# **The book of Mark**

**Introduction**

 Mark is the author of the book, and the nation of Israel is his audience. The book is about Israel’s Messiah coming to them and being rejected.

 The book’s events all take place in the land of Israel. Its words were spoken to Israel while they were still under the law. Galatians 4:4.

 Its contents were a part of Israel’s old covenant as the new covenant/testament could not begin until after the death of the testator. Hebrews 9:16.

**The setting**

 The book of Mark begins in the middle of the 69th week of Israel’s punishment mention in Daniel 9:24-27. The seventieth week of Daniel is to follow Christ’s being cut off (crucified).

***Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.***

**Chapter One**

**1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;**

**The gospel of Jesus Christ:** This was the good news that Israel’s long-awaited kingdom was now at hand. It would appear if Israel would repent.

 Mark is the only book that begins using the word gospel. The word gospel means “good news.” Mark is beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Christ:** The anointed one. Acts 10:38.

**The Son of God:** This is Jesus Christ, and Israel had to believe that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God, just as Peter did when Jesus asked him who he was.

***Matthew 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, 16 Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*.**Mark 8:29, Luke 4:41, John 6:69 & 11:27.

***John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.***

**John the Baptist**

**2 As it is written in the prophets,**

**Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee. 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.** *Malachi 3:1* *& Isaiah 40:3.*

**The prophets:**The last seventeen books of what is commonly known as the “old testament.” Isaiah through Malachi.

**My messenger:** This was John the Baptist.

**Thy face:** Thy is singular. This is speaking about John being sent before Jesus’ face.

**Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight:** John was to prepare the hearts of the people of Israel for the Lord.

***Luke 1:16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. 17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.***

**Ye:** Ye, you, and your, are all plural, and are to be used when talking to more than one person.

 Thee, thine, thou, and thy, are all singular, and are used in classical English when talking to an individual. Classical, or Elizabethan English is used in the King James Bible.

**John baptizing**

Matthew 3:1-12 & Luke 3:2-16

**4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.** *Isaiah 40:3.*

**John did baptize in the wilderness:** He did not minister at the temple, because Judaism had become corrupted by religious leaders who exalted the traditions of men above God’s word.

**The baptism of repentance for the remission of sins:** This was a message for Israel, calling them to repentance. This was because of the covenant they made with God at mount Sinai, which they broke. Luke 3:3, Acts 13:24 & 19:4.

 The baptism was for the remission of sins, not the forgiveness of sins. Prior to Christ’s death on the cross their sins had to be remitted because of the covenant they had made with God at mount Sinai.

  They were still under that covenant until after the death of the testator. Hebrews 9:16 & Luke 7:29-30.

**5 And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins.**

**All the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem:** They went out to hear John the Baptist who turned many of the children of Israel to the Lord. Luke 1:16. His message would not have been accepted in Jerusalem at the temple.

 The baptism of repentance for the remission of sins was a cleansing ritual for Israel to prepare them to be priests in their kingdom that was being preached as at hand. Exodus 19:5-6 below.

**Confessing their sins:** This was required by God for Israel to be healed as a nation. Leviticus 26:40-42, Daniel 9:2-6 & Matthew 3:6.

**6 And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;** *Matthew 3:4.*

**A girdle of skin about his loins:** He dressed exactly like Elijah did in 2nd Kings 1:8. A girdle is a belt.

**He did eat locusts and wild honey:** Locust were considered clean under the law. Leviticus 11:22 & Mark 1:6.

**7 And preached, saying,**

**There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.** *Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16 & John 1:27.*

**The latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose:** John, who was Jesus’ kinsman, was not able to redeem Israel from their sin, only Jesus was able to do that.

 This was a Jewish practice concerning a kinsman redeeming someone, or something. Israel needed to be redeemed from their bondage to sin, and the devil. Deuteronomy 25:9 & Ruth 4:7.

**8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.**

**I indeed have baptized you with water:** This was for Israel to be washed before they would begin their priesthood in the kingdom that was at hand. Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16, John 1:26 & 33.

***Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.***

This kingdom of priests would all need to be washed with clean water first, and then be anointed with oil before they could begin ministering.

 Israel has never become that kingdom of priests yet because they have not been able to keep their promise to God that they made with him on that day.

 They will however become a kingdom of priests after the time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble. Jeremiah 31:31. This will happen when they enter into the kingdom that God prophesied in Exodus 19.

 This holy nation would be born again when the nation of Israel confessed their sins and receive the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.

 The remission of sins was not the same as the forgiveness of sins like we have today. Israel would have their sins remitted nationally each year on the day of Atonement.

 Israel will have their sins forgiven when Christ returns. Acts 3:19-21. Today, we are baptized "by" the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ, the moment we believe the gospel. 1st Corinthians 12:13.

 John then mentioned that Jesus would baptize Israel with the Holy Ghost, this happened on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:4.

**He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost:** This came to pass for those believers in the upper room to endue them with power to preach the gospel of the kingdom. Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16 & John 1:33.

 The priests back then would wash and anoint themselves every time they came to the tabernacle to do the service of God, and at the future temple as well. Oil is symbolic of the holy Spirit.

 It wasn't a onetime washing, they washed themselves daily, just like the apostles had to pray and ask to be filled with the holy Spirit again and again to fulfill his purposes.

 The holy Spirit did not indwell them as he does us today. Acts 2:4, 4:8 & 31. Israel will be sprinkled with clean water when they enter into their kingdom after the time of Jacob’s trouble. Ezekiel 36:22-28.

**Jesus’ baptism.**

Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-22 & John 1:29-34

**9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:**

**Nazareth:** From the root word Nazar (Set apart). A city in the northern Galilee region.

**And was baptized of John in Jordan:** The Jordan river. Here was Israel’s future high priest being washed with water as all priests had to in order to begin their ministry. Exodus 24:4 and Isaiah 61:6.

**The Spirit like a dove descending upon him:** This was a sign to John that upon whom he saw the Spirit descending, he was the one who would baptize Israel with the Holy Ghost. Matthew 3:16 & John 1:32.

 This was Jesus’ anointing to be Israel’s high priest. Acts 4:27 & 10:38. Jesus was the one that John the Baptist was to make manifest to Israel, and he was the one that would baptize believing Israel with the Holy Ghost.

 This voice came so that John would have a second witness to the sign he had just received that this was indeed the Christ that he was to make manifest to Israel.

**11 And there came a voice from heaven, saying,**

**Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.** *Matthew 3:17, Mark 12:6 & Luke 3:21-22.*

**A voice from heaven:** God the Father was speaking.

**Jesus’ temptation**

Matthew 4:1-11 & Luke 4:1-13

**12 And immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. 13 And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.**

**The Spirit driveth him:** Led up of the Spirit. Matthew 4:1 & Luke 4:1-13.

**Forty days:** The number forty occurs all too many times in the bible to list here as a number related to testing.

**Tempted of Satan:** Luke lets us know Jesus was tempted during the forty days as well as on the last day. Luke 4:2.

 The reasons for Satan tempting Jesus are numerous, but he ultimately wanted to disqualify Jesus from being able to be Israel’s kinsman redeemer. By Satan getting Jesus to sin, he would not be able to redeem another sinner.

**The angels ministered unto him:** This was probably after Jesus (the last Adam) did what the first Adam failed to do.

 He resisted Satan’s temptations by quoting God’s word to him perfectly. Eve misquoted what God had told Adam originally, which may have been Adam’s fault, he should have corrected her statement to Satan, but he didn’t.

**John is imprisoned**

Matthew 4:12 & Luke 3:20

**14 Now after that John was put in prison,**

**John was put in prison:**Two months after Jesus’ baptism. John 3:24.

**Jesus begins preaching**

Matthew 4:17 & Luke 4:14-15

**Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,**

**Galilee:** It is called Galilee of the nations in Isaiah 9:1-7, and Galilee of the Gentiles in Matthew 4:15. It is in the northern part of Israel in the lands belonging to Zebulun and Naphtali.

**The gospel of the kingdom:** The gospel that Jesus preached was the same one that John preached about the kingdom being at hand. Matthew 3:1-2 & 4:23.

**15 And saying,**

**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

**The time is fulfilled:** Matthew 4:17 says, From that time.

 This was speaking about the sixty-ninth week of Daniel which had arrived, so their long-awaited kingdom was now at hand. Daniel 9:24-27.

**The kingdom of God is at hand:** Also called the kingdom of heaven. It was at hand six months earlier when John began to preach. Matthew 3:2, Luke 16:16 & Matthew 4:17.

**Repent ye, and believe the gospel:** The nation needed to repent of their unbelief and believe the good news (the gospel) that the kingdom was at hand.

 If they as a nation would repent and believe the good news, then the kingdom would soon follow. Matthew 4:17 & 23.

 Israel did not repent as a nation and they rejected their King, so the kingdom has been put on hold during the present dispensation of grace.

**Jesus calls his first disciples**

Matthew 4:18-22 & Luke 5:1-11

**16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.** John 1:40-42.

**The sea of Galilee:** It is a large fresh-water lake that is connected to the Jordan River.

**Simon:** He is also called Peter and Cephas.

**17 And Jesus said unto them,**

**Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.**

**18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him. 19 And when he had gone a little further thence, he saw James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, who also were in the ship mending their nets. 20 And straightway he called them: and they left their father Zebedee in the ship with the hired servants, and went after him.**

 This is the second time Jesus called the disciples unto himself, there would be a third time as well. These can be seen in the other gospel accounts. The first time was after the baptism of Jesus. John 1:40-42.

**Jesus cast out an unclean spirit**

Luke 4:31-37

**21 And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught.**

**The sabbath day:** It was the seventh day of the week, which began at sunset Friday evening, and went until sunset Saturday evening. Exodus 16:23.

**The synagogue:** This is a Jewish place of teaching.

**22 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes. 23 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out,**

**He taught them as one that had authority: See Matthew …**

**His doctrine:** The scribes had no authority to proclaim the kingdom was at hand as Jesus professed.

**An unclean spirit:** This is a devil. For the kingdom to be established, the land would have to be cleansed from all unclean spirits.

 This act was a sign to the nation of Israel that their King was here, and their kingdom was at hand if they would repent.

 Since Israel alone was to become a kingdom of priests in the kingdom, and Satan was to be bound during that kingdom, Jesus went about binding every devil (unclean spirit) he saw.

**24 Saying,**

**Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.**

**Art thou come to destroy us:** This is similar to the question asked by a legion of devils in Matthew 8:29.

**The Holy One of God:** This is a title used often in the old testament where God is called the holy one of Israel. Psalm 71:22.

**25 And Jesus rebuked him, saying,**

**Hold thy peace, and come out of him.**

**26 And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. 27 And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying,**

**What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.**

**Hold thy peace, and come out of him:** These were two commands that showed Jesus’ power over the devils by demanding their silence and obedience.

 He came to set the captives in Israel free so that they may become a kingdom of priests in their kingdom.

**What new doctrine is this:** The chief priests, Pharisees and Sadducees did not have authority over the devil. This was not something new to the scriptures.

***Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,***

 Notice what Paul, the apostle of the Gentiles had to say about whether Jesus preached some new doctrine or not:

***Romans 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:***

**28 And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.**

 Jesus was not teaching some new doctrine, but he was confirming the promises already made to Israel’s ancestors back to Abraham.

**Jesus heals Simon’s wife’s mother**

Luke 4:38-39

**29 And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. 30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. 31 And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them.**

**Simon’s wife’s mother:** Simon Peter had a wife, and his wife's mother was sick with a fever, so Jesus healed her of it immediately.

**Anon:** Immediately.

**Jesus heals many people**

Matthew 4:23-25 & Luke 4:40-41

**32 And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. 33 And all the city was gathered together at the door. 34 And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.**

**He healed many that were sick of divers diseases:** He did this because there will be no sickness in the kingdom, and because a requirement to be a priest was that the individuals could not have any infirmities of the flesh. Leviticus 21:17-23.

**And cast out many devils:** This was a sign to Israel that he was able to bind the devil in the kingdom. Revelation 20:2. The Jews require a sign. 1st Corinthians 1:22.

**Jesus prays**

**35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.** *Isaiah 50:4.*

**36 And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. 37 And when they had found him, they said unto him,**

**All men seek for thee.**

**38 And he said unto them,**

**Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth.**

**All men seek for thee:** This was because of the healings that they had received of him.

**Therefore came I forth:** Jesus came to preach the gospel of the kingdom to save the lost sheep of the house of Israel so that they may enter into their eternal kingdom. Matthew 10:5-8 & 15:24.

**39 And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.**

**Jesus heals a leper**

Matthew 8:1-4 & Luke 5:12-15

**40 And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him,**

**If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.**

**A leper:** They were considered to be unclean according to the law. Leviticus 13:45. They were put out of the camp of Israel and unable to offer sacrifices for themselves. Leviticus 14.

**Thou canst make me clean:** Only God could cure someone of leprosy. 2nd Kings 5:1-14. This meant that a person was ritually clean and could offer sacrifices. Leviticus 10:10.

**41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him,**

**I will; be thou clean.**

**42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. 43 And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; 44 And saith unto him,**

**See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.**

**Put forth his hand, and touched him:** Jesus touched a leper, but it was only when he spoke the words “be thou clean,” that he was cleansed of his leprosy.

 In Leviticus 5:3 a person could not touch a leper, or they too would become unclean. Jesus was no ordinary person. He became sin for us who knew no sin. 2nd Corinthians 5:21.

**Shew thyself to the priest:** They would declare if a leper were clean or not. Leviticus 14:1-3.

**Offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded:** Israel was still under the Law when Jesus came to Israel. Leviticus 14:4-32 & Luke 17:11-20.

***Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of time come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law.***

**For a testimony unto them:** The healed lepers that followed Jesus’ words were for a testimony unto the priests that Jesus was the Messiah, and that he followed the law.

**45 But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.**

**To blaze abroad:** To Proclaim. It did not matter to this former leper that Jesus charged him to say nothing to any man, because he went right out and did the exact opposite. He chose to do his own thing without God, just like Israel had done.

**Chapter Two**

**Jesus heals a man of the palsy**

Matthew 9:1-8 & Luke 5:17-26

**1 And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house.**

**Capernaum:** This was the city were Jesus’ spent most of his time in the Galilee region that is on the northern tip of the Sea of Galilee.

**2 And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. 3 And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four.**

**The palsy:** This is a disease that paralyzes its victims.

**4 And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy,**

**Son, thy sins be forgiven thee.**

**Thy sins be forgiven thee:** This is something that only God could say and do. This very statement made by Jesus attested to his deity. 1st Kings 8:34-36 & 2nd Chronicles 7:14.

**6 But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts,**

**7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?**

**The scribes:** They were responsible for copying scriptures.

 Since they just heard Jesus say this man’s sins were forgiven, Jesus would prove that he could forgive sins by showing these Scribes a miracle.

**8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them,**

**Why reason ye these things in your hearts?**

**Jesus perceived in his spirit:** Because Jesus was God, he knew what people were thinking. Matthew 16:8.

**9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk?**

**Whether is it easier to say:** This is an old way of saying, “Which is easier to say.”

 While neither saying was hard to pronounce, saying his sins were forgiven would be met with great opposition because it was considered blasphemy, because only God could forgive sins.

**10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins,**

**(he saith to the sick of the palsy,)**

**11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house.**

**12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying,**

**We never saw it on this fashion.**

**That ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins:**Jesus said, “Thy sins be forgiven thee,” so they would know he was no ordinary man.

 The Son of man is a messianic title of Jesus. Ezekiel mentions this title 93 times. Luke’s gospel mentions it the most as his focus was on Jesus’ humanity. Daniel 7:13, John 12:34 & Acts 7:56.

 The power to remit sins would later be given to the twelve in John 20:23 as part of the kingdom church. That power ceased when the dispensation of grace was ushered in.

**The calling of Levi**

Matthew 9:9-13 & Luke 5:27-32

**13 And he went forth again by the sea side; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them. 14 And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him,**

**Follow me.**

**And he arose and followed him.**

**Levi:** This is Matthew who wrote the book of Matthew.

**Sitting at the receipt of custom:** This meant that he was a publican, otherwise known as a tax collector.

**15 And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. 16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples,**

**How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners?**

**17 When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them,**

**They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

 The publicans and sinners knew they were not right with God, but the Pharisees thought that they were righteous.

**Fasting question**

Matthew 9:14-17 & Luke 5:33-39

**18 And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him,**

**Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?**

**Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast:** This was asked by one of John’s disciples. Matthew 9:14.

**19 And Jesus said unto them,**

**Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. 20 But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days.**

**The children of the bridechamber:** They were Jesus’ disciples.

**The bridegroom:** This is Jesus.

**The days will come:** Jesus tells his disciples (the children of the bridechamber) of his ascension into heaven which will cause them to fast in those days.

**21 No man also seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment: else the new piece that filled it up taketh away from the old, and the rent is made worse.**

**No man seweth a piece of new cloth on an old garment:** John, and the Pharisees were operating (in an old way) as if the bridegroom wasn’t there with them.

 Jesus’ disciples (the children of the bridechamber) were acting correctly (in a new way) because the bridegroom was with them. John 3:29.

**22 And no man putteth new wine into old bottles: else the new wine doth burst the bottles, and the wine is spilled, and the bottles will be marred: but new wine must be put into new bottles.**

**Old bottles:** The Pharisees are the old bottles.

**New wine must be put into new bottles:** The new wine represents the new teachings concerning the kingdom like not fasting while the bridegroom was with them.

 The new bottles represented new Jews hearing, and receiving the gospel of the kingdom. Jeremiah 13:13-14.

**Plucking ears of corn**

Matthew 12:1-8 & Luke 6:1-5

**23 And it came to pass, that he went through the corn fields on the sabbath day; and his disciples began, as they went, to pluck the ears of corn. 24 And the Pharisees said unto him,**

**Behold, why do they on the sabbath day that which is not lawful?**

**25 And he said unto them,**

**Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him? 26 How he went into the house of God in the days of Abiathar the high priest, and did eat the shewbread, which is not lawful to eat but for the priests, and gave also to them which were with him?** *1st Samuel 21:4.*

 David was Israel’s rightful king, and those that followed him were his righteous servants, just like Jesus is the future King of the Jews, and his disciples are going to serve as priests in the coming kingdom.

 The Pharisees will not become priests as promised to the children of Israel in the law of Moses because they did not know the scriptures and exalted the teaching of the elders over the commandments of God.

**27 And he said unto them,**

**The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: 28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.** *Matthew 12:8.*

 The Pharisees continually kept adding to the word of God with their traditions and made many of them void. The sabbath is a picture of the future kingdom where God will dwell with his creation. He is Immanuel, God with us.

**Chapter Three**

**Jesus heals on the sabbath**

Matthew 12:9-14 & Luke 6:6-11

**1 And he entered again into the synagogue; and there was a man there which had a withered hand. 2 And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the sabbath day; that they might accuse him. 3 And he saith unto the man which had the withered hand,**

**Stand forth.**

**4 And he saith unto them,**

**Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?**

**But they held their peace. 5 And when he had looked round about on them with anger, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts, he saith unto the man,**

**Stretch forth thine hand.**

**And he stretched it out: and his hand was restored whole as the other. 6 And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.**

**Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days:** The sabbath day represented their future kingdom rest.

 These Pharisees wanted to condemn Jesus so much that they wanted to see if he would dare heal someone on the sabbath day so they could report him.

 They should have reported “He is the Messiah, he healed someone today.” They were blinded by the hardness of their hearts.

**The Herodians:** A political party loyal to Herod.

 The Pharisees yoked up with the Herodians to fight a common enemy that threatened their existence, the followers of Jesus. Mark 12:13.

**7 But Jesus withdrew himself with his disciples to the sea: and a great multitude from Galilee followed him, and from Judaea, 8 And from Jerusalem, and from Idumaea, and from beyond Jordan; and they about Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they had heard what great things he did, came unto him. 9 And he spake to his disciples, that a small ship should wait on him because of the multitude, lest they should throng him. 10 For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues. 11 And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying,**

**Thou art the Son of God.**

**12 And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.**

**The Son of God:** Is the second person of the Godhead/Trinity. Colossians 2:9 & 1st John 5:7.

**They should not make him known:** Jesus charged the unclean spirits not to make him known as the Son of God, because people would not believe unclean spirits.

 His signs, and his preaching were supposed to do that, but sadly, many did not believe it either.

**Jesus calls the twelve**

Matthew 10:1-4 & Luke 6:12-16

**13 And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.**

**He goeth up into a mountain:** Mountains in the bible are often used to describe kingdoms when speaking prophetically. Daniel 2:45.

 In the future kingdom spoken of by Daniel these twelve would be its future supreme court sitting as judges. See Matthew 19:28.

**14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,**

**He ordained twelve:** There will be twelve apostles who will sit on twelve thrones in that kingdom judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 19:28.

 This meant that they would replace all the Pharisees, and Sadducees, as well as the Herodians as Israel’s future leaders in the soon coming kingdom.

**He surnamed**

Isaiah 45:4

**15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: 16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;**

**He surnamed Peter:** This is Petros in the Greek, meaning a stone.

**17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:**

**He surnamed them Boanerges:** This meant the sons of thunder. It was probably a prophetic title related to their boldness in preaching. They both would thunder words from heaven with their voices. 2nd Samuel 22:14.

**18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,**

**Simon the Canaanite:** The Canaanites were disinherited from the land because of their sexual immorality. He is also called Simon the Zelotes (the Zealot) in Luke 6:15 & Acts 1:13.

 He was a Jew who had lived in what remained of the area known as Canaan, along the northern border of Israel. All the apostles were Jews.

**19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.**

**Judas Iscariot:** He was surnamed Iscariot. Luke 22:3. Kerioth was the name of his hometown mentioned in Joshua 15:25, which is a city of Judah near the border of Edom and Moab.

 This surname was necessary because there were many Jews with the name of Judas (Judah) in Israel. The two letters “Is” in front of cariot mean “the man of.” So, Judas Iscariot meant, Judas, the man of Karioth.

**Blaspheme against the Holy Ghost**

Matthew 12:22-32 & Luke 11:14-26

**20 And the multitude cometh together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. 21 And when his friends heard of it, they went out to lay hold on him: for they said,**

**He is beside himself.**

**His friends:** This is the only time we hear about Jesus’ friends. They were fair weather friends at best. They are not heard from again as they quickly became ashamed of Jesus and his words once he began his ministry.

**22 And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said,**

**He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.**

**23 And he called them unto him, and said unto them in parables,**

**How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 And if a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.**

**Beelzebub:**The lord of the flies, another title of Satan.

**If a house be divided:** The house of Israel was Satan’s house because they had given themselves over to him by allowing Rome and the Herodians to be joined up with the Pharisees to fight against God’s own Son.

**26 And if Satan rise up against himself, and be divided, he cannot stand, but hath an end. 27 No man can enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he will first bind the strong man; And then he will spoil his house.**

**He will first bind the strong man:** Satan is the strong man, and this earth, and specifically Israel was his home as the god of this world.

 Satan’s unclean spirits had taken up residence in many people because they had turned their back on the covenant they made with God at Sinai.

 Jesus came to reclaim them from the snare of the devil. He would bind them and cast them out. Satan will first be bound and then cast into the pit during the millennial kingdom. Jeremiah 31:10-12 & Revelation 20:2.

**28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: 29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:**

**30 Because they said,**

**He hath an unclean spirit.**

**Blaspheme against the Holy Ghost:**They were claiming that Jesus was doing his miracles by the power of the devil.

***Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.***

**Jesus’ brethren and his mother**

Matthew 12:46-50 & Luke 8:19-21

**31 There came then his brethren and his mother, and, standing without, sent unto him, calling him. 32 And the multitude sat about him, and they said unto him,**

**Behold, thy mother and thy brethren without seek for thee.**

**33 And he answered them, saying,**

**Who is my mother, or my brethren?**

**34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said,**

**Behold my mother and my brethren! 35 For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.**

**Who is my mother, or my brethren:** Jesus’ family did not travel with him at this point. When they showed up Jesus used the occasion to teach that fellow believers are much closer to them than their own family members are.

 Two of his brothers, James, and Juda, did eventually believe Jesus was the Messiah, but only after his resurrection.

**Chapter Four**

**Jesus teaches by parables**

 Matthew 13:1-53 & Luke 8:1-18

**1 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. 2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,**

**3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: 4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. 5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: 6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. 8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.**

**9 And he said unto them,**

**He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

**He that hath ears to hear, let him hear:** Those who believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God would understand his parables, but to the rest they just seemed like good instructions for farming.

**Mysteries of the kingdom of God**

Matthew 13:11 & Luke 8:10

**10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable. 11 And he said unto them,**

**Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: 12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.** *Isaiah 6:10.*

**Parable:** Parables were meant to conceal the mysteries of the kingdom from those that did not believe.

**Unto you it is given:** Jesus would then expound on these teachings to the remnant of believers that made up the little flock. Luke 12:32.

**The parable of the sower explained**

Matthew 13:18-23 & Luke 8:11-15

**The way side**

Matthew 13:19 & Luke 8:12

**13 And he said unto them,**

**Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables? 14 The sower soweth the word. 15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.**

**The sower soweth the word:** It is implied that the word is represented as seed that is being sown which is not mentioned by Mark. Matthew 13:20 tells us that the sower is sowing seed.

**The way side:** They have the word taken from them immediately by Satan.

**Stony ground**

Matthew 13:20-21 & Luke 8:13

**16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.**

**The stony ground:** The word does not take root because they compromise as persecution comes.

**Endure but for a time:** Under the gospel of the kingdom preaching (the word that was sown) the hearers had to endure unto the end. Matthew 24:14.

 Those that only endured but for a time, could not enter the kingdom because their fruit did not remain. That is not true for a believer today. We do not endure unto the end in this present dispensation of grace.

**Among thorns**

Matthew 13:22 & Luke 8:14

**18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.**

**Among thorns:** The thorns are the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts. These listeners had to produce fruits, or they would not enter into their kingdom. This is not written to us today.

**Good ground**

Matthew 13:23 & Luke 8:15

**20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**

**Good ground:** The good ground was those that believed that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God who would produce fruit that remained. They would enter into their kingdom.

**A candle**

Luke 8:16-18

**21 And he said unto them,**

**Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? 22 For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. 23 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.**

**A candle:** Israel failed for the most part in being a light even to their own people while Christ was on the earth, and even after his resurrection.

**If any man have ears to hear:** The things that were previously hid concerning the kingdom (the mysteries) were being made manifest to the little flock of believers because they had ears to hear.

**Take heed what ye hear**

Matthew 13:12-17 & Luke 8:18

**24 And he said unto them,**

**Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. 25 For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.**

**Take heed what ye hear:** The Pharisees and Sadducees had so much knowledge, but they did not have the spiritual understanding to see what was right in front of them, so God took away that which they had.

**The kingdom of God**

**26 And he said,**

**So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.**

**When the fruit is brought forth:**The 144,000 are the firstfruits in Revelation 14:14.

***Revelation 14:14 And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.***

**A grain of mustard seed**

Matthew 13:31-32 & Luke 13:18-19

**30 And he said,**

**Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: 32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.**

 We spiritualize these teachings today and try to make Israel’s kingdom into the Church. It is not.

**A grain of mustard seed:** The kingdom is the literal physical visible kingdom that will come after the tribulation period is over, when Christ will reign on earth for a thousand years.

 Christ planted the seeds for the future kingdom in the nation of Israel, who was less than all the nations that be in the earth, with the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom.

 The kingdom saints began to grow, first with the twelve and then with the little flock. Luke 12:32. Deuteronomy 7:6-8.

**Luke 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

Then the one who planted the seed will come back and gather his crop (believing Israel) into the garner (a barn) which represents the kingdom.

 The kingdom will be unlike any other kingdom that has ever existed, as it will dwarf all others, and it will never end.

**33 And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. 34 But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.**

 There came a point in Jesus’ ministry where he spoke only in parables in public once the religious had heard and seen enough truth and rejected it. He was taking away what they had and giving it to those with hearts to understand.

**A great storm**

Matthew 8:23-27 & Luke 8:22-25

**35 And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them,**

**Let us pass over unto the other side.**

**36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. 37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. 38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him,**

**Master, carest thou not that we perish?**

**39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea,**

**Peace, be still.**

**And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 40 And he said unto them,**

**Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?**

**41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another,**

**What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?**

 They naturally feared for their lives, but the giver and sustainer of life was in the boat with them, their faith should have calmed them.

**There arose a great storm:** Jesus knew the storm was going to come and yet he was resting in what he was sent to do, and he would not be stopped by a temporary storm.

 He would use the storm to paint a picture for the saints that will go through a great storm in the great tribulation period.

**Carest thou not that we perish:** Jesus cared, and none of them perished.

 During the great tribulation period when it seems like God will have forgotten the little flock, he will appear and destroy his enemies and set up his kingdom and they will have their kingdom of rest.

**Chapter Five**

**The legion of devils**

Matthew 8:28-34 & Luke 8:26-39

**1 And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes.**

**The country of the Gadarenes:** It was on the northeast corner of the sea of Galilee. The city of Gadara is there where the man with a legion of devils was from.

**2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: 4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. 5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones.**

**An unclean spirit:** A devil.

**No man could bind him:** Others had tried to bind him in the past, but they could not. Jesus could not only bind him, but he could also cast him out.

 Satan will be bound by Jesus with a chain of darkness in the pit, during the millennial kingdom. Revelation 20:1-3.

**6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, 7 And cried with a loud voice, and said,**

**What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.**

**8 For he said unto him,**

**Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.**

**Jesus, thou Son of the most high God:**The spirit knew who Jesus was, even the twelve apostles were unsure at this point who Jesus was exactly.

**Torment me not:** It was the man who initially cried out to Jesus that he not torment him, and in the next verses we noticed it was the devils speaking through him.

**9 And he asked him,**

**What is thy name?**

**And he answered, saying,**

**My name is Legion: for we are many.**

**10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country.**

**Legion:** Many (2,000). Verse 13 below. A Roman legion was anywhere from 1,000 to 6,000 men, so there could have been one to three devils in each swine.

**He besought him much:** He begged him repeatedly. Devils are territorial, and they were to stay where they were placed by Satan.

 We read of spirits referred to as “princes” i.e., the "prince of Persia" in Daniel 10:20 and they were placed over an area to bring it under subjection to the devil.

**11 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. 12 And all the devils besought him, saying,**

**Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them.**

**13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand;) and were choked in the sea. 14 And they that fed the swine fled, and told it in the city, and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that was done. 15 And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. 16 And they that saw it told them how it befell to him that was possessed with the devil, and also concerning the swine. 17 And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts.**

**The devil:** Notice that in the text the man is possessed with "the devil" (singular), but it also says that he has a legion of devils inside him.

**They began to pray him to depart out of their coasts:** The people should have begged him to stay, but they did not.

**18 And when he was come into the ship, he that had been possessed with the devil prayed him that he might be with him. 19 Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him,**

**Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.**

**20 And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.**

**Go home to thy friends and tell them:** This man was far from the will of God. Imagine what he must have had to have done to have attracted a legion of devils into him.

 He was to tell them how good God had been unto him. He was to tell them the good news of the kingdom.

 The devils would not have entered into a God-fearing Jew, but they would have gladly entered into one who had stooped so low, and far from the Law as to be one who hung out with pig farming Gentiles.

 Pigs were unclean, and they made this Jewish person unclean according to the law, thus opening the door at that time for devils to enter him.

***Leviticus 11:7 And the swine, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud; he is unclean to you.***

**Decapolis:** Ten Roman cities in a league, of which Gadara was one of them. They were made up primarily of Gentiles.

 Damascus, and Amman belonged to this league, and Beitshean was its only city on the west side of the Jordan River.

**Jairus’ daughter and a woman healed**

Matthew 9:18 & Luke 8:40-56

**21 And when Jesus was passed over again by ship unto the other side, much people gathered unto him: and he was nigh unto the sea. 22 And, behold, there cometh one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jairus by name; and when he saw him, he fell at his feet, 23 And besought him greatly, saying,**

**My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live.**

**24 And Jesus went with him; and much people followed him, and thronged him. 25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years, 26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse, 27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment. 28 For she said,**

**If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.**

**29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague. 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned him about in the press, and said,**

**Who touched my clothes?**

**31 And his disciples said unto him,**

**Thou seest the multitude thronging thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?**

**32 And he looked round about to see her that had done this thing. 33 But the woman fearing and trembling, knowing what was done in her, came and fell down before him, and told him all the truth. 34 And he said unto her,**

**Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.**

 This woman, and Jairus' daughter both represent Israel as you see the number twelve associated with each one of them.

**Twelve years:** The woman had an issue of blood twelve years and did everything she could to get relief for herself including spending all that she had, and she only got worse.

 Israel was trying to please God with their own works, and they could not, and things only got worse for Israel.

 This woman who represents the believing Israel did eventually abandon her faith in her doctors, and place her faith in the Great Physician, and her faith got her the healing she wanted.

**35 While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said,**

**Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?**

**36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue,**

**Be not afraid, only believe.**

**37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save Peter, and James, and John the brother of James. 38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly. 39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them,**

**Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.**

**Ado:** Fuss.

**40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying. 41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her,**

**Talitha cumi;**

**which is, being interpreted,**

**Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.**

**42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment. 43 And he charged them straitly that no man should know it; and commanded that something should be given her to eat.**

**She was of the age of twelve years:** Again, we see the number twelve in story about the daughter of a Rabbi who was sick and died, but Jesus told her father to believe, and he resurrected her.

 He will resurrect all the believing Jews from the twelve tribes of Israel, so they will rule with him in the kingdom as priests.

 Obviously, this twelve-year-old girl was not the one that possessed the faith that Jesus could raise her; it was her father.

 Those in the tribulation period will have to have placed their faith in Christ and followed him during that time in order to be resurrected into their kingdom.

***John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, thou he were dead, yet shall he live.***

**And he charged them straitly that no man should know it:** The religious would want to kill her as they eventually wanted to kill Lazarus, whom Christ rose from the dead. John 12:10.

**Chapter Six**

**The unbelief in Nazareth**

Matthew 13:53-58

**1 And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.**

**His own country:** Nazareth.

**2 And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying,**

**From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? 3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us?**

**And they were offended at him.**

**The son of Mary:** This title does not mean that Joseph has died already because Matthew’s gospel calls Jesus “the carpenter’s son” as if the carpenter were still alive at that time. Matthew 13:55.

**The brother of:** Jesus had four half-brothers, and at least two half-sisters. There is no evidence to prove that they were Joseph’s children from a previous marriage.

 This is why many say that Joseph was much older than Mary, so as to conform to their church’s teaching that Mary had only one child, and that she remained a virgin unto her death.

**James:** He would eventually become the Pastor of the Jerusalem church. Acts 15:13-21. He was not a believer until after Jesus rose from the dead. John 7:5.

**Juda:** This is Jude, the author of the book of Jude.

**4 But Jesus said unto them,**

**A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.**

**5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. 6 And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.**

**In his own country:**Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but he spent 27 years in Nazareth before using Capernaum as his adopted hometown near the Sea of Galilee.

 Some in the north who knew him growing up had a hard time believing that he was the Messiah. So, he did more teaching than healing in that area because of their lack of faith in him.

**In his own house:** His own half-brothers and half-sisters did not believe he was the Messiah at that time.

 The word “faith” is found only two times in the whole Old Testament, and one of them is not all that positive towards Israel.

***Deuteronomy 32:20 And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.***

 The word faith however is found 229 times in the New Testament, and it is found 150 times in the book of Acts from chapter nine through twenty-eight, and the Pauline epistles. It is in all thirteen of Paul’s epistles.

**Sending the twelve two by two**

Matthew 10:1-15 & 9:1-6

**7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;**

**The twelve:** The twelve apostles.

**And gave them power over unclean spirits:** No other believers had this power, only the twelve.

**8 And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse: 9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.**

**Take nothing for their journey:** There is no Mission agency operating under this commission today, because they cannot! It does not work today.

 With the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom they were to sell all that they had and to have all things common which is what those that were following Jesus’ daily were doing. This is easily seen in the early part of the book of Acts.

**10 And he said unto them,**

**In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. 11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.**

**Shake off the dust under your feet:** This is the same as the custom of washing of one’s hands declaring you were free of any guilt regarding a person you have warned.

 Many of these commands during this early commission will be rescinded when Jesus gives the apostles a newer commission just before his crucifixion. Luke 22:35-36.

 The “great commission” would have even more changes associated with it after his resurrection.

**12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent. 13 And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.***John 9:6.*

**They went out:** They did not ask them to come to their large buildings to be healed. These gifts are not for today’s present dispensation which began after Israel’s rejection of her kingdom.

**Anointed with oil:** Anointing someone was to sanctify them for a purpose. A king or a priest was sanctified before they would begin their service.

 The oil itself had no healing powers, but it was a part of Israel’s program. James 5:13-14 lines up perfectly with this verse.

 James is written to the twelve tribes scattered abroad, not to the body of Christ. James 1:1. Paul never anointed anyone with oil in his epistles, Romans through Philemon.

 The word oil is never even mentioned in his epistles, and the word anointed is used only once, and it is in reference to God giving us the holy Spirit at the moment we are saved.

***2nd Corinthians 1:21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.***

**John is beheaded**

Matthew 14:1-12 & Luke 9:7-9

**14 And king Herod heard of him; (for his name was spread abroad:) and he said,**

**That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do shew forth themselves in him.**

**15 Others said,**

**That it is Elias.**

**And others said,**

**That it is a prophet, or as one of the prophets.**

**16 But when Herod heard thereof, he said,**

**It is John, whom I beheaded: he is risen from the dead.**

**17 For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. 18 For John had said unto Herod,**

**It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.**

**19 Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him; but she could not: 20 For Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. 21 And when a convenient day was come, that Herod on his birthday made a supper to his lords, high captains, and chief estates of Galilee; 22 And when the daughter of the said Herodias came in, and danced, and pleased Herod and them that sat with him, the king said unto the damsel,**

**Ask of me whatsoever thou wilt, and I will give it thee.**

**23 And he sware unto her,**

**Whatsoever thou shalt ask of me, I will give it thee, unto the half of my kingdom.**

**24 And she went forth, and said unto her mother,**

**What shall I ask?**

**And she said,**

**The head of John the Baptist.**

**25 And she came in straightway with haste unto the king, and asked, saying,**

**I will that thou give me by and by in a charger the head of John the Baptist.**

**26 And the king was exceeding sorry; yet for his oath's sake, and for their sakes which sat with him, he would not reject her. 27 And immediately the king sent an executioner, and commanded his head to be brought: and he went and beheaded him in the prison, 28 And brought his head in a charger, and gave it to the damsel: and the damsel gave it to her mother. 29 And when his disciples heard of it, they came and took up his corpse, and laid it in a tomb.**

**A just man:** John is one of three men called just in the scriptures, the others are Jesus, and Joseph his adopted father. John died by the hands of those that hated God’s word as will Elijah in the tribulation period.

 Elijah will be raised from the dead at that time and John will also be raised when all of Israel is raised at the onset of the kingdom that he preached.

**The apostles return**

Luke 9:10-11

**30 And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught. 31 And he said unto them,**

**Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while:**

**for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat. 32 And they departed into a desert place by ship privately.**

**Feeding the 5,000**

Matthew 14:13-21, Luke 9:12-17 & John 6:1-15

**33 And the people saw them departing, and many knew him, and ran afoot thither out of all cities, and outwent them, and came together unto him. 34 And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.**

**Afoot thither:** On foot towards.

**They were as sheep not having a shepherd:** Their rabbi’s and Pharisees were not the shepherd’s the people needed as they taught the traditions of the elders, and not the commandments of God.

**35 And when the day was now far spent, his disciples came unto him, and said,**

**This is a desert place, and now the time is far passed: 36 Send them away, that they may go into the country round about, and into the villages, and buy themselves bread: for they have nothing to eat.**

**37 He answered and said unto them,**

**Give ye them to eat.**

**And they say unto him,**

**Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?**

**38 He saith unto them,**

**How many loaves have ye? go and see.**

**And when they knew, they say,**

**Five, and two fishes.**

**39 And he commanded them to make all sit down by companies upon the green grass. 40 And they sat down in ranks, by hundreds, and by fifties. 41 And when he had taken the five loaves and the two fishes, he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and brake the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before them; and the two fishes divided he among them all. 42 And they did all eat, and were filled. 43 And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes. 44 And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men.**

**By hundreds, and by fifties:** The numbers “hundreds and fifties” are only mentioned together four times in the bible, and three of them were while they were in the wilderness with Moses in Exodus 18:21-25, and Deuteronomy 1:15.

 They are symbolic of governmental structure in Israel then, and in their future kingdom. This place is referred to as a desert place in verse 32. If one could chase a thousand, then one loaf would be able to feed 1,000. Joshua 23:10

 Five loaves would be able to feed five thousand men. Even in a deserted place God could take care of them. Jesus is the bread which came down from heaven in the wilderness (the Manna), he fed these in as miraculous a fashion as those in the wilderness.

 They did not have to wake up and go collect this bread, the apostles just served them this bread that miraculously appeared after Jesus had prayed.

 Each apostle carried back one basket full of bread after Jesus had fed the multitude. One for each tribe. They will eventually sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Matthew 19:28.

**And they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments, and of the fishes:** This is a message for those that will go through the tribulation period that God will also provide food for them when they flee into the wilderness for its last three and a half years.

**Jesus walks on water**

Matthew 14:22-33 & John 6:16-21

**45 And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.**

**Bethsaida:** The name means the house of fishing. It is located in the northeast corner of the sea of Galilee. The hometown of Peter, Andrew, James, and John.

**46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.**

 He first sent them away, and then he departed to pray for them in his absence, as he will be doing during the tribulation period.

 They were sent to the house of fishing. Jesus said earlier that from hence forth they shall catch men.

 Many Jews will respond to the preaching of the gospel of the kingdom during the tribulation period because of the terrible times they will be facing.

**47 And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land.**

**When the even was come:** The tribulation period is called the night.

**48 And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.**

**The fourth watch of the night:**Between 3 and 6 AM. It is always darkest just before dawn. The night was divided up into four watches. Luke 12:38.

 The best fishing is in the night when the fish come up to the warmer water near the top so nets can catch them.

**And would have passed by them:** He was walking faster than the boat was moving.

**49 But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: 50 For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them,**

**Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.**

**They supposed it had been a spirit:** Angels, both good and bad, are called spirits. Even when the eleven saw Christ after his resurrection they thought they saw a spirit and were afraid. Luke 24:36-37.

**51 And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. 52 For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened.**

 Their hearts were hardened, and yet they had seen so much. Faith does not come by seeing miracles, it comes by hearing the word of God.

 The Jew required a sign, and God was giving them more signs than they could handle, but they had become common place to them now and it hardened their hearts to them.

**The land of Gennesaret**

Matthew 14:34-36

**53 And when they had passed over, they came into the land of Gennesaret, and drew to the shore. 54 And when they were come out of the ship, straightway they knew him, 55 And ran through that whole region round about, and began to carry about in beds those that were sick, where they heard he was. 56 And whithersoever he entered, into villages, or cities, or country, they laid the sick in the streets, and besought him that they might touch if it were but the border of his garment: and as many as touched him were made whole.**

***Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.***

 The Hebrew word for wings means “the extremities, or borders” which would also cover the extremities of his garments.

 Remember the woman with the issue of blood who said she would be healed if she could just touch his garment? The word had spread apparently.

**Chapter Seven**

**Pharisees and scribes question Jesus**

Matthew 15:1-20

**1 Then came together unto him the Pharisees, and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. 2 And when they saw some of his disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen, hands, they found fault. 3 For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be, which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups, and pots, brasen vessels, and of tables. 5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked him,**

**Why walk not thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands?**

**6 He answered and said unto them,**

**Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. 7 Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.** *Isaiah 29:13.*

**8 For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.**

**9 And he said unto them,**

**Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.**

**The washing of pots and cups:** These were not the same divers washings mentioned in Hebrews 9:10, because they are the ones that are spoken of in the law of Moses.

 These are simply the traditions of the elders that were added to the word of God by religious zealots.

**10 For Moses said,**

**Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:** *Exodus 21:17.*

**11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. 12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; 13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.**

**14 And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them,**

**Hearken unto me every one of you, and understand: 15 There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him: but the things which come out of him, those are they that defile the man. 16 If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.**

 The wicked heart produces the words that come out of the mouth, and they are what defile a person, not eating bread with unwashed hands.

**If any man have ears to hear, let him hear:** This is now the third time Jesus uses this saying in the book of Mark to make something stick in the minds of his disciples that were present.

 Unbelievers would be told the opposite thing, that they had ears, but that they could not hear. Mark 8:18.

**17 And when he was entered into the house from the people, his disciples asked him concerning the parable. 18 And he saith unto them,**

**Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; 19 Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats?**

**20 And he said,**

**That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**

**Lasciviousness:** Lustful.

**The borders of Tyre and Sidon**

Matthew 15:21-28

**24 And from thence he arose, and went into the borders of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into an house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid. 25 For a certain woman, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet: 26 The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.**

**Tyre and Sidon:** Matthew 11:21.

**The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation**: The Greek woman was a Gentile. Phoenicia was a Roman province in Syria.

**27 But Jesus said unto her,**

**Let the children first be filled: for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs.**

**Let the children first be filled:** Jesus was saying to her let the Jews (the children) get the word of God first.

**The children’s bread:** God’s word is often called bread in the scriptures. It was not right to give the gospel of kingdom to the Gentiles first with its healings, and then to give it to the Jews afterwards who were promised it in the first place.

**Cast it unto the dogs:** Jesus was not saying the Gentile was no better than a dog. He was just speaking of the order that had to be followed. You would not feed the dogs first and then give your children the rest.

 The Jews had to be reached first with the gospel of the kingdom, and then when they had been won to the Lord, they were to take the good news of the kingdom out to the Gentiles.

**28 And she answered and said unto him,**

**Yes, Lord: yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs.**

**29 And he said unto her,**

**For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter.**

**30 And when she was come to her house, she found the devil gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.**

**Yet the dogs under the table eat of the children’s crumbs:** When she said the right thing concerning her acceptance of God's plan of Jesus going to heal the Jew first, then Jesus could heal her daughter because of her acknowledgement of what God was doing concerning the nation of Israel.

 She could have her child healed because she had humbled herself and recognized God's plan for the Jews to get the word first, and they would take it to the Gentiles. Leviticus 23:22.

**Jesus heals a deaf and dumb man**

Matthew 15:29-31

**31 And again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis.**

**The coasts of Decapolis:** They were located next to the southern tip of the sea of Galilee next to the mouth of the Jordan river. Near the parts of Dalmanutha.

**32 And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to put his hand upon him. 33 And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue;**

**And he spit:** Twice Jesus uses spit to heal someone. This time it is a deaf and dumb man, the next time he spits in the eyes of a man that was born blind and heals him.

**34 And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him,**

**Ephphatha,**

**that is,**

**Be opened.**

**35 And straightway his ears were opened, and the string of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain.**

**He sighed:** Probably because this man’s literal healing was symbolic of what Jesus wanted for all of Israel which they would have in their kingdom.

 He wanted them to be able to hear the gospel of the kingdom and be saved, and to preach that message to others but they could not as a nation because the message often fell on spiritually deaf ears.

**36 And he charged them that they should tell no man: but the more he charged them, so much the more a great deal they published it; 37 And were beyond measure astonished, saying,**

**He hath done all things well: he maketh both the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak.**

 Deafness, dumbness, and blindness prevented any one from becoming a priest in Israel's future kingdom. He removed that physical obstacle to becoming a priest. Leviticus 21:16-23.

**Chapter Eight**

**Jesus feeds 4,000**

Matthew 15:32-39

**1 In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them,**

**2 I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: 3 And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far.**

**4 And his disciples answered him,**

**From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness?**

**5 And he asked them,**

**How many loaves have ye?**

**And they said,**

**Seven.**

**6 And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people. 7 And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. 8 So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets. 9 And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.**

**Seven baskets:**Seven is the number of completion or perfection in the Bible. Seven days make one week, and then it starts all over again. This time Jesus feeds less people with more to start with than when he fed the five thousand.

 This is just conjecture here, but it could be symbolic, meaning that there will be less believers alive to take care of at the end of the tribulation period.

 That does not matter to Jesus however, as he can feed them all the way until the end of the seventh year of the tribulation period.

**The Pharisees seek a sign**

Matthew 16:1-4

**10 And straightway he entered into a ship with his disciples, and came into the parts of Dalmanutha. 11 And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him. 12 And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith,**

**Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.**

**The parts of Dalmanutha:** These parts were located on the south end of the Sea of Galilee. When Jesus departs to go to Bethsaida they have to go North to go to the opposite side. No major towns were there.

**There shall no sign be given to this generation:** Matthew 16:4 records the one exception which was the sign of the prophet Jonas.

**Jesus warns disciples about leaven**

Matthew 16:5-12

**13 And he left them, and entering into the ship again departed to the other side. 14 Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf.**

**One loaf:** Where were the remains of the seven baskets of bread they had from just feeding the 4,000? They forgot them, and they forgot the miracles, because miracles were now commonplace for them.

**15 And he charged them, saying,**

**Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod.**

**16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. 17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them,**

**Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? 18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember?**

**The leaven of the Pharisees, and the leaven of Herod:** The Herodians partnered with the Pharisees to come up with tricky ways to try to get Jesus to speak against Rome to have him put to death.

 Their leaven was their false doctrines. Leaven is viewed as a type of sin throughout the scriptures.

**19 When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up?**

**They say unto him,**

**Twelve.**

**20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up?**

**And they said,**

**Seven.**

**21 And he said unto them,**

**How is it that ye do not understand?**

 Jesus could have fed them all with the one loaf but notice how quickly they had gotten their mind off the miracle they had just seen. A miracle that they had seen twice by this time.

 Jesus wanted them to listen to his doctrine, not theirs. He wanted them to get all that they could ever need from him, and not rely on the nation to take care of them, nor its corrupt religious leaders.

 Jesus didn’t need anything from the apostles to do his miracles, he did however want them to listen to him and not the Pharisees. Their words were sinful.

 What does the number twelve represent in scripture? Israel. Israel could completely get everything they needed in the Messiah alone.

**Jesus spits on a blind man’s eyes**

**22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said,**

**I see men as trees, walking.**

**25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly. 26 And he sent him away to his house, saying,**

**Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.**

 Jesus spits on this man's eyes, and puts his hands on him, and he was not healed completely, because Jesus wanted to teach them something.

 Israel had eyes to see, but they did not see the truth right in front of them that Jesus was the Messiah. The blind man represented the nation of Israel, and he had a divine appointment with the Great Physician on that day.

 He, like Israel, is going to be healed completely the second time when they meet Jesus at his return as he sets up his kingdom, much like the story of Joseph and his eleven brothers. See Stephen’s comments on this in Acts 7:13.

 The same thing happened to Moses with the children, they did not recognize him as their deliverer the first time, because they did not have eyes to see.

 There was only a remnant in Israel of Jews who believed Jesus was the Christ the first time he came, and the rest were blinded. Romans 11:7 & 11:25. Just before Jesus comes back the second time many Jews will believe on him.

***Romans 11:26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.****Psalms 14:7.*

**Whom do men say that I am?**

Matthew 16:13-20

**27 And Jesus went out, and his disciples, into the towns of Caesarea Philippi: and by the way he asked his disciples, saying unto them,**

**Whom do men say that I am?**

**28 And they answered,**

**John the Baptist: but some say, Elias; and others, One of the prophets.**

**29 And he saith unto them,**

**But whom say ye that I am?**

**And Peter answereth and saith unto him,**

**Thou art the Christ.**

**30 And he charged them that they should tell no man of him.**

**Thou art the Christ:** Peter here confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God (Christ means the anointed one).

 In order to gain access into their kingdom, the generation that was alive while Jesus ministered had to have the same testimony as Peter did.

***John 8:24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.***

We today in order to gain access to heaven, need to believe our gospel given to us today by the apostle Paul in 1st Corinthians 15:1-4.

**Jesus foretells of his crucifixion**

Matthew 16:21-23 & Luke 9:18-20

**31 And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 And he spake that saying openly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. 33 But when he had turned about and looked on his disciples, he rebuked Peter, saying,**

**Get thee behind me, Satan: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but the things that be of men.**

**And he began to teach them:** If Jesus began to teach them about his death and resurrection at this time, then he wasn’t teaching it before.

**Take up his cross, and follow me**

Matthew 16:24-28 & Luke 9:23-27

**34 And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them,**

**Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. 35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. 36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? 37 Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.**

**Take up his cross, and follow me:** Peter's thinking that Christ would live forever did not line up with what scriptures said must happen to Christ, and so Christ rebuked Peter's inaccurate understanding of what must occur.

 Peter's thinking was selfish, and therefore from Satan. Peter began after Christ had risen from the dead to finally, and wholeheartedly, savor the things of God, as he had his way of thinking corrected by God himself.

**Chapter Nine**

**The transfiguration**

Matthew 17:1-13 & Luke 9:28-36

**1 And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.**

**Not taste of death, till:** They would eventually taste of death after they had seen the kingdom of God come with power, and that is what happened.

**2 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.**

**And after six days:** Verse three happened and fulfilled verse one. What about where it says in Luke 9:28 that it was about eight days? How do you reconcile 6 and 8 days?

 Is this an error in the bible? No! Read verse 2 above again. It says **“AFTER”** six days, not in six days, or on the sixth day. So that makes it seven days at least. Luke 9:28.

 It says **“ABOUT”** an eight days after. Not on the eighth day, or in eight days, but **“ABOUT”** an eight days after.

**3 And his raiment became shining, exceeding white as snow; so as no fuller on earth can white them.**

**Fuller:** Is a person who is a bleacher of clothing.

**4 And there appeared unto them Elias with Moses: and they were talking with Jesus.**

**There appeared unto them Elias with Moses:** Luke 9:31 also tells us that Elias (Elijah) and Moses spoke to Jesus about his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

**5 And Peter answered and said to Jesus,**

**Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.**

**6 For he wist not what to say; for they were sore afraid.**

**Let us make three tabernacles:** Tabernacles were what the children of Israel erected in the wilderness as temporary dwelling places (habitations) while they followed Moses. They were called booths in Leviticus 23:34-42.

 Peter did not know what to say because he and the others were afraid, but Moses and Elias wouldn’t need a tabernacle/booth erected, they were not staying around much longer.

**7 And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying,**

**This is my beloved Son: hear him.**

**8 And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves.**

**A cloud that overshadowed them:** A cloud is often seen when God speaks to Israel.

 They got to see a brief glimpse of the kingdom power when Moses and Elijah talked with Jesus about his decease, which he should accomplish at Jerusalem. Luke 9:30-31.

**This is my beloved Son:** Mark 12:6.

**9 And as they came down from the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead.**

**Tell no man what things they had seen:** Imagine the confusion if Israel had heard that Elijah had appeared, and they missed him.

 They were rightfully expecting his return. That is why Jesus told them not to mention this until after his resurrection.

 Not long after Jesus’ resurrection Peter told those who had obtained like precious faith with the eleven what they had seen:

***2nd Peter 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. 18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount. 19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:***

**A more sure word:** Peter is speaking about the infallible word of God.

**A light that shineth in a dark place:** Is speaking about the gospel of the kingdom being preached to others in the dark place of the tribulation period.

**The day dawn:** Is speaking about the day of rest in the kingdom.

**The day star arise in your hearts:** Is Christ the day star. Day star is one word in Greek, Phosphorus.

**10 And they kept that saying with themselves, questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean.**

 This is the first of two times that Jesus tells his disciples of his death and resurrection.

 They do not understand how it is possible for Messiah to die, because the Rabbis have taught them out of the law that Christ abideth forever. John 12:34.

**The rising from the dead:** Jesus was talking about just himself rising from among the dead. The rest of the dead stayed in the grave. Like with the story of Lazarus.

 All of Israel understood what the rising of the dead (when all the dead shall rise) was, but the rising from the dead was different. In the first instance all the dead are raised, some to torment, and some to eternal life.

**11 And they asked him, saying,**

**Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?**

**12 And he answered and told them,**

**Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.**

***Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, aquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not.***

**Be set at nought:** Luke 23:11 They despised him as nothing or no one. To be esteemed as nothing.

**13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.**

 Where was John when this was said? In prison, because of the king’s wife. Herodias, the wife of Herod.

**Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed:** Did Elijah (Elias) ever come? Yes, of course. He came the first time and Israel persecuted him. The king’s wife mainly, whose named was Jezebel.

***Luke 1:17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.***

John was not Elijah reincarnated, he came in the spirit and power of Elijah, and yet he did no miracle. He did, however, draw a large crowd because of his preaching. The words drew the people to him.

**As it is written of him:** There is nothing written about Elias that said he would be imprisoned and beheaded as John the Baptist was.

***Matthew 11:14 And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come. 15 He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.***

 Some keys to understanding verse 14 that you need to know who the ye is: The ye are the multitudes that he was asking them what they went out for to see in Matthew 11:7.

 What is the “it” that the “ye” need to receive? The it is the kingdom as mentioned in verse 12 of Matthew 11.

***Matthew 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.***

**Jesus heals a boy**

Matthew 17:14-21 & Luke 9:37-42

**14 And when he came to his disciples, he saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them. 15 And straightway all the people, when they beheld him, were greatly amazed, and running to him saluted him. 16 And he asked the scribes,**

**What question ye with them?**

**17 And one of the multitude answered and said,**

**Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; 18 And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not.**

**19 He answereth him, and saith,**

**O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me.**

**20 And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. 21 And he asked his father,**

**How long is it ago since this came unto him?**

**And he said,**

**Of a child. 22 And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.**

**23 Jesus said unto him,**

**If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.**

**24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears,**

**Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.**

**25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him,**

**Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.**

**26 And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said,**

**He is dead.**

**27 But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. 28 And when he was come into the house, his disciples asked him privately,**

**Why could not we cast him out?**

**29 And he said unto them,**

**This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting.**

**All things are possible to him that believeth:** We are not a future kingdom of priest that needs to be cleansed today. That was promised to Israel, not to the body of Christ.

 To see how things are different today, read the apostle Paul’s epistles to the body of Christ. Romans through Philemon.

**By prayer and fasting:** Jesus gave the twelve power to cast out devils, but the stronger the devil was, the stronger the spiritual weapons they would need to use to cast them out.

 Prayer and fasting were things Jesus often spent long times doing, he could easily cast the devil out of this man. Some of the twelve were known to fall asleep during prayer at times.

**Jesus foretells of his death**

Matthew 17:22-23 & Luke 9:43-45

**30 And they departed thence, and passed through Galilee; and he would not that any man should know it. 31 For he taught his disciples, and said unto them,**

**The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.**

**32 But they understood not that saying, and were afraid to ask him.**

**The Son of Man is delivered into the hands of men:**The chief priests and elders delivered Jesus unto Pilate. Matthew 27:1.

**But they understood not that saying:** It is not that the words that Jesus spake were not understandable, it was that they did not fit with their idea of what the Messiah would do. Luke adds, “and it was hid from them.”

 Many Rabbis through history had focused on the good things that the Messiah would do for Israel when he came, and that was popular, when they had just come out of Babylonian captivity and soon ruled over by the Romans.

 They all knew about the resurrection “of” the dead for all believing Israel, but they did not understand what the rising “from” the dead meant.

**Who should be the greatest**

Matthew 18:1-5 & Luke 9:46-48

**33 And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them,**

**What was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way?**

**34 But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. 35 And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them,**

**If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.**

**36 And he took a child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms, he said unto them,**

**37 Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.**

 There is coming a future judgment of the sheep and the goats. Those who have blessed one of the least of these my brethren (the Jews), will be blessed at that judgment, but those that have cursed them will be cursed.

***Matthew 25:40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:***

 Notice what happens to those who did not bless Jesus' brethren, they were cast into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

**Forbid him not**

Luke 9:49-50

**38 And John answered him, saying,**

**Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us.**

**39 But Jesus said,**

**Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. 40 For he that is not against us is on our part.**

**Forbid him not:** How could someone else do miracles that were not a part of the twelve? Weren't these gifts restricted to solely the twelve?

 No, not just them, the seventy could cast out devils and heal as well. The number seventy made up the number of ruling elders in Israel.

 The seventy were not sent as apostles, which mean sent ones. They still had that same power once their one-time mission was over as evidenced here. They will be part of Israel Sanhedrin in the kingdom one day.

 The Sanhedrin were Israel’s judges in those days, and were seventy in number, but none of them could cast out a devil. Jesus had the real Sanhedrin in the seventy he sent out only once.

***Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.***

**41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward. 42 And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.** *Matthew 18:6-9*

**A millstone:** A large circular stone with a hole in its center that was placed inside a much large mill also made of stone to crush wheat and barley to make flour.

 It weighed more than the average woman or man depending on the size of the mill. During the tribulation period, the world will be operating under a different set of rules.

 The dispensation of grace will be over, and God’s wrath will be on display. It will be a different administration (dispensation) at that time, and what happens today under the economy of grace will not be happening then.

 If someone blesses a child of Abraham, they will be blessed, but if they curse them, they will be cursed, just as it was when it was told to Abraham in Genesis 12.

 That promise is not in effect during this current dispensation because Israel is in unbelief today.

 After the rapture of the body of Christ happens, the seventieth week of Daniel begins, and Israel will once again be the focus of God's attention.

**43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 45 And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: 46 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. 47 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: 48 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.**

**If thy hand offend thee, cut it off:** Three times in this passage Jesus mentions the reality of the torment in a literal hell where the fire is eternal.

 We are not to cut off our hands or feet today, nor are we to pluck out our eyes to keep us from seeing sinful things in the dispensation of grace.

**Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched:** Many bible versions delete verses 44 and 46.

 Verse 48 says the same thing, but if God says it three times in five verses, it must be important to him. We should not delete verses from the Bible.

**49 For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt. 50 Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another.**

**Chapter Ten**

**The Pharisees tempt Jesus**

Matthew 19:1-12

**1 And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again. 2 And the Pharisees came to him, and asked him,**

**Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting him.**

**3 And he answered and said unto them,**

**What did Moses command you?**

**4 And they said,**

**Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement, and to put her away.**

**To put away his wife:** To divorce her.

**Tempting him:** The religious were trying to catch Jesus speaking contrary to the law of Moses so they could have him tried as a blasphemer. This was impossible because Jesus was the Law incarnate in human flesh. John 1:1.

**A bill of divorcement:** *Deuteronomy 24:1.*

**5 And Jesus answered and said unto them,**

**For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.**

**Precept:** Law.

**6 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. 7 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; 8 And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. 9 What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.**

**Put asunder:** Put away, or apart. To divorce.

**10 And in the house his disciples asked him again of the same matter. 11 And he saith unto them,**

**Whosoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. 12 And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.**

 Notice again Jesus elaborated to his disciples more on the subject, because they did not have any ulterior motives behind them, and just wanted to learn more about God’s word.

 Jesus too had an even more conservative stance than the law of Moses did because Jesus was telling them what God had intended from the beginning.

 God intended marriage would be forever, because of sin God allowed divorce in some circumstances. If you quote verse eleven or twelve as your only proof text, then you can get a wrong understanding of divorce and remarriage.

 In the verse preceding these two verses, some exceptions are mentioned for the innocent party getting remarried. Nowhere in the law was someone allowed to get a no-fault divorce.

 If a husband was faithful to his wife, loved her, provided for her, and didn't beat her, she couldn’t just divorce her husband and go find a new one. That would be considered adultery under the law.

**Young children brought to Jesus**

Matthew 19:13-15 & Luke 18:15-17

**13 And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and his disciples rebuked those that brought them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them,**

**Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.**

**16 And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.**

**For of such is the kingdom of God:**Childlike faith in Jesus as the Christ was what God required of Israel to receive the kingdom (to enter into it).

 Little children believe what they see and hear, while adults can be talked out of things if it does not fit in with what their community says.

**The rich young ruler**

Matthew 19:16-26 & Luke 18:18-30

**17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him,**

**Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?**

**What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life:** For us in the dispensation of grace we receive eternal life as a free gift from God, we don’t do anything. We simply believe the gospel for us today. 1st Corinthians 15:1-4.

***Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.***

**18 And Jesus said unto him,**

**Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. 19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.** *Exodus 20:12-17.*

**Though knowest the commandments:** Jesus didn’t tell this person that was born under the law that he could inherit eternal life by grace through faith.

 He does tell this man that he knows the commandments. Then he lists five “Do nots, and one Do” as his answer to the man’s question about how to obtain eternal life.

***Matthew 19:17 And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments:***

**20 And he answered and said unto him,**

**Master, all these have I observed from my youth.**

**21 Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him,**

**One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.**

**22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. 23 And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples,**

**How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!**

**24 And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answereth again, and saith unto them,**

**Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.**

**26 And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves,**

**Who then can be saved?**

**27 And Jesus looking upon them saith,**

**With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.**

**The kingdom of God:** The theme of entering into Israel's kingdom continues here and we see that a person who believes with childlike faith must also act upon that faith.

 Repeatedly Jesus tells his followers to sell all that they have and to come follow him. Remember this is not your mail. You do not have to sell all that you have to enter into Israel's kingdom today. You are not Israel!

 They were living in expectation that the kingdom that was at hand would soon arrive. It is on hold today while Israel is in unbelief and the dispensation of grace is in operation.

 The apostle’s doctrine mentioned in early Acts also required the selling of all that you had and laying the proceeds at the apostle’s feet for even distribution to those who had need. Acts 4:35-37 and the penalty for disobedience in Acts 5:1-11.

**We have left all**

Matthew 19:27-30

**28 Then Peter began to say unto him,**

**Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.**

**29 And Jesus answered and said,**

**Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, 30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life. 31 But many that are first shall be last; and the last first.**

**We have left all, and have followed thee:** This was a requirement set by Jesus for Israel only when the kingdom is at hand. This will be the same during the tribulation period just before Jesus sets up his kingdom. Verse 21 above.

**The world to come:** This is the long-awaited kingdom promised to Israel. We today in the church have a heavenly destiny.

Matthew 27:17-1Luke 18:31-34

**Jesus foretells of his death again**

**32 And they were in the way going up to Jerusalem; and Jesus went before them: and they were amazed; and as they followed, they were afraid. And he took again the twelve, and began to tell them what things should happen unto him, 33 Saying,**

**Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes; and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles: 34 And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.**

**The Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and unto the scribes:**Judas delivered Jesus unto them.

**They shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles:**The chief priests and scribes delivered Jesus to Rome, Pilate, and Herod.

 Mark's gospel does not include Peter's rebuke of Jesus here and Jesus' subsequent rebuke of Peter, but instead he writes about Jesus’ rejection by Israel's leaders and his crucifixion and resurrection.

 Jesus immediately begins to speak of himself in the third person, and calls himself the Son of man, and he tells them that Israel shall reject and kill the Son of man.

 Daniel 7:3 identifies the Son of man as the Christ who will come with the clouds of heaven to receive the kingdom from the Ancient of days.

**And they shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him:**Matthew 27: Mark 15: Luke 22: & John 19.

**And the third day he shall rise again:**Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 & John 20.

**James and John**

Matthew 20:20-28

**35 And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying,**

**Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.**

**36 And he said unto them,**

**What would ye that I should do for you?**

**37 They said unto him,**

**Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory.**

**38 But Jesus said unto them,**

**Ye know not what ye ask: can ye drink of the cup that I drink of? and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?**

**39 And they said unto him,**

**We can.**

**And Jesus said unto them,**

**Ye shall indeed drink of the cup that I drink of; and with the baptism that I am baptized withal shall ye be baptized:**

**The cup that I drink of:** The cup of Christ’s suffering. Matthew 26:39.

**The baptism that I am baptized with:** This was not a reference to his previous water baptism, because James and John were both baptized by John the Baptist as was Jesus.

 Romans 6:3 is another time the word baptism is used, relating to death, but it is with the body of Christ, not as it is here with Israel.

 He was referring to the baptism of persecution unto death. We read about James' death (his baptism) at the hands of king Herod in Acts 12:1.

**40 But to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not mine to give; but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared.**

**41 And when the ten heard it, they began to be much displeased with James and John. 42 But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them,**

**Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. 43 But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: 44 And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. 45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.**

**Blind Bartimaeus**

Matthew 20:29-34 & Luke 18:35-43

**46 And they came to Jericho: and as he went out of Jericho with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the highway side begging. 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say,**

**Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me.**

**Nazareth:** From the root word Nazar (Set apart). A city in the northern Galilee region.

**48 And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal,**

**Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.**

**49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him,**

**Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee.**

**50 And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. 51 And Jesus answered and said unto him,**

**What wilt thou that I should do unto thee?**

**The blind man said unto him,**

**Lord, that I might receive my sight.**

**52 And Jesus said unto him,**

**Go thy way; thy faith hath made thee whole.**

**And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way.**

**Thou Son of David:** This is the first time that title is used in Mark, it will be used by Christ in chapter twelve to teach that Christ is the Son of David. Mark 12:33-35.

**Thy faith hath made thee whole:** Bartimaeus had the faith that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of David, and he alone could give him back his sight.

 If the kingdom would have been established shortly after this, then Bartimaeus would have become a priest in that kingdom.

 He would still be serving unto this day, but Israel's religious rejected Jesus as the Son of David (the heir to the throne), and as their Christ.

 It does not matter how much faith you have today, that God is going to heal you. We are not under Israel’s kingdom program, which had as a part of it, healing for Jews to become clean to serve in their future kingdom as priests.

 We are not Israel; we are the body of Christ. God can heal today, but not because you name, and claim Israel’s promises. God is not doing for the body of Christ what he promised exclusively to the nation of Israel.

**Chapter Eleven**

**Hosanna in the highest**

Matthew 21:1-11, Luke 19:28-40 & John 12:12-19

**1 And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples, 2 And saith unto them,**

**Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him. 3 And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither.**

**Whereon never man sat:**Jesus could tame his creation. This is a sign of the kingdom when the lion will lay down with the lamb.

**4 And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him. 5 And certain of them that stood there said unto them,**

**What do ye, loosing the colt?**

**6 And they said unto them even as Jesus had commanded: and they let them go. 7 And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him. 8 And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. 9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying,**

**Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: 10 Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.**

***Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.***

 Israel was about to crucify the King of that prophesied kingdom and this was happening during the 69th week of Daniel.

 Israel only had to endure to the end of the 70th week of Daniel, so they could enter into their millennial kingdom, but they didn’t.

***Daniel 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. 25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself:***

 The Messiah's death for others was a part of Israel's prophecy program, and they should have been looking for it. They should have recognized him coming into Jerusalem that day fulfilling Daniel’s prophecy, but they didn't.

**11 And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve.**

**Jesus curses the fig tree**

Matthew 21:18-19

**12 And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry: 13 And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. 14 And Jesus answered and said unto it,**

**No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever.**

**And his disciples heard it.**

**A fig tree:** The fig tree is a type of Israel in the Bible. Israel was supposed to produce fruits of judgment and righteousness, but they were not.

 For three years Jesus had been coming seeking fruit from Israel, but he found none. Luke 13:1-9 & Jeremiah 24:1-10.

 Israel will be going through the tribulation period in which God will save a remnant of them who believe in Christ, and who flee into the wilderness.

 Adam and Eve made aprons by sewing fig leaves together to cover their nakedness. Genesis 3:7.

**The time of figs is not yet:** Some say the figs come first, but that is not what this verse says, besides Israelites are not really fig trees, but they are supposed to produce fruit.

 It was an object lesson concerning Israel being fruitless. Luke 13:6-9. The 144,000 are called the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb in Revelation 14:4.

 No fruit is being produced today by Israel and its leaders as most of them are in unbelief.

**Jesus went into the temple**

Matthew 21:12-17

**15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; 16 And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple.**Exodus 12:16. No manner of work shall be done.

**17 And he taught, saying unto them,**

**Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.** *Isaiah 56:7.*

**18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it, and sought how they might destroy him: for they feared him, because all the people was astonished at his doctrine.**

 In Exodus and Leviticus Moses writes to Israel about the procedure for them to have the remission of their sins.

 It involved a tabernacle made of animal skins that enclose the dwelling place of God. A type of God taking on human flesh and becoming our Saviour.

 Before the Lamb of God (Jesus) could enter the temple, the temple had to be cleansed. The high priest had to make himself ready by washing himself (Jesus washed himself at his baptism.

 He then had to be anointed for his priestly calling. The holy Spirit descended upon him at his baptism anointed him to be Israel's High Priest.

**The fig tree dried up**

Matthew 21:20-22

**19 And when even was come, he went out of the city. 20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.**

 Instead of people coming to the Jews for salvation, Israel would be dispersed, and salvation would no longer be of the Jews.

**22 And Jesus answering saith unto them,**

**Have faith in God. 23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. 24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**

**He shall have whatsoever he saith:** You are not the little flock (the Israel of God) who received the kingdom promises that were foretold in the prophets to be given to Israel.

 It would be given to the Israel of God. Galatians 6:16 That is not you, nor anyone that has been alive for the last 1900+ years.

 The Jewish believers whose fathers were promised all these things, got a little taste of these kingdom powers while they lived in those years after Jesus' three-year ministry.

 Unbelieving Israel did not receive these promises, because they rejected their Messiah.

 You cannot tell a mountain to be removed and to be cast into the sea today, because this was not spoken to you, or to anyone in this dispensation of grace.

***2nd Kings 19:30 And the remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall yet again take root downward, and bear fruit upward. 31 For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of mount Zion: the zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.***

**A remnant:** The little flock of Luke 12:32 were the Israel of God, also called the elect in the Bible. They were to be recipients of the kingdom because the requirement to enter the kingdom was faith in the Christ (the King).

**Forgiveness**

Matthew 18:35

**25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**

 If you are saved today, you are already forgiven. Under the Law you had to forgive to be forgiven. We forgive today because Christ has already forgiven us.

**Jesus’ authority challenged**

Matthew 21:23-27 & Luke 20:1-8

**27 And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders, 28 And say unto him,**

**By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority to do these things?**

**29 And Jesus answered and said unto them,**

**I will also ask of you one question, and answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things.**

**By what authority doest thou these things:** The “these things” that they were mentioning were his casting out the money changers, his healing, and his teaching in the temple area.

**30 The baptism of John, was it from heaven, or of men? answer me.**

**31 And they reasoned with themselves, saying,**

**If we shall say, From heaven; he will say, Why then did ye not believe him? 32 But if we shall say, Of men; they feared the people: for all men counted John, that he was a prophet indeed.**

**33 And they answered and said unto Jesus,**

**We cannot tell.**

**And Jesus answering saith unto them,**

**Neither do I tell you by what authority I do these things.**

**The baptism of John:** It was from heaven. It was the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Mark 1:4.

 In the kingdom the Jewish people will be sprinkled with clean water so that they might become a kingdom of priests in their promised kingdom.

***Ezekiel 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.***

***Exodus 19:5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.***

**Chapter Twelve**

**Jesus speaks in parables**

Matthew 21:28-46 & Luke 20:9-18

**1 And he began to speak unto them by parables.**

**A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. 2 And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard. 3 And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty. 4 And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled. 5 And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some. 6 Having yet therefore one son, his wellbeloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son. 7 But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours. 8 And they took him, and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard. 9 What shall therefore the lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.**

**A certain man:** God.

**A vineyard:** The nation of Israel.

**An hedge:** The Law.

**The winefat:** Where fruit would be pressed. Isaiah 63:2.

**A tower:** The temple.

**Husbandmen:** The Religious leaders of Israel.

**A far country:** Heaven.

**A servant:** The Prophets.

**The fruit:** The souls of men, and obedience to the law.

**One Son:** Jesus Christ.

**The Lord of the vineyard:** The Lion of the tribe of Judah.

**10 And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: 11 This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?** *Psalm 118:23.*

**12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.**

**The parable:** Jesus began to speak unto the religious in parables at this time in his ministry.

 They had seen all the signs needed to confirm who he was to them, but they rejected them, and said they were from the devil. Jesus did not fit their idea of what the Messiah should be.

 These men had the word of God given to them as God’s people, and with that they had the added responsibility to see him as the fulfillment of it.

 Because they rejected the written word of God, the word of God incarnate, and the spoken word of God, Jesus would now speak in parables to them.

 Privately Jesus would explain the parables to his faithful. Parables were meant to conceal things from his enemies who had rejected the truth already.

**Render unto Caesar**

Matthew 22:15-22 & Luke 20:19-26

**13 And they send unto him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to catch him in his words.**

**The Pharisees and of the Herodians:** These two groups worked together at times when they had a common enemy. The Herodians were political, and they were loyal to Herod, and to Rome who had appointed Herod.

**To catch him in his words:** The religious leaders (the husbandmen) needed Jesus to say something against Rome so that they could get him put to death, which would only fulfil the parable he spoke against them.

**14 And when they were come, they say unto him,**

**Master, we know that thou art true, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? 15 Shall we give, or shall we not give?**

**But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them,**

**Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.**

**16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them,**

**Whose is this image and superscription?**

**And they said unto him,**

**Caesar's.**

**17 And Jesus answering said unto them,**

**Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.**

**And they marvelled at him.**

**To give tribute:** A form of taxes imposed by a conquering army.

**Hypocrisy:** A hypocrite is someone who does something he preaches against. These men did not want to give to Caesar, but they would not dare say so for fear of their life.

 Had they known who it was they were trying to catch in his words, they would never have dared to question the Messiah in such a fashion.

 They should have feared rejecting their own Messiah more than displeasing Caesar, and considered his words.

**The Sadducees question Jesus**

Matthew 22:23-33 & Luke 20:27-40

**18 Then come unto him the Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection; and they asked him, saying,**

**19 Master, Moses wrote unto us, If a man's brother die, and leave his wife behind him, and leave no children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. 20 Now there were seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and dying left no seed. 21 And the second took her, and died, neither left he any seed: and the third likewise. 22 And the seven had her, and left no seed: last of all the woman died also. 23 In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife.**

**24 And Jesus answering said unto them,**

**Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? 25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.**

 First, verse twenty-five means only what it says, not what we may think it says. It must be understood in its context.

 The context is the family relationship in the kingdom, it is not talking about a believer today and what things will be like in heaven.

 In the kingdom those Jews who were married in the past which believed in Jesus will become priests in the kingdom and they will not be married.

 He is not talking to us in the body of Christ. He compares their future to that of the angels in heaven who are not married.

**26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? 27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.**

 They did not care about the answer, they cared about debunking Jesus with a question that they had befuddled the Pharisees with. Jesus told them they erred because they did not know the scriptures.

 It was their job to know, believe and obey the scriptures, but they did not even believe in the hope of Israel, to be resurrected into their kingdom to live forever with their King.

 Jesus made it clear that Moses mentioned God as the present tense God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as if all three were not dead, but living at that time.

 They were all in paradise, or Abraham's bosom at that time, waiting to be resurrected into their kingdom when Christ returns.

**The first of all commandments**

Matthew 22:34-40

**28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him,**

**Which is the first commandment of all?**

**29 And Jesus answered him,**

**The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. 31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.**

**32 And the scribe said unto him,**

**Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: 33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.**

**34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him,**

**Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.**

**And no man after that durst ask him any question.**

 Jesus knew the thoughts of this scribe, and saw that he was looking for answers, not like most of those who were trying to trap him in his words.

 This scribe, after seeing how his fellow scribes were treating Jesus, answered him discreetly, and Jesus told him that he was on the right path to the kingdom. If he kept searching the word, he would see that Jesus was the Son of David, the Christ.

**Christ is the Son of David**

Matthew 22:41-46

**35 And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple,**

**How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David? 36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost,**

**The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.** Psalm 110:1.

**The Son of David:** Jesus’ title verifying that he was the rightful descendant to sit on David’s throne as Israel’s king.

**37 David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son?**

**And the common people heard him gladly.**

 God the Father said to God the Son, sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool, David called Christ his Lord.

**Christ is the Son of David:** So, if he were his descendant (the Son of David) how could that be possible, unless his descendant was truly the Christ? The common people had no problem with this, but the religious did.

**The widow’s mite**

Luke 21:1-4

**38 And he said unto them in his doctrine,**

**Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces,**

**Salutations:** Greetings.

**39 And the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: 40 Which devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers: these shall receive greater damnation.**

**41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much. 42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. 43 And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them,**

**Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: 44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.**

**Two mites, which make a farthing:** A mite is one quarter of a Denarius (a Roman dollar). A farthing was half a Denarius.

 The scribes would buy their long clothing from the money they would take from the widows, whose own dwelling places they would also take from them to supply their lavish lifestyles, all in the name of religion.

 You cannot steal from a widow who God says they should be protecting, and then turn around and give that money to God to be seen by others.

 They were the modern-day self-proclaimed Philanthropists. Saying, “Look what I just did. Am I not a godly, generous person?”

**Chapter Thirteen**

**Jesus prophecies the temple’s destruction**

Matthew 24:1-2 & Luke 21:5-6

**1 And as he went out of the temple, one of his disciples saith unto him, Master, see what manner of stones and what buildings are here! 2 And Jesus answering said unto him,**

**Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.**

**As he went out of the temple:** Jesus had just finished pronouncing seven woes upon Israel’s religious leaders in Matthew 23 and the disciples began to show Jesus the buildings of the temple in Matthew 24:1 as they left.

**There shall not be left one stone upon another:** This would happen in 70 A.D.

**When shall these things be**

Matthew 24:3-31 & Luke 21:7-28

**3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives over against the temple, Peter and James and John and Andrew asked him privately,**

**4 Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled?**

**As he sat upon the mount of Olives:** Immediately after Jesus tells of the temple’s destruction, he goes down the Kidron Valley and he walks all the way up the mount of Olives.

 He then sat there and waited for the disciples to come to him. Matthew 24:1-3.

**When shall these things be:** After he tells them of the temple's soon destruction, he skips over the dispensation of grace, and he begins to tell them of the tribulation period.

 That is because the body of Christ was a mystery hid in God from before the foundation of the world. This would not be revealed until Jesus reveals it to the apostle of the Gentiles (Paul) years later. Colossians 1:26.

 The church, which is Christ's body, is referred to by Paul, as "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Ephesians 3:8). You cannot find the body of Christ in the old testament because it is not there.

**What shall be the sign when all these things shall be fulfilled:** You can find the kingdom church in the old testament, that Peter, James, and John were a part of. It is all over the old testament, and it is a fulfillment of the old testament promise to Israel.

**5 And Jesus answering them began to say,**

**Take heed lest any man deceive you: 6 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.**

**Many shall come in my name:** This is not during the dispensation of grace. We have also had false Christ’s during the last 2,000 years.

 This is speaking of the time of Jacob’s trouble, but they will all be impostors because Christ comes with the clouds and every eye shall see him. Revelation 1:7.

**7 And when ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars, be ye not troubled: for such things must needs be; but the end shall not be yet. 8 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: And there shall be earthquakes in divers places, and there shall be famines and troubles: these are the beginnings of sorrows.**

**Wars and rumours of wars:** All this begins in Revelation 6 as the Lamb opens the first of four seals revealing the four horses and their riders.

**The beginnings of sorrows:** This is a term used in Matthew 24:8 to teach about what it will be like for Israel in the time of Jacob's (Israel's) trouble, also called the tribulation period, and the seventieth week of Daniel.

**9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.**

**In the synagogues ye shall be beaten:**This whole chapter describes that terrible time that is yet to come upon Israel, not the body of Christ, notice the believers are delivered up to councils, and in the synagogues.

**The gospel must first be published**

Matthew 24:14

**10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations. 11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.**

**The gospel must first be published among all nations:** This is the gospel of the kingdom.

 Mark did not know the gospel of the grace of God that would later be revealed to Paul. Matthew 24 covers the same period as this chapter in Mark, the tribulation period.

***Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.***

**Endure unto the end**

Matthew 24:13

**12 Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against their parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. 13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**

**He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved:** This is talking to Israel after the dispensation of grace ends with the rapture of the body of Christ. They must endure to the end of the tribulation period and not take the Mark of the Beast.

 It is not talking about us today keeping the faith unto the end of our life. That is works, we are under grace today. Ephesians 2:8-9.

**The abomination of desolation**

Matthew 24:15-28 & Luke 21:20-24

**14 But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:** *Daniel 9:27.*

**The abomination of desolation:** It is the image of the beast in Revelation 13.

***Matthew 23:38 Your house is left unto you desolate.***

**Let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:** They will not even have the brief time they had when they fled from Pharaoh.

**15 And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter therein, to take any thing out of his house: 16 And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. 17 But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! 18 And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. 19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.**

***Jeremiah 30:7 Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.***

**20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.**

**Except that the Lord had shortened those days:** Jesus stops abruptly the seventieth week of Daniel by destroying Satan’s armies with the word of his mouth at the completion of the great tribulation period. Revelation 19:11-21.

 This will immediately put an end to all the war and death occurring at that future time, which if Jesus did not intervene at that moment, then Satan would have killed all of the elect of Israel.

**The elect’s sake:** The word "elect" is mentioned 20 times in the Bible, and only four times in the whole old testament. The first time it is used of Jesus, who is called God’s servant:

***Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.***

 The only other times the word elect is used in the old testament are also in Isaiah, and they all speak about Israel, not some group today.

***Isaiah 45:4 For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.***

***Isaiah 65:9 And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.***

***Isaiah 65:22 They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.***

 The elect are those in the tribulation period whom he hath chosen to be his "servants". Who is the book of the Revelation written to? It is written to Israel. Revelation 1:1.

 Why was it written to them, and not to us? To shew unto his servants, things which must shortly come to pass.

 It was even written by a fellow servant John. God had elected Israel to be his servants back when he called Abram from the Ur of the Chaldees, not us.

***Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:***

 Seven times the word elect is mentioned in the gospels, three times in Matthew 24, and three times in this chapter of Mark, plus once in the gospel of Luke.

 They are all talking about Israel being his servants. Israel is elected to serve him, not elected to be saved.

**21 And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: 22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. 23 But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.**

**And shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce:** These are not the signs in the heavens we read about next.

 They are signs to seduce people that the anti-Christ is really the Christ. The devil is using seducing spirits and doctrines of devils today in the dispensation of grace. 1st Timothy 4:1.

**24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,**

**After that tribulation:** The beginning of the second half of Daniel’s 70th week is called the great tribulation. Matthew 24:21, Revelation 2:22 & 7:14.

**The sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light:***Isaiah 13:10 & Joel 2:10.*

**25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.**

**The stars of heaven shall fall:** *Revelation 12:3-9.*

**The powers that are in heaven shall be shaken:** *Isaiah 13:13.*

**26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.**

**The Son of man coming in the clouds:** This is his revelation when every eye shall see him. This is not the rapture.

 The rapture was a mystery that was not revealed until Christ revealed it from heaven to the apostle Paul many years later. 1st Corinthians 15:51.

**His elect:** The elect here are Jewish believers in the tribulation period, not Gentiles in the body of Christ.

 We are elect today as well because we are in Christ (God’s elect servant), but just what are we as members of the body of Christ elect to do?

 Our election according to chapter one of first Thessalonians is to server the living and true God:

***1stThessalonians 1:9 For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.***

**The wrath to come:** This is the tribulation period, and we in the body of Christ are delivered from that wrath, Jacob (Israel) is not!

 Israel must go through that terrible time because she broke the covenant that she made with God at Sinai, and God has promised seventy weeks of punishment upon her for her rebellion.

 Sixty-nine of Daniel’s seventy weeks have passed already before they were interrupted by the dispensation of grace.

 Immediately following the rapture of the body of Christ, Israel will have to receive her final week of chastisement from God, for her breaking of her covenant with God.

**The parable of the fig tree**

Matthew 24:32-35 & Luke 21:29-33

**28 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is near: 29 So ye in like manner, when ye shall see these things come to pass, know that it is nigh, even at the doors. 30 Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. 31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.**

**The fig tree:** Israel.

**When her branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves:** Israel’s branch will begin to put forth leaves in the tribulation period when the 144,000 from each tribe are sealed. They are called the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb. Revelation 14:4.

**Summer is near:** The kingdom of God is at hand. Luke 21:30.

**When ye shall see these things come to pass:** What things? The signs mentioned beginning in verse five down to the end of the chapter.

**This generation:** This is speaking of the generation that is alive when these things in the tribulation period begin to be fulfilled and are all fulfilled.

 When the world sees the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place, then that is the generation that will see all these things come to pass.

**That day and that hour**

Matthew 24:36-51

**32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.**

**That day and that hour:**The day being spoken of is mentioned above as the day and hour when Christ returns to set up his kingdom. This is not the rapture. It is Christ returning to Israel at the end of the tribulation period.

 Could any man alive at the time of Jesus speaking that prophecy know the day or the hour? No. They were just learning things about that day as Jesus was speaking, and the dispensation of grace had not even begun yet.

 Can any man in this present dispensation of grace know the day or the hour of Christ’s return? No.

 Because it will not happen in the dispensation of grace, but seven years after the dispensation of grace has ended with the rapture.

 Could any believer in the tribulation period know the day or the hour? No. Notice it is the day and hour of his return that is being mentioned, not the week, month, or year.

 They can know the week of his return because the book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ has a very accurate timeline in it.

 Could you if you were living in the tribulation period and seeing the signs coming to pass figure out how many years were left before Christ would return? Yes.

 There are seven years in the tribulation period and when you get to the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel stand in the holy place you would know it is half over.

 So, if you were alive then, you would know that three and a half years from now Jesus will return, but can you know the day and the hour? No!

**Neither the Son:** Jesus was fully God and fully man since his conception, he was not half one, and half the other.

 The man part was fully man and he hungered, and got tired, he felt pain, and thirsted, he was hot and cold. How is it that the Son did not know the day, nor the hour of his return if he was God?

 The same way that God cannot remember Israel’s sins in the future. Hebrews 8:12 & 10:17. Does God cease to be God when he does not remember Israel’s sins anymore? Of course not.

 Jesus never ceased being God at any moment in the past, nor will he when Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17 are fully realized.

 Don’t tell me that what he really meant was that he is no longer holding them against them anymore, because God would have said that here instead.

 Stop looking for reasons not to believe a portion of scripture, it means what it says. We just do not understand everything going on here. That is all. He is who he said he is.

**33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. 34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.**

**A far journey:** Jesus went back to heaven to sit at his Father’s right hand until his enemies be made a footstool. Psalm 110:1.

**His house:** The house of Israel.

**His servants:**The disciples of Christ. Luke 9:1.

**The porter:** Jewish believers in the tribulation period.

**35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.**

**The master of the house:** This is Jesus. This is not talking about the rapture at all, it is talking about the revealing of Jesus Christ when he comes back with clouds, and every eye shall see him.

 The rapture was not revealed until Paul received it as a mystery, and it was not taught until he taught it in 1st Thessalonians, 1st Corinthians, and other places in his epistles.

***1st Corinthians 15:51 Behold I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed.***

**Chapter Fourteen**

**The feast of the passover**

Matthew 26:1-5 & Luke 22:1-2

**1 After two days was the feast of the passover, and of unleavened bread: and the chief priests and the scribes sought how they might take him by craft, and put him to death. 2 But they said,**

**Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar of the people.**

**The feast of the passover:** Passover commemorated the time when the death angel passed over the families that had the blood of the passover lamb applied to their door posts at its top and on its two sides. Exodus 12:1-7.

**Unleavened bread:** *Exodus 12:8-13:10.*

**Take him by craft:** By guile, deceit or subtilty.

**Jesus is anointed for burial**

Matthew 26:6-13 & John 12:1-8

**3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head.**

**Simon the leper:** Simon was healed of his leprosy at that time, as no one could go into the house of a leper. Matthew 11:5. Judas’ father’s name was Simon. John 12:4.

 Only in John’s gospel is Judas Iscariot mentioned as Simon’s son, and he does so four times, always implying that Simon was well known by John’s readers at that time. John 6:71, 12:4, 13:2 & 26.

**There came a woman:** This was Mary the sister of Martha and Lazarus. John 11:12.

**4 And there were some that had indignation within themselves, and said,**

**Why was this waste of the ointment made? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.**

**There were some that had indignation within themselves:** Judas was the main one. John 12:4-6 & Matthew 26:6-13.

**Three hundred pence:** A couple hundred dollars.

**6 And Jesus said,**

**Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on me. 7 For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. 8 She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying. 9 Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.**

**To anoint my body to the burying:** Mary knew Jesus was going to die when the disciples did not. John 12:1-8.

**This gospel:** The gospel of the kingdom. Matthew 4:17-23.

**For a memorial of her:** She remembered that Jesus said he was going to die, the disciples did not.

**Judas betrays Jesus**

Matthew 26:14-16, Luke 22:3-6 & John 13:21-30

**10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. 11 And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.**

**Judas Iscariot:** It was at this time that we read that Satan had entered Judas. Luke 22:3-6.

 Judas is called the son of perdition in John 17:12, a title only given to him and the antichrist, who is known as the man of sin until Satan enters him, and he then becomes the son of perdition. 2nd Thessalonians 2:3.

**He sought how he might conveniently betray him:**He would betray Jesus by leaving theupper room while the disciples all remained with Jesus.

**12 And the first day of unleavened bread, when they killed the passover, his disciples said unto him, Where wilt thou that we go and prepare that thou mayest eat the passover?**

**The first day of unleavened bread:** There were seven days of unleavened bread in total. Exodus 13:7.

**And prepare that thou mayest eat the passover:**They would have to go to the sheep market and purchase a lamb for passover and then cook it as required in Exodus 12:8-9.

**13 And he sendeth forth two of his disciples, and saith unto them,**

**Go ye into the city, and there shall meet you a man bearing a pitcher of water: follow him.**

**A man bearing a pitcher of water:**The man with the pitcher probably already knew to be there waiting for Jesus’ disciples to see him, but it could have just as easily been a surprise encounter.

 Judas did not know where they would eat the passover until it was time to go there, or he would have used that opportunity to betray Jesus while he was trapped in an upper room.

**14 And wheresoever he shall go in, say ye to the goodman of the house, The Master saith, Where is the guestchamber, where I shall eat the passover with my disciples? 15 And he will shew you a large upper room furnished and prepared: there make ready for us.**

**16 And his disciples went forth, and came into the city, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the passover.**

**The goodman of the house:** We do not know how this was all arranged. I would assume an angel visited him, or it could have been planned earlier in the day when they went to get their passover lamb.

**17 And in the evening he cometh with the twelve. 18 And as they sat and did eat, Jesus said,**

**Verily I say unto you, One of you which eateth with me shall betray me.**

 **19 And they began to be sorrowful, and to say unto him one by one,**

**Is it I?**

**and another said,**

**Is it I?**

**20 And he answered and said unto them,**

**It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish. 21 The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written of him: but woe to that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! good were it for that man if he had never been born.**

**In the evening:** Passover was done in the evening with a few disciples. Exodus 12:6. Judas departed to betray Jesus after he dipped in the dish with Jesus.

**The Son of man indeed goeth, as it is written:** *Isaiah 53.*

**Woe to that man:** For him to have never be born would have meant that he would not have had to have died and went to hell to suffer for all eternity.

**His body and his blood**

Matthew 26:26-29 & Luke 22:14-23

**22 And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said,**

**Take, eat: this is my body.**

**23 And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. 24 And he said unto them,**

**This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.**

**This is my body:** The bread was symbolic of the body of Christ that would be broken for them.

**This is my blood:** The fruit of the vine was symbolic of the blood of Christ that was about to be shed for many.

 When the fruit of the vine is fresh it is called the fruit of the vine (fruit juice). When it is fermented it is called wine.

***Deuteronomy 32:14 thou didst drink the pure blood of the grape.***

 He called what was in the cup my blood of the new testament. Blood was shed at the inauguration of the first covenant. Exodus 24:8.

 Blood also had to be shed to inaugurate the new testament. That happened when Jesus was whipped and then nailed to the cross. Mark 15.

**Which is shed for many:** Isaiah 53:11. It does not say for all in Isaiah. In 1st Timothy 2:6 however, Paul tells us that he gave himself a ransom for all. Colossians 1:14 and 20.

 This is not a contradiction. He died for many in Israel’s program, but Paul informs us he died for all in the mystery program that was later revealed to him as the apostle of the Gentiles.

**25 Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.**

**The fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it knew in the kingdom of God:**He cannot drink it while he is exiled in heaven currently.

 The fruit of the vine is freshly squeezed unfermented juice from the vine. The Lord's supper was not passover. They were two meals in one.

 The Lord's supper happened during the passover meal. Verse twenty-two shows us that Jesus interrupts the passover and institutes the Lord's supper.

 It is called the Lord’s supper because it was done in the evening. It is not the Lord’s lunch.

**26 And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.**

***Psalm 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.***

**27 And Jesus saith unto them,**

**All ye shall be offended because of me this night: fort it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.**

***Zechariah 13:7 Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn my hands upon the little ones.***

**The sheep:** They are the little flock, and this prophecy means that God will disperse them into all the world again during the tribulation period. Luke 12:32.

**28 But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee.** *Mark 16:7.*

**29 But Peter said unto him,**

**Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.**

**30 And Jesus saith unto him,**

**Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.**

**31 But he spake the more vehemently,**

**If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise.**

**Likewise also said they all. 32 And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples,**

**Sit ye here, while I shall pray.**

**Gethsemane:** The word means oil press. It was located on the mount of Olives.

**33 And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; 34 And saith unto them,**

**My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.**

**And began to be sore amazed:** To agonize.

**35 And he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said,**

**Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.**

**The hour might pass from him:**Verse 41 below.

**This cup:** This is the hour that is mentioned in the preceding verse, which concerned his betrayal and suffering.

**37 And he cometh, and findeth them sleeping, and saith unto Peter,**

**Simon, sleepest thou? couldest not thou watch one hour? 38 Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.**

**39 And again he went away, and prayed, and spake the same words. 40 And when he returned, he found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer him. 41 And he cometh the third time, and saith unto them,**

**Sleep on now, and take your rest: it is enough, the hour is come; behold, the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.**

**The hour is come:** To be betrayed. Matthew 26:45.

**The hand of sinners:**Sin is the transgression of the law. 1st John 3:4. The word sinner is defined as a person who is a prostitute, a tax collector, or a false prophet. Jesus describes the chief priests and elders of Israel as sinners.

**42 Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth me is at hand.**

**43 And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. 44 And he that betrayed him had given them a token, saying,**

**Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he; take him, and lead him away safely.**

**45 And as soon as he was come, he goeth straightway to him, and saith,**

**Master, master;**

**and kissed him. 46 And they laid their hands on him, and took him.**

**A token:** A sign or signal.

***Psalm 41:9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.***

**47 And one of them that stood by drew a sword, and smote a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 48 And Jesus answered and said unto them,**

**Are ye come out, as against a thief, with swords and with staves to take me? 49 I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.**

**50 And they all forsook him, and fled.**

**One of them that stood by:** It was Peter. John 18:10. Jesus healed the servant of the high priest's ear (named Malchus).

**The scriptures must be fulfilled:** One of those scriptures was that when the shepherd was struck the sheep would all scatter. Zechariah 13:7.

**51 And there followed him a certain young man, having a linen cloth cast about his naked body; and the young men laid hold on him: 52 And he left the linen cloth, and fled from them naked.**

**A certain young man:** The certain young man is John Mark, the writer of the gospel of Mark.

**53 And they led Jesus away to the high priest: and with him were assembled all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes. 54 And Peter followed him afar off, even into the palace of the high priest: and he sat with the servants, and warmed himself at the fire. 55 And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. 56 For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. 57 And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying,**

**58 We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.**

**59 But did their witness agree together. 60 And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying,**

**Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee?**

**61 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him,**

**Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?**

**62 And Jesus said,**

**I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.***Daniel 7:13.*

***Psalm 110:1 A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.***

 The high priest had to examine two goats on that day from the children of Israel in Leviticus 16:7-10 and cast lots for each one.

 The lot that was the LORD'S would have the sins of many (Israel's) confessed and laid upon him, and the innocent goat would die for the guilty as a sin offering for Israel.

**63 Then the high priest rent his clothes, and saith,**

**What need we any further witnesses? 64 Ye have heard the blasphemy: what think ye?**

**And they all condemned him to be guilty of death. 65 And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him,**

**Prophesy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.**

**Rent his clothes:** Reuben was the first to rend his clothes when he saw that his brother Joseph was not in the pit. Genesis 37:29.

 It was done in times of great grief or anger. Christ could not deny himself. The one they said they longed for was standing in front of them, and they condemned him to death. Jesus spoke of this previously:

***Mark 12:7 This is the heir; come, let us kill him and the inheritance shall be ours.***

**66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest: 67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said,**

**And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.**

**68 But he denied, saying,**

**I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest.**

**And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.**

**Nazareth:** From the root word Nazar (Set apart). A city in the northern Galilee region.

**69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by,**

**This is one of them.**

**70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter,**

**Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaean, and thy speech agreeth thereto.**

**71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying,**

**I know not this man of whom ye speak.**

**72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him,**

**Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.**

**And when he thought thereon, he wept.**

 Jesus would later ask Peter if he loved him more than these. Jesus may have been referring to his fishing friends where Peter was when Jesus was questioning him, or it could have been his family.

 Do you remember what he and the others were told they needed to do concerning others close to them regarding following Christ?

***Luke 14:26 If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.***

**Chapter Fifteen**

**The chief priests deliver Jesus**

Matthew 27:1-2, Luke 23:1-5 & John 18:28-32

**1 And straightway in the morning the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council, and bound Jesus, and carried him away, and delivered him to Pilate.**

**Pilate questions Jesus**

**2 And Pilate asked him, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it.**

**Thou sayest it:**It means “you said it.” Matthew 26:25.

**3 And the chief priests accused him of many things: but he answered nothing. 4 And Pilate asked him again, saying,**

**Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee.**

**5 But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled.**

***Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.***

**Pilate releases Barabbas**

Matthew 27:15-23, Luke 23:18-25 & John 18:38-40

**6 Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. 7 And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. 8 And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them. 9 But Pilate answered them, saying,**

**Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?**

**10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.**

**That feast:** Passover.

**Barabbas:**The son of Abba, or the son of the Father.

**The King of the Jews:** Matthew 2:2.

**11 But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. 12 And Pilate answered and said again unto them,**

**What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the King of the Jews?**

***John 19:15 But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.***

**13 And they cried out again,**

**Crucify him.**

**14 Then Pilate said unto them,**

**Why, what evil hath he done?**

**And they cried out the more exceedingly,**

**Crucify him.**

**15 And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.** *Isaiah 52:14.*

 No lot was cast on this day for Barabbas, or Jesus. The decision of the people was manipulated and controlled by the chief priests who wanted to rid themselves of any competition. Leviticus 16:8-26.

**When he had scourged him:** Jesus was whipped with a cat of nine tails whip, forty times save one. Jesus suffered for our sins on the cross, not in hell.

**Jesus is mocked**

Matthew 27:27

**16 And the soldiers led him away into the hall, called Praetorium; and they call together the whole band. 17 And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, 18 And began to salute him,**

**Hail, King of the Jews!**

**19 And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him. 20 And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him. 21 And they compel one Simon a Cyrenian, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross.**

**Simon a Cyrenian:** From Cyrene, a coastal city between Tripoli and Alexandria. Another Rufus is mentioned by the apostle Paul in Romans 16:13 as Paul’s brother.

**22 And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.**

**Golgotha:** Was the Hebrew name for it meaning the place of the skull. Luke identifies the place by its Greek name Cranium, where we get the word Calvary from.

 Most modern bibles erringly remove the word Calvary from the book of Luke 23:33, when it belongs there.

**Jesus is crucified**

Matthew 27:35-37, Luke 23:32-43, & John 19:16-24

**23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not. 24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take. 25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.** *Psalm 22:16-18.*

**Casting lots:** Gambling. Jonah 1:7. This was not the same thing as when the apostles gave their lots in Acts 1:26.

 They were giving their choice for Judas’ replacement, not casting stones on the ground in a game of chance.

**It was the third hour:** 9 AM.

**26 And the superscription of his accusation was written over, THE KING OF THE JEWS. 27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.**

**THE KING OF THE JEWS:** This was for Herod to show the Emperor how he dealt with threats to Roman rule.

**28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith,**

**And he was numbered with the transgressors.** *Isaiah 53:12.*

**29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying,**

**Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, 30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.**

**31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes,**

**He saved others; himself he cannot save. 32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe.**

**And they that were crucified with him reviled him.**

**Jesus dies**

Matthew 27:45-56, Luke 23:44-49 & John 19:28-30

**33 And when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.**

**The sixth hour:** 12 Noon.

**The ninth hour:** 3:00 PM.

**34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying,**

**Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?**

**which is, being interpreted,**

**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?** *Psalm 22:1.*

**Eloi:** In Hebrew, El means God, and a long “I” sound at the end of any word made it possessive, meaning mine. Jesus was saying “My God.”

**35 And some of them that stood by, when they heard it, said,**

**Behold, he calleth Elias.**

**36 And one ran and filled a spunge full of vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink, saying,**

**Let alone; let us see whether Elias will come to take him down.** *Psalm 69:21.*

**Let us see whether Elias will come to take him down:** After hearing Jesus yell, Eloi twice, some errantly thought he was calling for Elias (Elijah).

**37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.**

**Gave up the ghost:** Died. Genesis 25:8.

**38 And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.** *Hebrews 10:20.*

**39 And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said,**

**Truly this man was the Son of God.**

**40 There were also women looking on afar off: among whom was Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the less and of Joses, and Salome; 41 (****Who also, when he was in Galilee, followed him, and ministered unto him;) and many other women which came up with him unto Jerusalem.**

**The Son of God:** Is the second person of the Godhead/Trinity. Colossians 2:9 & 1st John 5:7.

**Mary Magdalene:** Out of whom Jesus cast seven devils. Mark 16:9.

**Mary the mother of James the less and Joses, and Salome;**16:1 also.

**Joseph went to Pilate**

Matthew 27:57-61, Luke 23:50-56 & John 19:38-42

**42 And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,**

**The preparation:** This is the preparation day which occurred the day before the sabbath, to get ready for the sabbath. Exodus 16:5.

**43 Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. 44 And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. 45 And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. 46 And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. 47 And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.**

 A day according to the Bible begins at sunset the evening before, so if you are thinking like a western Gentile, you will get it wrong.

 Secondly, if you disregard what constitutes a sabbath day in Israel, you will get it wrong. If you don't pay attention to the additional sabbath days associated with the feast’s days, then you will get it wrong.

 Lastly, you cannot get three days and three nights, no matter how hard you try, between Friday and Sunday. There was also an additional sabbath day here called an high day:

 There is a big lie being parroted by thousands of preachers today that any part of a day constitutes a day in Jewish customs. That is a lie straight from Satan himself.

***John 19:31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.***

**An High day:** An extra sabbath day during a feast day.

 Saturday is the sabbath, but a high day could occur in the middle of the week, the day before, or after the weekly sabbath, and it disproves the teaching that Jesus was crucified on a Friday.

**Chapter Sixteen**

**The first day of the week**

Matthew 28:1, Luke 24:1, & John 20:1-10

**1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. 2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.**

**When the sabbath was past:** The week started all over again as it was the last day of the week.

 It was the day of rest given to the children of Israel at mount Sinai, when they came out of Egypt. Exodus 16:26 & Nehemiah 9:13-14.

**Mary Magdalene:** Out of whom Jesus cast seven devils. Mark 16:9.

**Mary the mother of James (the less), and Salome:**15:40-41 above.

**The first day of the week:** In the bible a day begins in the evening the night before. Saturday evening is biblically Sunday evening, because the evening begins the day.

 So, Sunday already had twelve hours come and go by the time the women arrived at the sepulchre.

***Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly, so shall the son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.***

 Go backwards from Sunday one day, and you arrive at Saturday, go back two days and you arrive at Friday, but go three days and you come to Thursday.

 The evening of Thursday is our Wednesday evening. Jesus did not say he would spend two and a half days and nights in the heart of the earth, but three days and three nights.

**3 And they said among themselves,**

**Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?**

**4 And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. 5 And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.**

**The stone was rolled away:** The angel of the Lord rolled back the stone from the door. This was after the earthquake also mentioned in Matthew 28:2.

**A young man:** This was the angel of the Lord. Matthew 28:1-7. Angels only appear as men in the bible.

**Sitting on the right side:**The angel was sitting as opposed to standing.

**A long white garment:** Described as shining in Luke 24:4.

**6 And he saith unto them,**

**Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. 7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.** *Mark 14:28.*

**Nazareth:** From the root word Nazar (Set apart). A city in the northern Galilee region.

**Be not affrighted:** The angel of the Lord calms the women as we see often in scripture when angels make appearances to men, so as not to scare them to death. Genesis 15:1 & Revelation 1:17.

**Tell his disciples and Peter:** Peter is singled out here because he denied Jesus three times. Luke 22:31-34.

**That he goeth before you into Galilee:** It would have been easier for Jesus to teach the apostles in Galilee than if they remained in Jerusalem. Mark 14:28.

 The women would tell the disciples about what they heard from the angel of the Lord, but they did not believe their words:

**8 And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid.**

**For they were afraid:** This is where many bibles end Mark's gospel. Some leave the remaining verses, but they place a note after verse eight causing the reader to doubt God’s word.

“These verses are not in the best manuscripts.”

 That is the oldest trick in the book, to get you doubt God’s word, and it is found in Genesis 3:1 **“Yea, hath God said.”**

 The problem people have with these passages is that they scare people who do not realize that these verses are not talking to them today in the dispensation of grace.

 The following verses are speaking to Jews 2,000 years ago who still had their kingdom hopes in sight as it was still being preached as at hand at that time.

 The kingdom is not at hand today, it has been postponed until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. The kingdom will be at hand again in the tribulation period. Matthew 24:14.

**Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene**

Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:1-12 & John 20:11-18

**9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.**

**The first day of the week:** This is Sunday, the day after the sabbath which is the seventh day of the week. Exodus 16:26.

**He appeared first to Mary Magdalene:** Magdalene was not Mary’s last name. She was from the town of Migdal. All people from Migdal were called Magdalenes.

 Just like Jesus was called a Nazarene because he was from the town of Nazareth. Migdal was also called Magdala in Matthew 15:39.

**Out of whom he had cast seven devils:** This was one of the reasons why she was there early that morning, because she loved him, and never forgot his kindness.

 Mary is a type of Israel that needed to be redeemed from the devil. Jesus will have Satan cast out into the lake of fire. Revelation 20:10.

***John 12:31 Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.***

 The devils were being cast out of the house of Israel leading up to the cross, but they would come back after the apostles had swept the house of Israel and garnished it with the gospel of the kingdom.

 This was done in the one year that followed the cross, where the holy Spirit came upon believers in Israel. This additional year is found in Luke 13:6-9.

***Matthew 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.***

 Satan will be cast out of Israel, and into the lake of fire in Revelation 20:10 after the 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth.

**10 And she went and told them that had been with him, as they mourned and wept. 11 And they, when they had heard that he was alive, and had been seen of her, believed not.**

**Believed not:** The apostles did not believe that Jesus had risen again after what Mary had told her. They did not believe, or even remember how many times Jesus told them he would rise from the dead after three days, because he hid that truth from them.

***Luke 9:44 Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men. 45 But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.***

**And it was hid from them:** It would be revealed to them after the resurrection:

***Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.***

 The death, burial and resurrection were not what was preached for those three and a half years by Jesus, John, or the twelve. They preached the gospel of the kingdom.

**Jesus appears on the road to Emmaus**

Luke 24:13-35 & John 21

**12 After that he appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked, and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it unto the residue: neither believed they them.**

**He appeared in another form:** Luke 24:13-31.

**Neither believed they them:** They were not trusting in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for their salvation as you and I do today. 1st Corinthians 15:1-4.

**Jesus appears unto to the eleven**

Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:47 & John 21:1-14

**14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.**

**And upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart:** This means that he reviled or reproached them for their unbelief.

**15 And he said unto them,**

**Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

**Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel:** The gospel was the gospel of the kingdom, as it was the only gospel that they knew. They did not preach 1st Corinthians 15:1-4.

**16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved:** This was the commission that Jesus gave to the apostles to preach to Israel.

 It was associated with the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Mark 1:4 & Acts 2:38. We do not preach this gospel today. We preach the gospel of the grace of God from 1st Corinthians 15:1-4.

**17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**

**These signs shall follow them that believe:** This is because the Jews require a sign. 1st Corinthians 1:22.

**In my name they shall cast out devils:** This is because a priest in the kingdom could not have a devil, and Satan will be bound during the kingdom.

**They shall speak with new tongues:** This began on the day of Pentecost. God had originally confounded the tongues to divide people into nations at Babel, and soon after that God called out Abram to become the father of the Jewish nation.

 Here God gives tongues to the believers so that people from all nations could hear the gospel of the kingdom and be saved. This is seen on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2.

 The gift of tongues, and the sign gifts that were “in part” ceased when that which was perfect is come. The word of God. 1st Corinthians 13:8-13.

**18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.**

**They shall take up serpents:** God will supernaturally protect them from serpents when these end time believers flee into the wilderness in the last days.

**If they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them:** When the water is turned to blood in those days it will not affect the believer, because of God’s protection.

**They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover:** These gifts will be active in the saints during the tribulation period, because they will need them to help them survive that terrible time that shall come upon the world.

 The gospel that had signs following was the gospel of the kingdom and it was for Israel who required signs. Matthew 4:17-23.

 Some publishers discredited this portion of scripture as being unreliable, and they write notes in their bibles saying these verses are not in the "best" manuscripts.

 They are in the best manuscripts, and they belong in all manuscripts. They do, however, need to be dispensationally considered and rightly divided. 2nd Timothy 2:15.

**19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.**

**Sat on the right hand of God:** The position of power and honour. Acts 2:33.

 The day would come one year later when Stephen would see Jesus standing on the right hand of God. Isaiah 3:13, Luke 13:6-9 & Acts 7:55-56.

**They went forth, and preached every where:** The gospel of the kingdom in the early part of the book of Acts was preached to none but unto the Jews only. Acts 11:19.

**Confirming the word with signs following:** The gospel of the kingdom had signs following. Matthew 4:23. There are no signs following the gospel of the grace of God today because Gentiles do not require a sign.

 The next thing that was supposed to happen was the seventieth week of Daniel was to occur immediately after the Messiah is cut off (Daniel 9:24-27).

 That did not happen at that time, because God had another plan that had been kept secret since the world began that he was about to dispense to the world through the apostle of the Gentiles.

 Acts one through eight is the story of Israel’s additional year given unto them by God to repent, and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Luke 13:6-9.

 Acts chapters 9 through 28 are the story of their failure to do so, and God setting them aside for a season to usher in the dispensation of grace.

**Amen:** The word “Amen” is used at the end of a prayer, or a sentence, never at the beginning. It is used as the last word of all four gospels as well.

 The word is the same Greek word translated “verily” in the King James Bible, and it is always used at the beginning of a statement, and never at the end of one.

**The End**

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**Introduction**

1. In Galatians 4:4 what was Israel under when Jesus ministered to them for 3 years?
2. When could the New Testament begin according to Hebrews 9:16?
3. What week of Daniel’s 70 weeks does Mark’s gospel begin in?
4. What chapter and verses explain those 70 weeks?

**Chapter One**

1. What is the gospel of Jesus Christ?
2. Who did Peter say that Jesus was in Matthew 16:15?
3. What did Jesus say a person had to believe to not die in their sins in John 8:24?
4. What two prophets does Mark quote? Give verses in Old Testament
5. Who is the Messenger mentioned?
6. What did John preach? v:4
7. What did people do before they were baptized? v:5
8. How did John's baptism differ from Jesus'? v:8
9. Why did the Father speak at Jesus' baptism?
10. Why did Jesus get baptized with the baptism of repentance?
11. What message did Jesus Preach? v:14
12. Where did Jesus say the kingdom was? v:15
13. What were two of the requirements for Israel's kingdom to come? v:15
14. What was the reason Jesus cast out devils from the people?
15. What was the reason Jesus healed the people of all their diseases?
16. Why would Jesus not allow the devils to speak? v:34
17. Why did Jesus send the man he healed of leprosy to the priest?

**Chapter Two**

1. Why did Jesus say "thy sins be forgiven thee" instead of rise and walk to a man with palsy?

2. Why did Jesus eat and drink with publicans and sinners?

3. Why didn't Jesus' disciples fast like John's and the Pharisees?

4. Why did Jesus and his disciples pluck ears of corn on the sabbath day in front of the Pharisees?

**Chapter Three**

1. What did Jesus ordain twelve of his disciples to do?

2. What power did he give only to the twelve?

3. Why did Jesus bind and cast out devils?

4. What is the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost?

5. Can we commit the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost today?

**Chapter Four**

1. Why did Jesus begin to teach in parables at this time? v:12

2. What was the parable concerning? v:11

3. What were the parables in v:26 and 30 concerning?

4. What attribute of deity did Jesus exhibit with the storm?

**Chapter Five**

1. What did the devils not want Jesus to do right then? v:7

2. Why did this man have so many devils possessing him?

3. Why did they not want to be sent out of the country?

4. How many years did the woman have an issue of blood?

5. How old was Jairus' daughter that Jesus raised from the dead?

6. What was the purpose of Jesus raising the ruler of the synagogue’s daughter from the dead?

**Chapter Six**

1. Why couldn't Jesus do any mighty works in Capernaum?

2. Did Jesus give all of his disciples power over unclean spirits?

3. Should we today follow this pattern for missions work in verses 6-13?

4. Who did Herod think Jesus was?

5. How many people were fed by five loaves of bread and two fishes?

6. How many baskets of fragments were taken up by the 12 apostles?

7. Why did the apostles wonder at the miracle of walking on and calming the water?

**Chapter Seven**

1. How did the Pharisees worship God incorrectly?

2. What did the Pharisees make the word of God?

3. What defiles a man?

4. What nationality was the woman whose daughter Jesus healed?

5. What did Jesus heal her of?

6. What did the woman mean when she said the dogs eat from the children's table?

7. Why did Jesus heal the deaf and dumb person?

**Chapter Eight**

1. What miracle did Jesus do in this chapter?

2. What old testament miracle was it similar to?

3. What is the leaven of the Pharisees?

4. Who did Peter say Jesus was?

5. What did Jesus call Peter and why?

**Chapter Nine**

**1**. What did Jesus mean in verse 1?

2. What did God the Father say about Jesus?

3. Who was Jesus talking about when he mentioned Elias?

4. Can we today do what Jesus did to the man with the dumb spirit?

5. Why didn't the apostles understand that Jesus was going to be crucified and rise again?

6. What were the apostles arguing about?

7. What verses do the NIV leave out of Mark 9?

**Chapter Ten**

1. What did Jesus teach about marriage?

2. What one thing did Jesus say a man was lacking to inherit eternal life?

3. What did Jesus mean about the cup that he drank, and the baptism that he is baptized with?

4. Who did the blind man call Jesus?

**Chapter Eleven**

1. What prophecy was fulfilled in chapter 11?

2. What does the cursing of the fig tree represent?

3. What did Jesus tell Israel they had made the Temple into?

4. Can believers today move mountains, or cause fig trees to wither by their faith?

5. Do we forgive others first to receive forgiveness today like Jesus commanded his disciples to, or is it different today in the dispensation of grace?

**Chapter Twelve**

1. What did the parable of the vineyard and husbandman represent?

2. What did Jesus say to refute the Sadducees disbelief in the resurrection of the dead?

3. What verse is Jesus quoting in Mark 12:36?

4. What does that verse teach about Israel's future?

**Chapter Thirteen**

1. Who is verse 13 speaking to and for what time is it?

2. What does the parable of the fig tree represent?

3. Who only knows the day and the hour of Christ's return?

4. What is the last thing the Jesus tells believing Israel to do in this chapter?

**Chapter Fourteen**

1. What two feast days coincide together in this chapter?

2. Why did the woman pour expensive oil on Jesus?

3. What did Jesus say about his betrayer?

4. Where did Jesus go to pray the night of his betrayal?

5. Who all said they would not betray Jesus in verse 31?

6. What did Jesus mean when he asked the Father to take away this cup from me?

7. What token did Judas give the guards to identify Jesus?

8. Who fled from Jesus naked that night?

9.  What question did Jesus answer of the High Priest?

10. What old testament verse in Psalms did Jesus partially quote that caused the High Priest to rent his garment?

11. What did Peter do after he thought about his denial of Jesus 3 times?

**Chapter Fifteen**

1. What was the custom that Pilate mentioned in connection with the feast of passover?

2. Why did Pilate release Barabbas and have Jesus crucified according to verse 15?

3. What title was Jesus called numerous times in this chapter?

4. What old testament scripture was fulfilled at the cross?

5. What happened immediately after Jesus died?

6. What does verse 43 tell us Joseph of Arimathea was als0 waiting for?

**Chapter Sixteen**

1. On what day of the week did the women find the tomb empty?

2. What did the women see when they first looked into the tomb?

3. What did the angel say about Jesus to the women?

4. What did the angel tell the women to do?

5. Did the 11 remaining apostles believe Mary's report of a risen Christ?

6. Who else did Jesus appear to on that day that also told the Apostles, and they still didn't believe their report?

7. Who did Jesus appear to the third time in this chapter?

8. Did the apostle preach the gospel of the kingdom or the gospel of the grace of God after Christ's resurrection?

9. What signs followed the apostle's preaching?

10. What confirmed the message of the apostles?