

GETHSEMANE - GOLGOTHA - GLORY

Jn. 18:1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

On Thursday evening we considered the Lord Jesus in the Garden of **Gethsemane**. It would have been extremely harrowing to have experienced the scene ... and to have watched the eternal Son of God, by Whom this world and all creation was created ... to have seen Him on His knees, alone, with nowhere else to go, in the holy presence of His Father.

We began on Thursday evening with *The Pleading of the Saviour*. He knew what was coming ... He could have stopped it or sent another in His place except for the fact nothing but the blood of Christ would atone for lost hell-deserving sinners. Jesus *had* to die, and what a death He died! He was *The Burdened One*, Is. 53:4, he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted ... *The Bruised One*, Is. 53:5, he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities ... *The Bleeding One*, Is. 53:5, the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed ... *The Bearing One*, Is. 53:6, the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

We then looked at *The Pain of the Saviour* and how, in the Garden of Gethsemane, He trod the winepress of His Father's wrath. He wept, **O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me (v.39)**. ... He pleaded in His pain. Even before the lashes from the Roman soldier's whip cruelly opened His flesh, or the crown of thorns pierced His head ... in the garden, He was *already* in the most excruciating agony for He prayed more earnestly than probably any previous time during His earthly ministry because his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground (Lk. 22:44).

We concluded our study on Thursday evening by recognising *The Persistence of the Saviour*. He was determined to see out the eternal will of God for the only means by which His people would be saved was that His Father hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him (II Cor. 5:21).

So, that is what we were looking at as we considered **Gethsemane**. We shall continue now from **Gethsemane** to **Golgotha**.

The apostle John wrote, And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha (Jn. 19:17). ... It was an awful place. It was a place no decent person had any reason to go to. But the purpose Jesus went to Golgotha, - to Calvary, - was because of the eternal plan of God for our salvation.

Long before any sin was committed, and before the hill of Golgotha was formed, God had already decreed this scene in the eternal council room of Heaven, the wonderful record of our salvation was conceived and initiated to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved (Eph. 1:6).

In God's eternal and unconditional covenant, He guaranteed redemption through [*the blood of His Son*], the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace (v.7). From before time, His work to redeem sinners had already commenced. Redemption is the paying of a price to purchase something which has been lost. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve in another garden, - the Garden of Eden, - we became *lost* to our Heavenly Father ... but, He sought us and bought us with the redeeming blood of the Lamb, - His Son, and our Saviour, - which was shed on Calvary.... There, He did not simply cancel the debt, but rather, the debt has been fully paid. There, the Lord Jesus surrendered Himself to the Father's will as the 'ransom' by which we would be 'born again' and delivered from the bondage of sin and its eternal condemnation.

Golgotha, then, is where Jesus died as our Substitute and Saviour. We were chosen in Him from before time ever began ... and on the cross, His plan for our salvation was perfectly completed to the satisfaction of His Father. It means therefore, Golgotha was a necessity for the Father required the death of His Son to remove the offence of our sin, ... “On the cross He sealed my pardon, paid the debt, and made me free”. ... He died in my place to save me from my sin. He saved me from the wrath of His Father by taking all God’s anger towards me upon Himself. He saved me from my rightful punishment in an everlasting Hell. That is what He did at the place called Golgotha.

... From **Gethsemane** to **Golgotha** ... We praise God the cross is not the end for Jesus, and that is why we have nothing to do with the image of a Christ on a cross, for He is no longer there. He arose from the dead. When Mary Magdalen told Peter and John she found His tomb empty, they immediately left everything they were doing, and ran to the tomb.

They knew the body of Jesus had been there. It was a fact, not fiction. They knew He had died, they knew He was buried, they knew the heavy stone had been rolled over the entrance, they knew soldiers secured and stood guard at it ... there was no way in or out! *But* ... the stone had been removed, the guards were gone, and John, - who arrived there first, - stooped at the entrance to the cave, he looked in and saw the linen death-clothes which had bound Jesus, and they were neatly folded ... and the napkin which had covered His thorn-pierced brow was wrapped and carefully placed (Jn. 20:6,7) ... And then Peter went in past John, who was standing at the entrance stunned, and amazed ... and Peter, then John also, entered the tomb where Jesus had been laid ... but Jesus had gone! He was not there! Where was He? ... “Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o’er His foes; He arose a Victor from the dark domain and He lives forever with His saints to reign. He arose! He arose!” ... And forty

days later, from the Mount of Olives, He arose even higher, **Acts 1:9** while *[the disciples]* beheld, *[the Lord Jesus]* was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

From **Gethsemane** to **Golgotha**, and from **Golgotha**, today He is in **Glory** ... The apostle John was privileged with the vision of Heaven, and he records, **Rev. 5:6** I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain. ... And then he heard the great hosts of the Heavenly choir heralding the signature song of the Redeemed ... **Thou art worthy (v.9) ... Worthy is the Lamb (v.12)**. All attention is upon the Saviour Who is now the King of Glory on Heaven's throne. For those few short years on earth, He had made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men (**Phil 2:7**). But now, in Heaven, **Phil. 2:9** God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

...

He is the King of kings. He is the Supreme Governor of all He has created. There is none His equal. Heaven is His. The earth is His. The farthest stars and planets are His ... and all glory is His ... and there is coming a day when His Glory will be established on this earth ... **Rev. 19:11** I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. **12** His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. **13** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **15** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16** And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. ... Jesus is coming back for His plans for this

world are not yet finished! ... He is looking forward to the day when at the mention of His name, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess His glory and majesty (Phil. 2:10,11).

It would be so easy to prophesy 'doom and gloom' for the future of our planet, ... and yes, these times in which we live *are* a 'taster' of what Jesus said will happen prior to His coming, **Mt. 24:6** ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **7** For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. **8** All these are the beginning of sorrows. ... Will all these catastrophes cause the world's population to turn to God? ... Indeed, they will, but not to *bless* His Name. Instead, John prophesies they will *blaspheme* His name, they blasphemed the name of God... and they repented not to give him glory (Rev. 16:9).

Paul explained how we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places (Eph. 6:12). ... There is a spiritual war going on which is more ruthless and relentless than we can understand ... but what we *do* see is how that spiritual war in the heavens is 'spilling over' into this world. We are witnessing how evil has taken on a new attractiveness and a rebelliousness against God ... but God will not stand back and be mocked! As for His people, we are instructed to put on the whole armour of God that we shall be able to withstand the evil one and all his forces during these increasingly wicked times (Eph. 6:13).

Despite what we are experiencing today, the psalmist assures us there is a time coming when the whole earth will be filled with God's glory (Ps. 72:19), for as Zechariah tells us, the LORD shall be king over all the earth (Zech. 14:9) ... It is a fact repeated throughout the Bible. ... Satan and the governments he has infiltrated will fail and fall on that great day

when King Jesus returns with the great multitude, in the clouds ... and some will come out of the great tribulation the world has made them to suffer ... Some will be raised from the graves ... And some will rise from this earth to meet Him. His victory is confirmed and it is as sure as if it has already taken place for our God is the One Who has promised, I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another (Is. 42:8). ... That is what we are looking towards! ...

From **Gethsemane** to **Golgotha** to **Glory** ... “Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son. Endless is the victory, Thou o’er death hast won”.