

and SAVIOUR, JESUS CHRIST; now the believer is freed from the mastery of sin and delivered from the clutches of the law. This leads to the blessed stage of "no condemnation" ensured by the witness of the HOLY SPIRIT as the "children of GOD".

Only after this series of spiritual experiences does the believer learn that he has been predestinated by GOD to adoption of son by JESUS CHRIST to HIMSELF and is one of the elect. Then only he becomes absolutely certain to declare:

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love GOD, to them who are the called according to HIS purpose. For whom HE did foreknow, HE also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of HIS SON, that HE might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom HE did predestinate, them HE also called: and whom HE called, them HE also justified: and whom HE justified, them HE also glorified.”

Romans 8:28-30

The man who has sinned and come short of the glory of GOD (Romans 3:23) is not at all concerned about whether he is one of the elect or not. Anyone who desires the peace of GOD will never be refused; nevertheless, to the one who has attained the maturity level of the man described in the eighth chapter of Romans alone dawns the knowledge that he has been predestinated unto salvation.

The most important point to be kept in mind is: No one who is saved can say that his salvation is primarily due to his own choice of GOD. His salvation is in response to GOD's choice of him. And, on the other hand, no one who is lost can say that he is lost because GOD willed him to be lost.

For those who have still some doubts about this doctrine let us cite an illustration from family life. But before doing so, one more point has to be stressed. The doctrine of election and predestination is a very difficult one to understand since it involves trying to probe into GOD's character, HIS wisdom, HIS aims and ways which are past finding out. We know that the depth of GOD's mind is unsearchable, inscrutable, unfathomable and mysterious. GOD HIMSELF in HIS infinite wisdom has revealed and declared that,

“MY thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways MY

ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are MY ways higher than your ways, and MY thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:8-9

An analogy derived from family life will indeed be of help to us. A stranger to a family cannot be expected to know or share the little familiarities and secrets of that family. No member of the family will take him into confidence.

Similarly, the unsaved and the unregenerate are excluded from and kept out of the membership of GOD's family; they cannot share the loyalty, love, oneness and other feelings uniting the members of the family of GOD. We know that GOD reveals HIS secrets only to the members of HIS own household.

“The secret of the LORD is with them that fear HIM; and HE will shew them HIS covenant.”

Psalm 25:14

“Surely the LORD GOD will do nothing, but HE revealeth HIS secret unto HIS servants the prophets.”

Amos 3:7

Can't we now boldly say that the doctrine of election and predestination is a family secret and only the children of GOD can gain access to it since GOD is pleased to endow them with the capacity of knowing, grasping and understanding the deep things of HIS!

“The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of GOD: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

I Corinthians 2:14

Everyone should make his/her calling and election sure. If you do these things, you will never fall or stumble and you will enter into the eternal kingdom of our LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST (II Peter 1:11).

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall.”

II Peter 1:10

To make our calling and election sure, we should accept GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST in HIS accepted time and get HIS salvation. The Holy Bible clearly reveals that GOD's accepted time is today.

“For HE saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

II Corinthians 6:2

Sinners have no assurance whatsoever that they will live to see tomorrow (Proverbs 27:1; St. Luke 12:19-20; James 4:13-15).

Again, to make our calling and election sure, we should be saved and we should be baptized in the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT by total immersion in water. Further, we should be baptized with the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD or we should be anointed with the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD by speaking in tongues. Furthermore, we should fully grow in our spiritual life, perfecting holiness in the fear of GOD.

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of GOD.”

II Corinthians 7:1

5.5 THE GREAT INVITATION

JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth and said,

“Come unto ME, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take MY yoke upon you, and learn of ME; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For MY yoke is easy, and MY burden is light.”

St. Matthew 11:28-30

Everyone should obey this great invitation of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE makes HIS people free from the yoke of slavery due to their sins.

Our LORD JESUS invites to HIMSELF all those who feel the burden of sin and who find their lives toil to them. HE will release them from the yoke of mechanical religion, make them humble and meek like HIMSELF and give them pardon and peace.

5.6 GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The disciples were disputing their rank and precedence in the kingdom and they came to JESUS and asked,

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

St. Matthew 18:1

LORD JESUS gave them a sharp rebuke. JESUS called a little child and had him stand in the midst of them. And HE said,

“Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

St. Matthew 18:3-4

A little child has no pride, knows nothing of worldly status, rank or position. A little child is simple, teachable and loving and humble. A little child does not think high of himself. Similarly, the ministers or servants of the LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST must be converted, and live like a little child, to enter into the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of GOD. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of GOD.

5.7 CHILDREN BLESSED, NOT BAPTIZED

People were bringing their little children to our LORD JESUS CHRIST to have HIM touch them. But HIS disciples tried to prevent them. When our LORD JESUS saw this, HE was greatly displeased. HE said to them,

“Suffer (allow) the little children to come unto ME, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of GOD. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of GOD as a little child, he shall not enter therein.”

St. Mark 10:14-15

Moreover, our LORD JESUS CHRIST took the children in HIS holy arms, put HIS holy hands upon them and blessed them.

“And HE took them up in HIS arms, put HIS hands upon them, and blessed them.”

St. Mark 10:16

Incidentally, it is necessary to mention here that our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST blessed the children, but HE did not baptize children and HE never commanded HIS disciples to baptize children. Therefore, baptism should not be given to infants or little children. Hence, infant baptism is against the Holy Bible, the Holy Scriptures.

When our LORD JESUS CHRIST was about thirty, John the Baptist baptized HIM. HE was baptized in river Jordan by total immersion in much water. Thus, our LORD JESUS CHRIST set HIMSELF an example for those who are to be baptized (St. Matthew 3:16-17; St. Luke 3:21-23; St. John 3:23).

5.8 ADULTERY

JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth, and said,

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”

St. Matthew 5:27-30

The seriousness of the sin of lusting is clearly illustrated by our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST. Lusting after a woman (except one's own wife) by looking is sin. Lusting after a man (except one's own husband) by looking is sin. Lusting of any kind is adultery. The heart is the main source of adultery. Adulterers and adulteresses will be cast into hell, the fiery lake of burning sulphur.

5.9 DIVORCE

JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth, and said,

“It hath been said, Whosoever shall put away his wife, let him give her a writing of divorcement: But I say unto you, That whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of

fornication, causeth her to commit adultery: and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

St. Matthew 5:31-32

Adultery or fornication (sexual unfaithfulness) is the only legitimate ground for divorce. Nevertheless, the legitimacy of the divorce does not establish the legitimacy of remarriage. Anyone who divorces his wife without this basis, causes her to commit adultery or causes her to become an adulteress and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

However, since our LORD JESUS CHRIST has said,

“They are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore GOD hath joined together, let not man put asunder (separate)” St. Matthew 19:6: it would be better to consider divorce as an extreme step and not to resort to it. Husband and wife living together without divorcing will have a healthy impact on the children also. We have come across children of divorced parents developing many mental problems such as split personality or schizophrenia. Some of them are subject to fits of hysterical bouts and they have to suffer for no fault of theirs. All these can be avoided if either of the parents repents of his/her sins and continues to be patient and be steadfast in prayer.

It is obvious that GOD's original intention and mandate was not for divorce (Malachi 2:16) and because of the hardness of man's heart, Moses deviated from GOD's intention and allowed divorce as a concession in case of immorality, infidelity or unfaithfulness.

“They say unto HIM, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away? HE (JESUS) saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered (permitted) you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.”

St. Matthew 19:7-8

Divorce can be taken as a supplement to GOD's Law and as a temporary measure. So, it will be pleasing to GOD if divorce is not permitted. Our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST says that ***“HE hateth (hates) putting away (divorce): ...”*** Malachi 2:16.

5.10 ANGER

JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth, and said,

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift. Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.”

St. Matthew 5:21-26

‘Kill’ means ‘murder’. ‘Raca’ means ‘vain or worthless fellow’ or ‘empty head’. ‘Fool’ means ‘stupid’.

Killing is an act of murder. Anger is the revengeful emotion and inner intention that leads to murder. Anger is the strong and fierce feeling of displeasure that anyone has when something has happened that he thinks is bad and unfair. Anger usually leads to a desire to fight against the person or thing that causes such feeling. Anger is something like madness.

Anyone who is angry with his brother without a cause will be in danger of the judgment. Further, anyone who says to his brother Raca (Empty head) will be in danger of the council. The council refers to the supreme Sanhedrin at Jerusalem having cognizance of the most serious offences, such as blasphemy. Again, anyone who says, "Thou fool" will be in danger of the fire of hell.

“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”

Proverbs 15:1

5.11 OATHS

JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth, and said,

“Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time,

Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the LORD thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is GOD's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is HIS footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil."

St. Matthew 5:33-37

'Forswear' means 'swear falsely' or 'perjure oneself'. 'Communication' means 'word'.

Swearing or oath-taking often forms the basis of actual lying or actual falsehood. If one is in the habit of telling the truth, swearing or oath-taking is unnecessary. Thus, our LORD JESUS CHRIST commanded, "Swear not at all". Everyone should speak the truth in such a way that his/her 'yes' means yes and his/her 'no' means no. When you are saying 'yes', you should make sure that is what you mean. When you are saying 'no', you should make sure that is what you mean. Say what you mean, mean what you say. Anything that is more than these comes of evil. Anything that is more than these comes from the evil one.

This prohibition of swearing or oath-taking does not refer to official oaths, but to private conduct. The Christians, as the saved people should live a pure, holy and honest life, having a good report or testimony of all men.

Taking an oath in court, swearing "to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth" was not prohibited by our LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE allowed HIMSELF to be placed under swearing by the high priest.

"But JESUS held HIS peace. And the high priest answered and said unto HIM, I adjure THEE by the living GOD, that THOU tell us whether THOU be the CHRIST, the SON OF GOD. JESUS saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the SON OF MAN (the LORD JESUS CHRIST) sitting on the right hand of Power, and coming in the clouds of heaven."

St. Matthew 26:63-64

5.12 LOVE

JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth, and said,

“Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth: But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also ... But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your FATHER which is in heaven: for HE maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust. For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same? And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so? Be ye therefore perfect, even as your FATHER which is in heaven is perfect.”

St. Matthew 5:38-39, 44-48

Failing to heed the divine call of JESUS to love our enemies would end up in destroying our souls along with those we hate. Even when the guiltless JESUS was hooked on the dead tree (the cross) by HIS enemies, HE loved them and prayed for them (St. Luke 23:34). It is a wonder of wonders. So, everyone should follow this wonderful and divine path of JESUS' love, compassion and mercy and save his/her soul along with others.

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST commanded, "**Resist not evil (with evil)**". Evil is the action of the evil ones or the malicious ones. Our LORD JESUS CHRIST showed how the Christian believer or the saved one should respond to personal injury. In retaliation to physical violence, he is to "Turn to him the other (cheek) also". Since the Christian or the saved one is not a natural man, he should never behave as a natural man. The natural man has the natural impulse to strike back but the Christian or the saved one is to "**overcome evil with good**" (Romans 12:21). The most glorious life and the terrible death of our LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF is the greatest example of this truth.

“Who gave HIMSELF for our sins, that HE might deliver us from this present evil world, ...”

Galatians 1:4

Now, our LORD JESUS CHRIST gave five examples of how the Christian believer or the saved one should react to unfair or unreasonable treatment. In all things, the Christian believer or the saved one should be perfect with a sinless perfection. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

5.13 RESURRECTION

Some of the Sadducees, who said there was no resurrection of the dead, came to our LORD JESUS CHRIST with the following question:

“Then came to HIM certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked HIM, Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us, If any man’s brother die, having a wife, and he die without children, that his brother should take his wife, and raise up seed (offspring) unto his brother. There were therefore seven brethren: and the first took a wife, and died without children. And the second took her to wife, and he died childless. And the third took her; and in like manner the seven also: and they left no children, and died. Last of all the woman died also. Therefore in the resurrection whose wife of them is she? for seven had her to wife.”

St. Luke 20:27-33

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST answered and said to them,

“The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage: But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage: Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of GOD, being the children of the resurrection. Now that the dead are raised, even Moses shewed at the bush, when he calleth the LORD the GOD of Abraham, and the GOD of Isaac, and the GOD of Jacob. For HE is not a GOD of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto HIM.”

St. Luke 20:34-38

Some of the scribes responded to HIM,

“...Master, THOU hast well said.”

St. Luke 20:39

The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection and that there are no angels and spirits. The Pharisees acknowledge all these things. In

levirate marriage an unmarried brother is to take his brother's widow to be his own wife. Jews practised levirate marriage as per the commandment of Moses. The Sadducees made light of the Holy Scriptures and the power of GOD, that is, HIS glorious and great resurrection power. Our LORD JESUS CHRIST explained that in the resurrection of the dead, men do not marry, but they, the saved people will be like the angels of GOD in heaven. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST said,

“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in ME, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in ME shall never die. ...”

St. John 11:25-26

5.14 CARE AND ANXIETY

Our LORD JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth and said unto HIS disciples,

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment. Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and GOD feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? And which of you with taking thought can add to his stature one cubit? If ye then be not able to do that thing which is least, why take ye thought for the rest? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then GOD so clothe the grass, which is today in the field, and tomorrow is cast into the oven; how much more will HE clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your FATHER knoweth that ye have need of these things. But rather seek ye the kingdom of GOD; and all these things shall be added unto you. Fear not, little flock; for it is your FATHER's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

St. Luke 12:22-32

Our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST is the Creator and sustainer of nature. To set one's heart on material things or to worry about the lack of them will deprive oneself of the spiritual blessings of GOD. Worry and anxiety are related to the length of one's life. By worrying, a man can add nothing to the span of his life. This state of anxiety is related to having little faith. Faith is the essential thing in the provision of GOD. If one seeks first the kingdom of GOD and HIS righteousness, then all material things will be added to him. When one's priority is spiritual, GOD will take care of the material. GOD guides; GOD provides. So, we need not even worry about tomorrow.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of GOD, and HIS righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

St. Matthew 6:33

“And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.”

St. Luke 21:34

5.15 WHOM TO FEAR ?

Our LORD JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth and said to HIS disciples,

“And I say unto you MY friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear HIM, which after HE hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear HIM. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before GOD? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows. Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess ME before men, him shall the SON OF MAN (the LORD JESUS CHRIST) also confess before the angels of GOD: But he that denieth ME before men shall be denied before the angels of GOD.”

St. Luke 12:4-9

One need not fear those that can only kill physical lives but can never prevent the most glorious and blessed resurrection to everlasting life. Therefore, our LORD JESUS CHRIST reminded HIS disciples that it was more important to fear HIM who had authority over the

soul as well as the body and who could bring both soul and body to eternal condemnation in hell. Our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST is the ONE who has the sole authority to cast men into hell. Here HE reminded HIS disciples of the FATHER's loving care, even for sparrows. Here we are reminded of our LORD GOD's most gracious care over HIS saints. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

The body's death is not the end of a person's life. So, do not be afraid of those who kill the body. But, fear GOD who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell.

Now, how one regards JESUS CHRIST determines how GOD will regard that one.

5.16 WARNING OF PERSECUTIONS

Our LORD JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth and said to HIS disciples,

“Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for MY sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your FATHER which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for MY name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

St. Matthew 10:16-22

“And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: For the HOLY GHOST (the HOLY SPIRIT) shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.”

St. Luke 12:11-12

Serpent was commonly regarded as the wisest of beasts. The dove was a symbol of innocence and purity. A cautious wisdom, innocence and purity are necessary, in order to deal with the fierce opposition that HIS people would face.

Synagogues and the councils and governors and kings and magistrates and authorities are tribunals, before which HIS followers will have to give account of their loyalty to HIM. The HOLY SPIRIT of GOD will tell them what to say in each situation they would face. Those who are fully saved and truly saved will indeed endure to the end. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

5.17 THE BEATITUDES

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST, the ONE AND ONLY TRUE GOD left HIS celestial world, the heaven and HIS divine body, and lived in flesh in this terrestrial world for about 33½ years for the people of the world, the creations of HIS own hands. HE walked to cities and villages, and cured the diseases of people and cast out devils or demons. HE preached the true Gospel for the people to inherit heaven. HE also preached to them heavenly secrets through common parables, according to their ability to understand. HIS glorious teachings are great truths.

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST has preached with HIS most holy mouth about 'Who are the blessed people? Who will see the LORD? Who will inherit heaven? and Who will be the greatly blessed in heaven?'

"And HE opened HIS mouth, and taught them, saying, Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see GOD. Blessed are the peace-makers: for they shall be called the children of GOD. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for MY sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the

prophets which were before you."

St. Matthew 5:2-12

5.18 THE STRAIT AND WIDE GATES

Our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST is "the strait gate" or "the narrow gate". Only through this "narrow gate", anyone can enter into heaven.

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST preached to them saying,

"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

St. Matthew 7:13-14

'Strait gate' means 'narrow gate'. 'Because strait' means 'how narrow'. 'Narrow' means 'difficult'.

'The wide gate and the broad way that leads to destruction' means the gate or the way that leads to hell. 'The strait gate and the narrow way, which leads to life' means the gate or the way, which leads to heaven, the kingdom of GOD. 'Strait gate or narrow way' means the way full of sufferings, difficulties, mocking, criticism, torture and tribulations.

'Wide gate or broad way' means the way where there are no difficulties, no miseries, no sufferings, no tribulations, no mocking and no torture. But this is the way to hell. The way to hell is broad and wide. There is no restriction; no good order; no good manners and no moral ways. This way is full of sins, filth, injustice and lies. It is a wicked way full of evils, adultery, idolatry, sorcery, deceit, malignity, fornication, wickedness, ungodliness, robbery and murder. It is a way of all atrocities and cruelties. It is the way of death. Death means hell. A large number of people walk in this way towards hell.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Proverbs 14:12

The way to heaven is strait and narrow. It is the perfect way. It is the way of the LORD. It is the good and holy way. It is the way of peace. It is the way of truth. It is the way of life. It is the living way.

It is the way of righteousness. It is the way of the kingdom of heaven. It is the right way. But it is the way of tribulations. Only very few people find this strait and narrow living way. It is a great fact that only very few of the few complete their journey and reach heaven. To reach heaven, people cannot and should not walk fulfilling the desires of their heart and flesh. **To reach heaven, we should walk according to the will of GOD alone.** GOD's will is just contrary to the will and wishes of man. To reach heaven one cannot live according to his own will and fancies. One should not do so. Thus, the way to heaven is strait and narrow.

“...And that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of GOD.”

Acts 14:22

6 . BEFORE CRUCIFIXION

6.1 ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: HE is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”

Zechariah 9:9

The above prophetic verse about our LORD JESUS CHRIST has been fulfilled as follows.

“And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, HE sendeth forth two of HIS disciples, And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him. And if any man say unto you, Why do ye this? say ye that the LORD hath need of him; and straightway he will send him hither. And they went their way, and found the colt tied by the door without in a place where two ways met; and they loose him. And certain of them that stood there said unto them, What do ye, loosing the colt? And they said unto them even as JESUS had commanded: and they let them go. And they brought the colt to JESUS, and cast their garments on him; and HE sat upon him. And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down

branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is HE that cometh in the name of the LORD: And JESUS entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when HE had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, HE went out unto Bethany with the twelve.”

St. Mark 11:1-9, 11

‘Hosanna’ means ‘LORD, save’ or ‘please save’ or ‘save now’.

This event is traditionally known as our LORD JESUS CHRIST's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, by riding on a young ass (donkey) or ass's colt or foal. This ass was the first-born (firstling) ass, redeemed with a lamb, as per the commandment of the LORD GOD in Exodus 13:13. This foal or ass's colt was an animal that had never borne a burden. It was young and inexperienced. No king of the earth would ride such an untrained ass when he was on a mission of peace. Riding on the colt of an ass marked, the official entry of Israel's kings. The ass (donkey) was considered as an animal of peace. The prophecy of Zechariah was fulfilled when JESUS made HIS triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

By this triumphal entry, our LORD JESUS officially offered HIMSELF to the world as MESSIAH or CHRIST, the eternal King from heaven. Our LORD JESUS CHRIST arrived in the full declaration of HIS kingship. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

Now, the kings of the earth came to bring destruction or devastation. But our LORD JESUS CHRIST, the eternal King from heaven came to bring peace upon the earth; HE came to bring peace upon the whole world; HE came to give HIS peace. Our LORD JESUS CHRIST said,

“Peace I leave with you, MY peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

St. John 14:27

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST is the most glorious heavenly King; HE is the just and the righteous judge. HE is the Saviour; HE is the lowly or the humble. JESUS' triumphal entry into Jerusalem by riding on an ass shows HIS great humility. The ass (donkey) was an animal of

peace. Our LORD JESUS CHRIST, the most glorious King from heaven came to bring peace to the whole world. To symbolize this also, HE entered into Jerusalem by riding on an ass.

Now, in heaven our LORD JESUS CHRIST who is called Faithful and True has a unique white horse. HE rides on the white horse with a very great speed, greater than the speed of a flash of lightning.

“And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and HE that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness HE doth judge ...”

Revelation 19:11

6.2 CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

“And they come to Jerusalem: and JESUS went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer (allow) that any man should carry any vessel (wares) through the temple. And HE taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, MY house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

St. Mark 11:15-17

The cleansing of the temple indicates our LORD JESUS CHRIST's contempt for the corruption of Jewish religion, which lacked the power of GOD and purity of life.

There were laws against the misuse of the temple precincts and courts, but no one was enforcing them. They made the temple precincts and courts business centres. In addition to normal business traffic, they used the temple courts as a shortcut.

Pilgrims to Jerusalem carried all sorts of currencies, but they brought no animals or birds for sacrifices. Exchanges and purchases were made at the temple. Temple dues could be paid only in sacred coinage. Therefore, it was necessary to change one's money. This exchange became a source of income for the family of the high priest. The family of the high priest personally controlled all exchanges and business.

The moneychangers had their tables in the court of the Gentiles. It was very close to the inner confines of temple worship, through which only a Gentile could enter. It was wantonly profaned, in spite of GOD's intent for HIS house to be a place of worship for all. The real atmosphere of the temple amounted to a public bazaar. They made the house of GOD or the house of prayer into a den of thieves.

Our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST could not tolerate these profane acts, disrespecting the most holy GOD. So, HE began to drive out those who were selling and buying. HE overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those selling doves and HE would not allow anyone to carry any articles for sale through the temple. And HE taught them, and said,

“Is it not written, MY house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

St. Mark 11:17

Now, everyone should be the temple of the living GOD and everyone should be the temple of the HOLY SPIRIT of GOD. Since the temple of GOD is holy, everyone should be holy and no one should defile the temple of GOD. For these reasons, our LORD JESUS CHRIST cleansed the temple.

“Know ye not that ye are the temple of GOD, and that the Spirit of GOD dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of GOD, him shall GOD destroy; for the temple of GOD is holy, which temple ye are.”

I Corinthians 3:16-17

“And what agreement hath the temple of GOD with idols? for ye are the temple of the living GOD; as GOD hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their GOD, and they shall be MY people.”

II Corinthians 6:16

“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the HOLY GHOST (the HOLY SPIRIT) which is in you, which ye have of GOD, and ye are not your own?”

I Corinthians 6:19

6.3 END-TIME SIGNS

When JESUS was sitting on the mount of Olives, HIS disciples came to HIM privately, and asked,

“Tell us, ... what shall be the sign of THY coming, and of the end of the world?”

St. Matthew 24:3

JESUS answered and said unto them,

“Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in MY name, saying, I am CHRIST; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for MY name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes. And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Sabbath day: For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened. Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is CHRIST, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were

possible, they shall deceive the very elect. Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, HE is in the desert; go not forth: behold, HE is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the SON OF MAN be."

St. Matthew 24:4-27

'SON OF MAN' is 'the LORD JESUS CHRIST'.

And HE spoke to them in a parable,

"Behold the fig tree, and all the trees; When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand. So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of GOD is nigh at hand. Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass away, till all be fulfilled. Heaven and earth shall pass away: but MY Words shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the SON OF MAN."

St. Luke 21:29-36

Now, one of the most important signs before the end of the world is that the gospel of the kingdom of GOD (the kingdom of heaven) should be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. He who stands firm to the end will be saved. He who stands firm to the end in his salvation from sins and in holiness will get the final salvation. That is, he will get an immortal and glorious body, like the immortal and glorious body of the LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST.

6.4 JESUS ANOINTED

While JESUS was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, a woman named Mary came to HIM with an alabaster flask of very precious and fragrant ointment of spikenard and poured it on HIS most holy head, as HE sat at the table.

She stood behind HIM at HIS most holy feet weeping and she began to wash HIS most holy feet with tears. Then she wiped them with the hair of her head, kissed HIS most holy feet, and anointed them with the fragrant ointment. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment.

But one of HIS disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray HIM, objected,

“Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?”

St. John 12:5

The three hundred pence (in Greek denari) was almost a year's wages for a labourer.

He did not say this because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; as keeper of the moneybag, he used to take himself what was put into it.

Then our LORD JESUS said,

“Let her alone; why trouble ye her? she hath wrought a good work on ME. For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but ME ye have not always. She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint MY body to the burying. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.”

St. Mark 14:6-9

This good work of Mary was appropriate in view of HIS burial, it might be regarded as symbolic of HIS burial, and it must be regarded as prophetic of HIS burial. Wherever this gospel, the good news of our LORD's death and resurrection is preached, the good work done by her will also be preached, in memory of her.

Now, our LORD JESUS CHRIST was well known for HIS association with sinners. In order to save them from their sins HE associated HIMSELF with sinners. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

Mary was a sinful woman. Mary came to JESUS and repented of her sins; she confessed her sins; she wept for her sins; she prayed for forgiveness of sins; she prayed for salvation from sins.

Moreover, Mary loved our LORD JESUS CHRIST much, and she felt a tremendous sense of gratitude towards HIM. Therefore, she washed HIS most holy feet with her tears. She let down her hair in public, and wiped HIS most holy feet with her hair. Then she kissed HIS most holy feet, and anointed them with the very precious oil. No Jewish woman should let down her hair in public. It was forbidden to them. Due to her great love towards our LORD JESUS CHRIST, she let down her hair in public, and wiped HIS most holy feet. Due to her great love towards our LORD JESUS CHRIST, her sins were forgiven. By her faith, she was saved, and she went to her house in peace. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

“...Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much:”

St. Luke 7:47

Our LORD JESUS said to Mary,

“Thy sins are forgiven. ... Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.”

St. Luke 7:48, 50

Even though our LORD JESUS healed the leprosy of Simon, he did not love HIM much. He had not done what he could. Lovelessness of Simon made him unaware of his sins. Lovelessness of Simon made him unaware of our LORD JESUS CHRIST's forgiveness, and salvation. Simon had not chosen what is good, the good part. Mary had chosen what is good, the good part. Simon had not chosen the good part, the kingdom of heaven. Mary had chosen the good part, the kingdom of heaven. This only one thing is needed for everyone. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

“But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

St. Luke 10:42

6.5 CONSPIRACY OF JUDAS

Satan entered into Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve. He went to the chief priests and asked,

“What will ye give me, and I will deliver HIM unto you? ...”

St. Matthew 26:15

“If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.”

Zechariah 11:12

So they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver (thirty silver coins). The prophecy of Zechariah was fulfilled. From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to betray (hand over) HIM to them in the absence of the multitude. Due to our LORD JESUS CHRIST's great popularity among the multitude, they feared to arrest HIM in broad daylight, since such an arrest would provoke a riot. See St. Matthew 26:14-16; St. Luke 22:3-6.

Thirty pieces of silver was the price of a common slave. Judas Iscariot, the traitor sold his own Master, the LORD JESUS CHRIST as a common slave.

Judas Iscariot was consumed with greed for money; the love of money or greed for money is the root of all kinds of evil.

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”

I Timothy 6:10

Now, Satan stood always on the right hand side of Judas Iscariot, due to his greed for money.

“...Let Satan stand at his right hand.”

Psalms 109:6

The moment Judas Iscariot decided to go to the chief priests and captains to betray our LORD JESUS CHRIST, Satan entered into him.

“Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray HIM unto them.”

St. Luke 22:3-4

6.6 WASHING DISCIPLES' FEET

In Israel, washing the guests' feet was always done by the humblest of the servants or by the slaves. It was considered a menial task.

The LORD, JESUS CHRIST, on the night HE was to be betrayed and before observing the glorious Holy Communion, the LORD's Supper,

HE wore a towel on HIS waist, and HE poured water into a basin and washed the feet of HIS disciples with water from that basin and wiped their feet with the towel HE was wearing.

The LORD, JESUS CHRIST thus humbled HIMSELF and served HIS disciples, the creations of HIS own hands, like a servant and a slave. This is divine humility. This is the great humility of the ONE AND ONLY TRUE GOD, the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

In order to deliver people who were enslaved by pride, the quality of devil, the LORD humbled HIMSELF before HIS people in this way. Those who observe the true Holy Communion or the LORD's Supper, wash the feet of one another, wipe their feet with their garments and serve one another in humility, following the model of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. See St. John 13:3-17.

In addition, our LORD JESUS CHRIST has commanded HIS disciples to wash one another's feet.

“If I then, your LORD and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.”

St. John 13:14-15, 17

The purpose of the action of washing of feet by the LORD JESUS CHRIST was to set an example and to establish an ordinance to HIS disciples or believers. The action of washing of feet symbolizes humility and cleansing. To restore and renew fellowship with one another, this cleansing by the washing of feet is very essential. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

When our LORD JESUS CHRIST was washing HIS disciples' feet, HE washed the feet of Judas Iscariot earlier. At that time, Judas Iscariot was not humble before our LORD JESUS CHRIST; he was stiff-necked and no humility was seen in him, since he had already promised to betray our LORD JESUS CHRIST to the chief priests and captains for thirty silver coins.

But, when our LORD JESUS CHRIST was coming near to Simon Peter to wash his feet, he said to HIM,

“LORD, dost THOU wash my feet?”

St. John 13:6

Our LORD JESUS answered and said to him,

“What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.”

St. John 13:7

Then Simon Peter said to HIM,

“THOU shalt never wash my feet. ...”

St. John 13:8

Our LORD JESUS answered him,

“If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with ME.”

St. John 13:8

Simon Peter replied to HIM,

“LORD, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.”

St. John 13:9

Our LORD JESUS said to him,

“He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.”

St. John 13:10

Here, ‘washed’ means ‘bathed’ or ‘saved’. ‘Whit’ means ‘bit’.

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST had known who was going to betray HIM, and that was why HE said,

“Ye are not all clean.”

St. John 13:11

6.7 HOLY COMMUNION ESTABLISHED

The Old Testament feast of Passover was ended by the LORD JESUS CHRIST with HIS death as the lamb of GOD.

The LORD JESUS CHRIST established the New Testament feast of Passover or the LORD's Supper or the Holy Communion on the night HE was betrayed.

“...That the LORD JESUS the same night in which HE was betrayed took bread: And when HE had given thanks, HE brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is MY body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of ME. After the same manner also HE took the

cup, when HE had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in MY blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of ME. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the LORD's death till HE come."

I Corinthians 11:23-26

As per the ordinance of the Passover, the Old Testament feast of Passover was observed by the Israelites during night-time (Exodus 12:42). Now, the New Testament feast of Passover or the LORD's Supper or the Holy Communion should also be observed during night-time, as observed by our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The LORD's Supper or the Holy Communion is observed in remembrance of the LORD JESUS CHRIST. It is observed in remembrance of HIS great sufferings and in remembrance of HIS terrible death. It is the most blessed feast of the LORD JESUS CHRIST (St. Luke 22:1-20).

6.8 BETRAYAL FORETOLD

When observing the Old Testament feast of Passover, as a prophetic fulfilment, our LORD JESUS CHRIST said to HIS disciples,

"...He that eateth bread with ME hath lifted up his heel against ME. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am HE."

St. John 13:18-19

After HE had said this, our LORD JESUS CHRIST was troubled in spirit and testified and said to HIS disciples,

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray ME."

St. John 13:21

They were very sad and began to say to HIM one after the other,

"LORD, is it I?"

St. Matthew 26:22

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST answered and said,

"He that dippeth his hand with ME in the dish, the same shall betray ME. The SON OF MAN (the LORD JESUS CHRIST) goeth as it is written of HIM: but woe unto that man by whom the SON

OF MAN is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born."

St. Matthew 26:23-24

The other disciples did not notice who had dipped his hand with HIM in the dish. So, they could not understand who the betrayer was.

Then Judas Iscariot, the one who would betray HIM said,

"Master, is it I?..."

St. Matthew 26:25

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST answered and said to him,

"Thou hast said."

St. Matthew 26:25

'Thou hast said' means 'It is as you said'.

Since Judas Iscariot was very near to JESUS and our LORD JESUS replied to him in a very soft and gentle answer with a very low voice, the other disciples could not understand who the betrayer was.

In the meantime, the disciples of our LORD JESUS CHRIST looked at one another, perplexed about whom HE spoke that **one of you shall betray ME**. John the disciple, whom JESUS loved, was reclining on JESUS' bosom. Simon Peter who sat at a distance beckoned John, and said,

"...Ask who it should be of whom HE spake."

St. John 13:24

John lying on JESUS' breast, asked HIM secretly,

"LORD, who is it?"

St. John 13:25

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST answered John in a very soft and gentle manner and in a very low voice,

"He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it..."

St. John 13:26

'Sop' means 'piece of bread'.

At that time, Judas Iscariot was keenly watching and waiting for an opportunity to betray our LORD JESUS CHRIST to the chief priests and captains. Then our LORD JESUS dipped the piece of bread in the

sauce, and HE gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. After Judas Iscariot took the bread, Satan again entered into him.

Then our LORD JESUS told him,

“That thou doest, do quickly.”

St. John 13:27

Judas Iscariot felt deeply ashamed, since his conspiracy against our LORD JESUS CHRIST was revealed plainly by HIM. But no one at the table understood why JESUS said so to him. Since Judas Iscariot had the moneybag, some thought JESUS was telling him to buy the things that were needed for the feast, or to give something to the poor. After receiving the piece of bread, Judas Iscariot went out immediately, and it was night. The Old Testament feast of Passover was observed during night-time.

After fulfilling the Old Testament feast of Passover, our LORD JESUS CHRIST introduced the New Testament feast of Passover or the LORD's Supper or the Holy Communion. It was night. While observing the New Testament feast of Passover or the LORD's Supper or the Holy Communion, Judas Iscariot was not present.

6.9 THE NEW COMMANDMENT

After observing the LORD's Supper or the Holy Communion, JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth, and said,

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are MY disciples, if ye have love one to another.”

St. John 13:34-35

The disciples of our LORD JESUS CHRIST are HIS believers. The disciples or the believers were called Christians first in Antioch.

“...And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.”

Acts 11:26

The term 'Christian' is used in two other verses: Acts 26:28; I Peter 4:16.

This New command of our LORD JESUS must be obeyed by HIS disciples or by HIS believers or by the saved or by the Christians. Praise The LORD! Alleluia!

6.10 GREAT PROMISE

After observing the LORD's Supper or the Holy Communion, JESUS opened HIS most holy mouth, and said,

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on ME, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto MY FATHER. And whatsoever ye shall ask in MY name, that will I do, that the FATHER may be glorified in the SON. If ye shall ask any thing in MY name, I will do it.”

St. John 14:12-14

This **great promise** of our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST has not yet been fulfilled. **This great promise will be fulfilled by a man who has great faith in JESUS.** This great promise will be fulfilled during the latter rain of the HOLY SPIRIT (Zechariah 10:1). Our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST will do greater works through that man than what HE has been doing.

For the fulfilment of this great promise of our LORD JESUS, steadfast and fervent and constant prayer is very essential. HIS people, the saved should assemble together with one accord and continue always in continuous prayers along with all kinds of prayers and supplications in the Spirit. The saved should watch and pray in the Spirit. They should wait and pray in the Spirit. They should raise their voices together in prayer to GOD with one accord in the Spirit.

6.11 IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

After the LORD's Supper, our LORD JESUS CHRIST went with HIS disciples to the garden of Gethsemane. HE said to them,

“Pray that ye enter not into temptation.”

St. Luke 22:40

But they slept. So they were drawn into temptation.

Particularly JESUS said to Peter,

“What, could ye not watch with ME one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

St. Matthew 26:40-41

But Peter fell into a deep slumber and into great temptation. He denied JESUS, his own Master, and his own GOD three times, as already predicted by JESUS.

“And JESUS saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny ME thrice.”

St. Mark 14:30

Judas Iscariot, the traitor was not with them. He had already left to meet the chief priests and elders to betray JESUS.

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST knelt down, fell with HIS face to the ground, and prayed with great agony and with loud cries and tears for the sinners of the whole world. At that time, HE was greatly pressed and greatly squeezed. So, HIS sweat was like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. This was the most agonizing prayer of our LORD JESUS CHRIST. So, our LORD became very weak and very tired.

“And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and HE saith to HIS disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray. And HE taketh with HIM Peter and James and John, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, MY soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch. And HE went forward a little, and fell on the ground, and prayed ...”

St. Mark 14:32-35

“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.”

St. Luke 22:44

“Who in the days of HIS flesh, when HE had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto HIM that was able to save HIM from death, and was heard in that HE feared; Though HE were a SON, yet learned HE obedience by the things which HE suffered; And being made perfect, HE became the

author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey HIM.”

Hebrews 5:7-9

During HIS most agonizing prayer in the garden of Gethsemane, all HIS disciples were in great slumber. At that time, an angel from heaven appeared to HIM and strengthened HIM (St. Luke 22:43). This incidence clearly shows that our LORD GOD, JESUS CHRIST had an earthly body, like our body, and HE was too tired to stand even. What a pitiful thing it is!

We know the first sin entered into mankind through Satan, the devil, in the garden of Eden. The sin that entered the garden of Eden was overcome by the passion of JESUS in the garden of Gethsemane. Satan, the devil was the sole cause for the sin. Therefore, HE caught hold of Satan in the garden of Gethsemane to crush his head on the cross at Calvary.

6.12 BETRAYAL BY JUDAS

Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the upper house where our LORD JESUS CHRIST observed the feast of Passover with HIS disciples (St. Mark 14:12-17). But our LORD JESUS CHRIST was not there. So he straightaway arrived in the garden of Gethsemane. 'Gethsemane' means 'olive press'. Garden of Gethsemane was an olive garden. In that garden, there were olive groves and an olive press. The required olive oil for the LORD's temple was pressed from that olive press. There our LORD JESUS CHRIST was HIMSELF pressed for the sinners and HIS most holy blood was shed in great drops. At that time, HIS most holy nerves were broken and HIS most holy blood was poured out for the sinners. Therefore, our LORD JESUS CHRIST was too tired to walk. HE was so hungry and thirsty.

Now, Judas Iscariot knew the garden, since our LORD JESUS CHRIST had often retreated there with HIS disciples. So Judas Iscariot came to the garden quite sure of finding JESUS there. With him, did the chief priests and elders of the people send a large crowd, armed with swords, clubs, and other weapons and with lanterns and torches.

Judas Iscariot was the leader of that large multitude, and so he came in front of them. Judas, the betrayer had said to them about

John, one of the twelve, resembled JESUS. Therefore, the betrayer had arranged a signal with them:

“Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is HE: hold (seize) HIM fast.”

St. Matthew 26:48

That day was a full moon day, and at that time, our LORD JESUS CHRIST was standing under the shadow of an olive tree. JESUS, knowing all that was going to happen to HIM, went out of the shadow of the olive tree to meet them. See St. John 18:4. The moonlight was shining on HIM. Judas, the betrayer clearly saw our LORD JESUS CHRIST. But he dared not come near HIM; he was so frightened. Then our LORD JESUS said to him,

“Friend, wherefore art thou come? ...”

St. Matthew 26:50

Then Judas, the betrayer came to our LORD JESUS CHRIST, and said,

“Hail, Master; and kissed HIM.”

St. Matthew 26:49

‘Hail, Master’ means ‘Greetings, Rabbi’.

Then our LORD JESUS CHRIST said to him,

“Judas, betrayest thou the SON OF MAN (the LORD JESUS CHRIST) with a kiss?”

St. Luke 22:48

Judas Iscariot, the traitor betrayed our LORD JESUS CHRIST by a deceitful kiss. Kiss is the symbol of love. But the kiss of Judas, the traitor is the signal to murder, and it is a signal to abuses, insults, scorns, reproaches, spitting, scourging, beatings, shames, mocking, great sufferings, dishonour, etc.

Even though, Judas the traitor revealed our LORD JESUS CHRIST to the multitude by his deceitful kiss, they could not seize HIM. Then our LORD JESUS CHRIST asked them,

“Whom seek ye?”

St. John 18:4

They answered HIM,

“JESUS of Nazareth.”

St. John 18:5

Then our LORD JESUS CHRIST said to them,

“I am HE.”

St. John 18:5

Judas, the traitor was standing with them. When our LORD JESUS CHRIST said "I AM HE", HIS most holy power had a tremendous impact on them and they all drew back and fell to the ground; Judas, the traitor also drew back and fell to the ground. What a most powerful GOD our LORD JESUS CHRIST is! HE is the great "I AM ". HE is the self-existent Creator.

They were so frightened. They were struck and wounded by their weapons and burned by their lanterns and torches.

Again, our LORD JESUS CHRIST asked them,

“Whom seek ye?” And they said, “JESUS of Nazareth.”

St. John 18:7

Our LORD JESUS CHRIST answered,

“I have told you that I am HE: if therefore ye seek ME, let these go their way.”

St. John 18:8

Thus our LORD JESUS CHRIST delivered HIMSELF into the hands of sinful men by keeping HIS great power in suspense. Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials arrested JESUS and bound HIM. Unless HE delivered HIMSELF into the hands of those men, no one could touch HIM. Our LORD JESUS is the most powerful GOD. See St. Matthew 26:47-50; St. John 18:1-9, 12.

They bound HIS exceedingly holy hands behind HIM and put handcuffs on HIS exceedingly holy hands. Two men, one in front and another behind HIM led our LORD by a long iron chain tied to HIS Holy waist. They pulled HIM hither and thither violently. So our LORD fell to the ground.

While JESUS was in Galilee HE said to HIS disciples,

“The SON OF MAN (the LORD JESUS CHRIST) must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

St. Luke 24:7

All these were very accurately predicted by our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

6.13 LAST MIRACLE

When JESUS was seized and arrested by those men, Peter, one of HIS disciples reached for his sword, drew it and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. Then our LORD JESUS said to him,

“Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to MY FATHER, and HE shall presently give ME more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”

St. Matthew 26:52-54

At that time our LORD JESUS said to the multitudes,

“Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take ME? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on ME. But all this was done, that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. ...”

St. Matthew 26:55-56

Then all HIS disciples deserted HIM, and fled. Our LORD JESUS is the LORD of hosts and the LORD Almighty. Each Roman legion had six thousand soldiers. 'More than twelve legions of angels' means 'more than seventy two thousand fighting angels of the LORD'. During the time of the Jewish king Hezekiah, one fighting angel of the LORD massacred single handed, one hundred and eighty-five thousand Assyrian soldiers. See Isaiah 37:36. From this anyone can understand the mighty power of an angel of the LORD GOD.

JESUS touched the man's ear and healed him. HE healed him by replacing the ear. His name was Malchus. This was the last miracle before HIS crucifixion. See St. Luke 22:50-51; St. John 18:10.