



Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Matthew 26-27
- I John 2:5-6
- Colossians 2:6-7
- III John 1:2-4

Title:

FINAL FOOTSTEPS

- Preparation
- Betrayal
- Trials
- Execution

There is more to say than could be said with words. Really think about it. There are only two days remaining until He takes His last breath on this side of eternity. "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last. It all comes down to this and the number of significant things—history-changing things, personal life-changing things that are about to take place in the span of less than forty-eight hours.

The Sermon on the Mount of Olives was complete. It was finished late afternoon, close to sunset, the day after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Think about all that happened in those preceding two days, most of those events taking place on two visits to the temple. Technically, it's less than two full days. He rode into Jerusalem in the morning, left the city that night, went back the next morning, and that evening He left the city again and went up onto the Mount of Olives to deliver that sermon. There He taught about the coming end to a dying religious system and about the signs of the end-of-the-age and how to be prepared. If we think about the timing of Passover, which takes place as the sun is setting, we get a clearer picture of when He completed that sermon. When He was finished teaching, He said to His disciples, "You know that Passover is just two days from now, and I will be handed over to be crucified." This places the timing of that sermon late in the day on Monday—forty-eight hours before Passover.

The next day, Tuesday morning, He is in Bethany being anointed for His burial with expensive perfume, and that evening, the night before the Passover, is when Jewish men would traditionally make their final preparations. It's called the preparation day and on that evening Y'shua will share His last meal, the Last Supper, as He delivers His final preparation remarks to His closest disciples. To get ready, He sends His disciples ahead into Jerusalem to secure a room in which to prepare.

After the meal that night, He is off to the Garden of Gethsemane where His life as the Passover Lamb will be traded for the lives of all mankind. Subsequently, a court case takes place in the cover of darkness, mitigated that night by hypocritical religious leaders at the helm. And we know the timing because Peter is waiting overnight in the courtyard of the High Priest for a verdict, when the morning rooster crows, but not before he had denied his Lord three times.

That morning Y'shua is passed off to the Roman courts because the Jewish leaders display the worst brand of cowardice imaginable. They want Him dead, but they need someone else to do the dirty work. By noon Y'shua is beaten, bloodied, His flesh is torn from His body, and He is there hanging on a cross innocent, but crucified in humiliation for all to see.

The question for you is this; are you willing to go there with Him? Would you walk in His final footsteps? The journey through those final moments are unmatched in intensity and significance by any other span of hours in the history of humanity. Will you go there? Will you walk like He walked?

PROPHETIC SEED:

“You know that **after two days is the Passover**, and the Son of Man will be **delivered up to be crucified.**” Then the **chief priests, the scribes, and the elders** of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and **plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.**” Matthew 26:2-4 NKJV

“Assuredly, I say to you, **wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world**, what this woman has done **will also be told as a memorial** to her.” Matthew 26:13 NKJV

“That which has been **is what will be**, that which is done **is what will be done**, and there is **nothing new under the sun.**” Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

“But **whoever keeps His word**, truly the **love of God is perfected in him**. By this we know that we are in Him. **He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.**” I John 2:5-6 NKJV

“As you **therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him**, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.” Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV

“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and **testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.**” III John 1:2-4 NKJV

PREPARATION

1. The Final Stage is Set

A. The Plot to Kill Y’shua

(1) The Diabolical Scheme

(a) Two days from the feast and the religious elite are panicking.

1. “Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, that He said to His disciples, “You know that after **two days is the Passover**, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.” Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and **plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him**. But they said, “**Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.**”” Matthew 26:1-5 NKJV
2. “And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.” Matthew 22:46
3. “That which has been **is what will be**, That which is done **is what will be done**, And there is **nothing new under the sun.**” Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV

B. The Anointing at Bethany

(1) A Memory for ALL TIME!

(a) Prepared for Burial

1. "And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of **very costly fragrant oil**, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, "Why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to the poor." But when Jesus was aware of it, He said to them, "**Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me.** For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. For in pouring this **fragrant oil on My body**, she did it for **My burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.**"

Matthew 26:6-13 NKJV

2. "That which has been **is what will be**, That which is done **is what will be done**, And there is **nothing new under the sun.**" Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV

C. Judas Agrees to Betray Y'shua

(1) The Secret Plot

(a) Judas is the one who approaches the religious leaders...

1. "Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "**What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?**" And they counted out to him **thirty pieces of silver**. So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him."Matthew 26:14-16 NKJV
2. "That which has been **is what will be**, That which is done **is what will be done**, And there is **nothing new under the sun.**" Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV

D. Y'shua in the Upper Room (the Last Supper)

(1) Go Prepare

(a) They Prepared for Passover

1. "Now on **the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread** the disciples came to Jesus, saying to Him, "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?" And He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, 'The Teacher says, "My time is at hand; **I will keep the Passover at your house with My disciples.**" ' " So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them; and **they prepared the Passover.**" Matthew 26:17-19 NKJV
2. "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into His death [Passover]**? Therefore we were **buried with Him [Unleavened Bread]** through baptism into death, that **just as Christ was raised from the dead [First Fruits]** by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Romans 6:3-4 NKJV

(2) Note of Special Interest

(a) Interestingly, Matthew says they asked to prepare on "the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread," which is quite literally impossible, because the first day of Unleavened Bread is AFTER the Passover is eaten.

1. "Therefore, **because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day) [the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is a Sabbath— Leviticus 23:6-7]**, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away." John 19:31 NKJV

2. "Now in the place where **He was crucified** there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. **So there they laid Jesus, because of the Jews' Preparation Day**, for the tomb was nearby." John 19:41-42 NKJV

E. Predicted Betrayal

(1) We both know who it is...

(a) One of you will betray Me...

1. "When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, **I say to you, one of you will betray Me.**" And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." **Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered and said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it."**" Matthew 26:20-25 NKJV

(2) Predicted Betrayal

(a) Y'shua reveals that one disciple among them is a traitor and they all want to know who it is.

1. "**What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?**" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver." Matthew 26:15 NKJV

F. The Bread and the Wine (Body and Blood)

(1) Y'shua Appropriates Passover Elements

(a) The Bread, the Wine, and the Kingdom of Passover!

1. "And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "**Take, eat; this is My body.**" Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. **For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.** But I say to you, **I will not drink** of this fruit of the vine from now on **until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.**" And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." Matthew 26:26-30 NKJV

(2) At the table...

(a) The Bread and the Wine (Body and Blood)

1. "And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life.** He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. ...**I am the living bread which came down from heaven.** If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; **and the bread that I shall give is My flesh,** which I shall give for the life of the world.'" John 6:35, 51 NKJV
2. **Cup of Sanctification:** "I will **bring you out** from under the yoke of the Egyptians."
3. **Cup of Judgment:** "I will **free you** from being slaves to them."
4. **Cup of Redemption:** "**I will redeem you** with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment." **This is the cup we see in the Last Supper Passover Rehearsal:** "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness of sins.**" Matthew 26:27-28
5. **Cup of the Kingdom:** "And **I will take you to me for a people,** and I will be to you a God"

(b) He lifts the forth cup of wine (the cup of the kingdom) and says *“I **will not** drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father’s kingdom.”*

1. *“And **I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”***” Luke 22:29-30 NKJV

G. Peter’s Predicted Denial of Christ

(1) I would NEVER....

(a) Instead of walking in Y’shua’s footsteps, Peter often put his foot in his mouth!

1. “Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: **‘I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’** But after I have been raised, I will go before you to Galilee.” Peter answered and said to Him, **“Even if all are made to stumble because of You, I will never be made to stumble.”** Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, **I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**” Peter said to Him, **“Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!”** **And so said all the disciples.**” Matthew 26:31-35 NKJV
2. *“That which has been **is what will be**, That which is done **is what will be done**, And there is **nothing new under the sun.**”* Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV

(2) CLOSED GONE FISHING

(a) Peter is the one who gets six other disciples to go back to fishing even after the resurrection!

1. “Simon Peter said to them, **“I am going fishing.”** They said to him, **“We are going with you also.”** They went **out and immediately** got into the boat, and that night they **caught nothing.**” John 21:3 NKJV
2. “And truly **Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples**, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” John 20:30-31 NKJV
3. **“After these things** Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself: 1) **Simon Peter**, 2) **Thomas** called the Twin, 3) **Nathanael** of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee [4) **James**, 5) **John**] and 6) & 7) **two others** of His disciples were together.” John 21:1-2 NKJV

BETRAYAL

2. Irreversible Decisions

A. The Prayer in the Garden

(1) Wake Up!

(a) Y’shua has to make the most important decision of His life and His three closest friends can’t even stay awake to support Him.

1. “Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, “Sit here while I go and pray over there.” And He took with **Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee**, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, **“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death.** Stay here and watch with Me.” He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, **“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”** Then He came to the disciples and **found them sleeping, and said to Peter, “What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?**

Watch and pray, **lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**" Again, a **second time**, He went away and prayed, saying, **"O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."** And He came and **found them asleep again**, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and **prayed the third time, saying the same words**. Then He came to His disciples and said to them, **"Are you still sleeping and resting? Behold, the hour is at hand**, and the Son of Man is being **betrayed into the hands of sinners**. Rise, let us be going. See, **My betrayer is at hand.**"

Matthew 26:36-46 NKJV

(2) The Law of the Hebrew Bondservant

(a) Each time we visit the passages in which Y'shua faces His final decision in the Garden, we are compelled to recognize the magnitude of the choice He is making! The finality of what is happening is rooted in the Law of the Hebrew Bondservant.

1. **"If you buy a Hebrew servant [Bondservant], he is to serve you for six years, but in the seventh year he will go out free** without paying anything. **If he came in by himself he will go out by himself; if he had a wife when he came in, then his wife will go out with him. If his master gave him a wife, and she bore sons or daughters, the wife and the children will belong to her master, and he will go out by himself. But if the servant should declare, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'** then his master must bring him to the judges, and he will bring him to the door or the doorposts, and **his master will pierce his ear with an awl, and he shall serve him forever."** Exodus 21:2-6 NET
2. **Christ was a Bondservant:** "You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had, who though he ***existed in the form of God** did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped, **but emptied himself by taking on the form of a slave [Bondservant], by looking like other men, and by sharing in human nature**. He humbled himself, by **becoming obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross!**" Philippians 2:5-8 NET

B. Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

(1) Quintessential Meekness

(a) "Friend, why have you come?"

1. "And while He was still speaking, behold, **Judas**, one of the twelve, **with a great multitude with swords and clubs**, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now His betrayer had given them a **sign**, saying, **"Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him."** Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, **"Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him**. But Jesus said to him, **"Friend, why have you come?"** Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. And suddenly, **one of those who were with Jesus** stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and **cut off his ear**. But Jesus said to him, **"Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?** How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, **"Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled."** Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled." Matthew 26:47-56 NKJV

(2) Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane

(a) At that very moment, Judas shows up with a throng of armed Jewish men sent by the religious leaders.

1. "Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, pulled it out and struck the high priest's slave, cutting off his right ear. (Now the slave's name was Malchus.) But Jesus said to ***Peter, "Put your sword back into its sheath! Am I not to drink the cup that the Father has given me?"**" John 18:10-11 NET
2. "Then one of them struck the high priest's slave, cutting off his right ear. But Jesus said, "Enough of this!" ****And he touched the man's ear and healed him.**" Luke 22:50-51 NET

(b) Then, in what might be the greatest act of meekness in the history of mankind, Y'shua tells Peter to put away his sword and He heals the man.

1. Y'shua is well aware of the destiny of the meek: "Blessed are the meek, for **they will inherit the earth.**" Matthew 5:5 NET

(c) A lesson in title deeds!

1. "By the sweat of your brow you will eat food until **you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you will return.**" Genesis 3:19 NET
2. "The Lord God made garments from skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. And the Lord God said, "**Now that the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not be allowed** to stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." **So the Lord God expelled him from the orchard in Eden** to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. **When he drove the man out**, he placed on the eastern side of the orchard in Eden **angelic sentries who used the flame of a whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.**" Genesis 3:21-24 NET
3. Satan is the ruler of this world!
 - a) "Jesus said, "This voice has not come for my benefit but for yours. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out." John 12:30-31 NET
 - b) "I will not speak with you much longer, **for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me**, but I am doing just what the Father commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Get up, let us go from here." John 14:30-31 NET
 - c) "and concerning judgment, **because the ruler of this world has been condemned.**" John 16:11 NET
 - d) "among whom **the god of this age** has blinded the minds of those who do not believe so they would not see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God." 2 Corinthians 4:4 NET
 - e) "And although you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you formerly lived according to **this world's present path, according to the ruler of the kingdom of the air**, the ruler of the spirit that is now energizing the sons of disobedience," Ephesians 2:1-2 NET
4. Satan possessed the title deed to the earth, as he clearly owned it to offer it to Y'shua. I own these things and I will give them to you, if...
 - a) "Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their grandeur. And he said to him, "**I will give you all these things if** you throw yourself to the ground and worship me." Matthew 4:8-9 NET
5. And we know that they will be restored to Y'shua...

- a) "Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven saying: **"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."**" Revelation 11:15 NET

TRIALS

3. Nothing new under the sun!

A. Y'shua Faces the Sanhedrin

(1) The Court of Pretense

(a) False Witnesses, False Accusations, Erroneous Verdict!

1. "And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. But **Peter followed Him at a distance to the high priest's courtyard.** And he went in and sat with the servants to see the end. Now the chief priests, the elders, and all the council sought false testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but found none. **Even though many false witnesses came forward, they found none. But at last two false witnesses came forward and said, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.'"** And the high priest arose and said to Him, **"Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" But Jesus kept silent.** And the high priest answered and said to Him, **"I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"** Jesus said to him, **"It is as you said.** Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, **"He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?"** They answered and said, **"He is deserving of death."** Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"" Matthew 26:57-68 NKJV

(2) Y'shua Faces the Sanhedrin

(a) After His arrest, Y'shua is brought before Caiaphas, the high priest, and an assembly of religious leaders.

1. "Then they **secretly instigated** some men to say, "We have heard this man speaking blasphemous words against Moses and God." They incited the people, the elders, and the experts in the law; then they approached Stephen, seized him, and brought him before the council. **They brought forward false witnesses who said,** "This man does not stop saying things against this holy place and the law." Acts 6:11-13 NET
2. *[Two days earlier in the temple]* "So the Jews answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show to us, since **You do these things?** *[turning tables and accusing them of turning the temple into a den of robbers]*" Jesus answered and said to them, ***"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."** Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" **But He was speaking of the temple of His body.** Therefore, **when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them;** and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said." John 2:18-22 NKJV
3. "He was treated harshly and afflicted, **but he did not even open his mouth.** Like a lamb led to the slaughtering block, like a sheep silent before her shearers, **he did not even open his mouth."** Isaiah 53:7 NET

4. "That which has been **is what will be**, That which is done **is what will be done**, And there is **nothing new under the sun**." Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV

B. Peter Denies Y'shua and Weeps Bitterly

(1) Nothing new under the sun!

(a) Three denials as predicted!

1. "Now Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came to him, saying, "You also were with Jesus of Galilee." **But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you are saying."** And when he had gone out to the gateway, another girl saw him and said to those who were there, "This fellow also was with Jesus of Nazareth." **But again he denied with an oath, "I do not know the Man!"** And a little later those who stood by came up and said to Peter, "Surely you also are one of them, for your speech betrays you." **Then he began to curse and swear, saying, "I do not know the Man!" Immediately a rooster crowed.** And Peter remembered the word of Jesus who had said to him, "**Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.**" So he went out and wept bitterly." Matthew 26:69-75 NKJV

C. Y'shua Handed Over to Pontius Pilate

(1) Moved to a differing jurisdiction...

(a) You do the dirty work!

1. "When morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people **plotted against Jesus to put Him to death**. And when they had bound Him, they led Him away and **delivered Him to Pontius Pilate** the governor." Matthew 27:1-2 NKJV

(2) Men in power will do anything to stay in power, even manipulate the courts!

(a) Paul oversaw a spontaneous Jewish court case in which Stephen was found guilty because of the testimony of false witnesses, and then he was executed.

1. "**They incited** the people, the elders, and the experts in the law; then they approached Stephen, seized him, and **brought him before the council**. They **brought forward *false witnesses** who said, "This man does not stop saying things against this holy place and the law." Acts 6:12-13 NET

(b) Stephen gives a perfect defense against the false claims. (READ Acts 6-7), but it did not matter because a decision was already made. (Sound familiar?) And who was there consenting to the whole charade? Paul!

1. "But **they covered their ears**, shouting out with a loud voice, and rushed at him with one intent. When they had driven him out of the city, **they began to stone him, and *the [false] witnesses laid their cloaks at the feet of a young man named Saul.**" Acts 7:57-58 NET
2. "And **Saul agreed completely with killing him**. Now on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were forced to scatter throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria." Acts 8:1 NET

(3) Don't think they had the authority to handle the case within their Jewish courts?

(a) They certainly did.

1. "But Saul was **trying to destroy the church**; entering one house after another, he **dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.**" Acts 8:3 NET

2. “Meanwhile **Saul, still breathing out threats to murder the Lord’s disciples, went to the high priest and requested letters** from him to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, either men or women, **he could bring them as prisoners to Jerusalem.**” Acts 9:1-2 NET

B. Judas Hangs Himself

(1) “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

(a) Remorse: full of regret, regretful, sad, contrite, repentant, penitent, guilt-ridden!

1. “Then Judas, **His betrayer, seeing that He had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver** to the chief priests and elders, saying, **“I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”** And they said, **“What is that to us? You see to it!”** Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself. But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, **“It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood.”** And **they consulted together and bought with them the potter’s field**, to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then was fulfilled what was ***spoken by Jeremiah the prophet**, saying, “And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter’s field, as the Lord directed me.”” Matthew 27:3-10 NKJV

(2) Judas Hangs Himself

(a) Once Judas recognizes the fruit His actions, he regrets his choice and goes back to the the religious leaders to refund the thirty pieces of silver they paid him for the betrayal.

1. *“For this reason I tell you, people will be forgiven for every sin and blasphemy, but the **blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven. But whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.**”* (Matthew 12:31-32 NET)
2. [Peter speaking] *“**“Brothers, the scripture had to be fulfilled that the Holy Spirit foretold through David concerning Judas – who became the guide for those who arrested Jesus – *for he was counted as one of us [but was not really one of us—1 John 2:19] and received a share in this ministry.”** (Now this man Judas acquired a field with the reward of his unjust deed, and **falling headfirst he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out.** This became known to all who lived in Jerusalem, so that in their own language they called that field Hakeldama, that is, **“Field of Blood.”**) **“For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘Let his house become deserted, and let there be no one to live in it, [Ps. 69:25]’ and ‘Let another take his position of responsibility. [**Ps. 109:8]”** Acts 1:16-20 NET*
3. ***[Psalms 109:6-8] **“Appoint an evil man to testify against him [Judas]! May an accuser stand at his right side! When he is judged, he will be found guilty [leads us to believe he was never really one of them]! Then his prayer will be regarded as sinful. May his days be few [suicide]! May another take his job [Matthias is chosen in Acts 1:21-26]!”** NET*
4. *“They went out from us, **but they did not really belong to us, because if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us.** But they went out from us **to demonstrate that all of them do not belong to us.**” 1 John 2:19 NET*

5. "Saul said to his armor bearer, "Draw your sword and stab me with it! Otherwise these uncircumcised people will come, stab me, and torture me." But his armor bearer refused to do it, because he was very afraid. **So Saul took his sword and fell on it.** When his armor bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell on his own sword and died with him." 1 Samuel 31:4-5 NET
6. "Then I said to them, "If it seems good to you, pay me my wages, but if not, forget it." **So they weighed out my payment – thirty pieces of silver.** The Lord then said to me, "Throw to the potter that exorbitant sum at which they valued me!" **So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the temple of the Lord."** Zechariah 11:12-13 NET
7. "So he said to them, "You foolish people – how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" **Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,** he interpreted to them the things written about himself in all the scriptures." Luke 24:25-27 NET
8. "Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms** must be fulfilled."" Luke 24:44 NET

A. Y'shua Faces Pilate

- (1) "Are You the King of the Jews?
 - (a) Don't you hear what they are saying about you?
 1. "Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "**Are You the King of the Jews?**" Jesus said to him, "**It is as you say.**" And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate said to Him, "**Do You not hear how many things they testify against You?**" But **He answered him not one word,** so that the governor marveled greatly." Matthew 27:11-14 NKJV
- (2) Y'shua Faces Pilate
 - (a) Pilate asks Y'shua if He is the King of the Jews. He says, "Yes!"
 1. "...like a sheep silent before her shearers, **he did not even open his mouth.**" Isaiah 53:7 NET

EXECUTION

4. The First Half of the Most Significant Event in History

A. Take the Place of Barabbas

- (1) Barabbas or Y'shua
 - (a) Their blind jealousy and hatred runs so deep that they would choose a notorious criminal over the Christ!
 1. "Now at the feast the **governor was accustomed to releasing** to the multitude one prisoner whom they wished. And at that time they had **a notorious prisoner called Barabbas.** Therefore, when they had gathered together, Pilate said to them, "**Whom do you want me to release to you?** Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" **For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.** While he was sitting on the judgment seat, **his wife sent to him, saying, "Have nothing to do with that just Man, for I have suffered many things today in a dream because of Him."** But the chief priests and elders **persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas** and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, "**Which of the two do you want me to release to you?**" They said, "Barabbas!" Pilate said to them, "**What then shall I do with**

Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said to him, **"Let Him be crucified!"** Then the governor said, **"Why, what evil has He done?"** But they cried out all the more, saying, **"Let Him be crucified!"** **When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude,** saying, **"I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."** **And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."** Then he released Barabbas to them; and when **he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified."** Matthew 27:15-26 NKJV

(2) Take the Place of Barabbas

(a) Luke inserts an interaction with Herod before the release of Barabbas. This is Herod Antipas son of Herod the Great.

1. "Now when Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. **When he learned that he was from Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who also happened to be in Jerusalem at that time.** When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him and was hoping to see him perform some miraculous sign. **So Herod questioned him at considerable length; Jesus gave him no answer [again Is. 53]. The chief priests and the experts in the law were there, vehemently accusing him.** Even Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, dressing him in elegant clothes, **Herod sent him back to Pilate. That very day Herod and Pilate became friends** with each other, for prior to this they had been enemies. Then Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. **When I examined him before you, I did not find this man guilty of anything you accused him of doing [He's a spotless Lamb].** Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. **Look, he has done nothing deserving death. I will therefore have him flogged and release him."** Luke 23:6-16 NET
2. "But they all shouted out together, "Take this man away! Release Barabbas for us!" **(This was a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder.)** Pilate addressed them once again because he wanted to release Jesus. But they kept on shouting, **"Crucify, crucify him!"** **A third time he said to them, "Why? What wrong has he done? I have found him guilty of no crime deserving death. I will therefore flog him and release him."** **But they were insistent,** demanding with loud shouts that he be crucified. And their shouts prevailed. So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. **He released the man they asked for, who had been thrown in prison for insurrection and murder. But he handed Jesus over to their will.**" Luke 23:18-25 NET
3. John best shows the level of Jewish leadership corruption: **"From this point on, Pilate tried to release him. But the Jewish leaders shouted out, "If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar! [manipulation] Everyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar!"** When Pilate heard these words he brought Jesus outside and sat down on the judgment seat in the place called "The Stone Pavement" (Gabbatha in Aramaic). **(Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover, about noon.) [He will be on the cross by noon]** Pilate said to the Jewish leaders, "Look, here is your king!" Then they shouted out, "Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!" Pilate asked, **"Shall I crucify your king?"** **The high priests replied, "We have no king except Caesar!" [talk about blasphemy]** Then Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus," John 19:12-16 NET

B. The Soldiers Mock Y'shua

(1) Adding Insult to Injury

(a) The Crown of Thorns

1. "Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they **stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him**. When they had **twisted a crown of thorns**, they put it on His head, and **a reed in His right hand**. And they **bowed the knee** before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, **they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified.**" Matthew 27:27-31 NKJV

C. The King on the Cross

(1) The Crucifixion

(a) THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS

1. "Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they **compelled to bear His cross**. And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, Place of a Skull, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, **He would not drink**. **Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:** "They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots." Sitting down, **they kept watch over Him** there. And they put up over His head the **accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS**. Then **two robbers** were crucified with Him, one on the **right** and another on the **left**. And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, "**You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.**" Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, "**He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross**, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' " Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing." Matthew 27:32-44 NKJV

(2) The King on the Cross

(a) They had to find a man to help him carry His cross as He was so weakened from the beating. They brought him to the Place of a Skull:

1. "*They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*" Psalms 22:18 NKJV
2. "Now Jesus stood before the governor. And the governor asked Him, saying, "**Are You the King of the Jews?**" Jesus said to him, "It is as you say." Matthew 27:11 NKJV
3. "One of the criminals who was hanging there railed at him, saying, "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Don't you fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And **we rightly so, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did, but this man has done nothing wrong.**" Then **he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.**" And Jesus said to him, "I tell you the truth, **today you will be with me in paradise** [**likely the man on Y'shua's right*]." Luke 23:39-43 NET

4. *"This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.' "* Matthew 26:60-61 NKJV
5. ...*"I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"* Jesus said to him, "It is as you said..." Matthew 26:63-64 NKJV

D. Y'shua Dies on the Cross

(1) "Truly this was the Son of God!"

(a) He breathed His last breath...

1. "Now **from the sixth hour until the ninth hour** there was darkness over all the land. And about the **ninth hour** Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "**Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?**" that is, "**My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**" Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink. **The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."** And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and **yielded up His spirit**. Then, behold, **the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom**; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, and the graves were opened; and **many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the graves after His resurrection**, they **went into the holy city and appeared to many**. So when the **centurion** and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "**Truly this was the Son of God!**" And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, among whom were **Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses**, and the mother of Zebedee's sons." Matthew 27:45-56 NKJV

(2) Y'shua Dies on the Cross

(a) From noon until 3pm it became very dark.

1. *"Behold, **I will send you Elijah the prophet Before** the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. **And he will turn The hearts** of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."* Malachi 4:5-6 NKJV
2. That is because they missed John the Baptist as having come "in the spirit of Elijah"... "**He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, '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." Luke 1:17 NKJV
3. "Now standing beside Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. **So when Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, look, here is your son!" He then said to his disciple, "Look, here is your mother!"** From that very time the disciple took her into his own home." John 19:25-27 NET
4. "But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. **Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.**" II Corinthians 3:15-16 NKJV
5. *"and **coming out of the graves after His resurrection** [the Firstfruits], they went into the holy city and appeared to many."* Matthew 27:53 NKJV
6. "After that **He was seen by over five hundred brethren** at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep." I Corinthians 15:6 NKJV

7. "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, **even so in Christ all shall be made alive.** But each one in his own order: ***Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming. Then comes the end,** when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power." I Corinthians 15:20-24 NKJV
8. "**Then, because it was the day of preparation,** so that the bodies should not stay on the crosses on the Sabbath (**for that Sabbath was an especially important one—[a High Day]**), the Jewish leaders asked Pilate to have the victims' legs broken and the bodies taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men who had been crucified with Jesus, first the one and then the other. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. **But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and blood and water flowed out immediately.** And the person who saw it has testified (and his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth), so that you also may believe. **For these things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled, "Not a bone of his will be broken."** And again another scripture says, "They will look on the one whom they have pierced."" John 19:31-37 NET

E. Y'shua Buried in Joseph's Tomb

(1) A Rich Man's Tomb

(a) Pilate commanded the body to be given to him.

1. "Now when evening had come, there came a **rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus.** This man went to Pilate and **asked for the body of Jesus.** Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. When Joseph had taken the body, **he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and laid it in his new tomb** which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. And **Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting opposite the tomb.**" Matthew 27:57-61 NKJV

(2) Y'shua Buried in Joseph's Tomb

(a) Right before sundown (before Passover began) Joseph of Arimathea (a wealthy disciple) went to Pilate to ask permission to take down the body of Jesus.

1. "They intended to bury him with criminals, **but he ended up in a rich man's tomb,** because he had committed no violent deeds, nor had he spoken deceitfully." Isaiah 53:9 NET

(3) But He is not going to stay there!

(a) Our Holy One will not see corruption

1. "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, **Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**" Psalms 16:10 NKJV
2. "For **this corruptible must put on incorruption,** and this mortal must put on immortality. **So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality,** then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "**Death is swallowed up in victory.**" I Corinthians 15:53-54 NKJV

F. Pilate Sets a Guard at the Tomb

(1) Secure the Tomb

(a) Why? Because if the disciples fake this guy's resurrection, it will be worse than if we never killed Him in the first place. If this is the case, can you imagine how bad it will be when He actually resurrects!

1. **"On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation,** the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, saying, "Sir, **we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'** Therefore **command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come by night and steal Him away,** and say to the people, **'He has risen from the dead.'** So the last deception will be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make it as secure as you know how." So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard." Matthew 27:62-66 NKJV

G. Nothing new under the sun

(1) *That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done...*

(a) Let's take advantage of this!

1. *"That which has been **is what will be,** That which is done **is what will be done,** And there is **nothing new under the sun.**" Ecclesiastes 1:9 NKJV*

(b) Walk in His Footsteps—Truth

1. "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and **testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth." III John 1:2-4 NKJV**

(c) Walk in His Footsteps—Imitate Him

1. "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. **He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God."** III John 1:11 NKJV
2. "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ." I Corinthians 11:1 NKJV

(d) Walk in His Footsteps—Walk in Faith

1. "As you therefore have **received Christ Jesus** the Lord, **so walk in Him, rooted and built up** in Him and **established in the faith,** as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving." Colossians 2:6-7 NKJV

(e) Walk in His Footsteps—Walk just as He walked

1. "But **whoever keeps His word,** truly the **love of God is perfected in him.** By this we know that we are in Him. **He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."** I John 2:5-6 NKJV

(f) Walk in His Footsteps—This is the way, walk in it

1. "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, **"This is the way, walk in it,"** Whenever you turn to the right hand Or whenever you turn to the left." Isaiah 30:21 NKJV