

COMMUNION MEDITATION

"Christ's Predictions of Death"

John 1:29

May 2, 1982

INTRODUCTION

1. Long before our Lord suffered the agony of calvary, He predicted this event. He did this in the exercise of His prophetic ministry (Deut. 18:15-18).
2. Scripture records at least 50 prophetic utterances of our Lord concerning His death. What a demonstration of deity!
3. During the closing days of Passion Week, Christ gave several expressions of His death. Here are some of them.

1. SHEPHERD SMITTEN

This truth is mentioned in two of the Gospels (Matt. 26:31; Mark 14:27). It is against the backdrop of the Passover Feast and the introduction of the Lord's Supper that this incident is given. Five specific predictions are made:

a. About offence

Our Lord predicts that "all" will find a matter over which to stumble in Christ. That very night there is an offence to the cross!

b. About suffering

This relates to a quotation from the O.T. (Zech. 13:7). The "shepherd" is personally related to God by the pronoun "my." Redemption is in view. This is why the word is adressed (vocative) and commanded to "awake" (imperative) as from sleep. This makes the Messiah the sin-bearer and Savior (Psa. 22:23-24) for no other reason can be given for such a terrifying command (Isa. 53:10). The Father's involvement in Calvary is thus explained (Acts 2:23; 4:28).

c. About dispersion

The sheep are Israel (in the O.T.). Being a ~~feminine~~ singular, collective noun, the reference is to Israel's unity as the flock of the Lord, but in helpless dependence upon Him as their Shepherd. The third feminine plural of the verb "scattered" shows that the dispersion will destroy the unity of the sheep and the individual sheep will be dispersed. This actually happened as world-wide Jewry confirms.

d. About resurrection

The gloom of Calvary and disperison is lightened by the resurrection and His promise to go before them to Galilee.

e. About denial

Peter questioned the Lord about taking offence. He claimed others would do thus, but he would not. Then the Lord predicted Peter's denial.

2. CUP DRUNK

This prediction is found in all the synoptic Gospels (Matt. 26:42; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42). Matthew records three prayers of Christ (vv. 39, 42, 44), Mark provides two (vv. 36, 39), while Luke gives one (v. 42). The cup refers to His suffering (cf. Mark 10:38, 39; John 18:11). He would drink the dregs of that cup from the Father's glory and the eternal benefit of mankind. If it were morally possible and consistent with the Father's will for saving men, our Lord would have the cup pass. However, our Lord imposed the Father's will (John 5:30; 6:38; Phil. 2:8). What a precious passage. Sadly, the disciples slept while our Lord passed through this deep experience.

3. BURIAL ARRANGED

Only Luke tells that our Lord would be reckoned with sinners (Luke 22:35-38). The O.T. quotation is from Isaiah 53:12 and indicate that our Lord would die a criminal's death. His doom was fixed beyond recall, but it was a sacrificial death and burial. He died as our substitute--glory to His Name.

CONCLUSION

Our Lord came to do the Father's will (Heb. 10:6, 7). He did it. He was smitten. He drank the cup of suffering. He died as a substitute. Hallelujah.