

John 18 - Trials before Jews and Gentiles



18:1 THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Parallel record: **Mt 26:36-46; Mk 14:32-42; Lk 22:39-46.**

v1 When Jesus had spoken these words: Important link with the prayer he just gave. **With his disciples:** Peter, James and John, his closest friends: **Mt 26:37. Lk 22:41** "he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast" - an allusion to David defeating Goliath, a type of Christ's victory over sin. **Cedron:** Means to be black, dark, murky, gloomy. The Cedron Valley was approx. 30m below Jerusalem's walls. David also went over Cedron: **2 Sam 15:23**. Many parallels with David's life (see SW18 notes).

Where was a garden: John doesn't say *Gethsemane*. because he wants us to reflect that he went into a **garden**. The carnal mind had victory in Eden, but now God's will has the victory. **Gethsemane** means a *winepress of olive oil*. There was never so much pressure on a man as this. It was here that the resolve to submit to the Father's will was extracted, and the purest form of light was revealed. God's light was to shine forth: **Jn 3:16-21; 8:12; 9:4-5; 12:35**. Such oil was used to anoint the High Priest's head: **Lev 8:12**. The oil was mixed with myrrh, symbol of Christ's sufferings: **Ex 30:23,30-31; Song 5:5; Mt 2:11; Mk 15:23; Jn 19:39. Psa 52:8** summarises: "I am like a **green olive tree** in the house of God. I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever."

Mt 26:38 "My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death."
Heb 5:7 "He offered up prayers with strong crying and tears,"
Read: Psa 34:6-7,17-20; 42:1-11; 43:5; 102:1-12,24-28; 116:3.

First prayer: Mt 26:39 He "fell on his face and prayed... O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless **not as I will, but as thou wilt.**" A similar position to **Daniel (Dan 10:8-12)** and **Elijah (1 Kgs 18:42, cp. Jas 5:17). Mk 14:36** "Abba Father, all things are possible unto thee, take away this cup from me." Abba is Hebrew for daddy. (cp. **Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15** where adopted sons say *Abba Father* in thankfulness). Jesus now appeals to his close relationship with his Father. He did not limit God. There were two wills in the garden. He was of our nature and naturally reacted against what was ahead. This shows that his obedience was absolutely willing. **Mt 26:39** says he "fell on his face." This is a position of greatest strength. At this point one is **entirely reliant on God**. An angel strengthens him between his first and second prayers: **Psa 18:6-19; Isa 49:4-10** (see *Jesus Christ's Vision of the Kingdom*). This strengthening was crucial!

In **Mt 26:40** he finds his disciples asleep. **Psa 69:20** "I looked for comforters and found none." **Second prayer: Mt 26:42** "thy will be done." **Third prayer: Mt 26:44** Jesus prays the same words.

18:2-11 BETRAYAL AND ARREST

Parallel record: **Mt 26:46-56; Mk 14:43-52; Lk 22:47-53.**

v2 Judas knew the place: Jesus had said, "He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me" (**Jn 13:18**, citing **Psa 41:9**). All for 30 pieces of silver: **Mt 26:15; 27:3,9** cp. **Ex 21:28-32; Zech 11:11-13**. The events of **Jn 12:1-6** triggered Judas to betray Jesus. The record in **Mt 26:6-13** is in parenthesis to explain his betrayal: "from that time Judas sought to betray him" **Mt 26:14-16**.

v3 Band of men: Roman cohort of 600 men. Captain in **18:12** is over 1000 men. Judas led them, betraying him with a kiss: **Mt 26:47-50; Acts 1:16**. Foretold in **Psa 41:5-12; 27:12-14; 55:20-21; Prov 27:6**.

v4 Knowing all things: Jn 13:1-3. Trauma knowing everything in advance. His life was set out in Scripture from the womb: **Psa 139:13-17**. Consider these: **Psa 22:7-8, 16-18; 31:13; 69:20; Isa 50:6; 53:7**.

v5 I am he: Gave himself voluntarily. He laid down his mortal life: **Jn 10:11,17,18. v6 Backward and fell:** Foretold in **Psa 27:1-3**, cp. **Psa 20:6-8**. Sinless Son of God, his presence was Divine. cp. **Jn 7:45-46. v7-9 I lost none: Jn 17:2,12**, cp. **Isa 53:3,6; Jn 6:39; 10:11**.

v10 Cut off his right ear: Lev 8:24 When the priest was inaugurated to office, he had his right ear touched. The only other case under the law was in healing a leper: **Lev 14:14**, which this man spiritually was.

v11 Put up thy sword: Commandment for all believers: **Jn 18:36**. The reason why true followers of Christ do not fight in the military. **The cup... shall I not drink it:** His mind now made up: **Psa 23:3-4**. He had resolved to go to the cross for the joy set before him: **Heb 12:2**. He was protected for a time (**Psa 91:11**), but his hour had now come. **Matt 26:56** adds, "all this was done, that Scripture be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him and fled" cp. **26:31; Zech 13:7**.

18:12-24 THREE TRIALS BEFORE THE JEWS

Parallel record: **Mt 26:57-68; Mk 14:53-65; Lk 22:54-65.**

Three trials: **Annas: Jn 18:13-23. Caiaphas: Mt 26:57-66; Mk 14:53-64; Jn 18:24. The Sanhedrin: Mt 27:1; Mk 15:1; Lk 22:66-71.**

v12 Took Jesus, bound him: Fulfillment of **Psa 118:26-27**. Seven days earlier they cried, "blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." **Mk 11:9**. Now they are binding their king! **v13 Annas:** Known as High Priest because he controlled the position from the sidelines. He was a ruthless politician. Succeeded by 4 sons and 1 son in law. Illegal because a charge should have been brought before witnesses and only between sunrise to sunset. Time was running out (now 1am) **v14 Caiaphas:** See **Lk 3:2; Acts 4:6**. He set up the temple market.

v15-18 Peter's First Denial. v15 Another disciple: Most likely John. **v16 Peter stood at the door:** Courageous at this point. **v17 This man's disciples? Mt 26:58** says Peter came to "see the end." **I am not:** He was alone and his secure world had come to an end. **Mt 26:70** "denied before all." **v19 Asked Jesus:** Illegal. Under Jewish law the presiding judge was there to protect the rights of the accused. The whole onus of proof should have been on the witnesses: **Deut 17:6-7; 19:15-19. v20-21 Ask them which heard me:** Correct appeal for justice under Jewish law. **v22 Struck:** Gk. to smite with a rod. **v23 Bear witness of the evil:** Again asks for proper justice under Jewish law. His next words were in response to Caiaphas. **v24 Sent to Caiaphas:** They sought false witnesses: **Mt 26:59-66. Psa 27:12-14; 35:1-10; 55:3-15; 64:5-10** are all fulfilled here.



They accuse him of saying **he** will destroy the temple, distorting his earlier words: **Jn 2:19**. "Neither did witnesses agree" **Mk 14:59**
Key Scripture: Mt 26:63-64. Jesus's response to Caiaphas is stunning! (see *Jesus Christ's Vision of the Kingdom*) They spit in his face, punching him: **Mt 26:67; Isa 50:6; Psa 35:15-17**.

v25 Peter's Second denial. Mt 26:71-72. v27 Third denial. Mt 26:73-75. He "began to curse and swear" **Immediately the cock crew: Lk 22:61** "and the Lord turned and looked upon Peter" a look of love and sadness. Peter went out and wept bitterly. Who of us can really know our future? Therefore let our words be few.
Note: Between Jn 18:27 and 28 are Mt 27:1; Mk 15:1; Lk 22:66-71.

18:28-38 FIRST GENTILE TRIAL: BEFORE PILATE

Parallel record: **Mt 27:1-14; Mk 15:2-5; Lk 23:1-6.**

v28-35 Pilate catches the Jews off guard how he questions Jesus.

Mt 27:3 "Then Judas, which betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself." Judas suddenly remembers Jesus's words (from **Mt 20:17-19**): "they shall condemn him to death and the third day he shall rise again." Everything Jesus said was now coming to pass! He realises Jesus is going to rise again!

v36 My kingdom is not of this world: Key Scripture! Grand theme of **Daniel**. See notes on **Jn 19:3,10-11**. See *Jesus Christ's Vision of the Kingdom*. **Then would my servants fight:** Clear words! Principle of **conscientious objection: Rev 13:10**.

v37 Bear witness unto the truth: Key Scripture! A witness is one who stands in the dock and testifies. Significant theme and foundation statement in the book of **Revelation**. **Hear my voice: Jn 10:4; Song 8:13; Jn 6:63; Rev 1:3; 22:17**. Do we hear him?

SECOND GENTILE TRIAL: BEFORE HEROD

Note: Between Jn 18:38 and 39 are events recorded in **Lk 23:7-17**. Herod "set him at nought" cp. **Dan 4:17** LXX "him who is set at nought of men" - the lowliest soon to be king of the world!

18:39-19:16 THIRD GENTILE TRIAL: BEFORE PILATE AGAIN

Parallel record: **Mt 27:15-30; Mk 15:6-19; Lk 23:13-25.**

v38 What is truth: The cynical question asked through the ages. **I find in him no fault at all: First acquittal. Lk 23:4.** At this point Pilate has one thought in mind, that is to release Jesus. Nothing came from Herod to justify his death. He gets a brilliant idea, thinking to appeal to the people rather than their leaders. He calls him "king of the Jews" (**Mk 15:9**) to appeal to those who had claimed he was their Messiah. However "the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude" **Mt 27:20**. Catholic Church has done this for 1700 years and will do so again at Christ's return: **Psa 2:1-9; Rev 17:14; 19:11-21. v39-40** Who do we choose?

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