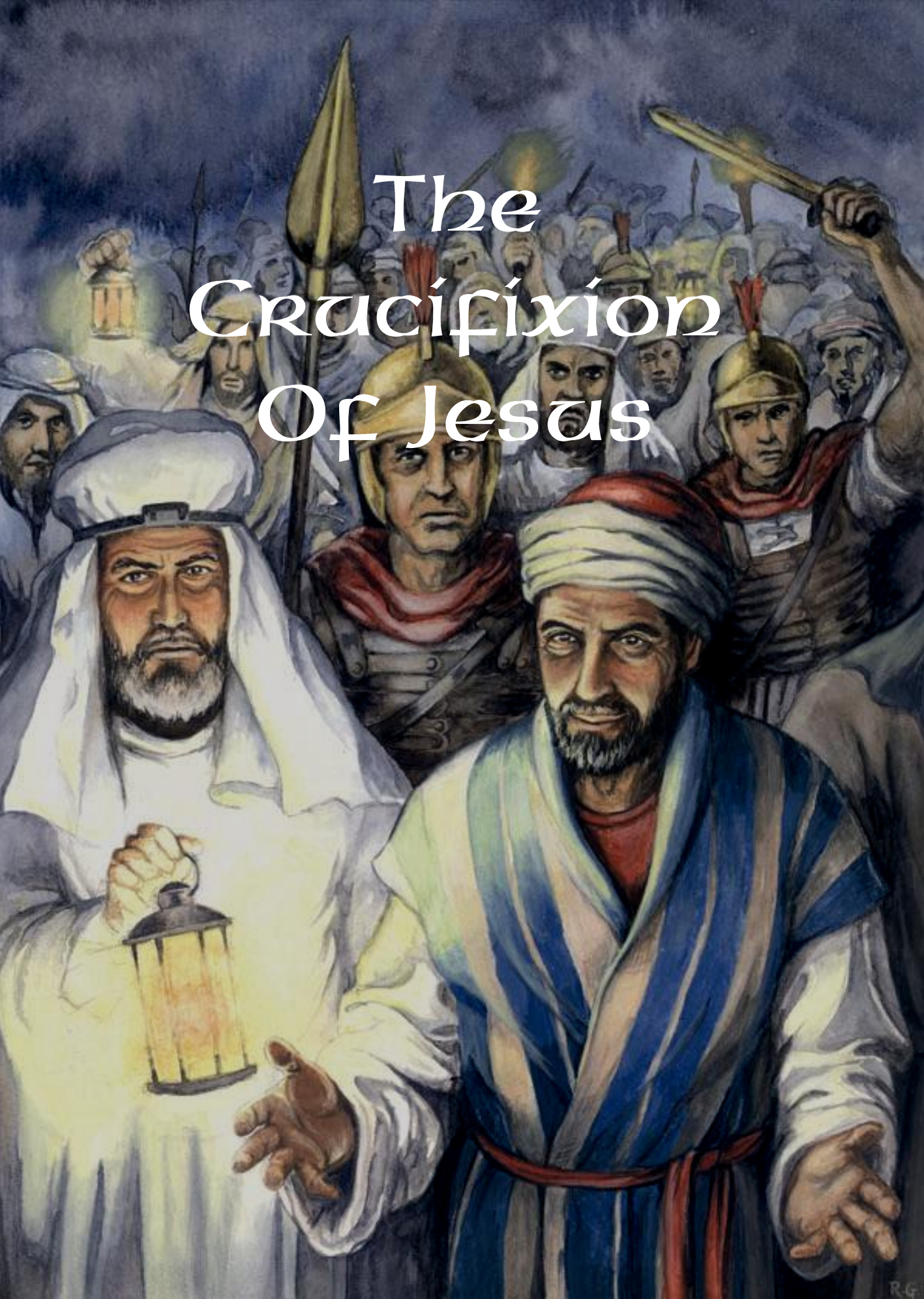


# The Crucifixion Of Jesus





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**by**

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## The Upper Room

It is Jesus' last day. Tomorrow He is going to die. Often He had told His disciples that the time was coming when He must leave them and die—but they just did not seem to understand what He meant. We wonder why.

His last day was to be spent with His disciples. It was the Feast of the Passover—the time when the Jews remembered the lamb being killed, the blood sprinkled on the door, the angel of death passing over their houses. Year after year they remembered this. Now the time had come once again, and there were thousands of people who had come to Jerusalem to keep the Feast.

The Lord Jesus was going to keep the Feast with His disciples. So He sent two of them to get everything ready—the bread, the wine, the lamb. But first they needed somewhere to meet. So He sent two of them to find the place.

What do these two men keep looking for as they walk through the streets? Something strange—a man carrying a pot of water on his head. (Usually it would be only the women who did this.) Jesus had told them to look for this man, and then to go after him. At last they see him, and they do as they have been told.

The man goes into a house, so the two follow him in. “Where is the place where the Master shall keep the Passover?” they ask the owner of the house, and he kindly shows them the place. It is an upstairs room. He does not seem surprised. It is all ready. Jesus knows everything, and He knew just what this man would do and say.

Later Jesus and all His disciples gathered in this room and began to eat and drink. How happy they must have been! But no! Suddenly Jesus said, “One of you is going to betray Me to My enemies, who will kill Me.”

The disciples were shocked. They looked at one another in sorrow. “Is it I?” one said. And then another, “Is it I?” Jesus said, “It is the one who shall dip his hand into the dish at the same time that I do.”

The one who did so was called Judas Iscariot. He was one of Jesus’ own disciples, but he did not love Him. He was a bad man, though the other disciples did not know this. He was a thief. He stole. And he wanted to get rid of Jesus. He had talked to Jesus’ enemies and said, if they gave him some money, he would show them where Jesus was, so they could take Him and kill Him. How terrible!

Jesus was very, very sad. “What you are going

to do, do it quickly!” He said to Judas. And Judas went out, away from Jesus, into the darkness—for ever.

*You can read about this in Matthew chapter 26, verses 17 to 25; Mark chapter 14, verses 12 to 21; Luke chapter 22, verses 7 to 18.*









## The Lord's Supper

But what is the Lord Jesus doing now? He is taking the bread from the table, and breaking it in pieces. He tells His disciples that just as the bread was being broken, soon His body would be broken on the cross. They were to eat the broken bread.

And what then? Jesus poured out the wine into a cup, and told them to drink it. He said that just as the wine was poured out, soon His blood would be poured out on the cross. How much He loved His disciples!

Jesus then said that, as long as the world lasts, His followers must meet and eat the broken bread and drink from the cup. We call it "the Lord's supper," and God's people still do this all over the world. Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me." They are never to forget how much Jesus loved them when He died for them.

Afterwards they all sang a hymn and went out.

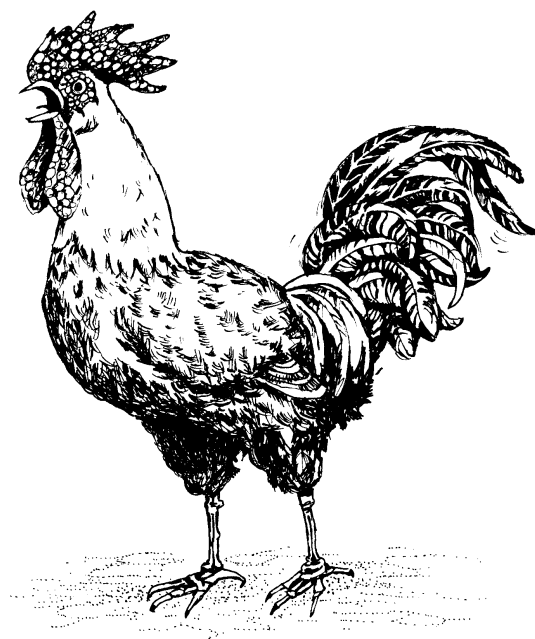
Then Jesus again told them something terrible. All of them would leave Him! You remember Peter? Peter was so upset that he cried out that if everyone else left his dear Lord and Master, he never would.

But Jesus answered: "Before the cock shall

crow tomorrow, Peter, during this very night, you will say you never knew Me.”

Poor Peter thought this could not possibly happen. What? Deny Jesus? Never. But he did!

*You can read about this in Matthew chapter 26, verses 26 to 32; Mark chapter 14, verses 22 to 26; Luke chapter 22, verses 19 and 20.*



## The Garden of Gethsemane

Jesus was now on His way to die. He knew that wicked people would seize Him and kill Him. But He was not afraid.

There was a garden just outside the stone walls of Jerusalem. It was close to the Mount of Olives. It was called the Garden of Gethsemane. It was a garden of olive trees. It was the place where Jesus loved to go and meet His friends and talk with them.

Here Jesus took Peter and James and John apart from the other disciples. But then He went a little further, telling them, “Stop here, and watch with Me.”

The Lord Jesus was very, very sorrowful. A heavy weight was pressing on Him. He knew He must die, but it was not only that. He knew it would be a terrible death, not for Himself but for others—bearing all the dreadful weight of His people’s sin. Not only would all His friends leave Him, but His own dear Father in heaven would turn away from Him.

It was a very, very bitter cup He must drink. “O Father,” he prayed, “if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me,” but then He said, “Nevertheless Thy will be done.” So great was His agony

and pain that great drops of blood poured from Him on to the ground.

Three times He came back to His disciples. Three times He found them asleep. Can you believe it? They had fallen fast asleep. Three times He prayed the same prayer. And then a holy angel came down from heaven to give Him strength. Though He was true, almighty God, He was also a real Man and needed strengthening.

At last He cried to His disciples, “Sleep on. Take your rest. The time has come. I am now going to be betrayed. Arise. Let us go.”

O what love the Lord Jesus showed!

*You can read about this in Matthew chapter 26, verses 36 to 46; Mark chapter 14, verses 32 to 42; Luke chapter 22, verses 39 to 46.*

