

JESUS' LAST DAY BEFORE HIS DEATH
14th of Nissan (Tuesday sunset to Wednesday sunset)
SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. This is the last in a series of six lessons discussing the last six days of Jesus' life before He was crucified. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we study today.

CHRIST OUR PASSOVER IS SACRIFICED FOR US

IT WAS THE PREPARATION DAY AND JESUS' MINISTRY WAS SOON TO END FOR IT WAS ONLY ONE DAY BEFORE THE PASSOVER AND JESUS WAS CERTAIN OF HIS PLIGHT; TOMORROW, HIS STAKE HE WOULD CARRY TO THE SIGHT WHERE HIS BARREN BODY WOULD HANG; HIS FINAL SUFFERINGS WOULD BRING A MOURNFUL, GLOOMY, UNFORGETTABLE SIGHT.

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS TOGETHER WITH CAIAPHAS THE RULING HIGH PRIEST, HAD DEVIOUS PLANS OF TRICKEREY, IT WAS JESUS' DEATH THEY ALL SOUGHT; BUT GOD WAS IN CONTROL, PASSOVER WAS WHEN HE WAS TO DIE; HIS DEATH, THE TIME WAS NOT FOR THEM TO PLOT.

ON WENT THE DAY AND JUDAS ISCARIOT, HIS LORD HE WOULD BETRAY, "HOW MUCH WILL YOU GIVE ME", JUDAS BARGAINED THAT DAY; "THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER, THE PRICE OF A SLAVE", THEY ANSWERED; AND JESUS HE AGREED TO BETRAY.

"NOW BEFORE THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER" ONLY HOURS BEFORE CHRIST'S DEATH, THE DISCIPLES WITH JESUS GATHERED FOR "SUPPER" WHICH WOULD BE HIS "LAST"; JESUS KNEW "HIS TIME WAS AT HAND" AND IT TRULY WAS INDEED FOR THE HOUR HAD COME AND THERE WAS NO TURNING BACK;

A NEW COVENANT HE MADE FOR HIS PEOPLE THAT NIGHT, THIS
TIME HE WROTE HIS LAW IN THEIR HEARTS, NOT ON STONE;
"LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU; MY DISCIPLES YOU'LL
BE AND TO ALL MANKIND MY LOVE WILL EVENTUALLY BE MADE
KNOWN".

"AND RISING UP DURING SUPPER", CHRIST Poured WATER IN A
BASIN AND BEGAN TO WASH HIS DISCIPLE'S FEET SAYING,
"HUMILITY THIS DOES TAKE";
"I HAVE GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE THAT YOU SHOULD DO AS I HAVE
DONE, NOT ONLY FOR THE ONES YOU LOVE BUT DO FOR
EVERYONE IN MY NAMESAKE".

WITH JOHN'S HEAD UPON CHRIST'S CHEST, SOON THE BREAD,
SYMBOLIC OF HIS BROKEN BODY, AND THE WINE, SYMBOLIC OF
HIS SHED BLOOD, THEY DIVIDED AMONG THEM AND
THEY ALL DID TAKE;
"DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, I'LL DRINK IT NO MORE WITH
YOU UNTIL THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND THEN ONCE AGAIN
WE'LL ALL PARTAKE".

AND WHEN THEY HAD HEARD ALL THESE THINGS, THEY SANG A
HYMN AND OUT TO THE MT. OF OLIVES THEY DEPARTED WITH
HIM; (PSALM 113-118)
THE TIME HAD COME WHEN THEY WERE TO LEAVE CHRIST ALONE
AND TO HIS FATHER HE WOULD PRAY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS
FROM HIM.

WITH SUPPER ENDED THEY WENT TO THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE;
HIS DISCIPLES WERE TO KEEP WATCH AS JESUS PRAYED TO
GOD IN AGONY;
BUT HIS DISCIPLES FELL ASLEEP, NO WATCH DID THEY KEEP; SWEAT
FELL LIKE GREAT DROPS OF BLOOD AS JESUS TO GOD DID
SPEAK.

THEN FROM A DISTANCE THE CLATTER AND CLANG OF CHAINS WAS
HEARD; THE ROMANS CAME NEARER WITH TORCHES AND
WEAPONS AS IF IN A HERD;
JESUS STEPPED FORTH AND SAID, "IT IS I WHOM YOU SEEK," AND
THEY GRABBED HIM AND BOUND HIM FROM HIS HEAD TO HIS
FEET.

ALL NIGHT JESUS WAS ON TRIAL AT THE HOUSE OF CAIAPHAS, THE
HIGH PRIEST; THEY BLINDFOLDED HIM AND SPIT UPON HIS
FACE AND SOON HE FELL HARD TO THE GROUND;
NO PILLOW, NO BED, NO REST DID HE HAVE, AS THEY PRODDED AND
KICKED HIM AND BRUTALLY SHOVED HIM AROUND.

"MARRED BEYOND BELIEF, MORE THAN ANY MAN, REJECTED AND
DESPISED BY THE WORLD; HE WAS FILLED WITH SORROW AS
HE DREW CLOSE TO HIS LAST "HOUR";
"LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER, ALL DONE FOR THE LOVE OF HIS
CREATION; HIS LIFE, AN OFFERING FOR OUR SINS, WILLINGLY
HE GAVE FOR THE HOPE OF A BRIGHT TOMORROW"!

NOW TO GOLGOTHA, "AFFLICTED", BRUISED, BEATEN AND BLOODY
JUST AS IT WAS FORETOLD, STILL MOCKING HIM MORE, A
PURPLE ROBE ON HIM THEY DID THROW;
"KING OF THE JEWS" THEY HUNG OVERHEAD, THEY SCOURGED AT HIS
SIDE, JAMMED A CROWN OF THORNS ON HIS HEAD; JESUS,
THE INNOCENT LAMB OF GOD, HUNG ON THE TREE UNTIL
HE WAS DEAD.

IT WAS NOW NOONTIME ON THE DAY JESUS DIED; DAYLIGHT
TURNED TO DARKNESS AS THE CROWD KEPT HOLLERING LIES;
MARY, JESUS' MOTHER, SAW HER SON HANGING BRUISED ON THE
STAKE; SHE ACHED WITH LOVE FOR HER FIRSTBORN SON
UNTIL SHE THOUGHT HER HEART WOULD BREAK.

JESUS "GROANED" OUT OF LOVE AS HE LOOKED DOWN THROUGH
BRUISED, SWOLLEN EYES;
HE SAID, "JOHN, TAKE MY MOTHER AND KEEP HER NEAR, KEEP HER
RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE".

AS THE DAY LINGERED ON, IT GREW DARKER AND DARKER UNTIL IT
WAS BLACK AS MIDNIGHT;
THREE O'CLOCK HAD COME AND "CHRIST OUR PASSOVER", FOR US,
HAD GIVEN HIS LIFE; "SURELY" THEY SAID, "WE'VE LOST OUR
TRUE LIGHT"!

THE MOMENT JESUS DIED THERE WAS A GREAT EARTHQUAKE; THE
BUILDINGS AND TREES DID VIOLENTLY SHAKE;
PEOPLE SWAYED ON THEIR FEET AND FELL TO THE GROUND; AS
BRICKS AND STONES TUMBLED, THE PEOPLE WERE FRIGHTENED
IT WAS MORE THAN THEY COULD TAKE.

THERE WAS MUCH TO BE DONE FOR TOMORROW WAS THE HIGH
HOLY DAY; FINALLY THE SKY GREW LIGHTER AND THE
DARKNESS ESCAPED AWAY;
QUIETLY THEY LOWERED THE STAKE, WITH JESUS ON, SLOWLY TO
THE GROUND; QUICKLY WITH OINTMENT, SPICES AND FINE
LINEN, JESUS' BODY WAS BOUND AS CUSTOM DOES
STATE.

THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS JESUS WAS BURIED IN THE TOMB;
WHILE AT THE OPENING WAS ROLLED A HUGE HEAVY STONE;
BUT EARLY "THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK", WHEN MARY MAGDALENE
GOT THERE, THE TOMB WAS OPEN AND ROLLED AWAY WAS THE
HUGE HEAVY STONE!

ALL THAT REMAINED WERE THE OINTMENT SOAKED GRAVE CLOTHES
LYING IN HIS PLACE;
TWO ANGELS SAT INSIDE THE TOMB, ONE AT HIS HEAD, ONE AT HIS
FEET BUT OF HIS BODY THERE WAS NOT A TRACE.

MARY MAGDALENE STOOD WEEPING AND WONDERING, WHERE
COULD THEY HAVE TAKEN MY LORD SHE LOVED;
THEN SHE TURNED AND SAW HIM BUT TOUCH HIM SHE COULD NOT,
FOR FIRST HE MUST ASCEND TO HIS FATHER ABOVE.

GOD SENT HIS SON OUT OF LOVE FOR US TO DIE FOR YOU AND ME;
HE DIED TO PAY THE PENALTY OF DEATH, AND UPON
REPENTANCE FREE OF SIN WE CAN BE;
NOW WE CAN HAVE ETERNAL LIFE FOR JESUS IS ALIVE TODAY; I'M
SORRY FOR THE PENALTY OF SIN HE WILLINGLY PAID
FOR ME.

NOW HIS LITTLE FLOCK WAITS FOR THEIR SHEPHERD'S RETURN TO
SET UP HIS KINGDOM SOON UPON THE EARTH;
FOR THE TRUMPET WILL SOUND AND A "NEW CREATION" WE WILL BE
WHEN SPIRITUALLY "BORN AGAIN" AS WE ARE RE-BIRTHED!

WE WILL REIGN WITH HIM AS KINGS AND PRIESTS WHERE MERCY
AND COMPASSION ABOUND IN HIS KINGDOM FOREVERMORE;
FINALLY AN END TO THE EVIL OF SATAN, HIS HATRED AND
FALSE DOCTRINES AND AN END TO ALL WARS.

THIS IS THE HOPE THAT LIES WITHIN GOD'S "CALLED AND
CHOSEN"; IT IS BY HIS DIVINE HAND WE WALK EACH DAY;
"IF YOU LOVE ME KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS; GIVE THANKS AND
PRAISE TO JESUS, OUR PASSOVER, THROUGH HIM COMES
SALVATION, IT IS THE ONLY WAY!

Say - His promise to His people still holds true: "..., I will bring health and cure, and will reveal unto (My people) the abundance of peace and truth. And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first. And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity (lawlessness), whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon (forgive) all their (our) iniquities, whereby they have sinned against me. And (God's people, His bride) shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honor before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto (My people)" Jeremiah 33:6-9.

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes and him that sows

seed; and the mountains shall drop sweet wine, and all the hills shall melt. And ... my people of Israel ...shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God" Amos 9:13-15. And the Lord shall be King over all the earth, in that day shall there be one Lord, and His name one, Zechariah 14:9. This is the HOPE that lies within God's converted people. No wonder we are to pray, "Thy Kingdom come" Matthew 6:9-11!

Story of the poem can be found in Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15, Luke 22-23, John 13-19.

MEMORY VERSE

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY
BEGOTTEN SON THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM
SHOULD NOT PERISH BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

JOHN 3:16



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