

“If they persecuted me, they will persecute you.”

(NB) The Blood of the Martyrs is the life of the Church.

The Destruction of Jerusalem: 20:20-24

- Jesus counselled His followers to flee when the **Roman Army** arrived to destroy the city and its people: Cf. Josephus in Antiquities
- They did flee to Transjordan: Cf. Eusebius in “Ecclesiastical History”: 3-5
- **Because** it was **God’s KAIROS TIME** – the exact **Right** time for Divine punishment
Cf. Luke 17:31-37

(NB) In Catholic Tradition Jerusalem represents the **Church!!**
In Book of Revelation the Church is the New Jerusalem: Rev 21:2

(NB) ∴ **This is a veiled warning to the Church** – that after the accumulated sins of the centuries, she, too, will face such a disaster Cf. **Jn 21:18-23**

21:24 **The Age of the Gentiles** represents that period – now 2026 years when non-Jews would run the K.O.G. on earth.

- The Jewish People were – in fact – expelled from Israel by the Romans to wander all over the earth until the foundation of the Jewish State in 1948.
- St Paul in **Rom 11:11-32** proclaims a future time when the Jews will be converted and the Church will experience an extraordinary time of evangelisation...

Signs for the Return of Christ: 21:25-28 - The signs **here** will come from the heavens! **Cosmic Signs**

- Before the Return of Christ there will be great cosmic signs
 - (i) in the sun, moon and stars
 - (ii) which will affect **the oceans of the world** and **the stability of earth**
 - (iii) as a result **whole nations** will be in agony
 - (iv) people **dying of fear** – for what may happen
 - (v)

Why? ***“Because the powers of Heaven will be shaken”***

- At long last **God will GET OUR ATTENTION** and we will **HAVE** to pay attention to what is happening!!
- **What will happen?** The whole universe will tremble before the majesty and glory of the Lord as He returns to earth **in power** and glory.
- People **will fear Him now** as He comes to judge the **living** and the dead.
 - they had **refused to love Him** and be saved beforehand.

- ⓃB • **Jesus will judge all men** in His **Human Capacity** as King and Judge.
 → His Judgement will be **PUBLIC** so that all can observe His Pure, Holy, Good and Merciful Justice to all souls...
 → everyone will see the Word of God put into action, whether they believed it or not...
 Men judged Jesus publicly! **Jesus will judge Humanity Publicly.**

21:28 **For believers**, for the good, the Day of the Lord – Yom Yahweh – will be a Day of Joy, a day of Liberation, for Heaven awaits them.

∴ St Paul in Titus 2:13 says that we should be *“awaiting on blessed hope, the Appearing (PAROUSIA) of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*

21:29-33 **When will he come?** The K.O.G. was already present among them:
 - it was announced by John, the Baptist...
 - “ “ explained in many parables...
 - “ “ open to everyone who wanted to join... Cf. Lk 17:20

- It will be **fully manifested** after the Passion / Death / Resurrection / Ascension / Pentecost but Israel as a whole will continue to reject it...
- The K.O.G. will spread to the rest of the world as the catastrophic events of the *Death of the Temple* and the *Death of Jerusalem* take place.
 (House of God) (City of God)

The Fig Tree: **when their blossoms come out, Summer is near.**

Summer = the Harvest time = the End Times

- **In April AD 70** the Roman Army destroyed both Temple and City under **Titus**
 (ie) the blossoms were out on the trees!

21:32 **Most** of those listening to Jesus would **experience everything here...**

- Jesus' Word is **eternal**: it cannot be changed or deleted
 - it **can** be ignored to our detriment

ⓃB **no matter what happens two things remain** 1) Jesus' Word
 2) Human Race

- This means that **the Human Race will not be destroyed** by the events Jesus' has predicted. It will last until **His Coming...** it will be present to see His Glory...
 - it will have to accept His Judgement – there is no escape

21:34-36

Be Alert! Be Vigilant! Be Prayerful!

- Since we do not know the day or hour of His Coming, we must be **ever-ready**
- For those living evil or dissipated lives, the end will come upon them like a **TRAP** suddenly snapping... there will be no escape for anyone
- Constant prayer will give us the grace / strength we need.

21:37-38

Jesus' Final Days Before His Passion: Two activities

- (i) **Teaching daily** in the Temple among His enemies...
 - (ii) **Praying all night** on the Mount of Olives
- (NB) • He taught them to the very end: **SEMPER FIDELIS**
- He carried out God's Will regardless of circumstances.

Note: that it was **the People who gathered from early morning to listen to Him**

Were those who witnessed his martyrdom...

Did they, too, cry for him to be crucified?

Or did they go away to their private homes to pray?

Were they present on Calvary?

CHAPTER 22

The Passion of Christ

This is the 4th and final stage of Jesus' Journey back to God Cf. Lk 9:51

→ From Jerusalem to the Ascension: Lk 22:1 – 24:53

- (i) • This is the $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Time} \\ \text{Hour} \end{array} \right\}$ of Darkness – the time when Satan told Jesus that he would return to torment Him: Cf. Lk 4:13
- (ii) • Yet it is most especially Jesus' **special** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Time} \\ \text{Hour} \end{array} \right\}$ Cf. John's Gospel...
- the Hour of Redemption
- (iii) • It is the **Final Hour of the Old Testament** when Jesus fulfills the Scriptures and the Mosaic Law ceases - as Jesus dies on the Cross.
- (iv) • It is the Hour when Humanity offered the Son of God to God in sacrifice
– **the only pleasing sacrifice** – which gave grace to all souls.
- (v) • The Old Testament sacrifices of the past are finished now.
The Church will celebrate Eucharist from now on...
- (vi) • **It is the Hour when God is glorified fully on earth in worship**, obedience and love by God's only Begotten Son – who offered Himself in place of us all and made reparation for **All** sins, past, present and future.

- (vii) (NB) **The Mystery** that is about to unfold was foretold in Jesus' youth
- when He was lost **for 3 days in the Temple**: Cf. Lk 2:46
 - There He had been busy with His Father's affairs: Lk 2:50.
 - Now – again – **He will be 'lost' in death for 3 days** and the disciples will find Him – in the Resurrection – in His Father's House –
 - In His Passion / Death / Resurrection / Ascension / Pentecost He had been **busy** about His Father's affairs... completing what He was sent to do...
- (viii) (NB) The Passion was **Jesus' Final – personal – confrontation with EVIL...**
- His **handling** of it showed the Church – for all time – how to overcome evil

* **Jesus' Martyrdom took place at Passover in the year 30 AD**

1. **The Passover** was the most solemn of all Jewish Feasts
 - instituted by God **to commemorate the Exodus**
 - they were to remember forever **that God saved them!**
- The **Feast began** in the evening of 14th day of Nisan with the Passover Supper.
SPRING: (Nisan = March – April)
- It continued until 22nd day of Nisan (8 days)
- Moses ordered them to remove **all LEAVEN** from their homes on 14th
- the unleavened bread reminded them of the Exodus, so it included
FEAST OF UNLEAVENED BREAD.
- But - with time,** leaven came to represent evil
 - So, **they were to remove all evil from their lives**
– and move on - **out of the slavery to sin into the K.O.G.**

St. Paul makes this clear in cf. 1 Cor 5:7-8

"Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.!"

2. During Jesus' Special Passover, He paid the price to cleanse everyone from sin and so He gave **access to God** to the whole of Humanity...
3. Satan had conquered the Human Race through sin. Here Jesus takes Satan on and conquers him.

22: 1-6 A. **His Enemies Meet to Organise Jesus' Death**

Jesus' enemies meet in Secret to plot His death: 22:1-6

- the leaders had wanted to kill Jesus for a long time but they were afraid of the people.
- **Judas' betrayal** gave them the opportunity to arrest Jesus **at Night** – **away** from the crowds, So, there would be no disturbance...

vs 3 ***“Satan entered into Judas”*** It was Satan's plan to destroy Jesus.
He merely **used** a willing agent in Judas **and in High Priests!**

- (NB) • Judas is the **first** of **all the betrayers of Christ** in Church History.
- he even demanded payment for his cowardly act!

22: 7-13 B. Jesus Prepares for His Final Passover on the 14th Nisan:

- He puts Peter and John in charge of the preparations.
- These two **LOOM LARGE** from now on... right through to **Acts 12**
- They are a **symbol** of the Church: { **PETER** = Authority / Leadership
JOHN = Spirituality / People
- The details of preparation were familiar to **all Jews**: laid down clearly in Exodus 12.
- They only needed to know **where** they would eat the Passover.

- 22:10-13** • Again, with divine knowledge Jesus leads them to **the PLACE** cf. 19:30-34
* Why would He keep the location secret? **Because of Judas!**

The Last Supper of Jesus: 22:14-20

- This is Jesus' last meal on earth .°. V.I.P.
- **This is Jesus' Passover** – when He will fulfill all that the Scriptures revealed about Redemption and God's Infinite Love for Humanity...
- Jesus, Himself **is** the Lamb for Sacrifice – **fulfilling Ex chap 12**
- This is the **First Mass** and the **First Eucharist** of the **New Covenant**
- Jesus' **last** supper was our **first** supper in the KOG...

(NB) Because of all this Jesus said ***“I have longed to eat THIS PASSOVER with you before I suffer.”***

Cf. Luke 12:50 ***“There is a baptism I must receive, and how great is my distress till it is over.”***
(ie) immersion in Blood/Suffering

22:16 Here Jesus explains the Passion as the fulfillment of God's Plan of Redemption.

22:17-18 Luke gives a **very brief** account of the Institution of the Holy Eucharist
- which was to be continued **“AS A MEMORIAL”** of Him...

(NB) When **God instituted the Passover** at the time of the Exodus: ch. 12
Moses instructed the people to: ***“keep this day in remembrance...”***