

PASSOVER Day VII / PESACH Day VII

Ex 33:12 – 34:26, Num 28:19–25

Ez 37:1–14

Matt 26:1 – 28:20, Mark 14:1 – 16:20, Luke 22:1 – 24:53

Complete Jewish Bible

Exodus 33:12 – 34:26

(iii) ¹² Moshe said to *Adonai*, “Look, you say to me, ‘Make these people move on!’ But you haven’t let me know whom you will be sending with me. Nevertheless you have said, ‘I know you by name,’ and also, ‘You have found favor in my sight.’” ¹³ Now, please, if it is really the case that I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways; so that I will understand you and continue finding favor in your sight. Moreover, keep on seeing this nation as your people.” ¹⁴ He answered, “Set your mind at rest — my presence will go with you, after all.” ¹⁵ Moshe replied, “If your presence doesn’t go with us, don’t make us go on from here. ¹⁶ For how else is it to be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, other than by your going with us? That is what distinguishes us, me and your people, from all the other peoples on earth.”

(iv) ¹⁷ *Adonai* said to Moshe, “I will also do what you have asked me to do, because you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.” ¹⁸ But Moshe said, “I beg you to show me your glory!” ¹⁹ He replied, “I will cause all my goodness to pass before you, and in your presence I will pronounce the name of *Adonai*. Moreover, I show favor to whomever I will, and I display mercy to whomever I will. ²⁰ But my face,” he continued, “you cannot see, because a human being cannot look at me and remain alive. ²¹ Here,” he said, “is a place near me; stand on the rock. ²² When my glory passes by, I will put you inside a crevice in the rock and cover you with my hand, until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will remove my hand, and you will see my back, but my face is not to be seen.”

34 (v) *Adonai* said to Moshe, “Cut yourself two tablets of stone like the first ones; and I will inscribe on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. ² Be ready by morning; in the morning you are to ascend Mount Sinai and present yourself to me on the top of the mountain. ³ No one is to come up with you, and no one is to be seen anywhere on the mountain; don’t even let the flocks or herds feed in front of this mountain.” ⁴ Moshe cut two stone tablets like the first. Then he got

up early in the morning and, with the two stone tablets in his hands, ascended Mount Sinai, as *Adonai* had ordered him to do.

⁵ *Adonai* descended in the cloud, stood with him there and pronounced the name of *Adonai*.⁶ *Adonai* passed before him and proclaimed: “YUD-HEH-VAV-HEH!!! Yud-Heh-Vav-Heh[*Adonai*] is God, merciful and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in grace and truth; ⁷ showing grace to the thousandth generation, forgiving offenses, crimes and sins; yet not exonerating the guilty, but causing the negative effects of the parents’ offenses to be experienced by their children and grandchildren, and even by the third and fourth generations.” ⁸ At once Moshe bowed his head to the ground, prostrated himself ⁹ and said, “If I have now found favor in your view, *Adonai*, then please let *Adonai* go with us, even though they are a stiffnecked people; and pardon our offenses and our sin; and take us as your possession.”

(vi) ¹⁰ He said, “Here, I am making a covenant; in front of all your people I will do wonders such as have not been created anywhere on earth or in any nation. All the people around you will see the work of *Adonai*. What I am going to do through you will be awesome! ¹¹ Observe what I am ordering you to do today. Here! I am driving out ahead of you the Emori, Kena’ani, Hitti, P’rizi, Hivi and Y’vusi. ¹² Be careful not to make a covenant with the people living in the land where you are going, so that they won’t become a snare within your own borders. ¹³ Rather, you are to demolish their altars, smash their standing-stones and cut down their sacred poles; ¹⁴ because you are not to bow down to any other god; since *Adonai* — whose very name is Jealous — is a jealous God. ¹⁵ Do not make a covenant with the people living in the land. It will cause you to go astray after their gods and sacrifice to their gods. Then they will invite you to join them in eating their sacrifices, ¹⁶ and you will take their daughters as wives for your sons. Their daughters will prostitute themselves to their own gods and make your sons do the same!

¹⁷ “Do not cast metal gods for yourselves.

¹⁸ “Keep the festival of *matzah* by eating *matzah*, as I ordered you, for seven days during the month of Aviv; for it was in the month of Aviv that you came out from Egypt.

¹⁹ “Everything that is first from the womb is mine. Of all your livestock, you are to set aside for me the males, the firstborn of cattle and flock. ²⁰ The firstborn of a donkey you must redeem with a lamb; if you won’t redeem it, break its neck. All the firstborn of your sons you are to redeem, and no one is to appear before me empty-handed.

²¹ “Six days you will work, but on the seventh day you are to rest — even in plowing time and harvest season you are to rest.

²² “Observe the festival of *Shavu’ot* with the first-gathered produce of the wheat harvest, and the festival of ingathering at the turn of the year. ²³ Three times a year all your men are to appear before the Lord, *Adonai*, the God of Isra’el. ²⁴ For I am going to expel nations ahead of you and expand your territory, and no one will even covet your land when you go up to appear before *Adonai* your God three times a year. ²⁵ You are not to offer the blood of my sacrifice with leavened bread, and the sacrifice of the feast of *Pesach* is not to be left until morning. ²⁶ You are to bring the best firstfruits of your land into the house of *Adonai* your God.

“You are not to boil a young goat in its mother’s milk.”

Numbers 28:19 – 25

¹⁹ but present an offering made by fire, a burnt offering, to *Adonai*, consisting of two young bulls, one ram, and seven male lambs in their first year (they are to be without defect for you) ²⁰ with their grain offering, fine flour mixed with olive oil. Offer six quarts for a bull, four quarts for the ram, ²¹ and two quarts for each of the seven lambs; ²² also a male goat as a sin offering, to make atonement for you. ²³ You are to offer these in addition to the morning burnt offering, which is the regular burnt offering. ²⁴ In this fashion you are to offer daily, for seven days, the food of the offering made by fire, making a fragrant aroma for *Adonai* ; it is to be offered in addition to the regular burnt offering and its drink offering. ²⁵ On the seventh day you are to have a holy convocation; do not do any kind of ordinary work.

Ezekiel 37:1-14

37 With the hand of *Adonai* upon me, *Adonai* carried me out by his Spirit and set me down in the middle of the valley, and it was full of bones. ² He had me pass by all around them — there were so many bones lying in the valley, and they were so dry! ³ He asked me, “Human being, can these bones live?” I answered, “*Adonai Elohim!* Only you know that!” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophesy over these bones! Say to them, ‘Dry bones! Hear what *Adonai* has to say!’ ⁵ To these bones *Adonai Elohim* says, “I will make breath enter you, and you will live. ⁶ I will attach ligaments to you, make flesh grow on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you. You will live, and you will know that I am *Adonai*.””

⁷ So I prophesied as ordered; and while I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound; it was the bones coming together, each bone in its proper place. ⁸ As I watched, ligaments grew on them, flesh appeared and skin covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Next he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath! Prophecy, human being! Say to the breath that *Adonai Elohim* says, ‘Come from the four winds, breath; and breathe on these slain, so that they can live.’”

¹⁰ So I prophesied as ordered, and the breath came into them, and they were alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army! ¹¹ Then he said to me, “Human being! These bones are the whole house of Isra’el; and they are saying, ‘Our bones have dried up, our hope is gone, and we are completely cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy; say to them that *Adonai Elohim* says, ‘My people! I will open your graves and make you get up out of your graves, and I will bring you into the land of Isra’el. ¹³ Then you will know that I am *Adonai* — when I have opened your graves and made you get up out of your graves, my people! ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you; and you will be alive. Then I will place you in your own land; and you will know that I, *Adonai*, have spoken, and that I have done it,’ says *Adonai*.”

Matthew 26:1 – 28:20

26 When Yeshua had finished speaking, he said to his *talmidim*, ² “As you know, *Pesach* is two days away, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be nailed to the execution-stake.”

³ Then the head *cohanim* and the elders of the people gathered in the palace of Kayafa the *cohen hagadol*. ⁴ They made plans to arrest Yeshua surreptitiously and have him put to death; ⁵ but they said, “Not during the festival, or the people will riot.”

⁶ Yeshua was in Beit-Anyah, at the home of Shim’on, the man who had had *tzara’at*. ⁷ A woman who had an alabaster jar filled with very expensive perfume approached Yeshua while he was eating and began pouring it on his head. ⁸ When the *talmidim* saw it, they became very angry. “Why this waste?” they asked. ⁹ “This could have been sold for a lot of money and given to the poor.” ¹⁰ But Yeshua, aware of what was going on, said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ¹¹ The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² She poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial. ¹³ Yes! I tell you that throughout the whole world, wherever this Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told in her memory.”

¹⁴Then one of the Twelve, the one called Y'hudah from K'riot, went to the head *cohanim* ¹⁵and said, "What are you willing to give me if I turn Yeshua over to you?" **They counted out thirty silver coins and gave them** to Y'hudah. ¹⁶From then on he looked for a good opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷On the first day for *matzah*, the *talmidim* came to Yeshua and asked, "Where do you want us to prepare your *Seder*?" ¹⁸"Go into the city, to so-and-so," he replied, "and tell him that the Rabbi says, 'My time is near, my *talmidim* and I are celebrating *Pesach* at your house.'" ¹⁹The *talmidim* did as Yeshua directed and prepared the *Seder*.

²⁰When evening came, Yeshua reclined with the twelve *talmidim*; ²¹and as they were eating, he said, "Yes, I tell you that one of you is going to betray me." ²²They became terribly upset and began asking him, one after the other, "Lord, you don't mean me, do you?" ²³He answered, "The one who dips his *matzah* in the dish with me is the one who will betray me. ²⁴The Son of Man will die just as the *Tanakh* says he will; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him had he never been born!" ²⁵Y'hudah, the one who was betraying him, then asked, "Surely, Rabbi, you don't mean me?" He answered, "The words are yours."

²⁶While they were eating, Yeshua took a piece of *matzah*, made the *b'rakhah*, broke it, gave it to the *talmidim* and said, "Take! Eat! This is my body!" ²⁷Also he took a cup of wine, made the *b'rakhah*, and gave it to them, saying, "All of you, drink from it! ²⁸For this is my blood, which ratifies the New Covenant, my blood shed on behalf of many, so that they may have their sins forgiven. ²⁹I tell you, I will not drink this 'fruit of the vine' again until the day I drink new wine with you in my Father's Kingdom."

³⁰After singing the *Hallel*, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹Yeshua then said to them, "Tonight you will all lose faith in me, as the *Tanakh* says, **'I will strike the shepherd dead, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'** ³²But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into the Galil." ³³"I will never lose faith in you," Kefa answered, "even if everyone else does." ³⁴Yeshua said to him, "Yes! I tell you that tonight before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times!" ³⁵"Even if I must die with you," Kefa replied, "I will never disown you!" And all the *talmidim* said the same thing.

³⁶Then Yeshua went with his *talmidim* to a place called Gat-Sh'manim and said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took with him Kefa and Zavdai's two sons. Grief and anguish came over him, ³⁸and he said to them, "My heart is so

filled with sadness that I could die! Remain here and stay awake with me.” ³⁹ Going on a little farther, he fell on his face, praying, “My Father, if possible, let this cup pass from me! Yet — not what I want, but what you want!” ⁴⁰ He returned to the *talmidim* and found them sleeping. He said to Kefa, “Were you so weak that you couldn’t stay awake with me for even an hour? ⁴¹ Stay awake, and pray that you will not be put to the test — the spirit indeed is eager, but human nature is weak.”

⁴² A second time he went off and prayed. “My Father, if this cup cannot pass away unless I drink it, let what you want be done.” ⁴³ Again he returned and found them sleeping, their eyes were so heavy.

⁴⁴ Leaving them again, he went off and prayed a third time, saying the same words. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the *talmidim* and said, “For now, go on sleeping, take your rest. . . . Look! The time has come for the Son of Man to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Get up! Let’s go! Here comes my betrayer!”

⁴⁷ While Yeshua was still speaking, Y’hudah (one of the Twelve!) came, and with him a large crowd carrying swords and clubs, from the head *cohanim* and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ The betrayer had arranged to give them a signal: “The man I kiss is the one you want — grab him!” ⁴⁹ He went straight up to Yeshua, said, “*Shalom*, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Yeshua said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they moved forward, laid hold of Yeshua and arrested him.

⁵¹ At that, one of the men with Yeshua reached for his sword, drew it out and struck at the servant of the *cohen hagadol*, cutting off his ear. ⁵² Yeshua said to him, “Put your sword back where it belongs, for everyone who uses the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Don’t you know that I can ask my Father, and he will instantly provide more than a dozen armies of angels to help me? ⁵⁴ But if I did that, how could the passages in the *Tanakh* be fulfilled that say it has to happen this way?”

⁵⁵ Then Yeshua addressed the crowd: “So you came out to take me with swords and clubs, the way you would the leader of a rebellion? Every day I sat in the Temple court, teaching; and you didn’t seize me then. ⁵⁶ But all this has happened so that what the prophets wrote may be fulfilled.” Then the *talmidim* all deserted him and ran away.

⁵⁷ Those who had seized Yeshua led him off to Kayafa the *cohen hagadol*, where the *Torah*-teachers and elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ Kefa followed him at a distance as far as the courtyard of the *cohen hagadol*; then he went inside and sat down with the guards to see what the outcome would be.

⁵⁹The head *cohanim* and the whole *Sanhedrin* looked for some false evidence against Yeshua, so that they might put him to death. ⁶⁰But they didn't find any, even though many liars came forward to give testimony. At last, however, two people came forward and said, ⁶¹"This man said, 'I can tear down God's Temple and build it again in three days.'" ⁶²The *cohen hagadol* stood up and said, "Have you nothing to say to the accusation these men are making?" ⁶³Yeshua remained silent. The *cohen hagadol* said to him, "I put you under oath! By the living God, tell us if you are the *Mashiach*, the Son of God!" ⁶⁴Yeshua said to him, "The words are your own. But I tell you that one day you will see **the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of HaG'vurah and coming on the clouds of heaven.**" ⁶⁵At this, the *cohen hagadol* tore his robes. "Blasphemy!" he said. "Why do we still need witnesses? You heard him blaspheme!" ⁶⁶What is your verdict?" "Guilty," they answered. "He deserves death!" ⁶⁷Then they spit in his face and pounded him with their fists; and those who were beating him ⁶⁸said, "Now, you 'Messiah,' 'prophesy' to us: who hit you that time?"

⁶⁹Kefa was sitting outside in the courtyard when a servant girl came up to him. "You too were with Yeshua from the Galil," she said. ⁷⁰But he denied it in front of everyone — "I don't know what you're talking about!" ⁷¹He went out onto the porch, and another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This man was with Yeshua of Natzeret." ⁷²Again he denied it, swearing, "I don't know the man!" ⁷³After a little while, the bystanders approached Kefa and said, "You must be one of them — your accent gives you away." ⁷⁴This time he began to invoke a curse on himself as he swore, "I do not know the man!" — and immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Kefa remembered what Yeshua had said, "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times"; and he went outside and cried bitterly.

27 Early in the morning, all the head *Cohanim* and elders met to plan how to bring about Yeshua's death. ²Then they put him in chains, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor.

³When Y'hudah, who had betrayed him, saw that Yeshua had been condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the head *cohanim* and elders, ⁴saying, "I sinned in betraying an innocent man to death." "What is that to us?" they answered. "That's your problem." ⁵Hurling the pieces of silver into the sanctuary, he left; then he went off and hanged himself.

⁶The head *cohanim* took the silver coins and said, “It is prohibited to put this into the Temple treasury, because it is blood money.” ⁷ So they decided to use it to buy the potter’s field as a cemetery for foreigners. ⁸ This is how it came to be called the Field of Blood, a name it still bears. ⁹ Then what Yirmeyahu the prophet spoke was fulfilled, **“And they took the thirty silver coins, which was the price the people of Isra’el had agreed to pay for him, ¹⁰ and used them to buy the potter’s field, just as the Lord directed me.”**

¹¹ Meanwhile, Yeshua was brought before the governor, and the governor put this question to him: “Are you the King of the Jews?” Yeshua answered, “The words are yours.” ¹² But when he was accused by the head *cohanim* and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, “Don’t you hear all these charges they are making against you?” ¹⁴ But to the governor’s great amazement, he did not say a single word in reply to the accusations.

¹⁵ It was the governor’s custom during a festival to set free one prisoner, whomever the crowd asked for. ¹⁶ There was at that time a notorious prisoner being held, named Yeshua Bar-Abba. ¹⁷ So when a crowd had gathered, Pilate said to them, “Whom do you want me to set free for you? Bar-Abba? or Yeshua, called ‘the Messiah’?” ¹⁸ For he understood that it was out of jealousy that they had handed him over. ¹⁹ While he was sitting in court, his wife sent him a message, “Leave that innocent man alone. Today in a dream I suffered terribly because of him.” ²⁰ But the head *Cohanim* persuaded the crowd to ask for Bar-Abba’s release and to have Yeshua executed on the stake. ²¹ “Which of the two do you want me to set free for you?” asked the governor. “Bar-Abba!” they answered. ²² Pilate said to them, “Then what should I do with Yeshua, called ‘the Messiah’?” They all said, “Put him to death on the stake! Put him to death on the stake!” ²³ When he asked, “Why? What crime has he committed?” they shouted all the louder, “Put him to death on the stake!” ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing, but rather that a riot was starting, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, “My hands are clean of this man’s blood; it’s your responsibility.” ²⁵ All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” ²⁶ Then he released to them Bar-Abba; but Yeshua, after having him whipped, he handed over to be executed on a stake.

²⁷ The governor’s soldiers took Yeshua into the headquarters building, and the whole battalion gathered around him. ²⁸ They stripped off his clothes and put on him a scarlet robe, ²⁹ wove thorn-branches into a crown and put it on his head, and put a stick in his right hand. Then they kneeled down in front of him and made fun of him: “Hail to the

King of the Jews!”³⁰ They spit on him and used the stick to beat him about the head.³¹ When they had finished ridiculing him, they took off the robe, put his own clothes back on him and led him away to be nailed to the execution-stake.

³² As they were leaving, they met a man from Cyrene named Shim'on; and they forced him to carry Yeshua's execution-stake. ³³ When they arrived at a place called Gulgoltha (which means “place of a skull”), ³⁴ they gave him wine mixed with bitter gall to drink; but after tasting it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ After they had nailed him to the stake, they divided his clothes among them by throwing dice. ³⁶ Then they sat down to keep watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written notice stating the charge against him,

THIS IS YESHUA

THE KING OF THE JEWS

³⁸ Then two robbers were placed on execution-stakes with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ People passing by hurled insults at him, **shaking their heads** ⁴⁰ and saying, “So you can destroy the Temple, can you, and rebuild it in three days? Save yourself, if you are the Son of God, and come down from the stake!” ⁴¹ Likewise, the head *cohanim* jeered at him, along with the *Torah*-teachers and elders, ⁴² “He saved others, but he can't save himself!” “So he's King of Isra'el, is he? Let him come down now from the stake! Then we'll believe him!” ⁴³ **“He trusted God? So, let him rescue him if he wants him!** After all, he did say, ‘I'm the Son of God’!” ⁴⁴ Even the robbers nailed up with him insulted him in the same way.

⁴⁵ From noon until three o'clock in the afternoon, all the Land was covered with darkness. ⁴⁶ At about three, Yeshua uttered a loud cry, **“Eli! Eli! L'mah sh'vaktani? (My God! My God! Why have you deserted me?)”** ⁴⁷ On hearing this, some of the bystanders said, “He's calling for Eliyahu.” ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, soaked it in **vinegar**, put it on a stick and gave it to him **to drink**. ⁴⁹ The rest said, “Wait! Let's see if Eliyahu comes and rescues him.” ⁵⁰ But Yeshua, again crying out in a loud voice, yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the *parokhet* in the Temple was ripped in two from top to bottom; and there was an earthquake, with rocks splitting apart. ⁵² Also the graves were opened, and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life; ⁵³ and after Yeshua rose, they came out of the graves and went into the holy city, where many

people saw them. ⁵⁴ When the Roman officer and those with him who were keeping watch over Yeshua saw the earthquake and what was happening, they were awestruck and said, “He really was a son of God.”

⁵⁵ There were many women there, looking on from a distance; they had followed Yeshua from the Galil, helping him. ⁵⁶ Among them were Miryam from Magdala, Miryam the mother of Ya‘akov and Yosef, and the mother of Zavdai’s sons.

⁵⁷ Towards evening, there came a wealthy man from Ramatayim named Yosef, who was himself a *talmid* of Yeshua. ⁵⁸ He approached Pilate and asked for Yeshua’s body, and Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ Yosef took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen sheet, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own tomb, which he had recently had cut out of the rock. After rolling a large stone in front of the entrance to the tomb, he went away. ⁶¹ Miryam of Magdala and the other Miryam stayed there, sitting opposite the grave.

⁶² Next day, after the preparation, the head *cohanim* and the *P’rushim* went together to Pilate ⁶³ and said, “Sir, we remember that that deceiver said while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will be raised.’ ⁶⁴ Therefore, order that the grave be made secure till the third day; otherwise the *talmidim* may come, steal him away and say to the people, ‘He was raised from the dead’; and the last deception will be worse than the first.” ⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You may have your guard. Go and make the grave as secure as you know how.” ⁶⁶ So they went and made the grave secure by sealing the stone and putting the guard on watch.

28 After *Shabbat*, as the next day was dawning, Miryam of Magdala and the other Miryam went to see the grave. ² Suddenly there was a violent earthquake, for an angel of *Adonai* came down from heaven, rolled away the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so terrified at him that they trembled and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Don’t be afraid. I know you are looking for Yeshua, who was executed on the stake. ⁶ He is not here, because he has been raised — just as he said! Come and look at the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell the *talmidim*, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and now he is going to the Galil ahead of you. You will see him there.’ Now I have told you.”

⁸ So they left the tomb quickly, frightened yet filled with joy; and they ran to give the news to his *talmidim*. ⁹ Suddenly Yeshua met them and said, “*Shalom!*” They came up

and took hold of his feet as they fell down in front of him. ¹⁰ Then Yeshua said to them, “Don’t be afraid! Go and tell my brothers to go to the Galil, and they will see me there.”

¹¹ As they were going, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the head *Cohanim* everything that had happened. ¹² Then they met with the elders; and after discussing the matter, they gave the soldiers a sizeable sum of money ¹³ and said to them, “Tell people, ‘His *talmidim* came during the night and stole his body while we were sleeping.’” ¹⁴ If the governor hears of it, we will put things right with him and keep you from getting in trouble.” ¹⁵ The soldiers took the money and did as they were told, and this story has been spread about by Judeans till this very day.

¹⁶ So the eleven *talmidim* went to the hill in the Galil where Yeshua had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they prostrated themselves before him; but some hesitated. ¹⁸ Yeshua came and talked with them. He said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make people from all nations into *talmidim*, immersing them into the reality of the Father, the Son and the *Ruach HaKodesh*, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember! I will be with you always, yes, even until the end of the age.”

Mark 14:1 – 16:20

14 It was now two days before *Pesach* (that is, the festival of *Matzah*), and the head *cohanim* and the *Torah*-teachers were trying to find some way to arrest Yeshua surreptitiously and have him put to death; ² for they said, “Not during the festival, or the people will riot.”

³ While he was in Beit-Anyah in the home of Shim’on (a man who had had *tzara’at*), and as he was eating, a woman came with an alabaster jar of perfume, pure oil of nard, very costly. She broke the jar and poured the perfume over Yeshua’s head. ⁴ But some there angrily said to themselves, “Why this waste of perfume? ⁵ It could have been sold for a year’s wages and given to the poor!” And they scolded her. ⁶ But he said, “Let her be. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷ For you will always have the poor with you; and whenever you want to, you can help them. But you will not always have me. ⁸ What she could do, she did do — in advance she poured perfume on my body to prepare it for burial. ⁹ Yes! I tell you that wherever in the whole world this Good News is proclaimed, what she has done will be told in her memory.”

¹⁰Then Y'hudah from K'riot, who was one of the Twelve, went to the head *cohanim* in order to betray Yeshua to them. ¹¹They were pleased to hear this and promised to give him money. And he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Yeshua.

¹²On the first day for *matzah*, when they slaughtered the lamb for *Pesach*, Yeshua's *talmidim* asked him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare your *Seder*?" ¹³He sent two of his *talmidim* with these instructions: "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him; ¹⁴and whichever house he enters, tell him that the Rabbi says, 'Where is the guest room for me, where I am to eat the *Pesach* meal with my *talmidim*?' ¹⁵He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make the preparations there." ¹⁶The *talmidim* went off, came to the city and found things just as he had told them they would be; and they prepared the *Seder*.

¹⁷When evening came, Yeshua arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸As they were reclining and eating, Yeshua said, "Yes! I tell you that one of you is going to betray me." ¹⁹They became upset and began asking him, one after the other, "You don't mean me, do you?" ²⁰"It's one of the Twelve," he said to them, "someone dipping *matzah* in the dish with me. ²¹For the Son of Man will die, just as the *Tanakh* says he will; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for him had he never been born!"

²²While they were eating, Yeshua took a piece of *matzah*, made the *b'rakhah*, broke it, gave it to them and said, "Take it! This is my body." ²³Also he took a cup of wine, made the *b'rakhah*, and gave it to them; and they all drank. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood, which ratifies the New Covenant, my blood shed on behalf of many people. ²⁵Yes! I tell you, I will not drink this 'fruit of the vine' again until the day I drink new wine in the Kingdom of God."

²⁶After singing the *Hallel*, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ²⁷Yeshua said to them, "You will all lose faith in me, for the *Tanakh* says,

'I will strike the shepherd dead, and the sheep will be scattered.'

²⁸But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you into the Galil." ²⁹Kefa said to him, "Even if everyone else loses faith in you, I won't." ³⁰Yeshua replied, "Yes! I tell you that this very night, before the rooster crows twice, you will disown me three times!" ³¹But Kefa kept insisting, "Even if I must die with you, I will never disown you!" And they all said the same thing.

³² They went to a place called Gat Sh'manim; and Yeshua said to his *talmidim*, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ He took with him Kefa, Ya'akov and Yochanan. Great distress and anguish came over him; ³⁴ and he said to them, "My heart is so filled with sadness that I could die! Remain here and stay awake." ³⁵ Going on a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that if possible, the hour might pass from him: ³⁶ "Abba!" (that is, "Dear Father!") "All things are possible for you. Take this cup away from me! Still, not what I want, but what you want." ³⁷ He came and found them sleeping; and he said to Kefa, "Shim'on, are you asleep? Couldn't you stay awake one hour? ³⁸ Stay awake, and pray that you will not be put to the test — the spirit indeed is eager, but human nature is weak."

³⁹ Again he went away and prayed, saying the same words; ⁴⁰ and again he came and found them sleeping, their eyes were so very heavy; and they didn't know what to answer him.

⁴¹ The third time, he came and said to them, "For now, go on sleeping, take your rest. . . . There, that's enough! The time has come! Look! The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners! ⁴² Get up! Let's go! Here comes my betrayer!"

⁴³ While Yeshua was still speaking, Y'hudah (one of the Twelve!) came, and with him a crowd carrying swords and clubs, from the head *cohanim*, the *Torah*-teachers and the elders. ⁴⁴ The betrayer had arranged to give them a signal: "The man I kiss is the one you want. Grab him, and take him away under guard." ⁴⁵ As he arrived, he went right up to Yeshua, said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. ⁴⁶ Then they laid hold of Yeshua and arrested him; ⁴⁷ but one of the people standing nearby drew his sword and struck at the servant of the *cohen hagadol*, cutting off his ear.

⁴⁸ Yeshua addressed them: "So you came out to take me with swords and clubs, the way you would the leader of a rebellion? ⁴⁹ Every day I was with you in the Temple court, teaching, and you didn't seize me then! But let the *Tanakh* be fulfilled." ⁵⁰ And they all deserted him and ran away. ⁵¹ There was one young man who did try to follow him; but he was wearing only a nightshirt; and when they tried to seize him, ⁵² he slipped out of the nightshirt and ran away naked.

⁵³ They led Yeshua to the *cohen hagadol*, with whom all the head *cohanim*, elders and *Torah*-teachers were assembling. ⁵⁴ Kefa followed him at a distance right into the

courtyard of the *cohen hagadol*, where he sat down with the guards and warmed himself by the fire.

⁵⁵ The head *cohanim* and the whole *Sanhedrin* tried to find evidence against Yeshua, so that they might have him put to death, but they couldn't find any. ⁵⁶ For many people gave false evidence against him, but their testimonies didn't agree. ⁵⁷ Some stood up and gave this false testimony: ⁵⁸ "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this Temple made with hands; and in three days I will build another one, not made with hands.'" ⁵⁹ Even so, their testimonies didn't agree.

⁶⁰ The *cohen hagadol* stood up in the front and asked Yeshua, "Have you nothing to say to the accusations these men are making?" ⁶¹ But he remained silent and made no reply. Again the *cohen hagadol* questioned him: "Are you the *Mashiach*, *Ben-HaM'vorakh*?" ⁶² "I AM," answered Yeshua. "Moreover, you will see **the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of HaG'vurah and coming on the clouds of heaven.**" ⁶³ At this, the *cohen hagadol* tore his clothes and said, "Why do we still need witnesses? ⁶⁴ You heard him blaspheme! What is your decision?" And they all declared him guilty and subject to the death penalty.

⁶⁵ Then some began spitting at him; and after blindfolding him, they started pounding him with their fists and saying to him, "Let's see you prophesy!" And as the guards took him, they beat him too.

⁶⁶ Meanwhile, Kefa was still in the courtyard below. One of the serving-girls of the *cohen hagadol* ⁶⁷ saw Kefa warming himself, took a look at him, and said, "You were with the man from Natzeret, Yeshua!" ⁶⁸ But he denied it, saying, "I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about!" He went outside into the entryway, and a rooster crowed. ⁶⁹ The girl saw him there and started telling the bystanders, "This fellow is one of them." ⁷⁰ Again he denied it. A little later, the bystanders themselves said to Kefa, "You must be one of them, because you're from the Galil." ⁷¹ At this he began to invoke a curse on himself as he swore, "I do not know this man you are telling me about!" — ⁷² and immediately the rooster crowed a second time. Then Kefa remembered what Yeshua had said to him, "Before the rooster crows twice, you will disown me three times." And throwing himself down, he burst into tears.

15 As soon as it was morning, the head *Cohanim* held a council meeting with the elders, the *Torah*-teachers and the whole *Sanhedrin*. Then they put Yeshua in chains, led him away and handed him over to Pilate. ² Pilate put this question to him: "Are you

the King of the Jews?” He answered him, “The words are yours.” ³ The head *cohanim* too made accusations against him, ⁴ and Pilate again inquired of him, “Aren’t you going to answer? Look how many charges they are making against you!” ⁵ But Yeshua made no further response, to Pilate’s amazement.

⁶ Now during a festival, Pilate used to set free one prisoner, whomever the crowd requested. ⁷ There was in prison among the rebels who had committed murder during the insurrection a man called Bar-Abba. ⁸ When the crowd came up and began asking Pilate to do for them what he usually did, ⁹ he asked them, “Do you want me to set free for you the ‘King of the Jews’?” ¹⁰ For it was evident to him that it was out of jealousy that the head *cohanim* had handed him over. ¹¹ But the head *cohanim* stirred up the crowd to have him release Bar-Abba for them instead. ¹² Pilate again said to them, “Then what should I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³ They shouted back, “Put him to death on the stake!” ¹⁴ He asked, “Why? What crime has he committed?” But they only shouted louder, “Put him to death on the stake!” ¹⁵ So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the mob, set Bar-Abba free for them; but he had Yeshua whipped and then handed him over to be executed on the stake.

¹⁶ The soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the headquarters building) and called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷ They dressed him in purple and wove thorn branches into a crown, which they put on him. ¹⁸ Then they began to salute him, “Hail to the King of the Jews!” ¹⁹ They hit him on the head with a stick, spat on him and kneeled in mock worship of him. ²⁰ When they had finished ridiculing him, they took off the purple robe, put his own clothes back on him and led him away to be nailed to the execution-stake.

²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Shim’on, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country; and they forced him to carry the stake. ²² They brought Yeshua to a place called Gulgolta (which means “place of a skull”), ²³ and they gave him wine spiced with myrrh, but he didn’t take it. ²⁴ Then they nailed him to the execution-stake; and they divided his clothes among themselves, throwing dice to determine what each man should get. ²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they nailed him to the stake. ²⁶ Over his head, the written notice of the charge against him read,

THE KING OF THE JEWS

²⁷ On execution-stakes with him they placed two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ^{28 29} People passing by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying,

“Aha! So you can destroy the Temple, can you, and rebuild it in three days? ³⁰ Save yourself and come down from the stake!” ³¹ Likewise, the head *cohanim* and the *Torah*-teachers made fun of him, saying to each other, “He saved others, but he can’t save himself!” ³² and, “So he’s the Messiah, is he? The King of Isra’el? Let him come down now from the stake! If we see that, then we’ll believe him!” Even the men nailed up with him insulted him.

³³ At noon, darkness covered the whole Land until three o’clock in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three, he uttered a loud cry, “**Elohi! Elohi! L’mah sh’vaktani?**” (which means, “**My God! My God! Why have you deserted me?**”) ³⁵ On hearing this, some of the bystanders said, “Look! He’s calling for Eliyahu!” ³⁶ One ran and soaked a sponge in **vinegar**, put it on a stick and **gave** it to him **to drink**. “Wait!” he said, “Let’s see if Eliyahu will come and take him down.” ³⁷ But Yeshua let out a loud cry and gave up his spirit. ³⁸ And the *parokhet* in the Temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ When the Roman officer who stood facing him saw the way he gave up his spirit, he said, “This man really was a son of God!”

⁴⁰ There were women looking on from a distance; among them were Miryam from Magdala, Miryam the mother of the younger Ya’akov and of Yosi, and Shlomit. ⁴¹ These women had followed him and helped him when he was in the Galil. And many other women were there who had come up with him to Yerushalayim.

⁴² Since it was Preparation Day (that is, the day before a *Shabbat*), as evening approached, ⁴³ Yosef of Ramatayim, a prominent member of the *Sanhedrin* who himself was also looking forward to the Kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Yeshua’s body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead, so he summoned the officer and asked him if he had been dead awhile. ⁴⁵ After he had gotten confirmation from the officer that Yeshua was dead, he granted Yosef the corpse. ⁴⁶ Yosef purchased a linen sheet; and after taking Yeshua down, he wrapped him in the linen sheet, laid him in a tomb which had been cut out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. ⁴⁷ Miryam of Magdala and Miryam the mother of Yosi saw where he had been laid.

16 When *Shabbat* was over, Miryam of Magdala, Miryam the mother of Ya’akov, and Shlomit bought spices in order to go and anoint Yeshua. ² Very early the next day, just after sunrise, they went to the tomb. ³ They were asking each other, “Who will roll away the stone from the entrance to the tomb for us?” ⁴ Then they looked up and saw that the stone, even though it was huge, had been rolled back already. ⁵ On entering the

tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right; and they were dumbfounded. ⁶ But he said, “Don’t be so surprised! You’re looking for Yeshua from Natzeret, who was executed on the stake. He has risen, he’s not here! Look at the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go and tell his *talmidim*, especially Kefa, that he is going to the Galil ahead of you. You will see him there, just as he told you.” ⁸ Trembling but ecstatic they went out and fled from the tomb, and they said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

⁹ When Yeshua rose early Sunday, he appeared first to Miryam of Magdala, from whom he had expelled seven demons. ¹⁰ She went and told those who had been with him, as they were crying and mourning. ¹¹ But when they heard that he was alive and that she had seen him, they wouldn’t believe it.

¹² After that, Yeshua appeared in another form to two of them as they were walking into the country. ¹³ They went and told the others, but they didn’t believe them either.

¹⁴ Later, Yeshua appeared to the Eleven as they were eating, and he reproached them for their lack of trust and their spiritual insensitivity in not having believed those who had seen him after he had risen. ¹⁵ Then he said to them, “As you go throughout the world, proclaim the Good News to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever trusts and is immersed will be saved; whoever does not trust will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who do trust: in my name they will drive out demons, speak with new tongues, ¹⁸ not be injured if they handle snakes or drink poison, and heal the sick by laying hands on them.”

¹⁹ So then, after he had spoken to them, the Lord Yeshua was taken up into heaven and **sat at the right hand of God**. ²⁰ And they went out and proclaimed everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the message by the accompanying signs.

Luke 22:1 – 24:53

22 But the festival of *Matzah*, known as *Pesach*, was approaching; ² and the head *cohanim* and the *Torah*-teachers began trying to find some way to get rid of Yeshua, because they were afraid of the people.

³ At this point the Adversary went into Y’hudah from K’riot, who was one of the Twelve. ⁴ He approached the head *cohanim* and the Temple guard and discussed with them how he might turn Yeshua over to them. ⁵ They were pleased and offered to pay

him money. ⁶ He agreed and began looking for a good opportunity to betray Yeshua without the people's knowledge.

⁷ Then came the day of *matzah*, on which the Passover lamb had to be killed. ⁸ Yeshua sent Kefa and Yochanan, instructing them, "Go and prepare our *Seder*, so we can eat." ⁹ They asked him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?" ¹⁰ He told them, "As you're going into the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house he enters, ¹¹ and say to its owner, 'The Rabbi says to you, "Where is the guest room, where I am to eat the *Pesach* meal with my *talmidim*?' " ¹² He will show you a large room upstairs already furnished; make the preparations there." ¹³ They went and found things just as Yeshua had told them they would be, and they prepared for the *Seder*.

¹⁴ When the time came, Yeshua and the emissaries reclined at the table, ¹⁵ and he said to them, "I have really wanted so much to celebrate this *Seder* with you before I die! ¹⁶ For I tell you, it is certain that I will not celebrate it again until it is given its full meaning in the Kingdom of God."

¹⁷ Then, taking a cup of wine, he made the *b'rakhah* and said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on, I will not drink the 'fruit of the vine' until the Kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ Also, taking a piece of *matzah*, he made the *b'rakhah*, broke it, gave it to them and said, "This is my body, which is being given for you; do this in memory of me." ²⁰ He did the same with the cup after the meal, saying, "This cup is the New Covenant, ratified by my blood, which is being poured out for you."

²¹ "But look! The person who is betraying me is here at the table with me! ²² The Son of Man is going to his death according to God's plan, but woe to that man by whom he is being betrayed!" ²³ They began asking each other which of them could be about to do such a thing.

²⁴ An argument arose among them as to which of them should be considered the greatest. ²⁵ But Yeshua said to them, "The kings of the *Goyim* lord it over them; and those in authority over them are given the title, 'Benefactor.' ²⁶ But not so with you! On the contrary, let the greater among you become like the younger, and one who rules like one who serves. ²⁷ For who is greater? The one reclining at the table? or the one who serves? It's the one reclining at the table, isn't it? But I myself am among you like one who serves."

²⁸ “You are the ones who have stayed with me throughout my trials. ²⁹ Just as my Father gave me the right to rule, so I give you an appointment, ³⁰ namely, to eat and drink at my table in my Kingdom and to sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Isra’el.

³¹ “Shim’on, Shim’on, listen! The Adversary demanded to have you people for himself, to sift you like wheat! ³² But I prayed for you, Shim’on, that your trust might not fail. And you, once you have turned back in repentance, strengthen your brothers!” ³³ Shim’on said to him, “Lord, I am prepared to go with you both to prison and to death!” ³⁴ Yeshua replied, “I tell you, Kefa, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know me.”

³⁵ He said to them, “When I sent you out without wallet, pack or shoes, were you ever short of anything?” “Not a thing,” they answered. ³⁶ “But now,” he said, if you have a wallet or a pack, take it; and if you don’t have a sword, sell your robe to buy one. ³⁷ For I tell you this: the passage from the *Tanakh* that says, **‘He was counted with transgressors,’** has to be fulfilled in me; since what is happening to me has a purpose.” ³⁸ They said, “Look, Lord, there are two swords right here!” “Enough!” he replied.

³⁹ On leaving, Yeshua went as usual to the Mount of Olives; and the *talmidim* followed him. ⁴⁰ When he arrived, he said to them, “Pray that you won’t be put to the test.” ⁴¹ He went about a stone’s throw away from them, kneeled down and prayed, ⁴² “Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, let not my will but yours be done.” ⁴³ There appeared to him an angel from heaven giving him strength, ⁴⁴ and in great anguish he prayed more intensely, so that his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. ⁴⁵ On rising from prayer and coming to the *talmidim*, he found them sleeping because of their grief. ⁴⁶ He said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you won’t be put to the test!”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, a crowd of people arrived, with the man called Y’hudah (one of the Twelve!) leading them. He came up to Yeshua to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Yeshua said to him, “Y’hudah, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?” ⁴⁹ When his followers saw what was going to happen, they said, “Lord, should we use our swords?” ⁵⁰ One of them struck at the slave of the *cohen hagadol* and cut off his right ear. ⁵¹ But Yeshua answered, “Just let me do this,” and, touching the man’s ear, he healed him.

⁵² Then Yeshua said to the head *cohanim*, the officers of the Temple guard and the elders who had come to seize him, “So you came out just as you would to the leader of a rebellion, with swords and clubs? ⁵³ Every day I was there with you in the Temple court, yet you didn’t arrest me. But this is your hour — the hour when darkness rules.”

⁵⁴ Having seized him, they led him away and brought him into the house of the *cohen hagadol*. Kefa followed at a distance; ⁵⁵ but when they had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Kefa joined them. ⁵⁶ One of the servant girls saw him sitting in the light of the fire, stared at him and said, “This man also was with him.” ⁵⁷ But he denied it: “Lady, I don’t even know him.” ⁵⁸ A little later, someone else saw him and said, “You’re one of them too”; but Kefa said, “Man, I am not!” ⁵⁹ About an hour later, another man asserted emphatically, “There can be no doubt that this fellow was with him, because he too is from the Galil!” ⁶⁰ But Kefa said, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about!” And instantly, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed. ⁶¹ The Lord turned and looked straight at Kefa; and Kefa remembered what the Lord had said, “Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times.” ⁶² And he went outside and cried bitterly.

⁶³ Meanwhile, the men who were holding Yeshua made fun of him. They beat him, ⁶⁴ blindfolded him, and kept asking him, “Now, ‘prophecy’! Who hit you that time?” ⁶⁵ And they said many other insulting things to him.

⁶⁶ At daybreak, the people’s council of elders, including both head *cohanim* and *Torah*-teachers, met and led him off to their *Sanhedrin*, ⁶⁷ where they said, “If you are the *Mashiach*, tell us.” He answered, “If I tell you, you won’t believe me; ⁶⁸ and if I ask you, you won’t answer. ⁶⁹ But from now on, the Son of Man will be **sitting at the right hand of HaG’vurah**,” ⁷⁰ They all said, “Does this mean, then, that you are the Son of God?” And he answered them, “You say I am.” ⁷¹ They said, “Why do we need additional testimony? We have heard it ourselves from his own mouth!”

23 With that, the whole *Sanhedrin* got up and brought Yeshua before Pilate, ² where they started accusing him. “We found this man subverting our nation, forbidding us to pay taxes to the Emperor and claiming that he himself is the Messiah — a king!” ³ Pilate asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” And he answered him, “The words are yours.” ⁴ Pilate said to the head *cohanim* and the crowds, “I find no ground for a charge against this man.” ⁵ But they persisted. “He is inciting the people with his teaching throughout all Y’hudah — he started in the Galil, and now he’s here!” ⁶ On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was from the Galil; ⁷ and when he learned that he was under

Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who at that time happened to be in Yerushalayim too.

⁸ Herod was delighted to see Yeshua, because he had heard about him and for a long time had been wanting to meet him; indeed, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. ⁹ He questioned him at great length, but Yeshua made no reply. ¹⁰ However, the head *cohanim* and the *Torah*-teachers stood there, vehemently pressing their case against him. ¹¹ Herod and his soldiers treated Yeshua with contempt and made fun of him. Then, dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹² That day Herod and Pilate became friends with each other; previously they had been enemies.

¹³ Pilate summoned the head *cohanim*, the leaders and the people, ¹⁴ and said to them, "You brought this man before me on a charge of subverting the people. I examined him in your presence and did not find the man guilty of the crime you are accusing him of. ¹⁵ And neither did Herod, because he sent him back to us. Clearly, he has not done anything that merits the death penalty. ¹⁶ Therefore, what I will do is have him flogged and release him." ¹⁷ ¹⁸ But with one voice they shouted, "Away with this man! Give us Bar-Abba!" ¹⁹ (He was a man who had been thrown in prison for causing a riot in the city and for murder.) ²⁰ Pilate appealed to them again, because he wanted to release Yeshua. ²¹ But they yelled, "Put him to death on the stake! Put him to death on the stake!" ²² A third time he asked them, "But what has this man done wrong? I haven't found any reason to put him to death. So I'm going to have him flogged and set free." ²³ But they went on yelling insistently, demanding that he be executed on the stake; and their shouting prevailed. ²⁴ Pilate decided to grant their demand; ²⁵ he released the man who had been thrown in prison for insurrection and murder, the one they had asked for; and Yeshua he surrendered to their will.

²⁶ As the Roman soldiers led Yeshua away, they grabbed hold of a man from Cyrene named Shim'on, who was on his way in from the country. They put the execution-stake on his back and made him carry it behind Yeshua. ²⁷ Large numbers of people followed, including women crying and wailing over him. ²⁸ Yeshua turned to them and said, "Daughters of Yerushalayim, don't cry for me; cry for yourselves and your children! ²⁹ For the time is coming when people will say, 'The childless women are the lucky ones — those whose wombs have never borne a child, whose breasts have never nursed a baby! ³⁰ Then

They will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us!' and to the hills, 'Cover us!'

³¹ For if they do these things when the wood is green, what is going to happen when it's dry?"

³² Two other men, both criminals, were led out to be executed with him. ³³ When they came to the place called The Skull, they nailed him to a stake; and they nailed the criminals to stakes, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁴ Yeshua said, "Father, forgive them; they don't understand what they are doing."

They divided up his clothes by throwing dice. ³⁵ The people stood **watching**, and the rulers **sneered at** him. "He saved others," they said, "so if he really is the Messiah, the one chosen by God, let him save himself!" ³⁶ The soldiers too ridiculed him; they came up, offered him **vinegar** ³⁷ and said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ And there was a notice over him which read,

THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS

³⁹ One of the criminals hanging there hurled insults at him. "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other one spoke up and rebuked the first, saying, "Have you no fear of God? You're getting the same punishment as he is. ⁴¹ Ours is only fair; we're getting what we deserve for what we did. But this man did nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Yeshua, remember me when you come as King." ⁴³ Yeshua said to him, "Yes! I promise that you will be with me today in Gan-'Eden."

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness covered the whole Land until three o'clock in the afternoon; ⁴⁵ the sun did not shine. Also the *parokhet* in the Temple was split down the middle. ⁴⁶ Crying out with a loud voice, Yeshua said, "Father! **Into your hands I commit my spirit.**" With these words he gave up his spirit.

⁴⁷ When the Roman officer saw what had happened, he began to praise God and said, "Surely this man was innocent!" ⁴⁸ And when all the crowds that had gathered to watch the spectacle saw the things that had occurred, they returned home beating their breasts. ⁴⁹ All his friends, including the women who had accompanied him from the Galil, had been standing at a distance; they saw it all.

⁵⁰ There was a man named Yosef, a member of the *Sanhedrin*. He was a good man, a *tzaddik*; ⁵¹ and he had not been in agreement with either the *Sanhedrin*'s motivation or their action. He came from the town of Ramatayim, a town of the Judeans; and he looked forward to the Kingdom of God. ⁵² This man approached Pilate and asked for

Yeshua's body. ⁵³ He took it down, wrapped it in a linen sheet, and placed it in a tomb cut into the rock, that had never been used.

⁵⁴ It was Preparation Day, and a *Shabbat* was about to begin. ⁵⁵ The women who had come with Yeshua from the Galil followed; they saw the tomb and how his body was placed in it. ⁵⁶ Then they went back home to prepare spices and ointments.

On *Shabbat* the women rested, in obedience to the commandment;

24 but the next day, while it was still very early, they took the spices they had prepared, went to the tomb, ² and found the stone rolled away from the tomb! ³ On entering, they discovered that the body of the Lord Yeshua was gone! ⁴ They were standing there, not knowing what to think about it, when suddenly two men in dazzlingly bright clothing stood next to them. ⁵ Terror-stricken, they bowed down with their faces to the ground. The two men said to them, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has been raised. Remember how he told you while he was still in the Galil, ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be executed on a stake as a criminal, but on the third day be raised again?'" ⁸ Then they remembered his words; ⁹ and, returning from the tomb, they told everything to the Eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ The women who told the emissaries these things were Miryam of Magdala, Yochanah, Miryam the mother of Ya'akov, and the others in their circle.

¹¹ But the emissaries didn't believe them; in fact, they thought that what they said was utter nonsense! ¹² However, Kefa got up and ran to the tomb. Stooping down, he saw only the burial cloths and went home wondering what had happened.

¹³ That same day, two of them were going toward a village about seven miles from Yerushalayim called Amma'us, ¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all the things that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed, Yeshua himself came up and walked along with them, ¹⁶ but something kept them from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you talking about with each other as you walk along?" They stopped short, their faces downcast; ¹⁸ and one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only person staying in Yerushalayim that doesn't know the things that have been going on there the last few days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked them. They said to him, "The things about Yeshua from Natzeret. He was a prophet and proved it by the things he did and said before God and all the people. ²⁰ Our head *cohanim* and our leaders handed him over, so that he could be sentenced to

death and executed on a stake as a criminal. ²¹ And we had hoped that he would be the one to liberate Isra'el! Besides all that, today is the third day since these things happened; ²² and this morning, some of the women astounded us. They were at the tomb early ²³ and couldn't find his body, so they came back; but they also reported that they had seen a vision of angels who say he's alive! ²⁴ Some of our friends went to the tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they didn't see him."

²⁵ He said to them, "Foolish people! So unwilling to put your trust in everything the prophets spoke! ²⁶ Didn't the Messiah have to die like this before entering his glory?" ²⁷ Then, starting with Moshe and all the prophets, he explained to them the things that can be found throughout the *Tanakh* concerning himself.

²⁸ They approached the village where they were going. He made as if he were going on farther; ²⁹ but they held him back, saying, "Stay with us, for it's almost evening, and it's getting dark." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ As he was reclining with them at the table, he took the *matzah*, made the *b'rakhah*, broke it and handed it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But he became invisible to them. ³² They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn inside us as he spoke to us on the road, opening up the *Tanakh* to us?"

³³ They got up at once, returned to Yerushalayim and found the Eleven gathered together with their friends, ³⁴ saying, "It's true! The Lord has risen! Shim'on saw him!" ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the road and how he had become known to them in the breaking of the *matzah*.

³⁶ They were still talking about it when — there he was, standing among them! ³⁷ Startled and terrified, they thought they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ But he said to them, "Why are you so upset? Why are these doubts welling up inside you? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet — it is I, myself! Touch me and see — a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as you can see I do." ⁴⁰ As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ While they were still unable to believe it for joy and stood there dumbfounded, he said to them, "Have you something here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ which he took and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴ Yeshua said to them, "This is what I meant when I was still with you and told you that everything written about me in the *Torah* of Moshe, the Prophets and the Psalms had to be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds, so that they could understand the *Tanakh*, ⁴⁶ telling them, "Here is what it says: the Messiah is to suffer and to rise

from the dead on the third day; ⁴⁷ and in his name repentance leading to forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed to people from all nations, starting with Yerushalayim. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Now I am sending forth upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been equipped with power from above.”

⁵⁰ He led them out toward Beit-Anyah; then, raising his hands, he said a *b'rakhah* over them; ⁵¹ and as he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² They bowed in worship to him, then returned to Yerushalayim, overflowing with joy. ⁵³ And they spent all their time in the Temple courts, praising God.