

First Part of the Plan!

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[**Matthew 17:3** Mount of Transfiguration; vs5 this is my beloved Son; vs6 they fell on their face; vs7 *Arise, and be not afraid*; **Matthew 26:2** Jesus is betrayed; vs39 let this cup pass; vs42 (same); vs52 *perish by the sword*; vs54 how would Scripture be fulfilled;

Mark 8:36 [*greed*] *What shall it profit*; **John 1:14** *Word was made flesh*; **John 11:25** *I am the resurrection*; **Luke 23:34** *Father, forgive them*; **John 19:30** *It is finished*. * **OT Daniel 12:2** *Some awake to everlasting life*; **Jeremiah 17:9** heart is deceitful above all things].

The first part of the plan to save a world heading for destruction was that God would visit earth and complete the plan He put in place when Adam sinned. **AV John 1:14** *“The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.”*

On the Mount of Transfiguration **AV Matthew 17:3** *“There appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with”*—Jesus.

God speaks from Heaven—**AV Matthew 17:5** *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.”*

It is an easy instruction to follow—just *Read* and *Heed* His words; *Listen* to His instructions; and then *Obey* His plan of living.

It is the devil who causes *pride* and *rebellion* to get in the way of following that divine plan from God.

When He spoke from Heaven, they **AV Matthew 17:6** *“Fell on their face, and were sore afraid.”*

Jesus walks over and says vs7 *“Arise, and be not afraid.”* He is God in Person and has always loved His creation.

The nation of Israel witnessed the presence and power of God so many times, but still walked away from Him after hearing His clear instructions.

God has been very patient with them many times—but they so often hardened their hearts.

Jesus shows His love for His children and weeps at the tomb of Lazarus. He told His disciples that Lazarus was *asleep*—so He would go and wake him, but they did not understand what He meant by *asleep*—knowing he had passed.

Leaving this life is like *sleeping* and then *waking* on the other side. When this brief life ends it just opens the door to *eternal* life.

The world sees the *end*—*finality*! But the believer sees the *beginning*—*eternity*!

Many were saddened by the passing of Lazarus, so Jesus told them **NKJV John 11:25** *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.”*

God controls all life—so Jesus said **AV Daniel 12:2** that *people* *“Shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.”*

At the tomb He calls **AV John 11:43** *“Lazarus, come forth,”* and Lazarus walks out of the tomb! Jesus is the Giver of life, so when we get rid of doubt, fear, and unbelief, we have a renewed confidence in the power of God.

Jesus is the Messiah and enters Jerusalem on a burro. Although He is the King of all kings, He is not riding in a chariot carried by servants. He is riding a lowly burro in humility—humility is so lacking on earth today.

NKJV Zechariah 9:9 *“Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey.”*

Those following Him shout **AV Matthew 21:9** *“Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”*

After all the rejection He has heard for years, He is now hearing the praise that always belongs to Him.

Soon after shouting praise to Jesus, however, the multitude turns against Him. He tells His disciples **AV Matthew 26:2** *“Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.”*

They did not want to hear that, but it is part of the plan—and all works out well with God.

After telling His disciples about the betrayal, Jesus is in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper.

NKJV Matthew 26:7 *“A woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table”*—in preparation for His burial.

Judas betrays the Son of God for thirty pieces of silver **Matthew 26:15**. In his greed, Judas had been stealing money from the poor, and Jesus *knew* about it, but did not prevent it.

He is giving Judas, as He gives us, time to admit our mistakes and our wrong attitudes—and then we can repent as He always forgives.

Judas had choices like everyone, but he used his choice to sell his soul for money—everyone has a price, and everyone makes a choice—some will live their life to be a famous athlete; a renowned musician; or an admired entertainer.

Billions of people chase money until their last day on earth—but **AV Mark 8:36** *“What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”*

Jesus often met with His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane and He prayed there many times—it is how He connected with the Father and how we do as well.

AV Matthew 26:39 *“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.”*

He knows the cup *cannot* pass—but still asks again vs 42 *“O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.”*

Jesus is *committed* to do the will of the Father, even if it means giving His life on a cross.

Doing the will of God is the most *important* thing during our time here on earth, but so many are *not* willing to do God’s *will* by obeying His *Word*.

The chief priests arrive to arrest Jesus—and He knew all along this would happen. There is no resisting or stopping them—even though Jesus could call for 10,000 angels.

He chooses not to do that as this is all *part of the plan*. The depth of His love for all people is beyond our human comprehension.

The apostle Peter defends the Lord by striking at those arresting Him, but Jesus says AV **John 18:11** *“Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?”*

And adds AV **Matthew 26:52** *“For all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.”*

Many today live by the sword—thinking that it is the only way to get revenge or solve problems, but it only makes *bad* situations much *worse*.

The Master rebukes Peter because NIV **Matthew 26:54** *“How then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”*

All who were *fed* have now *fled*! We would think that as much as Jesus *loved* them, surely some would stay and stand *by* Him. One minute they are *praising* Him, and the next wanting to *crucify* Him.

The crowds say *“Hail, King of the Jews!”* one day; and shout *“Crucify Him!”* the next. They mock the Lord—but there is no mocking God.

NIV **Psalm 74:22** *“Rise up, O God, and defend your cause; remember how fools mock you all day long.”*

AV **Galatians 6:7** *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: you will reap what you sow!* Mocking God has very serious consequences.

AV **Jeremiah 17:9** *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”*—no one can know it!

Those who arrest Jesus are cruel and wicked—showing no respect and no regard for the One who gave them *life*—and the only One who could *save* their *soul*.

Still, in His compassion, love, and forgiveness for everyone, Jesus says while enduring extreme pain AV **Luke 23:34** *“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.”*

Jesus knows that the Father would never forsake Him **Mark 15:34**, but God *had* to look away for a brief time so *Scripture* would be fulfilled, and atonement be completed.

Not ever forsaking us is the *character* of God—it is *others* who forsake *Him*—and He still honors their wrong choices to walk away.

Scripture is so important that Jewish parents have their children memorize verses at a very young age. They want God’s Word to infuse their whole being with truth all the days of their lives.

AV **Psalm 22:4** *“Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. 5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered.”*

The crucifixion was *predicted* centuries ago—God *knew* about everything that would take place—it is the reason He did *not* send legions of angels.

Many Jews gathered around the cross, and possibly reciting AV **Psalm 22:18** *“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”*

The prophecies of the Most High God have been fulfilled—which will lead many to believe in Yeshua as their Messiah.

AV **Psalm 22:27** *“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.”*

Jesus then says from the cross AV **John 19:30** *“It is finished.”* His work is done; He did what He came to do, He completed the plan of atonement for the world!

He was obedient to the Father to the end and saying His last words AV **Luke 23:46** *“Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.”*

That is a powerful message for us and the world—commit our life completely to God—let Him ***mold*** us to what He wants us to be; let Him ***teach*** us what we need to know; and let Him ***show*** us *how* to treat others as He always did.

Then, let us always ***trust*** Him in faith—bringing honor and glory to His name—*always*!

Any other choice would ***not*** glorify God—it would ***not*** be part of His plan—and it would ***not*** lead us to His Paradise kingdom!



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