

# Psalm 41

## Introduction

Psalm 41 is a Psalm of David concerning Christ in His humiliation (v1) under evil design of His enemies to kill Him. They claimed that His humiliation and weakness were because He was a liar, because He did not know the truth He claimed, because He did not know the will of God and because He did not do the will of God. And they claimed that they knew the truth, that they were strong, that in fact they had authority and power over Him because they did the truth! But they were deceived.

Hence, in this Psalm we see our Lord graciously setting the record straight for His Church. It would seem to all appearances, by His humiliation and suffering and death, that His enemies were successful over Him because God gave them success for the reasons they claimed: that it was for His fault, for His sin! But though God did give them a temporary success, it was to accomplish His saving purpose of grace (Acts 2:23). And in the prayer of Christ in this Psalm, their way and their end has been forever set forth. And this is to the comfort of Christ's instruction to His Church. Our Lord Jesus declares the truth and prays to His God, that God would save Him because of His integrity (v12). He reveals the evil of His enemies. He shows their evil in hiring Judas to betray Him and in Judas' betrayal. His enemies oppose Him in His righteous cause. He prays and His prayer is answered. He triumphs over them by the will of God because He does what is right (vv. 11-12).

**5** O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. **6** Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord GOD of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel. **7** Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face. **8** I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children" (Psalm 69:5-8).

This Psalm is a Psalm of David. But it was given to David to tell of Christ (1 Peter 1:11; Luke 24:44). David was the "anointed king of Israel", the "sweet Psalmist" by whom "the Spirit of the LORD spoke" (see 2 Samuel 23:1-5). But Christ is both David's son and David's Lord (Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:42-45). He is the Anointed. He is the King of Israel. He is the One in whom God has spoken in these last days (Hebrews 1:1-3). He is the One in whom all of God's mind has been occupied from eternity to make known in time and for eternal ages (John 1:1-5, 14-18)!

## Christ's humiliation, mind and work

**"Blessed is he that considereth the poor"** (v1).

Our Master teaches us, "Blessed are the poor in spirit..." (Matthew 5:3). He Himself is preeminently "the poor." The word "poor" in verse 1 is *singular*. It refers to only one. That One is Christ.

Christ willingly made Himself poor by taking the place of the guilty, by expending His strength and becoming helpless under the burden of the sins of His people, and by living in that weakness in dependence by faith upon His covenant God and Father (Psalm 89; Hebrews 7:22; 13:20), all the time, waiting for His God to deliver Him from all of His enemies and exalt Him with His people by His successful redemption (Isaiah 53:10-12 Philippians 2:5-11; Revelation 1:18; 5:9-12).

**"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich"** (2 Corinthians 8:9).

**"Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay *his* head"** (Matthew 8:20).

**"25** Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. **26** But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; **27** And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: **28** Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:25-28; Mark 10:45).

**"5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; **11** And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:5-11).

## The reason for Christ's humiliation: He bore our sins

**"I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee" (v4).**

The Lord Jesus Christ never knew sin. He never did sin. In Him is no sin (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5). Yet, He took and owned and bore **all** of the sins of His people as His very own (2 Corinthians 5:21; Isaiah 53:4-12; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Psalm 40:12; 69:5-6; Isaiah 53)!

His enemies said (vv. 5-8), **"an evil disease, say they, cleaveth fast to him."** Another accusation intimating that his afflictions were all of his own fault! And though His affliction were only because of the sins of his people laid upon him, yet, at the most fundamental level, it was all owing to His own love and mercy! It was because He so owned the sins of his people that they became His! God made Him sin for us. God laid on Him the iniquity of us all. The LORD said, **"For the transgression of my people was he stricken"** (Isaiah 53:8)!. And those sins were His fault in this respect: because He willingly took them, and knowingly — knowing full well the consequences, what was required in order to take away the sins of his people, and bring them to God, according to his ancient promise to be their Surety. He knew that as Surety He would be laden with their sins! And so He did. And so they became His! And so it was His fault! And so He owned them (v4, Psalm 40:12; Psalm 69:4-5)! But the abjects falsely accused him! They accused Him falsely because they claimed that He Himself committed the sins He now confessed, and bore the reproach of sin that was in Him, sin that He "knew" as the sinner! But that was not true. What He did in bearing our sins was in fact the greatest possible obedience to do the will of God (Hebrews 10:5-ff). What He did was the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-8)! But they couldn't see that! No wonder. Light is come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil (John 3:19)! The light shined in the darkness, but the darkness comprehended it not! The world was made by Him! But the world knew Him not! He came to His own. But His own received Him not (John 1:10-11)! If it were not for the sovereign will of God the Father, and the almighty operations of God the Holy Spirit, that would be the end of the matter. But it is not the end! It is not the end because he He was willing! It is not the end because He bore our sins! It is not the end because He did this knowingly, willingly! And He fully owned the guilt of our sins as His guilt before God! He did not object to the accusations of evil men, but in silence, bore all, for in the sense that He took them from us and bore them before God, in that sense, their evil accusations were true! But He did object to their false claim that He was opposed to God and in rebellion against Him because of our sin laid on Him! His motive was not pride or self-promotion, but self-giving love (Ephesians 5:25)! Pride and

self-promotion was true of them. They knew it well because it was fitting for them. But it was not true of Him! If He said that it was true, then He would be a liar like them. But it was false. So that He cried to God against them for that lie!

## **Blessed is he that considers the poor**

**“1** Blessed *is* he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. **2** The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; *and* he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. **3** The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness” (Psalm 41:1-3).

“The poor” (v1) is singular. Therefore, “the poor” is not many, but a single man. This Psalm is a prophecy of Christ (John 13:18). He is the “poor” we are to consider. God promises that all who consider Him are blessed (Hebrews 3:1; 12:1-3). He was poor because He made Himself poor, by the will of God. He was poor in spirit. He was poor in possessions. He was poor in strength, because He made Himself dependent on God as a man. “He [Jesus] answered [satan] and said, *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” (Matthew 4:4). He was poor in the esteem of natural, unregenerate men (John 1:10-11)! Christ became poor. On the cross He said, “*I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people*” (Psalm 22:6). He was not only poor, but there was nothing in His appearance we desired. He was the reproach of men. He was despised of the people. He was a man of sorrows. We hid our faces from Him. We despised Him (Isaiah 53:2-3)!

But all who “consider” this poor Man are blessed of the LORD! All who thus consider Christ — believing Him — in His low estate, who He is in His exalted person as the Son of God, who He is as the Savior of sinners, the one Mediator between God and men, the risen, victorious, successful, enthroned Savior and King, having the majesty and glory of God and the honor and blessing of the Righteous Man, all they who thus consider Him, are blessed. They are blessed because their faith is God’s gracious, saving favor (Ephesians 2:8-10)! They are blessed because they love Him and His righteous cause, that cause being God’s purpose to exalt Him uniquely and exclusively above all, but to give Him His heart’s desire that God would exalt His people with Him (Romans 8:28-34; Revelation 3:21)!

The LORD will preserve and keep alive all who consider Christ! He will save them with so great salvation from so great a death (2 Corinthians 1:9-10; Hebrews 2:3)! He will raise them from death in all of its forms. He will seat them with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-6). He will deliver them from their enemies: their sin, satan, death, the grave, hell, the curse of God’s holy law, from

eternal separation, and save them to eternal life to know Christ and God in Him (John 17:2-3)!

The LORD will make their bed in all of their sickness! The LORD will strengthen that one who looks to Christ in all of his sickness! He will strengthen his heart and soul. He will be his strength and his portion forever! We cannot be weak when Christ is our strength!

**"1** The LORD *is* my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD *is* the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? **2** When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. **3** Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this *will I be confident*" (Psalm 27:1-3).

Because the LORD is my light and salvation and strength, I will be confident! Since Christ alone is my all, then I have complete confidence, since He is all in all of my nothingness (Hebrews 10:19; John 15:5)!

Note: we consider Christ because He first considered us (1 John 4:19)!!

'Tis not that I did choose Thee,  
for Lord that could not be!  
This heart would still refuse Thee,  
hadst Thou not chosen me!" (H. Bonar).

It was Christ who considered the poor! He is "The Word" of God, and in Him, from beginning, all of God's mind and will and purpose concerning His Church was set down. In time that will was carried out. For everlasting ages that will and work will be set forth and Christ exalted by His accomplishment of it! It will be seen in "The Word" that all that God is, He is to His people and for His people in Christ! So that the consummation of all things will be done when Christ is exalted with His Church, the Lamb of God, "The Word" eternal, made flesh, exalted for His people to the glory of God (Revelation 21:1-6)!

## **Enemies of Christ hate Him and hate His righteous cause**

**"Mine enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish?"** (v5).

Christ's enemies opposed His righteous cause. His righteous cause was to do the will of His God and Father (Luke 2:49; John 4:34; 5:36; 6:38; 10:15-18). His Father's will was that He should give His life as an offering in sacrifice to God for the sins of His people, and thereby to magnify the name (person, character of His God and Father, what He is in Himself, and that all

that He is in Himself, He is in His Son, in Christ, for and to His people (Hebrews 10:5-19)! To better understand this, consider the names of Jehovah in scripture<sup>1</sup>, and that the name of Christ is the only name under heaven whereby we must be saved; all who call on His name shall be saved — who call on Him, not to recognize them or their work or their sacrifice, but to consider only His own cause and glory, His truth and righteousness, His work and His sacrifice for their salvation (Psalm 106:4-8; Isaiah 43:25-26; Romans 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31).

**“23 Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, *even* unto my cause, my God and my Lord. 24 Judge me, O LORD my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me. 25 Let them not say in their hearts, Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up. 26 Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify *themselves* against me. 27 LET THEM SHOUT FOR JOY, AND BE GLAD, THAT FAVOUR MY RIGHTEOUS CAUSE: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant. 28 And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness *and* of thy praise all the day long” (Psalm 35:23-28).**

## **Christ’s righteous cause**

What is the “righteous cause” of our Savior that aroused the murderous hatred of the entire kingdom of satan, of evil men, and the betrayal of Judas, who was the “son of perdition”!?

- It was a cause that gave men NO GLORY in salvation
- It was a cause that did not enrich men or give men in this world
- It was a cause that did not put men in a place or give them status that would enrich them or honor them or give them power over others
- It was a cause that did not give men favor in the esteem of the world and its religion
- It was a cause that required the followers of Christ to take the lowest place, to serve, and follow their Master who came to serve and to give His life a Ransom for many.

Judas, the Jews: Sanhedrin, Pharisees, Scribes, Sadducees, the rulers of the Gentiles and the people who coveted their riches and place in this world, who therefore opposed the will and work of Christ, were offended at Jesus.

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<sup>1</sup> See appendix

- They were offended because His salvation was not by works, but by grace alone. Man's religion attempts to make salvation possible for all by claiming universal redemption, which leaves the final decision up to the exercise of man's alleged free will. In so doing, man's religion makes salvation impossible for all. Moreover, man's religion blasphemes God, for though salvation is impossible for men, it IS POSSIBLE for God! But man's religion claims the love of God the Father and the obedience and sacrifice of God the Son, and the almighty operations of God the Holy Spirit are all ineffective to save any unless man does what is impossible for himself, by doing what God is unable to do: which is to save a sinner, to create a new creature in Christ out of the void of man's spiritual darkness; to raise dead sinners to spiritual life in Christ, to birth those who are not God's sons to be sons of God by the sovereign will of the Holy Spirit of God because of the successful, sin-atoning work of the Son of God, the Anointed of God, Christ. God's salvation offends the kingdom of satan and natural man because it declares and exposes man as utterly guilty, corrupt and impotent to save himself, and leaves the entire matter of salvation, of eternal life, of entrance into heaven, of acceptance and approval with God, of all spiritual blessings in Christ, up to the sovereign will and work of God in Christ. To love God's salvation is to repudiate all that I am, and to rejoice in the exaltation of Christ! Thus, **"Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour My righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of His Servant"** (Psalm 35:7).
- The kingdom of satan and natural man hate salvation by the pure grace of God. They love salvation by works, although they deny that it is of works, because that would be to openly deny scripture. But they rather *mix* man's will or decision or acceptance or prayer or sorrow or resolve or commitment or dedication or sacrifice with the will and work of Christ and the Spirit of God, so that they can retain control over salvation and take credit for it. Think of the blasphemous doctrine that strips God of doing what is impossible by doing what God could not do without man doing his part: God the Father loves all, Christ the Son of God died for all, God the Holy Spirit draws all/opens the hearts of all, and YET(!) all of that is insufficient to accomplish *anything* unless man exercises his own decision and accepts Christ by an act of his "sovereign" free will! Such teaching, according to the will of satan, dethrones God and exalts man to the throne, making man his own savior (Hosea 13:4)! But satan knows that man will utterly perish with such a doctrine of lies, and so he achieves his goal, which is to murder mankind and rob Christ of His people by his murderous design to kill the human race with the lie of free will works religion!

- Thus, Judas and the Jews and the Gentiles hated Christ, because they loved to gather honor to themselves, they hated humility, and they hated that Christ alone — the meek and lowly one, the “poor” (v1), would be exalted alone, and this would be the salvation of all those openly hateful sinners who they despised and loved to compare themselves so as to gain esteem in their own minds and among their peers (Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 23:5-8).

## **The pain of Judas’ betrayal**

**“Mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me” (v9).**

It is a mystery (at least to me) how that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would be hurt by Judas’ betrayal. He knew all things that would come upon Him. **“Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him”** (John 18:4). He knew Judas was the “son of perdition” (John 13:10, 18; 17:12) when He chose him and called him as one of His twelve apostles. Why then did Judas cause Christ so much pain by betraying Him? I will leave that question without answering it. However, what is clear in Christ’s call of Judas, is that He Himself was true, that He was without hypocrisy, and that He was faithful to His God and to His own, even though Judas was false from the start.

Did Jesus suffer by Judas’ betrayal? Yes. Why? Because he was his friend, because He trusted him, because they ate bread together, because they took “sweet counsel” together. We may wonder how and why these can be true in light of Christ’s knowing all things. But though we do not understand much of all of this, we believe it and admire the design of God and our Savior for it! See how scripture foretold Judas in Psalm 41:9.

Let us therefore consider why God brought this betrayal upon our Savior. Why would the Lord subject Himself to the betrayal of a trusted friend?

## **It was the same night that Jesus gave the Lord’s Supper that He was betrayed**

**First**, consider that **the Lord Jesus gave the Lord’s supper to His people the same night He was betrayed**. Our Lord chose Judas to be one of His twelve disciples, even though He knew Judas would betray Him. Judas treacherously delivered Jesus over to His enemies. The Lord knew Judas would sell Him to wicked men for thirty pieces of silver. In fact, He directed Judas to do what he had devised to do.



“After the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly” (John 13:27).

Scripture foretold that Judas would betray Jesus before it came to pass, and our Lord referred to that prophecy beforehand.

“**12** For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: **13** But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. **14** We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company. **15** Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them. **16** As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. **17** Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice” (Psa. 55:12-17).

Jesus knew Judas would lead His enemies to Him, that they would take Him and falsely accuse Him and kill Him.

“He began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again” (Mark 8:31).

“Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death” (Matthew 20:18).

“The Son of man 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**” (Matthew 26:24)<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Oh Lord my God! Be gracious to me for your name’s sake, Christ’s sake alone! Put me in Him! Find me in Him. Give me life and faith in Him. Create in me a clean heart, Oh my God! Preserve my life. Deliver me from my great enemy: my sin against you, my sinful nature! If you do not so save me by your will and power, for your name, it will have been better for me to never have been born! But let me rather be an object of your saving mercy to the praise of the glory of your grace!

**Question:** Why did God arrange for this cruel deed to occur on the very night of the most intimate of suppers? Christ revealed His love for His disciples that night in a special way. He began the supper with these words: "With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22:15). It was the last supper before His death. It was the last time the Passover was to be kept. For the first time in history, Jesus gave His disciples bread to eat and wine to drink and explained what those things meant. He also took the place of a lowly servant that night: He washed their feet. To heighten the intimacy, John leaned on His breast. But in the midst of this intimate communication and close fellowship with His disciples, while the revelation of His love in His humility in washing their feet hung in the air, when He gave them bread that signified His broken body and wine that signified His shed blood, on that very night, Judas betrayed the Lord of life and love! Why? And why at this time?!

### **Scripture gives the following reasons**

- **THE FIRST LESSON**, because **it was God's will that Christ suffer by the betrayal of His friend** (Ps. 55:12-13). It was foretold in scripture. Scripture is the volume of the book, the scroll, which, from top to bottom, reveals the eternal will of God concerning His Son and our salvation (Heb. 10:1-23). Jesus came to do that will (Ps. 40:6-8; Heb. 10:5-7). Throughout scripture, it was written that Christ should suffer (1 Pet. 1:10-11; John 5:39, 46; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47). He is the great covenant Head who stood as Substitute in the place of His people before God (Isa. 42:6; 49:8; Rom. 5:12-21; Heb. 13:20; Matt. 26:28; Isa. 55:3; 2 Sam. 23:5). God chose Him to do this. God appointed Him to stand for them. It was God's will that He offer Himself in sacrifice to God for the sins of His people, to save them from their sins! And **part of God's will was that He suffer betrayal by His trusted friend!**
  - The Spirit of Christ spoke of it by the mouth of David (1 Pet. 1:11; 2 Samuel 23:2). He said, "For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance" (Ps. 55:12-13).
  - Jesus called Judas to be His disciple. He treated Judas as He did the other eleven disciples. He trusted Judas as a friend. Because

he was a friend, his betrayal brought greater grief to Christ. Think of it! Jesus Christ, who knows all things, in order that He might fulfill the will of God, trusted Judas as a friend, knowing full well that Judas would betray Him!

- (vicarious sufferings) Remember how God chastised David when David sinned against Him? God brought David's enemies against him. In God's chastisement of David for his sin, God allowed David's trusted friend Ahithophel and his own son Absalom to rise up against him! But unlike David, the Lord Jesus Christ was never unfaithful! Why, then, would God design this betrayal of Judas to come against His Son in whom He was well pleased?! Why would God be pleased that His spotless, Holy Son suffer this betrayal? And why especially on this night?!
- **Here is the reason. Christ suffered as an unfaithful friend, because He suffered what His sinful people deserved!** I was unfaithful to God! I betrayed my God! Therefore, Christ suffered my chastisement, for me! He suffered for me, who, as David in his sin with Bathsheba, was unfaithful to God (Isa. 53:5; 1 Pet. 2:24)!
- **All that King David suffered was prophetic of Christ in His sufferings** (Acts 2:23-31).
- David sinned against God by committing adultery with the wife of his servant Uriah. Then David sinned yet more by murdering Uriah by conspiring against him at the hand of his enemies.
- Though God put away David's sin, He brought chastising consequences on David for that sin.
- Yet **God chastised David in anticipation of the sufferings of Christ, who would suffer, not for His own sins, because He had none of His own, but for the sins of His people!** The sins of His people were made His to bear (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24)!
- David felt the pain of betrayal by his trusted counselor, Ahithophel. Psalm 55 uses Ahithophel's betrayal of David to anticipate Judas' betrayal of Christ.
- Not only did Ahithophel's betrayal pain David, but David also felt pain by the public cursing of Shimei, a wicked man of king Saul's family (2 Sam. 16). Shimei's cursing David anticipated the Jews cursing Christ by the will of God (Acts 2:23). God sent Shimei,

an enemy of David, to curse David (2 Sam. 16:11). And God cursed His Son by the mouths of His enemies, and betrayed Him by the hand of treacherous Judas, His friend!

- David also felt the pain of betrayal from his own son Absalom (2 Sam. 12:11)! Though his son betrayed him, David felt the pain of sorrow at his own son's death! Upon hearing the news of Absalom's death, scripture says that David, "The king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son" (2 Sam. 18:33)! **In a much greater way, if we can understand it, Christ felt the pain of Judas' betrayal as one near to Him!**
- **If David, a guilty man, felt these things, how much more in fulfillment, did our Lord Jesus, a righteous man who did no sin, who was only faithful to His friends, feel the pain of Judas' betrayal?!** This pain of betrayal added to His suffering and the trouble of His soul (Matt. 26:22; 2 Sam. 15:31; 16:12; 18:33; 19:4)!?
- **The lesson is this: All that Christ suffered, He suffered at the hand of God in the place of His people, because of their sins!** He suffered what we can never comprehend that He might honor God and have us as His own, holy and blameless by His substitutionary sufferings and by His obedience in it as our righteousness forever!
- Oh my soul! What wondrous love is this! See Christ, who was always faithful, suffer treacherous betrayal because of my unfaithfulness!
- Christ considered no personal cost too high to have His elect people! He gave all, because He gave Himself! "You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be made rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).
- Jesus did not suffer for Judas! But by the will of God, He did suffer because of Judas' wicked betrayal, because He suffered what we deserved, in the place of His people. He suffered instead of us. And by God's doing, we were with Him, joined to Him in all that He did (Galatians 2:19-20)!

- The **SECOND LESSON** we learn from Judas' betrayal on this night, is that **though Christ was betrayed by a friend, He did not forsake or betray His friends. Though Judas proved unfaithful, Christ proved faithful to His friends.** We see Christ's faithfulness to His friends against the black night of Judas' treachery! Christ loved His people from eternity (Jer. 31:3). He never changes (Heb. 13:8). *"Having loved His own, which were in the world, He loved them to the end"* (John 13:1). Though we were and are unfaithful to Him, yet Christ was faithful to His God, and faithful to His people, the Church of God, who were given to Him by His Father from eternity, and whose names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life before the foundation of the world. He was faithful to them when He gave Himself for them, in body and soul (Eph. 5:25; Rev. 21:27)! As Joseph was faithful to his God, faithful to his father and faithful to his hateful and unfaithful brothers, much more, Christ was faithful to give Himself to save His people from their sins against Him. Were we faithful to Christ? No. Was He faithful to us? Yes. His faithfulness to save us from our unfaithfulness is our salvation.
- And the **THIRD LESSON** is this: in Judas **we learn the evil from which Christ has saved us!** We must realize that we would do exactly what Judas did, but for the grace of God! I would be Judas were it not for grace! When we see Judas, we should tremble at the goodness of God because, "There but for Jesus would go you and I" (Hosea 3:5; Eph. 2:4). Christ suffered in our place by Judas' betrayal that we might not be damned for ours!
- **Finally**, in Judas, **we see how God turns the evil intent and evil works of evil men into a blessing for His people** (Gen. 45:3-5; 50:20; Acts 2:23; Prov. 16:4; Ps. 76:10). The evil of the enemies of God's elect will fulfill the eternal will of God for them. Man's sin doesn't hurt God (Job 35:5-8). God's will and glory do not suffer loss by man's sin. Quite the contrary! God's will and purpose of grace and His power and faithfulness to bring His will to pass magnify His glory in the face of man's sin (Psalm 23:5<sup>3</sup>)! Death is swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:54)! Christ has triumphed over His enemies to the glory of God (Col. 2:14-15; John 12:23-32). And we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. *"36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37*

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<sup>3</sup> "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies" (Psalm 23:5).

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us" (Rom. 8:36-37). Do you see the sovereign mercy of our God in Judas?! When Shimei cursed David, Abishai, the chief of David's mighty men, wanted to kill Shimei. But David would not allow him to do so. David said, "David said to Abishai, and to all his servants, Behold, my son, which came forth of my bowels, seeketh my life: how much more now may this Benjamite do it? let him alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. Let him [Shemei] alone, and let him curse; for the LORD hath bidden him. It may be that the LORD will look on mine affliction, and that the LORD will requite me good for his cursing this day" (2 Sam. 16:12, 5-13). When Shemei cursed David, he cursed all the people with David. When God cursed Christ, He cursed us in Him; we died with Him under the curse (Gal. 3:13; Col. 3:1-4; Rom. 6:11). God looked upon Christ's affliction and turned the curse into a blessing for me. Christ bore the curse of God's law that was against me. It fell on Him! And God turned the evil that my sin brought upon Him to my good! Oh! "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound, that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 5:20)! This is the grace of our sovereign God and Savior (Rom. 8:28)! This grace does not cause us to presume on God's mercy, to sin so that grace may abound! Instead, it causes us to praise Him for His grace by which He triumphed over our sin, and live upon His grace to His glory!

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## Appendix — "the name of the LORD"

"I am Jehovah, your God from the land of Egypt; and you shall know no other gods than Me. For there is **no Savior besides Me**" (Hosea 13:4, LITV<sup>4</sup>, emphasis mine).

There is one God. There is only one. There is no other God but He. And God is one. He is three in one (1 John 5:7). In God there is God the Father, The Word and the Holy Spirit (1 John 5:7; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16).

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<sup>4</sup> The scripture quoted here is from J.P. Green's literal translation of the Holy Bible.

In OT scripture, God's name is "Jehovah" (Exodus 6:3). Scripture also attaches many suffixes to Jehovah. All of them teach us "the name of the LORD."

The name of God is who He is. More specifically, His name is who He is to His people, and what He is for them and to them! Even more specifically, the name of our God is who He is to His people in Christ, and what He is to them in Him!

Note: wherever the word, "LORD" is used in the KJV of the Bible, it is the English translation of "Jehovah." Sadly, the name "Jehovah" brings to mind that cult which calls themselves, "Jehovah Witnesses". But they cannot be witnesses of Jehovah. They cannot be true because they deny the deity of Christ. They deny that Jesus is God. Therefore, they lie. All lie who deny that Jesus is God. I do not say such things to make myself superior to anyone! Nor do I say it to causelessly disrespect any. But I say it out of respect for God and His Son. I am resolved to respect the Son of God over men. To deny that Jesus is God is to blaspheme God. It is to deny the statements of scripture. And that is to call God a liar. Therefore, out of allegiance to God, I call all men liars who deny God's Word (John 1:1-5). To deny that Jesus is God is to denounce the testimony of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit.

**"22** Who is a liar but he that **denieth** that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that **denieth** the Father and the Son. **23** Whosoever **denieth** the Son, the same hath not the Father: *(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also*" (1 John 2:22-23; John 20:28 — Thomas said to Him, "my Lord and my God.").

God the Father addresses His Son as God:

*"Unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom"* (Hebrews 1:8).

God the Holy Spirit addresses Jesus Christ as God:

*"His name shall be called JESUS [Jehovah is salvation], for He shall save His people from their sins...Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us"* (Matthew 1:21, 23).

**"5** Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. **6** In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby

he shall be called, **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**" (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

Thus, Jesus Christ is Jehovah God, "the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS"! Many other names for Jesus are given in scripture, which are formed by the prefix "Jehovah" and appended by a suffix. The suffix says what God is to His people in Christ and what He is in Christ for His people (Colossians 2:9-10). The table below lists those names of Christ.

<b>Jehovah-nissi</b>	<u>The LORD my banner</u> [banner of victory over His and my enemies] (Exodus 17:15; Genesis 3:15; 1 John 3:8; John 12:). Christ my God is my victory over my sinful flesh (~Amalek). The Spirit of God holds Him up to me. I look to Him and call on Him to be my victory over my sins!
<b>Jehovah-shalom</b>	<u>The LORD my Peace</u> . Judges 6:24. Gideon built an altar and called the altar, Jehovah-shalom. Christ, by His blood shed to God for my sins, is my peace with God (Colossians 1:22; Hebrews 7:2). I call on Him as my peace with God!
<b>Jehovah-rapha</b>	<u>The LORD that Healeth thee</u> (Exodus 15:26). Tree cast into bitter waters. Christ bore my sins in His own body on the cross. By His stripes we were healed (1 Peter 2:24). I call on Him to be my healing from my sins!
<b>Jehovah-tsidkenu</b>	<u>The LORD my Righteousness</u> (Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16; Psalm 71:16; Romans 10:4). Christ uniquely and alone worked out by His own obedience unto death, the righteousness of God, and God made me the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21). I trust Him as all of my righteousness!
<b>Jehovah-raah</b>	<u>The LORD my Shepherd</u> (Psalm 23:1). I look to Him to give me living waters and make me lie down in peace in the presence of all my enemies.
<b>Jehovah-jireh</b>	<u>The LORD will Provide</u> : He will see the need, will see to it (provide) and will be seen in it (His name glorified)! (Genesis 22:14). I will therefore look to Him who is my Provider and who is seen in Christ, whom He has provided!
<b>Jehovah-sabaoth</b>	<u>The LORD of Hosts</u> . 1 Samuel 1:3 is the first usage, of over 285 times in OT.
<b>Jehovah-medoddishkem</b>	<u>The LORD who sanctifies me</u> (Exodus 31:1). Christ sanctified His people with His own blood



	(Hebrews 2:10-11; 10:10; 13:12, 20).
<b>Jehovah-shammah</b>	The LORD is There (Ezekiel 48:35). Christ is with His people. He is in His people. He never leaves His people, no, never! And He is "in it" — in every thing with His people (Daniel 3:25). I trust Christ and call on Him to be with me and never leave me, no, never!
<b>El-Shaddai</b>	"The LORD God Almighty" (Genesis 17:1). Christ is "the Almighty" God (Revelation 1:8, 11, 18).
<b>El-Elyon</b>	"The Most High God." Genesis 14:18 is first usage, with 19 usages in the Psalms.
<b>Adonai</b>	Lord, Master. First used in Genesis 15:2. Used 11 times in Daniel 9; 200 times in Ezekiel; heavy usage in Isaiah. Adonai: Jehovah, Lord, Master (Acts 2:34-36; John 1:3; Acts 17:24; Hebrews 1:8-12). "Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am" (John 13:13).

He is the "**Shepherd-King**". "The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, **He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God**" (2 Samuel 23:3). Men shepherd sheep. Christ shepherds His people, God's elect.

As shepherd to his father's flock, David smote the lion and bear who took a lamb from his flock. So Christ, as Shepherd of the Father's elect, killed every enemy and rescued all of His sheep from their captors.

He rules, not in terror, but in all-wise, saving, tender care (Luke 15; John 10; Psalm 23). He leaves the ninety and nine which are safe in the fold to go after the one in the wilderness that is gone astray. He seeks, finds, shoulders, brings, folds, leads out to living waters and pastures of plenty, and makes all of His people lie down in the presence of their enemies in perfect peace and rest!

His Father His elect to Christ to have as His own sheep, to save them and to bring them. All who are the Father's are Christ's, and all who are Christ's are the Father's.

They were the Father's. He gave them to His Son. They are in Christ's hands. They remain the Father's and are in His hands.

No one, whether man or devil or angel, can take them from Him. His Father is greater than all. No one can take them from His Father.

Christ laid down His life for the sheep. He received commandment from His Father to lay down His life for them and take up His life again for His sheep (John 10:15-18). He holds the keys of heaven (Matthew 16:13-19). And He holds the keys of death and hell (Revelation 1:18). He opens and no man shuts. When once He opened heaven by His blood (Hebrews 10:19-20), heaven's doors are open to His people, and they shall never be shut by any, nor will He Himself repent to shut them (Romans 11:29; Numbers 23:19). He also shuts and no man opens. When once He has shut heaven's gates to unbelievers, none can open. His name is the only name under heaven whereby we must be saved! He took captivity captive. He took His people which were held captives by their enemies (sin, death, satan, grave) out of their captivity under which they were held by their captors. And He took the captors of His people into captivity to His sovereign rule as Judge (Genesis 3:15; Proverbs 22:22-23; 23:10-11; Micah 7:7-9, 17-20; Zechariah 3:1-5; Matthew 4:1-10; Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:1-11).