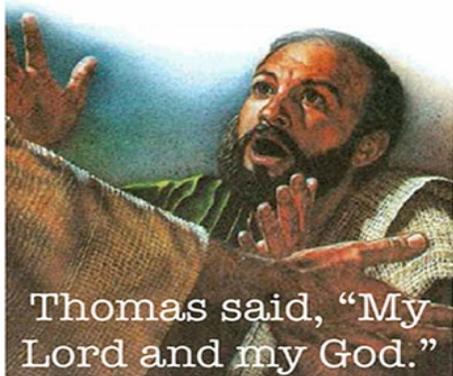


The Resurrection of Jesus!



Thomas said, "My Lord and my God."

March 2024

BAPTIST WORLD CULT EVANGELISM

Reaching The Unreached At Your Doorstep And Around The World

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WHAT WAS IN THE GARDEN CUP?

Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour (John 12:27).

When the Lord Jesus Christ was in the Garden of Gethsemane, He prayed three times and asked His Father to "take away this cup from me." So, what was in the cup? Some have suggested, without reference to any verse in context, that Jesus, in a moment of human weakness, was asking the Father if there was another way other than the cross. That would mean that Jesus' prayer was a self-serving and self-centered attempt to abort His mission at Calvary. The idea of a "moment of human weakness" also implies that His human nature was like ours rather than flawless, as the perfect Son of God manifests in the flesh. A look at the Lord's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane from the synoptic gospels is the best way to focus on the context. Before that, let's look at what was not in the cup. These verses in John make it clear that Jesus was not referring to Calvary in His garden prayer, for He knew His time to be crucified was very near.

John 12:23-27; 23 *And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. 27 Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*

The context of the synoptic gospels will show that death was in the cup, but it was not His death at Calvary; instead, it was the immediate threat of His death in the Garden that prompted Him to pray three times, saying, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

Matt 26:37-39 *And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.* At this point, He was about to die physically. Mark 14:33-36 *And he taketh with him Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; 34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. 35 And*

he went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

Luke 22:41-45 *And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, 42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. 43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow.*

Our Lord's prayer was answered within moments when the angel came to strengthen Him, and **the cup of death, imminent death, in the Garden, was soon removed.** The Lord's sorrow and agony in the Garden partly fulfilled the prophecies in Isa 53. In Isaiah's prophecy, Christ experienced much of the mental suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane before His physical sufferings began.

In a seemingly moment of time, Jesus suffered the mental anguish that placed Him at the very threshold of death. He was bearing the griefs and carrying the sorrows of every soul that will have ever lived. This affliction brought the sinless Son of God to His knees to ask His Father to remove the cup of death that was about to take His life. It was a life to be sacrificed at Calvary and not at Gethsemane. Oh, what a Savior is He, and Oh, what love could this be! Thank you, Jesus!

Heb 12:2 *Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Oh, what a Saviour, what a victory, what a reason to celebrate Easter, resurrection day, and spread the gospel that Jesus preached about His eternal kingdom of righteousness where He creates a New Earth and Heaven and makes *all things new* (Revelation 21). Hallelujah!

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE FIELD

CLOSING THE DOORS

The Lord gave Josh a great learning experience that can be helpful to everyone. He gives you his remarks in the center column.

I wrote seven 4x6 cards that teach you how to close the doors JW's try to use to cancel the John 1:3 checkmate. The truth in John 1:3 is irrefutable when you hold the JW to the rules he agreed to. What are those rules? You begin by asking three questions:

1. Do you consider yourself to be an honest person?
2. Is the Bible your absolute authority for faith and life?
3. Do you believe that a truth in God's Word will never contradict itself?

Similar to the limitations on the king's movement in chess, the Jehovah's Witnesses (JWs) encounter conflicts when using verses that seemingly contradict John 1:3. Within JW's teachings, it is stressed that the name Jehovah only applies to God the Father. According to their beliefs, Michael the Archangel is the Father's first creation, responsible for creating everything else, and then becomes Jesus at his birth.

John 1:3 (New World Translation) "All things came into existence through him [Jesus Christ], and apart from him, not even one thing came into existence. What has come into existence."

All things, and *not even one thing*, would include Michael. This is the conflict JW's are faced with, and this is where the rules protect the authority of Scripture. Your job is to keep the JW from using the WT's exit doors to escape. If the JW is honest and truly believes the Bible is his authority, he must concede or admit he is not honest.

UPDATES FROM JOSH

I want to start with several praises. First, the gift and multiplicity of blessings that is God's gift to mankind. Secondly, I saw answers to prayers in keeping me safe as I traveled to Phoenix, AZ, provisions, food, and hotel, and God brought me through a couple of difficult challenges I encountered there. All the way, I saw God work and am encouraged in my calling. Speaking with this JW was a time of learning. The Lord put together the meeting and gave me a wide-open door to converse, share my testimony, and attempt to present, with strategic questioning, the conflict between the Word of God and the teachings of the Watchtower (WT). As premature as my experience and thus attempt to reveal the conflict, I believe a seed was planted. I am working on improving how to close the doors correctly. Often, when I would ask this JW to read a verse and ask a follow-up question, the JW would pause for a bit but then recall their beliefs and go around the interruption to their belief seen in the scripture. As pointed out by Bro. Dave, one must lovingly and continuously remind the JW to hold to the three questions they agreed to. The idea is that each supposed proof text they may bring up as evidence that Jesus is an angel must be held to the rules of scripture; this will keep them from using WT exit doors. Then, you can bring them back to face the conflict set before them to either concede or admit dishonesty. Please pray that the Lord will give me many more contacts with JW's and Mormons to help them see the truth. Walk faithfully, Amen!
Sincerely yours, Joshua Ellison

"PUTTER'S PEN"

I trust everyone is enjoying the blessings of our Lord daily. Today, I want to begin with two questions: Do you ever get afraid, and why are you afraid? I must admit it; there are times when I am afraid of things, mostly the unknown future, and I start to suffer from a severe case of the "what ifs"! But, years ago, I found a cure for my "what ifs," and I would like to share it with you. The cure is six words and very easy to remember: fear not; I am with you. (De 20:1; Jos 1:9; 2Ch 20:15; Pr 3:25-26; Jer 1:8; Jer 42:11; Mt 14:27; Mt 17:7; Mr 6:50; John 6:20)

There is a repeated phrase in these verses: be not afraid, I am with thee. We have no need to worry or fret about any situation because He is with us and will take care of us during any fearful time in our lives. In sickness and in health, through riches or poverty, through the good times and the not so good times, always, He will be with us and get us through. So, don't fear what can and may happen; instead, trust in Him.

Until next time, Jehovah-jireh,
"Putter"

PS: I have learned to trust Him, but I still put out a mouse trap when needed.

Love and prayers,

Dave, Putter Weeks

Isa. 41:10