

Gethsemane

John 18:1-12

John 18:1

Brook Cedron: Kidron. Valley of Kidron.

Pursues winding course to Dead Sea.

Bottom of valley located 200 feet below pavement of outer court .

Kidron little 6 or 7 feet wide

Full in the rainy season, winter.

Kindron: black, dark, turbid

Filth of the city ran.

Common sewer

Drain at bottom of temple altar caught all blood of sacrifices.

Emptied into brook Kidron at bottom of valley.

During Passover 256,000 sheep slaughtered on altar.

Blood went down into drain that drained into brook.

Solomon--1 Kings 2:37

Nehemiah--Nehemiah 2:15

Asa, Josiah, Levites--1 Kings 15:13 2 Kings 23:6 2 Kings 23:12

Levites--2 Chronicles 29:16

Hezekiah--2 Chronicles 32:4

Jeremiah--Jer 31:40

Ezek 47:1; Zech 14:8

David--2 Samuel 15:23

Hend: *Was he not, in this act of humiliation and suffering a type of Christ?*

John 18:1

Where was a garden: Short distance east from brook

Garden of Gethsemane.

Comparison with original garden of Eden

Hughes

- *The first Adam began life in a garden. Christ, the second Adam, came at the end of His life to a garden*
- *In Eden Adam sinned. In Gethsemane the Savior overcame sin.*
- *In Eden Adam fell, in Gethsemane Jesus conquered*
- *In Eden Adam hid himself. In Gethsemane our Lord boldly presented Himself*

- *In Eden the sword was drawn. In Gethsemane it was sheathed.*

Symbolism not accidental or incidental to Jesus' death.

Jesus had rite of access to Garden of Gethsemane.

Oil Press

Remote walled garden

Lucado *As Jesus looks at the city of Jerusalem, He sees what the disciples can't. It is here, on the outskirts of Jerusalem, that the battle will end. He sees the staging of Satan. He sees the dashing of the demons. He sees the Evil one preparing for the final encounter. The enemy lurks as a spectre over the hour. Satan, the host of hatred, has seized the heart of Judas and whispered in the ear of Caiaphas. Satan, the master of death, has opened the caverns and prepared to receive the source of light.*

Hell is breaking loose.

History records it as a battle of the Jews against Jesus. It wasn't. It was a battle of God against Satan.

The last time Jesus with disciples spent in prayer.

John 18:2

Jesus spent much time with Judas and disciples in this place.

Judas knew where find Jesus.

Gospel of John dwells on wickedness and horror of this event.

John 18:3

A band of men: detachment of Roman soldiers from nearby garrison

Band: military cohort...1/10 of a legion...about 600

And officers from the high priest: attendants to the High Priest. Temple police.

And Pharisees: Religious fundamentalists of day.

Why so many? Maybe thought Jesus would resist arrest.

John 18:4

Jesus already knew what going on.

Could hear voices...see light from their lanterns.

Whom seek ye? Make sure they had it straight in their minds they were coming after Him and not disciples.

Asking question to protect His men.

John 18:5

Jesus of Nazareth. Title of contempt. ... issuing an insult.

I am he. nine times in John (4:26; 6:20; 8:24, 28, 58; 13:19; 18:5,6,8).

Reference to name of Jehovah Ex 3:14.

Jesus saying *You are standing in the presence of Jehovah God in the flesh.*

Who standing with soldiers and officers.

v. 5 **And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.** No longer hsecret betrayer. Stands with the wrong crowd

John 18:6

Phillips: *Had Caesar summoned all his legions from the remotest outposts of his empire and hurled them in iron ranks against that "Nazarene," the result would have been the same. They would have gone backward and fallen to the ground.*

Who in charge?

Hughes: *Jesus' response was the last exercise of the power by which he calmed the seas, stilled the winds, and healed the sick. Was Jesus caught on the wheel of history? Hardly! He is the axis of history. In a very real sense the cohort did not arrest Jesus—He arrested them! His words were a gracious warning that they were in way over their heads.*

Jesus made it plain that no man take His life from Him...he had privilege to lay it down by Himself (Jn 10:18)

John 18:7

These men probably standing in awe.

Maybe they were somewhat stunned.

God had spoken to them.

They had come with intent of arresting whole group.

Jesus has them clarify who they are seeking..

John 18:8

By now disciples come to stand by Jesus

Let these other men go. You didn't come to capture them, but me.

John 18:9

Compare 17:12. Fulfillment of prophecy He had uttered.

John 18:10

Peter takes out his hidden sword, draws it, and begins to flail it around.

Everyone is ducking.

Hear ringing of hundred blades being unsheathed

Thousands of swords being unsheathed by the warrior angels in heaven.

Malchus...servant of high priest... influential man...powerful man ...representative of Caiaphas

John 18:11

Peter, put it away.... Don't you think that I should drink of the cup (of suffering) that the Father has given me?

What was Peter doing when Jesus was talking to the Father about this cup of suffering? Sleeping (Matt 26:38-45).

At cross, Jesus drank of cup of wrath and judgment of God on sin of world.

Death and the curse were in cup

*Oh Christ, 'twas full for Thee;
But Thou has drained the last dark dregs,
Tis empty now for me. Sweitzer*

Peter, wrong deed and wrong time at wrong place.
Jesus healed ear of Malchus (Luke 22:51).

John 18:12

Peter's action got soldiers' attention.

They were used to physical conflict.

They were dumbfounded with spiritual.

Garden experience has powerful implications.

Speaks of crisis.

All of a sudden garden turns on them

Notice difference in response to the garden between Peter and Jesus

Peter—fight it

Jesus—accept it

Every one of us will face Gethsemane's in our lives.

*Down shadowy lanes, across strange streams
Bridged over by our broken dreams;
Behind the misty caps of years,
Beyond the great salt fount of tears,
The garden lies. Strive as you may,
You cannot miss it in your way.
All paths that have been, or shall be,
Pass somewhere through Gethsemane. C.E. Macartney*

Rom 8:28

*All those who journey, soon or late,
Must pass within the garden's gate;
Must kneel alone in darkness there,
And battle with some fierce despair.
God pity those who cannot say,
Not mine but thine." Who only pray,
"Let this cup pass," and cannot see
The purpose in Gethsemane.*

Kidron... picture of humility and sacrifice

Garden of Gethsemane: Picture of fellowship and abiding with Christ.

Becomes greatest trial of our lives

Response:

Fight it...draw the sword of the flesh

Accept it.... willingness to drink of the cup of suffering....

Hughes: *Life may be dark at times, tragedy may come, and at times the whole world may seem to be falling apart. The wheel may appear ready to crush us. But this is not the end.*