is recorded in

Jn.18:28-29

The council members are outside the judgement hall of Pilate. These men are hypocrites of the worst order because they do not enter Pilate's judgement hall "*lest they should be defiled*". These men have already defiled themselves by their merciless attack on the Lord, and their actions have made them no better than the Nazis who persecuted the Jews in ghettos and concentration camps, years later. But they are double hypocrites, because their concern is "*that they might eat the passover.*" If only they had realised that they had beaten, and spat on the Passover Lamb for the sin of the world!

Just pause and think about this for a minute or so. So they stay outside, but Jesus is taken inside. Thus, Pilate has to come outside to them, [v.29], and asks them for their accusations. John's gospel does not list the accusations, but Luke does, so turn to

Lk.23:1-2

Look at the accusations they make:

Verse 2: "perverting the nation" But this is a lie. He wasn't perverting the nation, He was HEALING the nation!!

eg. Read **Matt.8**.

Verse 2: