

A vertical crack runs down the center of a light-colored, textured wall. The crack is jagged and irregular, extending from the top edge to the base of the wall. The wall has a mottled, aged appearance with various shades of beige and cream. At the bottom of the wall, there is a dark, horizontal band, possibly a baseboard or a shadow from the floor. Below the wall, a wooden floor with vertical planks is visible. The text is written in a red, cursive font. The first part of the text is on the left side of the crack, and the second part is on the right side.

Be Ready -

*The Beginning
of the End*

PREFACE

BE READY – The Beginning of the End is a compilation of the passages from the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, that record the teachings and works of the Lord Jesus. It presents to you the end of His earthly ministry, including His death, resurrection, post-resurrection appearances and ascension, as found in the four gospels. The objective is to convey the Lord Jesus' sole purpose of coming into this world. The scripture portions are Matthew 24-28, Mark 13-16, Luke 21-24 and John 12-21. The text is taken from the 'Life of Christ for Laymen' – by P. I. Jacob; which is an excellent combined narrative of the four gospels. We note with deep gratitude the permission granted by Mrs. M.W. Jacob to use the text for this compilation.

This compilation presents the gospel of the grace of God with a sense of urgency and importance to the contemporary world in a simple, yet forthright manner. In a world of insecurity and anxiety, the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ alone holds the assured hope of an eternal future of blessings as prepared and provided by the sovereign creator, redeemer and ruler God. God of the gospel is not only the loving and gracious redeemer – who offers the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ on the basis of His sin atoning death and resurrection to everyone who exercises their personal faith in Him; but also the righteous judge of the universe to whom every soul must give an account of his/her life. The last

sentence of this compilation reads as follows – “But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing on His name, you may have life.”

To this end we commend this compilation to every reader in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who is *the Beginning and the End*.

kvsmbai

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Be not Deceived

The Widow's Offering

And Jesus sat in front of the treasury, and looking up he saw the people putting money into the treasury as offerings; and many rich people put in a lot of money. And a poor widow came and put in two mites. And he called his disciples and said to them, Truly I tell you, that this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. For all of them gave to God from what was their abundance, but she in her poverty, has given everything she had – her whole livelihood.

Destruction of the Temple Foretold

And Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to show him the temple building, and one of them said to him, Teacher, what beautiful stones and offerings are the building adorned with! And Jesus answered him, Do you see these great buildings? The time will come when there will not be one stone left upon another, which will not be thrown down.

The Lord's Coming: Reply to Disciples

And as he sat on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, his disciples Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things happen, and what is the sign of your coming and of the end of the world when all these things will come to pass? And Jesus said, Be watchful, so that no one may

mislead you or deceive you; for many will come in my name, saying, I am the Messiah, and the time has already come. Do not go after them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions do not panic; because these things must happen first, but the end is not immediately. Then he said to them, Nations will rise up against one another, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be great earthquakes in various places, and famines and epidemics; and there will be fearful sights and signs in the sky. These things will be the beginning of travail. But before all these things happen, they will arrest you and persecute you, and hand you over to synagogues and to prisons, and you will be beaten, and brought before kings and governors to be tortured and killed for my sake, which will turn out to be an opportunity for you to bear witness to them, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name; but the one who holds out to the end will be saved. And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. So make up your minds when they lead you and deliver you up, not to rehearse in your minds what you must say in defence; but speak whatever is given to you just at that time. For I will give you the words and wisdom which all your opponents together will not be able to reply to, or refute, for you are not the ones speaking, but the Holy Spirit. And then will many stumble, and you will be handed over even by your parents, and brothers, and relatives, and friends; and they will put some of you to death. And many will betray one another, and hate one another. Everyone will hate

you because of me. And many false prophets will appear, and deceive many. Because lawlessness has increased, the love of many will grow cold. But even a hair of your head will not be lost. By your patient endurance, you will gain your souls. And this good news of the kingdom must be proclaimed to all the world, for a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. And when you see Jerusalem encircled by armies, and the abomination that causes desolation foretold by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place where it ought not to be, let the one who reads this understand and know that its destruction is near. Then let those in the midst of it leave it; and let not those from the countryside enter it, and let those who are in Judea run away to the hills. The one who is on the housetop must not come down to fetch anything from his house: nor the one who is in the field return to pick up his cloak. For these are the days of vengeance, when all that is written in scripture is to be fulfilled. Alas for those who are pregnant, and for those who nurse babies in those days! For there will be great distress in the land, and anger towards this people. Pray that you will not have to run away in winter, nor on the sabbath day. For there will be great distress, such as never was since the beginning of the world till now, nor ever will be again. And if the Lord had not limited the number of those days, no living thing would escape. But because of God's chosen ones, those days will be few. They will be cut down by the sword, and will be led away captive into all nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled

under by the Gentiles, until the period of Gentile dominion is over.

Warnings for the Last Days

And if anyone then tells you, See, Christ is here; or, see there; do not believe him: Because false Christs and false prophets will come and display great signs and wonders, to deceive, if it were possible, even the chosen ones. But be careful: See, I have told you everything in advance. If they say to you, Look, he is here in the desert, do not go; or see, in the inner rooms, do not believe. As lightning flashes from east to west across the sky; so also will be the coming of the Son of man. For wherever a dead body is, there the vultures will flock together. But after the distress of those times there will be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars: the sun will turn dark and the moon will not give its light. And the stars will fall down from the sky, and the forces in the skies will be shaken. And there will be distress on earth among the nations, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the great surge: Men will faint with terror, and be perplexed at those things which are happening to the people of the earth; for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. And then will appear the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory; and all the nations of the earth will mourn. And when these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads; because your redemption is drawing near. And then he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they

will gather his chosen people from the four directions, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Parable of the Fig Tree

And he told them a parable, Learn a parable from the fig tree: See the fig tree, and all other trees: when they bud and its branches are tender, and put out leaves, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see all these things, understand that the kingdom of God is near, and he is right at the doors. Truly I tell you, that the present generation will not pass away until all these things take place. The sky and the earth will pass away; but my words will never pass away.

The Time of the Lord's Coming

But about that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but my Father only. Be watchful, keep alert and pray so that your minds may not become weighed down seeking after pleasure, for you do not know the appointed time. Do not become occupied with too much feasting and drinking, and with worries of this life, so that, that day may not come on you like a trap, suddenly without warning, for that day will come upon all people on earth. Be alert and pray always, so that you will have the strength to escape all these things that will happen, and to be able to stand before the Son of man.

Exhortation to be Watchful

It is like a man going abroad, leaving his house, giving authority to his servants, and to each one his own work, and ordering the door-keeper to be on the look out. Therefore keep watching, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening or at midnight, or at daybreak, or in the morning. Take care so that if he should arrive suddenly, he may not find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to everyone, be watchful. And you know, if the house owner knew at what time of night the thief would come, he would watch, and would not allow his house to be broken into. Therefore be always ready: for the Son of man will come at a time when you are not expecting him. Be prepared, be girded and ready, and keep your lamps burning. And be like men waiting for their master to return home from the wedding feast; so that when he comes and knocks, they may open to him immediately. Blessed is the servant who when his master comes will be found watching: truly I tell you, that he will gird himself ready and will make them sit down to eat, and come forward and wait on them. And if he comes in the second watch or in the third watch, and finds them alert, blessed are those servants.

Faithful and Slothful Servants

Then Peter said to him, Lord, do you mean this parable for us, or for everyone? And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom the Lord will set

over his household, and over the other servants to give them their portion of food in due time? How blessed will be that servant, who when his master comes will be found doing so. Indeed I tell you, that he will make him ruler over his possessions. But if the servant says in his heart, My master's coming is delayed; and begins to beat the servant boys and the servant girls, and to eat and drink and get drunk with drunkards; The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him, and at a time which he does not know, and will thrash him severely, and will assign him a place among the infidels and hypocrites, and there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. But the servant who knew the will of his master and neither prepared, nor did according to his will, will be beaten with many stripes. But the one who did not know, and did things worthy of a beating, will get less beating. And from everyone who received much, much will be expected, and from those to whom more was entrusted, they will ask more. During the day Jesus continued to teach in the temple; and at night he went out and stayed on the hill called the Mount of Olives. And all the people came to him in the early morning to hear him in the temple.

Parable of the Ten Virgins

At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were wise and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps, but did

not take oil with them. But the wise took oil in their vessels, with their lamps. As the bridegroom was late, they all became drowsy and slept. And at midnight there was a shout, See, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him! Then all the virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish ones said to the wise, Give us some oil, for our lamps are going out. But the wise ones answered, No, there may not be enough for us and for you; it is better that you go to those who sell, and buy for yourselves. And as they went to buy, the bridegroom arrived: and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. And after that, the other virgins also came, saying, Lord, lord, open to us. But he answered, Truly I tell you, I do not know you. Therefore watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Parable of the Talents

For it is like a man leaving the country, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his particular ability; and then left the country. And the one who had the five talents, went and did business with them, and gained another five talents. Similarly, the one who had the two, gained another two. But the one who received the one, went away, dug in the ground, and hid his master's money. And after a long time, the master of the servants came, and settled his accounts with them. And so the one who received the

five talents came, and brought another five talents, saying, Lord, you entrusted five talents to me; see, I have gained five talents more. And his master said to him, Fine, good and faithful servant; you were faithful in a few things, I will appoint you to be in authority over many things: come and rejoice with your master. And the one who had the two talents also came, and said, Lord, you entrusted two talents to me; see, I have gained two talents more. His master said to him, Fine, good and faithful servant, you were faithful in a few things, I will appoint you to be in authority over many things; come and rejoice with your master. And the one who received the one talent also came, and said, Lord, I know you, that you are a hardhearted man, reaping from where you did not sow, and gathering from where you did not scatter. And because I was afraid of you, I went away and hid your talent in the ground; here, have what is yours. And his master said to him, You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap from where I did not sow, and gather from where I did not scatter. So you should have deposited my money with bankers, and when I returned I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore, take the talent from him, and give it to the one who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, will be given, and he will have plenty; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And you throw out the useless servant into the outer darkness; where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.

Judgement of the Nations

But when the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. And all the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, as the shepherd separates his sheep from the goats. And he will put the sheep on his right hand, and the goats on the left. Then the king will say to those on his right, Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take possession of the kingdom, prepared for you from the beginning of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food: I was thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger, and you welcomed me in. When I had no clothing, you gave me clothes; I was sick, and you visited me; and I was in prison, and you came to see me. Then the righteous ones will answer him, Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty, and give you a drink? And when did we see you a stranger, and welcome you in; or without clothing, and give you clothes? And when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to see you? And the king will answer them, Truly I tell you, whatever you did to one of the humblest of these my brothers, you have done to me. Then he will also say to those on the left, Go away from me, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his messengers. For I was hungry, and you did not give me food; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me in; I had no clothing, and you did not give me clothes; I was sick and in prison, and

you did not visit me. Then they will also answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or in need of clothes, or sick, or in prison, and failed to minister to you? Then he will answer them, Truly I tell you, whatever you failed to do to one of these humble ones, you failed to do to me. And these will go into eternal punishment; but the righteous ones into eternal life.

A MIGHTY fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing:
Our Helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work his woe;
His craft and power are great,
And armed with cruel hate –
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He!
Lord Sabaoth is His name,
From age to age the same:
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us:
We will not fear; for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is for ever.

~ *Martin Luther*

Be Blessed

Plotting Again, to Kill Jesus

When Jesus had finished this discourse, he said to his disciples; You know that after two days is the passover, and the Son of man is going to be betrayed and crucified. Then as the feast of unleavened bread which is the passover was getting near, the chief priests and the scribes and the elders of the people met in the courtyard of the high priest who was called Caiaphas; and discussed together how they may seize him subtly and kill him, because they were afraid of the people. But they said, Not on the feast day, so that there may not be a riot among the people.

Mary Anoints Jesus

When he was at Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, they prepared a supper for him. Martha served; but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with him. As he sat at the table, Mary came with a porcelain bottle of very precious nard perfume, one pound in weight and very costly. And she opened the bottle, and poured it over his head and feet, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. And there were some disciples who were indignant about it, and one of them, Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, who was to betray him, said, Why was this perfume wasted, and not sold for three hundred denarii, and given to the poor? And they grumbled against her.

He said this, not because he had concern for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had charge of the money bag, and used to take for himself from what was put into it. When Jesus understood it, he said to them, Why do you annoy the woman? Let her alone, for she has done a good deed to me. For you have the poor always with you; and whenever you wish you may do them good; but you do not always have me. She has done what she could. For when pouring this perfume on my body, she has anointed my body for my burial, keeping it for that day. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel will be preached, throughout the world; what this woman did will also be told in memory of her.

Judas Asks a Price for Jesus

Then Satan entered Judas who was called the one from Kerioth, one of the twelve. And he went and discussed with the chief priests and captains, as to how he might commit him to them. And he said, How much are you willing to give me, and I will give him to you? They were glad and agreed with him for thirty silver shekels. And he promised, and awaited an opportunity to commit him to them conveniently, when he was away from the crowd.

The Greeks Desire to See Jesus

And there were some Greeks among those who came to worship during the feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, Sir, we would like to see Jesus. Philip came and told Andrew, and then

Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. And Jesus answered them, The time has come for the Son of man to be glorified. Very truly I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. He who loves his life will lose it; and he who hates his life in this world, will keep it for eternity. If anyone wants to serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. And if anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my heart is troubled; and what can I say? Father, save me from this hour? But my very coming was for this purpose. Father glorify your name. Then a voice came from heaven, saying, I have glorified it, and will glorify it again. Therefore the crowd that stood there and heard it, said, that it had thundered; others said, an angel spoke to him. Jesus answered, This voice came not because of me, but because of you. Now judgement is passed upon the world; now will the ruler of this world be thrown out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself. He said this indicating the mode of death he was going to suffer. The crowd replied him, We have heard from the law that the Messiah lives forever. Then what do you mean by saying that the Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man? Then Jesus said to them. For a little longer the light will be with you. Walk in the light while you have it, so that you may not be overtaken by darkness: the one who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have light, believe in the light, so that you may be men

of light. Jesus said these things, then went away and kept himself out of their sight. Even after he performed many miracles in their presence, they did not believe on him. Thus were the words of Isaiah the prophet fulfilled, who said, Lord, who has believed our message, and to whom was the arm of the Lord revealed? Because of these things they could not believe, as Isaiah has said elsewhere; He has blinded their eyes, and made their minds dull, that they may not see with their eyes, nor perceive in their minds, and be converted, so that I may heal them. And Isaiah said these things when he saw his glory, and prophesied concerning him. Though indeed many of the leaders believed on him; they did not admit it openly, because of the Pharisees, so that they may not be put out of the synagogue. For they loved the praise from society more than praise from God. Jesus called out saying, The one who believes on me does not just believe on me, but on him who sent me. And the one who comes to a knowledge of me, comes to a knowledge of him who sent me. I have come into the world to enlighten it, so that anyone who believes on me, may no more abide in darkness. But if anyone hears my words and does not believe them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save it. The one who rejects me and does not accept my words, has one that judges him. The word itself which I spoke will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on my own accord, but for the Father who sent me. He gave me commandment, what I should say and what I should

preach. And I know that his commandment is eternal life; therefore whatever I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me.

Jesus Keeps the Passover

Now before the feast of the passover, Jesus knowing that his time to leave this world to go to the Father had come; as he had always loved his own, he showed forth his love to the utmost. On the first day of the feast of unleavened bread when the passover lamb was to be killed, he sent two of his disciples, Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare the passover for us to eat. And they asked him, Where shall we prepare? And he said to them, See, when you enter into the city, you will meet a man carrying a pot of water: follow him to the house where he goes. And you must say to the master of the house, The teacher says, My time is near, I will keep the passover in your house with my disciples. Where is the guest room where I may eat the passover with my disciples? And he will show you a large furnished upper room; prepare there for us. And the disciples did as Jesus told them, and coming to the city found as he had said to them; and they made the passover ready. And in the evening he came with the twelve, and as the time came, he sat at the table with the apostles, and ate. And he said to them, With great desire I longed to eat this passover with you, before I suffer. And I tell you, I will never eat it again, until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God. And he received a cup, and after giving thanks, he

said, Take this and share among yourselves. For I tell you, I will never again drink from the fruit of the vine, until the coming of the kingdom of God. When the supper was being served, the devil had already put the thought into the heart of Judas, son of Simon of Kerioth, to betray Jesus.

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

Jesus knowing that the Father had entrusted everything into his hands, and that he had come from God, and was going to God: got up after supper, put off his robe; took a towel and tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and wipe them with the towel that had been girded around his waist. And he came to Simon Peter. But he said to him, Lord, are you going to wash my feet? Jesus said to him, Now you do not know what I am doing, but you will understand it by and by. Peter said to him, You will never, never wash my feet. And Jesus answered him, Unless I wash you, you will have no share with me. Simon Peter said to him, Lord, not only my feet, but hands and head also. Jesus said to him, He who has been washed has no need to wash, except his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you. For he knew who was going to betray him; therefore he said, you are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and put on his robe, he sat down, and said to them, Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me teacher and Lord; and that is right because that is

what I am. If I then, your Lord and teacher have washed your feet, you ought to be willing to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, so that you should do as I have done to you. Very truly I tell you, the servant is not greater than his master, nor a messenger greater than the one who sent him. If you understand these things, it will bring happiness to you if you practice them.

Jesus Again Announces His Death

I do not speak about all of you: I know whom I have chosen. But so that the scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me.' Now I am telling you before it takes place, so that when it comes to pass, you may believe that I am he.

Jesus Reveals Judas' Treachery

And as they sat at the table and were eating, Jesus said, Truly I tell you, one of you who is eating with me will betray me. And they were exceedingly grieved, and began to look at one another and say to him one by one, Not I, Lord, not I, perplexed as to who he was speaking about. And he answered, See, the hand of the one who will betray me is with me at the table; it is one of the twelve, dipping his hand with me in the dish. The Son of man will go as it has been written about him; but alas for the man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born. And they began to question among themselves, who it

might be who would do this. Now there was one of his disciples who was dear to Jesus, leaning towards Jesus at the table. So Simon made a sign to him to ask who he was speaking about. Leaning back on Jesus' side, he asked him, Lord, who is it? Jesus answered, It is he to whom I will give the bread after dipping it. And when he dipped the bread, he gave it to Judas, son of Simon of Kerioth. And Judas who was about to betray him, answered, Rabbi, surely it is not I? He told him, You have said it. After he had taken the bread, Satan entered into him. Jesus told him, Do quickly what you are going to do. But no one who sat at the table understood what he was saying to Judas. Some thought because Judas had charge of the purse, Jesus was asking him to buy the things necessary for the feast: or that he should give something to the poor. After taking the bread, he immediately went out, and it was night.

The Son Glorified

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said, Now the Son of man is glorified, and God is glorified in him. Since in his glory God is exalted, God will exalt him, for it is at once his own glory. Children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will be looking for me: and as I said to the Jews, so I tell you now, you will not be able to come where I am going.

The New Commandment of Love

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. You also must love one another, the same as I have loved you. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another. Simon Peter said to him, Lord, where are you going? Jesus answered him, where I am going, you are not able to follow me now, but by and by you will follow me. Peter said to him, Why am I not able to follow you now? I am willing to go to prison and to death with you. Jesus said, Simon, Simon, see, Satan has asked earnestly to have you to sift you like wheat: But I have prayed for you, that you may not lose your faith; when you have retraced your steps, strengthen your brothers.

The Last Supper

But as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and having given thanks, broke it and gave to the disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: do this in remembrance of me. So also, he took the cup after supper, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, All of you drink from it; and they all drank it. And he said to them, This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Truly I tell you, I will never drink the juice from the grape till that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God my Father.

Who is the Greatest

And there was a dispute among them as to who should be considered greater. And Jesus said to them, The kings of the nations rule over them; and those who exercise authority over them are said to be conferring a favour. Let it not be like that among you. He who is chief among you, let him be like the younger; and he who leads, as he who serves. For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? But I was among you as one who serves. You are the ones who stood by me in my trials. And just as my Father has assigned me a kingdom, I assign you; That you may eat and drink at my table, in my kingdom, and to sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jesus Predicts His Imminent Death

And he said to them, When I sent you without purse, or wallet, or sandals, did you lack anything? And they said, Nothing. Then he said to them, But now let the one who has a purse, or wallet, take it, and the one who has not, let him sell his cloak and buy a sword. For I tell you, that this scripture concerning me must be fulfilled: 'And he was counted with the outlaws': for all that refers to me is coming to a close. And they said, Lord, see there are two swords. And he said to them, That is enough.

Promise of Christ's Second Coming

You must not be perturbed in your mind; you trust in God and trust also in me. In my Father's house there are

many abodes, otherwise I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. And since I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you with me; so that you also may be where I am, and you know where I am going, and the way. So Thomas said to him, Lord, we do not know where you are going; then how will we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me. Had you known me you would have also known my Father; and from now on you do know him, and have seen him. Philip said to him, Lord, show the Father to us, and that will be enough for us. Jesus said to him, Have I not been such a long time with you and yet have you not known me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; then how can you say, Show us the Father? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words which I speak to you are not my own, but the Father who dwells in me is doing his work. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or else believe me because of the things I am doing. Very truly I tell you, he who believes on me will also do the things which I do; and he will do even greater things than these; because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be honoured in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, obey my commandments.

Promise of the Holy Spirit

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, that he may remain with you forever. The Spirit of truth whom the world cannot accept, because it cannot see him, nor know him; but you know him because he dwells with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you desolate; I am coming back to you. Yet a little longer, and the world will not see me; but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. He who has my commandments and obeys them, is the one who loves me: and the one who loves me, will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him. Then Judas, the one who was not from Kerioth, said to him, Lord, what has happened that you are going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world? Jesus answered him, If anyone loves me, he will obey my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him, and make our dwelling with him. He who does not love me, does not obey my words; and the word which you hear is not my own, it is the word of the Father who sent me. I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all the things that I have told you. I leave peace with you, I give you my peace. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not be disturbed in your heart, nor be frightened. You have heard how I told you that I am going away, and I

am coming back to you. If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father: for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it comes to pass, so that when it takes place you may believe. I will not be talking to you much longer, because the prince of this world is coming, but he has no claim on me. The world must know that I love the Father; and I do just as the Father has commanded me. Get up, let us go from here.

Jesus the Real Vine

I am the real vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Any branch in me that does not produce fruit is taken away by him; and he prunes every branch that produces fruit, so that it may produce more. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Even as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, if it does not remain in the vine; neither can you, unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown away like a branch and is dried up; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you remain in me, and my words remain in you, you may ask whatever you wish and you will have it. My Father is honoured in this, and you will prove yourselves to be my disciples by producing abundant fruit. I have loved you, even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. If you keep my

commandments you will remain in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and remain in his love. I have spoken these things to you, that my joy may remain in you; and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another, as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, that he lays down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you observe whatever I command you. I do not call you servants anymore; because a servant does not know what his master does: but I have called you friends, for I have told you everything I heard from my Father. You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit will last; so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. I am giving you this commandment that you must love one another.

The World Hates Christ

If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the world would have loved its own; but because you do not belong to the world, and I chose you from it, is why the world hates you. Remember the word which I told you, a servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also; if they listened to my words, they will listen to your words too. But they will do all these things to you because of my name, for they do not know the one who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have had sin; but now

they do not have an excuse for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the things that no one else did, they would not have had sin; but now they have both seen and hated me and my Father. But what is written in their law must be fulfilled, 'They hated me without a cause.' But when the Helper has come to you, whom I will send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who goes forth from the Father, he will give testimony regarding me. And you also must bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

I have told you all these things so that you may not fall away from your faith. They will expel you from their synagogues; and the time is coming when whoever kills you will think that he is doing a service to God. They will do these things to you, because they neither know the Father nor me. But I have told you these things, so that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you this. I did not tell you these things in the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to the one who sent me; but none of you are asking me, Where are you going? Because I told you these things, your hearts are filled with sorrow. But it is the truth when I tell you that it is better for you that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; whereas, if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convince the world of their guilt, in regard to sin, and

righteousness, and judgment: Of sin, because they did not believe; Of righteousness, because I go away to my Father, and you cannot see me. Of judgement, because the prince of this world has been condemned. I have many more things to tell you, but they are too much for you to grasp now. However, when the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own accord; but will say whatever he hears, and will make known to you things which are to come to pass. He will glorify me; for he will receive from what is mine, and declare it to you. Whatever the Father has is mine; that is why I said that he will receive from what is mine, and declare to you. A little while, and you will not see me; again a little while, and you will see me. So some of his disciples said to one another, What is this which he speaks about: A little while you will not see me, and again a little while and you will see me, and because I am going away to the Father? Therefore they said, What is this 'little while' he speaks about? We do not understand what he says. Jesus knew that they wished to ask him, and said to them, Are you enquiring among yourselves about what I said; A little while you will not see me, and again a little while, you will see me? Very truly I tell you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will be turned into gladness. A woman in childbirth has distress because her time has come; but when the baby is born, she forgets the suffering; because of the joy that an individual is born into the world. And you indeed have

distress now; but I will see you again, and then your hearts will be glad, and no one will deprive you of that joy. At that time you will not ask me about anything. Very truly I tell you, that whatever you ask the Father, he will give you in my name. So far you have not asked for anything in my name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete. I have told you these things in figurative language but the time is coming when I will not speak to you figuratively, but will speak to you about the Father in plain words. In those days you will make your request in my name; and I do not say that I will intercede with the Father for you. For the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and believed that I came forth from the Father. I came from the Father, and have come into the world. Now I am leaving the world, and returning to the Father. His disciples said to him, Now you are speaking plainly, and not speaking figuratively. Now we know that you know all things, and no one need ask you questions. Because of this we believe you have come from God. Jesus answered them, Do you believe now? See, the time is coming – in fact it has already come, when you will be scattered, each to his own way, and you will leave me alone; but I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you these things so that you may have peace in me. In the world you will have suffering; but cheer up, I have conquered the world.

The Lord's Prayer

Jesus said these things, then lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour has come, glorify your Son, so that the Son may glorify you: As you have given him power over all people, that he should give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they should know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work which you gave me to do. And now Father, glorify me together with you, with the glory which I had with you before the beginning of the world. I have made known your name to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have obeyed your word. Now they have realized that all that you have given me has come from you. For I have given to them the message you entrusted me with, and they have accepted it; and are convinced that I came from you, and that you sent me. I make request on their behalf; not for the world, but for them whom you have given me, for they are yours. And all that are mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I am glorified through them. And I will be no longer in the world, but they are in the world; and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect those whom you have given me by the power of your name, so that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them in the world, I protected them by your name; those whom you gave me I protected, and none of them was lost; except the man who was destined for ruin, in

fulfilment of scripture. But now I come to you; and I speak these things while here in the world, that they may have my joy in its fulness in themselves. I have given them your word; but the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, the same as I am not of the world. I do not request that you should remove them from the world, but that you must protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, the same as I do not belong to it. Make them holy by your truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I also send them into the world. On their behalf I sanctify myself, so that they also may be truly sanctified. I do not intercede for these only, but for all those who will believe on me through their word. So that all may be one; as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, and that they also may be one in us; so that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory which you gave me; so that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and you in me, so that they may be perfected into one; and that the world may realize that you have sent me, and has loved them as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those whom you gave me, may be with me where I am; so that they may see my glory, which you gave me: because you loved me before the world was established. Righteous Father, the world does not know you; but I know you, and these know that you sent me. And I revealed your name to them, and will make it known so that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial

When Jesus had said these words, they sang a hymn; and went out with the disciples across the brook Kidron to the Mount of Olives, as he often did. Then Jesus said to them, All of you will fall away tonight and leave me; for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered everywhere. But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee. Peter answered him, Though all fall away because of you, I never will. Jesus answered him, Will you indeed lay down your life for me? Very truly I tell you Peter, the cock will not crow twice tonight, until you have disowned me three times. Peter said to him more vehemently, Even if I have to die with you, yet I will not disown you in any way. All the other disciples also said the same thing.

Agony in Gethsemane

There was a garden named Gethsemane to which he went with his disciples; and he said to them, You sit here while I go over there and pray. Pray that you may not get into temptation. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, James and John, and began to be deeply distressed and depressed; and he said to them, My heart is heavy with anguish, even to the point of death; stay here and watch with me. And he went forward from them a little, about a stone's throw, and threw himself prostrate on the ground, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me and save me from this hour; yet not as I wish,

but let your will be done. Abba Father! everything is possible for you. And he was in anguish and prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were drops of blood falling down to the ground. And he got up from prayer and came to his disciples, found them sleeping because they were exhausted due to sorrow, and said to Peter; Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray so that you may not fall into temptation; the spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak. He went away the second time and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from me, and I must drink it, let your will be done. And he came again and found them sleeping; because their eyes were heavy with sleep, and they did not know what to answer. And he left them, and going away again, prayed a third time, saying the same words. And an angel appeared to him from heaven and strengthened him. And he came to his disciples a third time and said to them, Now sleep on and take rest. It is enough, the time has come; behold the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go; see, the one who will betray me is near.

I met a Stranger fair to see,
As walked I down life's rugged way;
He spoke so sweet, so tenderly,
He won me to Himself that day.

*It was the Man of Galilee
Who whispered words of joy to me:
"Thy many sins be all forgiven thee,
Thy sins be all forgiven thee."*

And when that Stranger spoke to me,
My heart threw off its guilty load;
I felt at once that I was free;
I left my burdens by the road.

I love that Stranger since the hour
He talked to me in tender tone;
A joy is mine, I feel its power –
And Him as Lord I'm glad to own.

~ Author Unknown

Be Beneath the Cross

Judas Betrays Jesus

Because Jesus often met at this place with his disciples, Judas who betrayed him, also knew the place. So Judas taking with him a band of soldiers and guards from the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees, came there with torches and lamps and weapons. And while Jesus was still speaking, lo, Judas one of the twelve, arrived with a large crowd armed with swords and clubs. Jesus knowing all the things that were going to happen to him, went forward and asked them, For whom are you looking? They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus said to them, I am he. And Judas who betrayed him was standing with them. As soon as he had said to them, I am he, they drew back and fell down. Then he asked them again, For whom are you looking? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus replied, I told you that I am he; so if you are looking for me, let these men go away: In fulfilment of the words, Of those whom you gave me I have lost none. Judas who betrayed him had given them a sign saying, The one I will kiss is the man, seize him and lead him away safely. And immediately Judas came, saying, Greetings, Rabbi; and came near to Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said to Judas, Friend, for what purpose have you come? Are you betraying the Son of man with a kiss? And he immediately came up to him, saying, Greetings, Rabbi, and kissed him ardently.

Jesus Arrested

And they took hold of him and arrested him. When those who were with Jesus saw what was about to happen, they asked him, Lord, shall we strike with the sword? And Simon Peter, who had a sword, stretched out his hand, drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malcus. Then Jesus said Peter, Stop, it is enough, put your sword back into the sheath; for all who take the sword will be destroyed by the sword. Should I not drink the cup which the Father has given me? And Jesus touched the man's ear and healed him. And he said, Do you think that I am not able to call upon my Father who could provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? But how then will the scriptures be fulfilled that these things should happen in this way? Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple and the elders, and the crowd; Have you come out to seize me with swords and clubs, as if I am a thief? I was daily with you in the temple, teaching, and you did not seize me: but the scriptures must be fulfilled. This is your time and the hour when darkness reigns. Then all the disciples deserted him and ran away. Then the company, with the captains and the temple guards took Jesus, and tied him up; and led him away to Annas, for he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. And it was Caiaphas who counselled the Jews, that it was better that one man should die for the people. A young man followed Jesus, with just one linen cloth wrapped

over his body, and some of the young men caught him. But he ran away from them naked, leaving the linen cloth behind. Annas sent Jesus, tied up, as he was, to Caiaphas the high priest.

Peter's First Denial

Those who seized Jesus led him away and brought him to the house of Caiaphas the high priest, and all the chief priests and elders and scribes were assembled there. And Peter followed him at a distance, up to the courtyard of the high priest, and another disciple who was known to the high priest followed also. And that disciple went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest. But Peter stood at the door outside. Then the other disciple who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the maid who was the door-keeper, and brought Peter in. And as Peter was below in the courtyard, the maid at the door came and said to Peter, Are you not also one of the disciples of this man? He said, I am not. And the servants and guards who stood there had made a charcoal fire in the middle of the courtyard, because it was cold: and they sat down and warmed themselves. And Peter sat down with the servants and warmed himself at the fire, and watched to see the outcome. The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples, and about his teachings. Jesus answered him, I have spoken plainly to the world. I always taught in the synagogues and in the temple where all the Jews assembled together; and have said nothing in secret. Why do you

question me? Question those who heard what I spoke to them: see, they know what I said. When he said these things, one of the guards who stood near, struck Jesus saying, Is that how you answer the high priest? Jesus answered him, If I said something wrong give evidence and prove what was wrong; but if I am right, why do you strike me? The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking him, and spat in his face. And covering his face they hit him violently and slapped him, saying, Prophecy and tell us, you Christ; who is it that hit you? And they said many other things against him in blasphemy.

Peter Denies Jesus a Second Time

After a little while the maid-servant of the high priest saw Peter again when he was out in the porch sitting at the fire, took a close look at him and said, This man also was with Jesus of Galilee, and is one of his disciples, but he denied before them all saying, I do not know what you are saying. So they questioned him, Are you one of his disciples? But Peter denied with an oath and said, I do not know him nor understand what you are saying, and the cock crowed.

Peter's Third Denial

After about an hour, one of the servants of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter cut off, said, Did I not see you in the garden? And he confidently affirmed, Surely you were with him, and you are one of them, for you are a Galilaeen, and your speech betrays

you. But then he began to curse and to swear, and said, I do not know this man about whom you are speaking, nor what you are saying. At that moment, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed a second time. Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the words that Jesus had said to him, Before the cock crows twice, you will disown me three times; and thinking about it, he went outside and wept bitterly.

Jesus' Trial before the Sanhedrin

And at daybreak, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him to their Sanhedrin. The chief priests and the elders and the whole Sanhedrin sought for false witnesses against Jesus, so that they could put him to death; But they found none: though many came forward and gave false testimony against him, their testimonies did not agree with one another. At last two false witnesses came forward and said, We heard this man say, I will destroy this temple of God that is made with hands, and will build another in three days, that is made without hands. But even then, their testimonies did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them all, and asked Jesus, Do you not answer anything to what these people are testifying against you? Are you the Messiah, tell us? And he said to them, If I tell you, you will not believe: and if I ask you, you will not answer me, nor let me go. And Jesus remained silent; then the high priest said to him, I order you on oath by the living God, that you tell us whether

you are the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed one? And Jesus said to him, You have said it: I am, and I tell you, the time will come when you will see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of the power of God, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest tore his robe, saying, He has blasphemed, and you have heard it; what further need have we for witnesses? And the high priest asked, What is your opinion? And they all cried, He is guilty of death, and condemned him.

Jesus Delivered to Pilate

Early in the morning, all the chief priests held a consultation against Jesus with the elders, scribes, and the whole council, to put him to death. And when they had bound him, the whole crowd got up and led him away from Caiaphas to the palace of the governor, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor; but they themselves did not go into the judgement hall, so that they might not be defiled, and be able to eat the passover.

Judas Hangs Himself

Judas who betrayed him, when he saw that Jesus was condemned, was smitten with remorse and returned the thirty silver shekels to the chief priests and elders; Saying, I have sinned in betraying innocent blood. But they said, What does that matter to us? It is your business. And he flung the silver shekels into the sanctuary, came out, went away and hanged himself.

And the chief priests took the shekels, and said, It is against the law to put this into the treasury, because it is the price of blood. They discussed the matter and bought with it a potter's field for a burial ground for strangers. Therefore that field is called, the Field of Blood, until this present time. Thus was fulfilled the words spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "I took the thirty silver shekels, the price of him on whom a price was fixed by the children of Israel; and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Jesus Before Pilate

Pilate then went out to them, and said, What charge do you bring against this man? And they answered him, If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you. Then Pilate said, Take him away, and try him by your own law. The Jews replied him, we are not allowed to put anyone to death: so that the words which Jesus said, how he was to suffer death, might be fulfilled. The chief priests accused him of many things saying, We found this man misleading our people, and preventing them from paying tax to Caesar, saying that he is the Messiah, a king, but he answered nothing. Then Pilate entered the judgement hall again, called Jesus and said, Are you the king of the Jews? Jesus stood before the governor and answered him, I am, as you say. Do you yourselves say this, or have others told you about me? Pilate said to him, Am I a Jew? Your own people and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have

you done? Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my guards would have fought to prevent me from being handed over to the Jews; but now my kingdom is not of this world. Pilate said to him, Are you indeed a king then? Jesus answered, You are right in saying that I am a king. For this reason I was born, and came into the world so that I might bear witness to the truth. Everyone who loves truth listens to me. Pilate asked him, What is truth? And then he went out again to the Jews and said to them, I find no fault in him. But they went on insisting, saying, He is stirring up the people, teaching throughout Judea, starting in Galilee, even as far as here. When Pilate heard the name Galilee, he asked if the man was a Galilaeen. And when he knew that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, because he was in Jerusalem at that time.

Jesus Before Herod

When Herod saw Jesus he was very glad; for he had been for a long time desiring to see him, because he had heard many things about him and hoped to see some miracle performed by him. And he asked him a number of questions; but Jesus gave him no answer. The high priests and the scribes stood making grievous accusations against him. Then Herod with his soldiers insulted him, and ridiculed him, and dressed him in a gorgeous robe and sent him back to Pilate. And on that

day Pilate and Herod became friends with one another; for they were enemies before.

Jesus Sent Back to Pilate

And Pilate called together the chief priests and the rulers of the people, and said to them, You brought this man to me as one misleading the people; and see, I have examined him before you, and I have found no fault in the man about any of the things of which you accuse him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us, and indeed he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore I will let him off with a flogging. And Pilate said to him, Do you not hear how many things they testify against you? Have you nothing to answer? But Jesus still did not answer a word; so the governor was greatly amazed. At the feast it was the governor's custom to release to them a prisoner they wanted. And they had a notorious prisoner there, called Barabbas, who was imprisoned with the rebels for revolt and murder in the city. Pilate desiring to release Jesus, called them together and spoke to them again. You have a custom that I release to you a prisoner at the passover; so do you agree that I release to you Jesus called the King of the Jews, or Barabbas? For he knew that the chief priests had handed him over because of envy. But the chief priests and elders persuaded the crowd that they should plead for Barabbas, and to do away with Jesus. And they all shouted, saying, Kill him, crucify him, crucify him; set Barabbas free, as you used to do for us. But Barabbas

was a robber. Pilate said to them, What then shall I do with Jesus who is called the Christ, whom you call the King of the Jews? They all called out, Let him be crucified. Then Pilate said to them a third time: Why, what crime has he committed? But they shouted all the louder, crucify him. While Pilate was still in the judgement seat, his wife sent him a message, saying, Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered a lot today in a dream, because of him. And he said to them, I have found no reason for him to deserve death: so I will let him off with a flogging. But they persisted with loud voices, demanding that he must be crucified. And their voices prevailed.

Pilate Sentences Jesus to Death

When Pilate saw that his efforts were useless, but rather a riot was starting, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, I am not guilty of the blood of this righteous man: you see to it. But all the people answered, Let his blood be on us and on our children. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium, and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. And they stripped him and put a purple robe on him. And they plaited thorn twigs into a crown, and put it on his head, and put a staff in his right hand; and began to salute him, and said, Hail, King of the Jews! And they struck him with the palm of their hands, took the staff and smote him on the head with it, and spat upon him,

and kneeling down worshipped him in mockery. Pilate went out again, and said to them, Behold I bring him out to you, so that you may know that I do not find any fault in him. Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, and Pilate said to them, Here is the man! When the chief priests and guards saw him, they shouted, saying, Crucify, crucify! Pilate said to them, You take him, and crucify him: for I do not find any fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and according to our law he must die, because he professed himself to be the Son of God. When Pilate heard these words, he was all the more afraid. And went again into the judgement hall, and said to Jesus, Where are you from? But Jesus did not give him an answer. Then Pilate said to him, Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have the authority to crucify you, as well as the power to release you? Jesus answered, You would not have had any authority over me if it were not given to you from above: for this reason, the one who delivered me over to you has the greater sin. And from that time Pilate tried to release him: but the Jews kept shouting, If you let this man go, you are not a friend of Caesar: everyone who makes himself a king, speaks against Caesar. When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat in the judgement seat, in the place called the Stone Pavement, but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. It was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he said to the Jews, Here is your king! But they shouted, Away with him, away,

crucify him. Pilate said to them, Shall I crucify your king? The chief priests answered, We do not have a king, except Caesar. Then Pilate decided to pacify the people, and passed judgement, that it should be as they wanted. And he released to them Barabbas whom they asked for, who was imprisoned for sedition and murder, and delivered up Jesus to them to be crucified. After they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe from him, put his own clothes back on him, and led him out to crucify him.

The Crucifixion

And Jesus bearing his cross was led away to Calvary. And as they came out, and led him away, they found a man of Cyrene, named Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, coming from the fields, caught hold of him, and placing the cross on him, compelled him to support it behind Jesus. And a large crowd of people, of whom many were women, who wailed and lamented, followed him. But Jesus turned to them, and said, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For see, the days are coming when they will say, Blessed are the barren and those who have never borne children, or nursed them. Then they will say to the mountains, Fall on us, and to the hills, hide us. For if they did this to the green tree, what may happen to the dry one? And there were two others who were criminals, taken along with him, to be put to death. And when they brought him bearing his cross, to the place

called Calvary, and in the Hebrew, Golgotha; meaning, the place of a skull, they offered him wine mixed with myrrh; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. And they crucified him, and the two thieves, one on the right side and the other on the left, and Jesus in the middle. And it was the third hour.

Jesus Prays for His Enemies

Then Jesus said, Father forgive them, because they do not know what they are doing. And Pilate wrote a superscription and put it on the cross, The writing was, Jesus the Nazarene, the King of the Jews. Many Jews read this title; for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city: and it was written in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. Then the chief priests said to Pilate, Do not write, King of the Jews; but that he said, I am the King of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written stands written.

Soldiers Divide Jesus' Garments

After the soldiers crucified him, they took his garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part; and also his inner garment, and that was without any seam, woven in one piece from top to bottom. So they said one to another, Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see who will get it: thus fulfilling the scripture which says, "They shared my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." That was what the soldiers did. And sitting down they watched him there. There stood near

the cross of Jesus, his mother and his mother's cousin Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved, standing near, he said to his mother, Woman, see your son! Then he said to the disciple, See your mother! And from that time that disciple took her into his own home.

Jesus Mocked and Reviled

And those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads, and saying, You who can destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself. If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross. The people stood looking on. And the rulers and chief priests with the scribes scoffed at him, and said, He saved others: but he cannot save himself! If he is the king of Israel, the Messiah, the chosen one of God, let him come down from the cross, and we will see and believe him. The soldiers also mocked him and offered him vinegar, and said, If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he wants him; for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves who were crucified with him, also reproached him in the same way. And one of them ridiculed him, saying, If you are the Messiah, save yourself and us also. But then, the other one rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, now that you are under the same judgement? For we of course are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve; but this man never did anything wrong. And he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

And Jesus said to him, Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.

Jesus Gives up His Spirit

And when it was about the sixth hour, darkness came over all the land, until the ninth hour. And the sun became dark. About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, eloi, lema, savachthani, which means, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? And some of them who stood there, when they heard it, said, See, he is calling Elijah. After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now finished in fulfilment of scripture, said, I am thirsty. There was a vessel full of vinegar, and immediately one of them ran, took a sponge, filled it with vinegar, and fixing it on a rod, reached it to his mouth to drink. But the rest said, Wait now, let us see if Elijah will come to save him and take him down. And when Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished, and cried with a loud voice, saying, Father, into your hands I commit my spirit: and saying this he bowed his head and expired. And behold, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and rocks split. And the graves opened, and many bodies of the saints who had died, rose again. And came out of the graves after he rose again, went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the army officer and his party who stood opposite Jesus watching him, saw the earthquake, and the way he cried out and breathed his last, they were

very frightened, glorified God, and said, Certainly this was a righteous man, the Son of God. And all the people who came together to see this sight, saw the things which took place; beat their breasts and returned. There were many who knew him including women, standing at a distance, watching these things; among whom were Mary of Magdala, and Mary the mother of James the smaller, and of Joses, and Salome; who when he was in Galilee, followed him, and served him; and many other women who came with him to Jerusalem. Because it was the preparation, and bodies should not remain on crosses during the sabbath, and because that sabbath was a great day; the Jews requested Pilate that they may be taken after the legs were broken. Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man, and the other who was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs: But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and immediately blood and water poured out. And this is the testimony of one who saw, and his testimony is true; and he knows what he is saying is true, so that you also may believe. For these things happened in fulfilment of the scripture, "Not one of his bones will be broken." And another scripture says, "They will look on him whom they pierced."

The Burial

And after this, when it was evening, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath; A rich

man, Joseph from Arimathaea, a town of Judea, an honourable councillor, and a good and just man who waited for the kingdom of God, and who had not agreed to their decisions and actions for he was a disciple of Jesus, though secretly, because he was afraid of the Jews: went in boldly to Pilate and requested that he may take away the body of Jesus. And Pilate was amazed that he was already dead: and calling the army officer, he asked him if it was some time since he died. And when he found out from the army officer, he granted the body to be delivered to Joseph: So he came and took the body of Jesus. And Nicodemus who had at first come to Jesus at night, also came, and brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds. Joseph brought fine linen, and they took the body of Jesus and bound it in the linen clothes, with the spices, according to the custom of Jews for burial. In the place where Jesus was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden was Joseph's own new tomb, which he had hewn out of the rock, where no man had yet been buried. And because it was the Jews' day of preparation, and the sabbath was approaching, they buried Jesus there, because the tomb was near by. And they rolled a large stone, placed it against the entrance of the tomb and went away. And Mary of Magdala and Mary the mother of Joses, who came with him from Galilee, followed them, sat opposite the tomb and watched how his body was laid in it. And they returned, and prepared spices and perfumes; and rested on the sabbath according to the commandment.

The Guard at the Tomb

The next day after the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together to Pilate. Saying, Your excellency, we remember that, that deceiver while he was yet alive said, After three days I will rise again. Therefore give orders for the grave to be made secure until the third day, so that his disciples may not come and steal him, and tell the people that he is risen from the dead: and the last deception becomes worse than the first. Pilate said to him, You may take a guard, and make it as secure as you can. So they went and made the grave secure by sealing the stone, and setting a guard.

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
Save in the death of Christ my God:
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See! From His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small:
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

~ *Isaac Watts*

Be Believing

The Resurrection

When the sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James and Salome, who had bought spices and prepared perfume, came to the tomb early on the first day of the week while it was still dark, to anoint him. And they said to one another, Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away, and it was very large: because there was a great earthquake; and the angel of the Lord having come down from heaven, rolled away the stone from the entrance, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And the guards who kept watch, trembled, and were scared stiff for fear of him. As the women entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side and they were afraid. Then Mary of Magdala ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, They have taken away the Lord from the tomb, and we do not know where they have put him. The women were frightened, and bowed down their faces towards the ground. And the angel said to them, You need not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified, but why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; because he is risen as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. They entered the tomb, but did not find the body of the

Lord Jesus. And as they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood beside them in shining garments. They said to the women, Do not be frightened, but go along quickly, and tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee: there you will see him. Look, I have told you. You remember how he had told you while he was still in Galilee, saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and rise again on the third day. And they came out quickly from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran away from the tomb to bring word to his disciples, for they trembled and were amazed: and said nothing to anyone, because they were scared, and they remembered his words.

Peter and John Run to the Tomb

Peter and the other disciple went out, and they ran together to the tomb. But the other disciple ran faster, and came first to the tomb. And he stooped down and saw the linen sheets lying, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came following him, and entered the tomb, and saw the linen sheets lying there, and the cloth that was around his head, not with the sheets, but in a roll, in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who first came to the tomb, also went in, and saw, and he believed. For they had not yet understood the scriptures that he must rise again from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their own places.

Jesus Appears to Mary

But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. And as she was weeping, she leaned forward into the tomb; and saw two angels sitting dressed in white, one at the head and the other at the feet of where the body of Jesus had been. And they said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? She said to them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have put him. And Mary having said these things, turned back, and saw Jesus standing, but did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking? She, taking him to be the gardener, said to him, Sir, if you have carried him off, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him away. Jesus said to her, Mary! She turned round, and said to him, Rabboni! which means teacher. Jesus said to her, Do not touch me; for I have not yet gone up to my Father: but go to my brothers and tell them, I am going up to my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God. So when Jesus rose again early on the first day of the week, he appeared to Mary of Magdala first, from whom He had driven out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Jesus, that she had seen the Lord, and what he told her; as they were mourning and weeping.

Jesus Appears to the Other Women

And as (the other women) were returning from the tomb to tell his disciples about what they saw, behold, Jesus

met them, saying, Greetings to you. And they came and held his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, Do not be frightened: go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and they will see me there.

The Report of the Guards

While they were going, behold, some of the guards came to the city, and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. The chief priests met with the elders, and after consulting together, they gave a lot of money to the soldiers; saying, You say, that his disciples came during the night, and stole him while we were sleeping. And if the governor hears this, we will influence him and save you from any anxiety. So they took the money, and did as they were instructed: and this report has spread everywhere among the Jews, until the present time.

The Women's Report Disbelieved

When the women returned from the tomb, they told all these things to the eleven, and to the others. They were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others who were with him, who told this to the disciples. But their words appeared to them to be nonsense, and they disbelieved them, when they heard that he was living and had been seen by them.

Jesus Appears to the Two Disciples

After that he appeared in another form to two of them, on the same day as they walked to the countryside. They

were going to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles away from Jerusalem. And they were talking about all these things which had taken place. And as they were conversing and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. But their eyes were withheld from recognizing him. And he said to them, What words are these you are exchanging with one another, as you walk? And they stopped, looking downcast. One of them whose name was Cleopas answered, and said to him, You must be the only visitor staying in Jerusalem, who has not come to know the things which took place here during these days. And he said to them, What things? And they said to him, Those things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word, before God and all the people: and how the chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to liberate Israel: and beside all these, this is the third day since all these things happened. And also, some of our women who went early to the tomb, gave us a surprise. They could not find his body, and came saying, that they had seen a vision of angels, who said that he is living. And some from our company went to the tomb, and found everything as the women said; but they did not see him. And he said to them, You foolish ones, slow of mind to believe all that the prophets have said; was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory? And starting with Moses, he explained to them the writings that referred to

himself, in all the prophets. And they came near to the village to which they were going; and he appeared as if he was going on further. But they urged him, saying, Stay with us, because it is evening, and the day is nearly over. And he went in to stay with them. And as he sat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; but he disappeared from their sight. And they said to each other, Were not our hearts burning within us as he was speaking to us on the way, and opening up the scriptures to us? And they got up at once and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them, gathered together, in the evening, on the first day of the week, and the doors shut for fear of the Jews; saying, The Lord has risen and appeared to Simon. And they narrated the things that happened on the way, and how they recognized him as he broke the bread, but still they did not believe them.

Jesus Appears to the Apostles

While they were telling these things, Jesus stood among them, and said to them, Peace be with you. They were terrified, and being scared, they thought that they saw the vision of a spirit. And he said to them, why are you alarmed? And why do doubts come up in your minds? And he reprovved them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen him after he had risen. He said, Look at my hands and

my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have. And saying this, he showed to them his hands and his side. But while they were so overjoyed, and could not believe it, he said to them, Have you got anything here to eat? And they gave him a piece of grilled fish and some honeycomb. And he took it and ate it before them. And he said to them, These are the things I told you while I was with you, that all the things that have been written in the law of Moses and the prophets and psalms concerning me, must be fulfilled. Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, It has been written that the Messiah will suffer thus, and rise from the dead on the third day: And in his name repentance and remission of sins should be proclaimed to the nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Jesus said to them again, Peace be with you: as the Father has sent me, so I am sending you. And after saying this, he breathed upon them, and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. You are witnesses to all these things. And see, I will send you the one promised by my Father, but you must remain in the city, until power from above comes down on you. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven; and if you retain anyone's sins, they will be retained.

Jesus Appears to the Eleven

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, We have seen the Lord. He replied them, Unless I

see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger into them, and put my hand into his side, I will not at all believe. And on the eighth day when the disciples were inside, and Thomas with them; and the doors were closed, Jesus came and stood among them, and said, Peace be with you. Then he said to Thomas, Come here and feel my hands with your finger; stretch your hand, and put it in my side: and do not be faithless, but believe. And Thomas said to him, My Lord and my God! Jesus said to him, Because you saw me you believed: blessed are those who have not seen, and yet have believed.

At the Sea of Tiberias

After these things Jesus appeared to his disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and this was how it happened. Simon Peter, and Thomas called the Twin, and Nathanael from Cana of Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two of his other disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, I am going fishing. And they said to him, We will also come with you. They went out and got into the boat, but all that night they could not catch anything. And at daybreak, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples did not recognize that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, Youngsters, have you not got something to eat? They answered him, No. And he said to them, Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find. They did so, but were not able to draw it because of the large number of fish. The disciple who was dear to Jesus, then said to

Peter, It is the Lord. Simon Peter hearing that it was the Lord, wrapped his garment around him, because he was naked; and jumped into the water. And the other disciples in the small boat, who were not very far from land, but only about two hundred cubits away, came hauling in the net of fishes. When they got out on to the shore, they saw a charcoal fire, and fish being grilled on it, and some bread. Jesus said to them, Bring some of the fish which you caught just now. Simon Peter went and drew the net to the shore, full of big fish, one hundred and fifty three; and although there were so many the net did not tear. Jesus said to them, Come and have your breakfast. But none of the disciples dared to ask him who he was, because they knew that it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread, and gave it to them, and also, the fish. This was the third time Jesus revealed himself to his disciples after he rose from the dead.

Jesus and Simon Peter

So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter; Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Feed my lambs. He said to him again the second time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? He said to him, Yes, Lord; you know that I love you. He said to him, Shepherd my sheep. He said to him a third time, Simon, son of John, do you love me? Peter was hurt because he asked him the third time, Do you

love me? And said to him, Lord, all things are known to you; you know that I love you. Jesus said to him, Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, When you were younger, you dressed yourself, and went wherever you liked: but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you, and take you where you do not want. He said this to indicate by what kind of death he was to glorify God. After saying this, he said to him, Follow me. Turning about, Peter saw the disciple who was dear to Jesus, following; the one who leaned towards Jesus when sitting at supper, and said, Lord who is the one that is going to betray you? Seeing him, Peter said to Jesus, Lord, but what about this one? Jesus said to him, If I desire that he should live till I come, what does that matter to you? You follow me. So this rumour spread among the brothers, that that disciple would not die: however, Jesus did not mean that he would not die, but, If I desire him to live till I come, what does that matter to you? This is the same disciple who is testifying here concerning these things, and wrote down this: and we know that his testimony is true.

Jesus Appears Again to the Disciples

Then the eleven disciples went away to a hill in Galilee where Jesus had arranged to meet them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted.

The Great Commission

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All power in heaven and on earth is given to me. Therefore you go to all the nations of the world, and preach the good news to all mankind, making disciples of them, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; Teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you: and see, I am always with you, until the end of the age. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will attend those who believe; they will cast out demons in my name and will speak in new languages; they will pick up snakes; and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not harm them; they will lay their hands on the sick and they will recover.

The Ascension

And he took them out with him towards Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. And while he was blessing them, he left them, and was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with joy. And were continually in the temple praising God. And they went out, and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed the word by miracles that accompanied it. There are also many other things which Jesus did, which if written one by one, I suppose people will not have room enough for all the books. And Jesus did many other miracles in the presence of his

disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing on his name, you may have life.

Amen.

Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified;
Knowing not it was for me He died
On Calvary.

*Mercy there was great, and grace was free,
Pardon there was multiplied to me,
There my burdened soul found liberty,
At Calvary.*

By God's word at last my sin I learned
Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
Till my guilty soul, imploring, turned
To Calvary.

Now I've given to Jesus ev'rything,
Now I gladly own Him as my King,
Now my raptured soul can only sing
Of Calvary.

Oh! The love that drew salvation's plan,
Oh! The grace that brought it down to man,
Oh! The mighty gulf that God did span
At Calvary.

~ William R. Newell

POST-SCRIPT

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation. Begin a new journey of life with the Lord Jesus Christ in you and with you. May your name be written in the Lamb's Book of Life. "Behold what love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God!" (1 John 1:3)

"Come unto Me and I will give you rest" is the universal invitation and promise of the Lord Jesus. Let not your response in obedient faith be belated. We beseech you by the mercies of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ into your life as your personal saviour and eagerly await His appearing again for the fulfilment of our final redemption.

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First published: January, 2014