

following his entry into Jerusalem Jesus spent the first part of the Passover week preaching to the crowds healing the sick and confronting the Jewish priests in the courtyard of the temple his miracles and message angered the religious leaders so much they decided he must die on Thursday morning Jesus instructed his disciples to prepare a room in the city for a celebration of the Passover Feast that evening during the meal he offered his own prophecy of impending death and resurrection during the Passover Seder meal he took the bread and he broke it and he prayed most people don't know what he prayed and he prayed a Hebrew prayer that is being prayed until today and he said blessed are you O Lord our God King of the universe who brings forth bread from the earth and when he said I am the bread of life and he said take eat so he was prophesying to the disciples that he will be put to death and he will be in the grave and God the Father will raise him up blessed are you O Lord our God who brings forth bread from the earth meaning his body will be in the earth and it will be resurrected as the disciples shared in the witch symbolism of the Passover meal only Jesus was aware that one of them planned to betray him after this Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified I tell you the truth one of you is going to betray me the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish and he gave it to Judas Iscariot Judas betrayal was no surprise to Jesus or it had been predicted by the Prophet David a thousand years before Christ broke bread with his disciples in the upper room my close friend he who shared my bread has lifted up his heel against me the specific details in that passage remind us that he's not just going to be betrayed by anybody but by a friend and then a friend with whom he breaks bread you can't miss the fact that this is Judas at the Last Supper it is so obvious that the prophecy literally shouts to us about its fulfillment in the New Testament the prophetic vision of Jesus betrayal did not end with David's words in the forty-first song in 500 BC Zechariah also foretold another crucial detail I told them if you think it best give me my pay so they paid me thirty pieces of silver the fulfillment of Zechariah's prophecy occurred more than five centuries later and is recorded in Matthew's Gospel then Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and asked what are you willing to give me if i betray him to you so they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver the common slave price in the Old Testament was twenty pieces of silver you may recall that Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery for 20 pieces of silver with inflation over time by the time of the New Testament it was 30 pieces of silver Jesus was betrayed for the price of nothing more than a common slave for Zechariah in the Old Testament era to predict that it would be 30 pieces of silver not 20 was contrary to the economics of the day and yet it had prediction involved in it that it would be exactly that amount of money each detail tells us specifically what is going to happen so that when it occurs it is obvious this is the fulfillment of it following the Passover meal Jesus led his disciples outside the city walls to the Mount of Olives and a garden called Gethsemane it was a place they had often gathered during the three years of Christ's public ministry I've been in that garden many times it's one of the most beautiful spots on earth you stand there among the olive trees that are still there all these centuries later and you're looking right back into Jerusalem as they are there that evening Jesus leaves some of the disciples in one place he takes the three from the inner circle Peter James and John they go further into a deeper recess of the garden it is there that Jesus throws himself on the ground that he calls out to the Father and pray my father if it is possible may this Cup be taken from me yet not as I will but as you will as Christ agonized in prayer he asked God for the strength

to face the ordeal he knew was about to unfold an ordeal described by the prophets centuries earlier we must understand that the decision that go to the cross of Calvary was first made under the olive trees at Yosemite and we know Jesus was under pressure because being God he had foreknowledge he knew what was ahead he knew that he was going to be betrayed by Judas Iscariot he knew that he was going to bear the sin of the world he knew that he was gonna be crucified that his back would be torn open but I think the thing that he recoiled from the most was the knowledge that he who was holy and pure and sinless was going to take upon himself all that was unholy and impure and sinful so indeed it was the passion in the gathering darkness Judas led the temple guard into Gethsemane and identified Jesus with a kiss Christ betrayal was complete and prophecy again fulfilled it had to happen it had to happen someone had to give him away he went with all the power in the world that he could control every single event he went without resistance as Christ was taken away by the temple guard Peter leaped to the aid of his master cutting off the ear of Malchus the servant of the high priest Jesus immediately healed the wounded man and rebuked his disciple put your sword back in its place Jesus said do you think I cannot call on my father and he were at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels but how then were the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way Jesus dares to say that all the prophecies the pictures the illustrations in the Old Testament all point to me he goes to the cross knowing what it is all about he faces the prediction of these prophecies knowing their fulfillment is not only that of the blessing of the kingdom yet to come but of the suffering of the servant who must die in our place amidst the chaos of Christ's arrest his disciples fled into hiding then abandoned and seemingly defenseless Jesus was taken back into the city to face his accusers as the fulfillment of messianic prophecy accelerated a wicked and deceitful men have opened their mouths against me they have spoken against me with lying tongues on Friday morning Jesus was subjected to two trials one Jewish and religious the other Roman an secular in the first many believe he was led up these steps to the home of the high priest where he was interrogated by a hastily convened meeting of the Sanhedrin the Supreme Jewish Council he knows from the prophecies that he has to be crucified and that means he's got to be turned over to the Roman authorities the Jews don't have the authority under