

# Chapter 1. It's in the Bible

## Jesus Said, "My Words Will Never Pass Away"

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(John 8:25, 28) Jesus said to the Jews, when they asked Him, "Who are you?"; He said, "**When you have lifted up the Son of Man**, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of myself, but as my Father has taught me, I speak these things." Jesus was crucified on a cross, and he was nailed on the cross and then was lifted up. (Psalm 22:16) They pierced my hands and my feet. Jesus had said He would be lifted up. He was lifted up once when He was crucified. Lifting up Jesus is not when we as a group shout praises as loud as we can. That is not "lifting up". That is thanking and praising. He was lifted up once. That was enough, and it was for our Salvation. We believe and are saved.

(John 13:13,19) Jesus said, "You call me Master and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. **Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, you may believe that I am He.**" (In Mark 10:32) Jesus tells the disciples what will happen to him. He explains this, so they can understand that whatever will happen is planned and must happen. (John 14:29) Jesus said, "I have told you now before it happens, that when it does happen you will believe."

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that Jesus was killed. (Isaiah 53:5) "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." Jesus commanded the moment of his own death (the final moment of his death) and his resurrection. **He had said he has the power to lay his life down and the power to take it up again.** No one takes it from him. No one can say they killed Jesus. (John 10:17-18) (Luke 23:46) And when Jesus had cried in a loud voice, he said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit; and having said this, he gave up the ghost."

**The first mention of the Holy Ghost:** John 14:26

Jesus tells the disciples of this event, so they will know this gift is from Him.

The Four Gospels, the writings of the disciples, the writings of the Prophets of the Old Testament, and even the Ten Commandments, were all written. **It is interesting that whatever God did or Jesus said, someone wrote it down.** Events, also, were accurately written down. God allowed someone to be there to write it down for us; someone who knew how to write and remember what was said. In a court of law, written and signed texts or documents are valid. When there are witnesses or a witness, that upholds and verifies whatever is said or done. Laws have been known to be filed and kept for as long as that society is in existence. Jesus said (Matthew 24:35), "**Heaven and Earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.**"

**A shepherd's job** is to protect the sheep, keep them alive, lead them to pastures, ward off the predators, make them safe, and watch over them at night when they are the most afraid. The shepherds who were "watching their sheep" and were appeared to by angels when Jesus was born, were doing their jobs, even at night. **Jesus said that he is the good shepherd.** (John 10:11)

In the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm it tells of **the Lord who prepares a table for us in the face of the enemy**. We don't have to run with our sack lunches into the woods and hide, so we can eat without fear.

In the account of Jacob's son, Joseph, in the Old Testament, the silver cup was found in Benjamin's sack. Bible scholars tell that the "silver" represents redemption. The Apostle Paul was from the tribe of Benjamin. Paul brought the Gospel to the Gentiles. The "New Covenant" that Jesus spoke of to the disciples, was for all who believe; Jews and Gentiles. At the Last Supper they all drank from the cup of redemption. Was it silver? (Genesis 44). We don't know. It is just interesting.

These are my thoughts, and they could be wrong. In the event of Joseph, his 10 older brothers "hated him". They sold him to Ishmaelites who were traveling to Egypt. Joseph's younger brother, Benjamin, was not with his older brothers. Joseph and Benjamin were favorites of their father. Joseph was sold to Potiphar in Egypt, an officer and captain of the guard. Joseph prospered and had charge of all of Potiphar's household. His wife desired Joseph, and when he refused her, she charged him with a bad report, and Potiphar put him in prison. One needs to read the entire event, but at the end Joseph was controlling the food provisions of the country, including selling them to his older brothers, who with their families were starving from the famine in their country. They came to Joseph, not recognizing him, and bought grain. Joseph, of course, recognized them, and sent them home with their sacks with their money returned. When they realized this mid-route, they returned to their home, and their Father heard of what had happened and told them to return to Egypt to give the money back and beg forgiveness. Joseph had not revealed himself to them as their brother. They got to Egypt and again bought more grain. Joseph, again, loaded them up with goods and hid their money, again, in their sacks on their camels. He ordered his servant to put Joseph's silver cup in Benjamin's sack. After a while Joseph ordered his guards to pursue the brothers and find the silver cup. It was in Benjamin's sack. You must read the rest for yourself. Wanting only to point out that the silver cup was in Benjamin's sack, I believe this may be a picture of what God was going to do regarding salvation that would not only be for the Jews, but also for the Gentiles. (Matthew 26:27-28) And he took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them, saying, "Drink all of it, for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

All disciples except Judas, drank from the cup. They were all Jewish. Paul was not there. Jesus appeared to Paul on the way to Damascus. Paul was chosen by Jesus to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. Of course, there is no mention of Benjamin's silver cup, but sometimes the Lord gives us something to think about of how he plans things. It is just an interesting thought. It is interesting, also, that Jesus appeared to people who were going somewhere. They weren't sitting and doing nothing. They had plans. They didn't keep what Jesus told them to themselves, but they knew it was important to give to the world. It cost them, dearly.