

Resurrection Day 2014  
Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>  
'And It Was Night.'

1). Joh 13:21 *When Jesus had said these things, He was troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." 22 Then the disciples looked at one another, perplexed about whom He spoke. 23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 Simon Peter therefore motioned to him to ask who it was of whom He spoke. 25 Then, leaning back on Jesus' breast, he said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." And having dipped the bread, He gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon. 27 Now after the piece of bread, Satan entered him. Then Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." 28 But no one at the table knew for what reason He said this to him. 29 For some thought, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus had said to him, "Buy those things we need for the feast," or that he should give something to the poor. 30 Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.*

a). What we have read here is part of John's account of what we call 'the last supper', where we find the Lord dealing with His betrayal.

b). And we see in v26 that Jesus identifies His betrayer by giving him the piece of dipped bread – Judas Iscariot is the one who receives the bread and after he has taken it we read that 'Satan entered him'. Now we should not understand this literally – Satan himself did not literally enter Judas, but that which is Satan's intent and purpose did and so inseparable are Satan and his purpose that it is as if Satan himself had entered Judas. We should see this in exactly the same way as when the Lord calls Simon Peter, 'Satan' in – Mt 16:23 *But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."*

In this instance Peter's actions were so in line with Satan that he could be described as Satan himself although obviously he was not.

c). Our verses then record that Judas went out immediately, 'And it was night'. And clearly this is not just a reference to the time of day, but is rather a

statement fraught with symbolism – first of all let’s look at that which is recorded by Luke concerning events that would shortly take place after the supper in the Garden of Gethsemane and then go back into foundation to put this all together - Lu 22:52 *Then Jesus said to the chief priests, captains of the temple, and the elders who had come to Him, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs? 53 "When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."* Here in our verses from Luke we can clearly see that Jesus’ betrayal and arrest depict the chief priests, captains of the temple and the elders who are seeking to destroy Him as appearing to be in the ascendancy, ‘this is your hour’, and in like manner their actions, in line with Satan’s purpose, appear to put ‘the power of darkness’ in the ascendancy as well.

d). And putting this together we can see that night, darkness and the power associated with the darkness become in this instance synonymous.

e). And if we go back into foundation this will become even clearer – Ge 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

f). Here in the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of Genesis we find that as a result of Satan’s rebellion at some point in ages past, his sanctuary, the earth, had become desecrated and as a result was covered by flood waters and shrouded with a deep darkness – the darkness then becoming symbolic of all that finds itself in opposition to God. Then if we continue with the next verse - Ge 1:3 ¶ *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

g). The darkness, as we see in v5 God called ‘night’ – darkness and night become one and the same - and so because of what we see here in Genesis the reference to night in John Chapter 13 in conjunction with the power of darkness in Luke Chapter 22 must call to mind the symbolism associated with satanic rebellion – all then that finds itself in opposition to God.

h). Judas, a Jew, commits the ultimate betrayal by giving up the Son of Man, the Son of God, into the hands of self-seeking, unbelieving, flesh motivated men, who operate in the realm of Satan, whose whole nature would be characterized by darkness, who have proved themselves time and again to be in opposition to the purpose of God – no wonder it appears as if Satan entered Judas and no wonder as he went out it was night.

i). But before we may become morose with all this let's recall the verses from Genesis 1:3-5 again – in the midst of the deep darkness God said, 'Let there be light', and the light which He spoke is called 'good', and the light was divided from the darkness – it was separated from the darkness and must be seen not only as in opposition to it but also completely antithetical to it.

2). Now it would be true to say that since God began His restoration of the earth darkness and the powers associated with it have continued and are in existence even to this day, something that is evidenced in the natural with the passing of each 24 hours - Ge 8:22 *"While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."*

a). Eph 6:12 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

b). But, the good news is that the time for those who rule the darkness of this age is coming to a close - Ro 13:12 *The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.*

c). From the moment that God said, 'Let there be light' the end of the reign of darkness was certain and although at the time of the Lord's betrayal and crucifixion the darkness of night seemed to rule supreme that set out in the opening verses of Genesis declared the ultimate outcome that is entirely different - Mt 4:13 *And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 15 "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: 16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned." 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

3). Joh 8:12 ¶ *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

a). Jesus is 'the light of the world' and that which He is cannot be extinguished - Joh 1:4 *In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 ¶ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

b). Jesus had spoken to the Jews about this very thing recorded in –

Joh 12:35 *Then Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. 36 "While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them. 37 ¶ But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,*

c). As a result of their unbelief however, they rejected the light and chose to walk in darkness - Joh 3:19 *"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

d). All of which brings us to the place we started this morning – the night of the Lord’s betrayal, to the time when the whole nation embraced the darkness because their deeds were evil and the forces of evil sought to extinguish ‘the light of the world’ forever by nailing the Lord to the cross.

e). For the Lord’s disciples this was a time when they feared for their lives, believing that they would be consumed by the darkness that surrounded them – Mt 26:56 *"But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled.*

f). But what they did not understand at the time was that the darkness prevailed only because the light of the world allowed it to be so to fulfill that spoken by the prophets in the scriptures - Mt 26:51 *And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. 52 But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. 53 "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? 54 "How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"*

Joh 10:17 *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. 18 "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."*

4). Mt 27:45 *Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.*

a). As our Lord hung upon the cross so there was darkness ‘over all the land’ – a physical manifestation that of itself could be seen as a sign in fulfillment of that spoken by Isaiah the prophet - Isa 53:3 *He is despised and*

*rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. 4 ¶ Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.....10 ¶ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.*

*2Co 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

b). Here in these 3 hours of darkness we would see the spiritual darkness that engulfed the land of Israel and its people through their rejection of their Messiah and their embracing of Gentile world power – a darkness that continues, in a figurative sense, even today.

c). And we would also see that as the Lord became sin for us and bore the grief and carried the sorrows of His people Israel there was a divine transference and in the presence of sin there could be no light, only darkness – 2Co 6:14b.....*And what communion has light with darkness?*

*1Jo 1:5 ¶ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

d). But this darkness, both literal and figurative could only be for a set period of time because Christ's becoming sin for us and bearing the grief and carrying the sorrows of His people Israel is only part of the picture – As we saw recorded in Isaiah - *When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied..... Because He poured out His soul unto death,*

e). Which would take us back to that recorded in - Le 17:11 *'For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'* And back beyond Leviticus to the night of Passover in Egypt - Ex 12:5 *'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.....12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. 13 'Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.*

f). Christ is the Passover Lamb and the mediator of the new covenant slain for the redemption of Israel that they might be redeemed from the bondage of Gentile persecution during the days of Antichrist so that the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand in the Age to come.

g). And He is also our 'Passover Lamb' - 1Co 5:7 ¶ *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.*

That we should be redeemed from the bondage of sin and death out of the kingdom of the god of this age - Col 1:13 *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

2Co 4:6 *For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*

1Jo 2:8 *Again, a new commandment I write to you, which thing is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining.*

h). All this of course, with respect to ourselves is also with a view to the Age to come - 2Pe 1:19 ¶ *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

5). Within the natural the night and its darkness that enswathed the Lord's betrayal and crucifixion gave way to the dawning of a new day, the dawning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Day - Mt 28:1 ¶ *Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. 2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it. 3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow. 4 And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. 5 But the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 "He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. 7 "And go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him. Behold, I have told you."*

a). And in the same way as with our Lord's resurrection the spiritual darkness that presently engulfs the nation of Israel will give rise to the dawning of a new day - Ho 6:2 *After two days He will revive us; On the third day He will raise us up, That we may live in His sight.*

Isa 9:2 *The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.*

b). This is a day we will remember from our study of Malachi - Mal 4:2 *But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.*

c). But before that day there will be deep darkness still, reminiscent of the darkness associated with the Lord's betrayal and crucifixion - Re 16:10 *Then the fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and his kingdom became full of darkness; and they gnawed their tongues because of the pain. 11 They blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores, and did not repent of their deeds.*

d). But again this darkness is prophesied in the scriptures, but that which we have seen at the beginning of Genesis must be kept in mind as well - Isa 60:1 ¶ *Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.*

e). Just as our Lord came from the place of the dead, just as He arose from the place of darkness, so Israel will, in like manner, be raised and in the Millennial Kingdom the Gentile nations will come to the light that will shine

out from the nation - Isa 60:3 *The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. 4 "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. 5 Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. 6 The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD. 7 All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, The rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; They shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, And I will glorify the house of My glory. 8 "Who are these who fly like a cloud, And like doves to their roosts? 9 ¶ Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the LORD your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, Because He has glorified you. 10 "The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, And their kings shall minister to you; For in My wrath I struck you, But in My favor I have had mercy on you. 11 Therefore your gates shall be open continually; They shall not be shut day or night, That men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, And their kings in procession.*

f). Once again, after the deep darkness of night comes the dawning of a glorious Day and what a light it will be in that Day - Isa 30:25 *There will be on every high mountain And on every high hill Rivers and streams of waters, In the day of the great slaughter, When the towers fall. 26 Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the LORD binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound.*

6). Now although the glory of the Lord will have risen on Israel and the Gentiles will come to it, and although the light of the sun will be sevenfold there will still be darkness in the earth witnessed through the passage of 24 hours in the natural pointing to the release of Satan at the end of the 1000 years to gather the unbelieving nations against Christ and Israel once again – and God had foretold the darkness during the Millennial Kingdom through the promise to Noah that day and night would continue while the earth remained.

a). But at the conclusion of the Millennium, with Satan cast into the lake of fire - Re 21:1 ¶ *Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.*

*2Pe 3:12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

b). Once the present earth no longer remains, God's promise to Noah is finished and as a consequence we find this with respect to the new earth in which righteousness dwells - *Re 22:1 ¶ And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. 2 In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

Amen.