



Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Matt. 23-38

Mark 13-16

Luke 20-24

John 13-21

Week 45

WATCH AND PRAY

Mt. 26:31-75, Mk. 14, and Lk. 20

Jesus had warned His followers that they would scatter after His death. Peter was sure that though others might fall away, he surely would not. He thought he knew himself better than Jesus did. He had followed Jesus through so much already. He had left every-thing to follow Him. He had stepped out of the boat and walked on water with Him. He was **sure** of his commitment to Jesus. He **knew** he was willing to die with Jesus.

So, Jesus took Peter, along with James and John, to the Garden of Gethsemane with Him. Jesus was feeling overwhelmed with sorrow about what was soon to come and needed to spend time with His Father. He did not ask His friends to pray for Him or His rescue, but for their own ability to stand firm. He knew better than they did how difficult the days ahead would be for them. Peter did not yet understand his desperate need for the Christ, but he was about to find out...and soon.

Peter had been one of the first to understand that Jesus was the Christ, but he did not understand who Peter was until he betrayed his Lord. I think it was this failure that made him finally understand. Imagine how he felt when that rooster crowed and he realized that he had done exactly what he thought he could never do. No longer could he be sure in himself. I think that, in a way, Peter died that day, as perhaps did all of the apostles. They weren't who they thought they were. Peter wasn't Peter the brave and gallant, he was Peter

the weak, Peter the sinner. He was crushed....like a clay pot in the hands of the Potter. **Now** he was ready to depend on the Father rather than on himself in the things to come. **Now** he was ready to receive a Lord and Savior who would make him what he was meant to be.

Are you ready? Do you realize your need to watch and pray?



Daily Reading Plan:

__Mt. 23, Lk. 20-21,

Mk. 13

__Mt. 24-26, Mk. 14

__Lk. 22, Jn. 13-17

__Mt. 27, Mk. 15, Lk. 23,
Jn. 18-19

__Mt. 28, Mk. 16

__Lk. 24, Jn. 20-21

__REST*

*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

Next week:

Acts 1-15

James

Galatians

1 and 2 Thessalonians

MEMORY VERSE:

**“Watch and pray so
that you will not fall into
temptation. The
spirit is willing, but the
body is weak.”**

Mt. 26:41

JESUS, OR RELIGION?

Mt. 23

Name the seven things that Jesus criticized the Pharisees for. Can you relate them to some of the things done in the name of religion today?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

How is a relationship with Jesus different?

I AM THE VINE...

Jn. 15

I AM THE VINE Jn. 15

**"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5**

What does it mean to "remain" in Christ? _____

What kind of fruit is Jesus talking about? _____

What happens to the branches that do not remain in him? _____

What is required to remain in Christ's love? _____

WHILE YOU WAIT

Mt. 25

In Matthew 24, Jesus cautions his disciples to be careful how they live while they await His return. They are to be ready, and also to be faithful and wise servants in His absence. He then tells three stories in chapter 25 to help them – and us – understand what that means.

In the parable of the ten virgins, who were they waiting for? _____

What happened to all of them while they waited? _____

How had the wise virgins prepared for the wait? _____

How can we be prepared for Christ's return? _____

In the parable of the talents, Christ instructs us on taking care of what we have been entrusted with while He is gone. What did those given five talents and two talents do with what they had been given? _____

What did the man with one talent do? _____

Why? _____

What happened to him? _____

What does that tell us about God? _____

Finally, in the story of the sheep and the goats, who were the goats? _____

What happened to them when they came before Jesus? _____

Which will you be? _____

TO PONDER...

How much say did Judas have in all of this?

What if Judas had not betrayed Jesus?

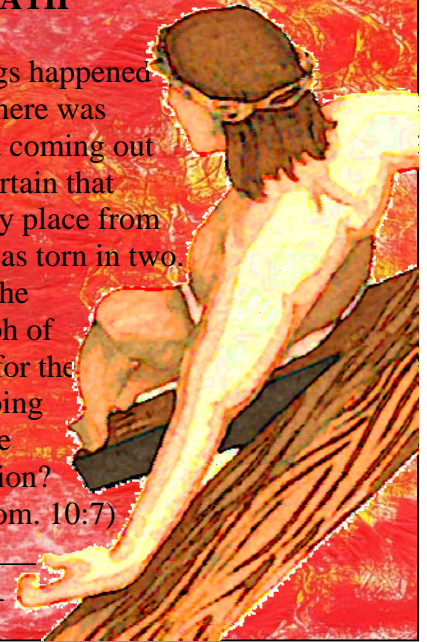
At what point did Satan realize that he had actually helped carry out God's plans?

How did the skeptics explain how the sun stopped shining, and an earthquake, and people that had been dead walking around?

Of all the methods of capital punishment there have been through the ages, why was the Roman crucifixion chosen for Jesus?

THE AGONY OF DEATH

Many dramatic things happened at the death of Jesus. There was an earthquake and dead coming out of their tombs. The curtain that separated the Most Holy place from the rest of the temple was torn in two. The women mourned, the disciples hid, and Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for the body. But what was going on with Jesus during the time until His resurrection? (Read Acts 2:24 and Rom. 10:7)



HE IS ALIVE!

Matt. 28:1-10, Mk. 16, Luke 24

Women are all about giving life. That's true in the physical aspect of childbirth, but it certainly doesn't stop there. We give life in our families, in our relationships and in the body of Christ. Maybe that is why Jesus chose women to be the first to deliver the most important message of life ever given!

What had the women set out to do? _____

In their act of love for their Savior, through the traditional roles of their culture, what discovery did they make? _____

What was the message that the angel sent the women to tell the disciples? _____

Who else gave them instructions to deliver to the men? (Mt. 28:10) _____

Where were the disciples and what were they doing? _____

How did the women feel about the message that needed to be told? _____

How did the disciples respond to the new knowledge about Jesus that the women shared with them? _____

How did Jesus feel about their unwillingness to believe the women? _____



Which of the disciples went to check and see if what they said was true? _____

Why do you think the men were so "slow of heart"? _____

What did these women do after their message was delivered? _____

How can we follow the example of these women? _____

JEWISH WEDDING CUSTOMS

For those of you who love a good romance, here's one that is a true story, and you play a starring role! We miss a lot of the depth of meaning in what Jesus had to say to His disciples by not understanding the customs that He referred to. Many places in the Old Testament, and certainly all through the New Testament, God uses the marriage relationship to describe the relationship of Jesus to the church. Before Jesus left the disciples, He tried to make sure that they understood what they could expect.

First, was the proposal. It was traditionally arranged by the father, but the Bride had the option to refuse. The groom would travel to the home of the bride and negotiate a purchase price (mohar) which had to be paid before the marriage ceremony. To confirm and bind the agreement, the groom would offer the wedding cup to the bride who would accept and drink from it as her promise to keep herself purely devoted to her betrothed while she awaited his return.



Then, there was the ketubah, or written agreement, or perhaps a coin or ring, kept in the bride's possession from the time the betrothal was agreed on until the marriage was consummated. The betrothal was a legally binding agreement that could only be broken by a bill of divorce.

The groom would return to his father's house and begin to prepare a place for his bride to live, usually a room added on to his father's house. He would also furnish the home with everything they would need, and whatever he could afford to provide for his bride's comfort. Once everything was ready, and approved by his father, he would gather his closest friends who would form a wedding procession to the bride's house. They would quietly approach the bride's house and then surprise her with a shout. She would gather her belongings and change into a wedding gown, with face veiled. She would join the procession back to her new home where wedding guests would gather. There she would be taken into the bridal chamber or huppah, where the couple remained for a week of celebrating and being waited on by the guests. At the end of the week, the groom would escort his bride out of the bridal chamber and present her unveiled to those waiting outside.

What was the "mohar" in Christ's relationship with us? _____

What "ketubah" did Christ promise to leave with His bride? _____

When did Jesus offer the wedding cup? _____

What does it mean to drink from the cup? _____

What part of the wedding agreement was Jesus fulfilling by His reference to His Father's house? _____

When will He come back for His bride? _____

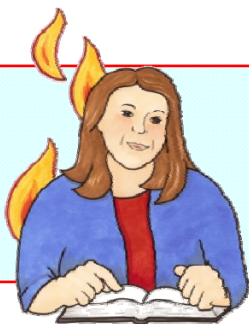
How was the bride to live as she waited for her groom? _____

How will we be presented by Christ? _____

"Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean was given her to wear. (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.) ...Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"

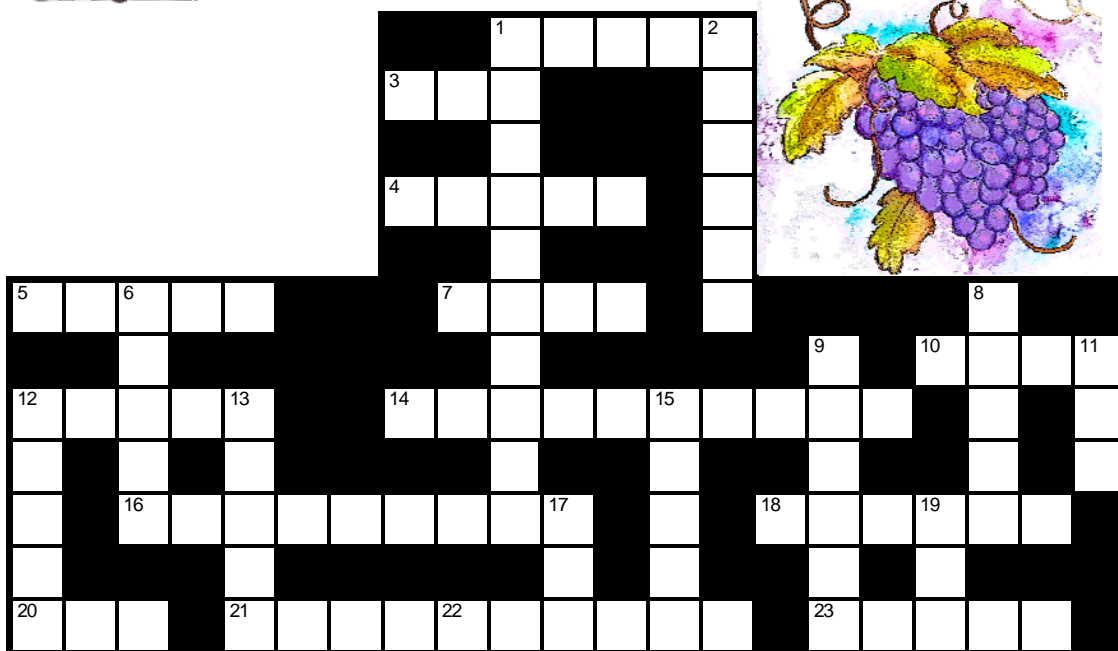
Revelation 19:7-9

How does the knowledge that marriage mirrors the covenant that God makes with the church affect how you view marriage? _____



PUZZLE PAGE

WEEK 45



ACROSS

1. Came to Jesus on the cross
3. "the ____ I kiss is the man"
Mk. 14:44
4. was persuaded to have Barabbas released Mt. 27:20
5. betrayed Jesus Lk. 22:4
7. don't be alarmed at rumors of these Mt. 24:6
10. the women went here Mt. 28:1
12. number of woes in Mt. 23
14. who the ten virgins were watching for Mt. 25:1
16. coming of the Son of Man will be like this Mt. 24:27
18. what Jesus called Judas Mt. 26:50
20. Jesus was God's
21. pray to not fall into this Mt. 26:41
23. do this and pray Mk. 14:38
24. shook when Jesus died
28. torn in two Lk. 23:45
29. the disciples and Jesus did this at the Last Supper

DOWN

1. there is an abomination that causes this Mt. 24:15
2. Jesus asked if John's baptism was from here Lk. 20:4
6. who the eternal fire was prepared for Mt. 25:41
8. watched from a distance Mt. 27:55
9. the soul of Jesus was overwhelmed with this Mt. 26:38
11. "not my will, ____ yours be done" Lk. 22:42
12. of the end of the age Lk. 21:11
13. not day
15. Place of the Skull Mk. 15:22
17. place Jesus went to pray Mt. 26:36
19. did this at the Lord's Supper
22. the Counselor is the Spirit of this Jn. 14:17
25. Jesus was doing this at the Temple Lk. 21:37
26. what the women took to the tomb
27. the apostles thought those of the women were nonsense Lk. 24:11

To contact me, or for more studies, visit my website at
www.downvictoryrd.com



THE BIG CATCH Jn. 21

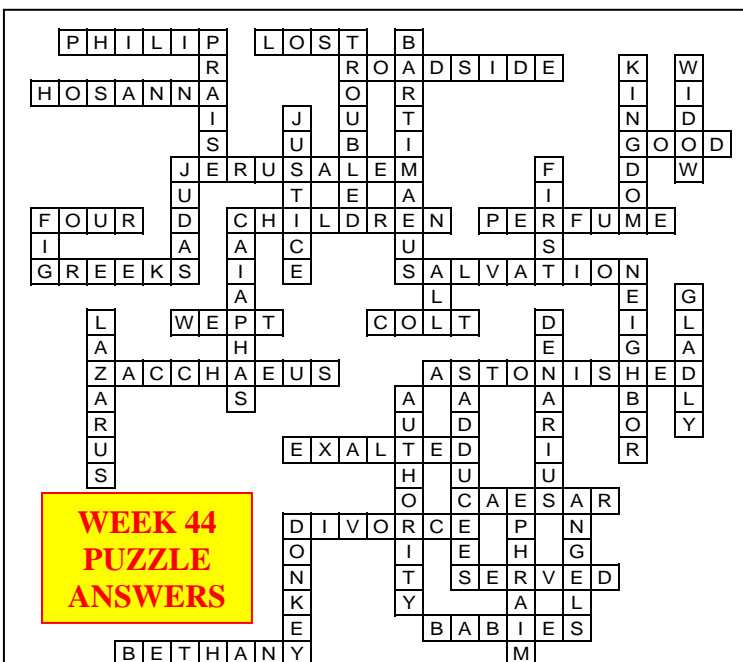
Peter and some of the disciples had gone back to the familiar life of fishing. On this occasion they spent all night catching nothing. Then the risen Christ appeared to them unrecognized and told them to throw out the net again. When they did, there were so many fish they couldn't haul them all in.

This incident is a replay of one that happened early in the ministry and is recorded in Luke 5:1-11, but I don't believe it is the same incident. I believe that so much had happened in their few years with Jesus that the disciples had sort of forgotten about some of it. In Luke 5, Peter had reacted to the miraculous catch with a realization of who Jesus really was and a sudden feeling of inadequacy (Lk. 5:8). Jesus had reassured Peter, and then called he and the men with him to follow Him – catching the souls of men as they had just caught fish.

I think Jesus purposely reenacted the event to jog the memories – and faith – of the despondent disciples. Especially Peter.

I can imagine Peter's thoughts at this point. "I'm just going to go back to fishing. I know how to fish. I won't mess that up!" Then Jesus shows up and performs the same miracle that had persuaded Peter to follow Him to start with. Again Jesus calls him to "Come, follow me" only this time Peter will be the shepherd caring for the flock. This time he will be willing to follow Jesus to the cross.

How does Peter's betrayal end differently than that of Judas? _____



**WEEK 44
PUZZLE
ANSWERS**

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ? JEWISH WEDDING CUSTOMS p. 4

"A Fresh Look at the Jewish Wedding." Mayim Hayim. 2006. Mayim Hayim Ministries. 30 Oct 2007 <<http://www.mayimhayim.org/JewishWedding.htm>>.

"Jewish Wedding Customs." Hope of Israel. 2006. Hope of Israel Baptist Mission. 29 Oct 2007 <<http://www.hopeofisrael.net>>.

Monk, Charles L.. "Behold the Bridegroom Comes." believer's web. 06 MAY 2003. 29 OCT 2007 <<http://www.beieversweb.org/view.cfm?ID=801>>.

Ratcliff, Don. "The Jewish Wedding in Bible Times." 29 Oct 2007 <<http://www.don.ratcliff.net/holidays/Jewishweddi>> no>