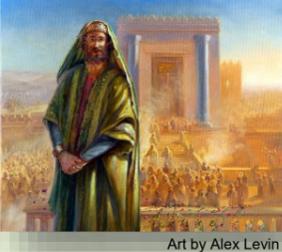


# THE PASSOVER AT JERUSALEM

The month of April Jesus and the apostles worked in Jerusalem, going out of the city each evening to spend the night at BETHANY. Jesus himself spent one or two nights each week in Jerusalem at the home of FLAVIUS, a Greek Jew, where many prominent Jews came in secret to interview him.

The first day in Jerusalem Jesus called upon his friend of former years, ANNAS, the onetime high priest and relative of Salome, Zebedee's wife. Annas had been hearing about Jesus and his teachings, and when Jesus called at the high priest's home, he was received with much reserve.

When Jesus perceived Annas's coldness, he took immediate leave, saying as he departed: "*Fear is man's chief enslaver and pride his great weakness; will you betray yourself into bondage to both of these destroyers of joy and liberty?*" But Annas made no reply. The Master did not again see Annas until the time when he sat with his son-in-law in judgment on the Son of Man.



Art by Alex Levin

## TEACHING IN THE TEMPLE

Throughout this month Jesus or one of the apostles taught daily in the temple. When the Passover crowds were too great to find entrance to the temple teaching, the apostles conducted many teaching groups outside the sacred precincts. their message was:

1. The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
2. By faith in the fatherhood of God you may enter the kingdom of heaven, thus becoming the sons of God.
3. Love is the rule of living within the kingdom—supreme devotion to God while loving your neighbor as yourself.
4. Obedience to the will of the Father, yielding the fruits of the spirit in one's personal life, is the law of the kingdom.



Art by Emile Deckers

## GOD'S WRATH

There was in Jerusalem in attendance upon the Passover festivities one JACOB, a wealthy Jewish trader from Crete, and he came making request to see Jesus privately. Andrew arranged this secret meeting with at Flavius's home. Said Jacob to Jesus: "*But, Rabbi, Moses and the olden prophets tell us that Yahweh is a jealous God, a God of great wrath and fierce anger. You and your disciples teach us that God is a kind and compassionate Father.*"

Jesus replied: "*...the concept of his nature has enlarged and grown from the days of Moses. And now have I come to reveal the Father in new glory and to show forth his love and mercy to all men on all worlds. As the gospel of this kingdom shall spread over the world with its message of good cheer and good will to all men, there will grow up improved and better relations among the families of all nations.*"



*"Loving your children as a father on earth, you must now accept as a reality the love of the heavenly Father for you—not just for all the children of Abraham, but for you, your individual soul. When your children are very young and immature, and when you must chastise them, they may reflect that their father is angry and filled with resentful wrath. Their immaturity cannot penetrate beyond the punishment to discern the father's farseeing and corrective affection..."*



## THE CONCEPT OF GOD

The Master proceed to instruct the 12 apostles about the evolution of the concept of Deity throughout the course of the development of the Jewish people.

**YAHWEH** - the god of the Sinai clans. This was the primitive concept of Deity which MOSES exalted to the higher level of the Lord God of Israel. The Father in heaven never fails to accept the sincere worship of his children on earth, no matter how crude their concept of Deity or by what name they symbolize his divine nature.

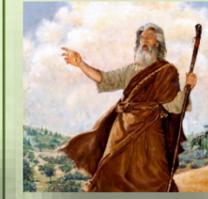


**THE MOST HIGH** - This concept of the Father in heaven was proclaimed by MELCHIZEDEK to ABRAHAM and was carried far from SALEM by those who subsequently believed in this enlarged and expanded idea of Deity. Abraham and his brother left UR because of the establishment of sun worship, and they became believers in Melchizedek's teaching of EL ELYON—the Most High God. Theirs was a composite concept of God, consisting in a blending of their older Mesopotamian ideas and the Most High doctrine.



**EL SHADDAI** - During these early days many of the Hebrews worshiped El Shaddai, the Egyptian concept of the God of heaven, which they learned about during their captivity in the land of the Nile. Long after the times of Melchizedek all three of these concepts of God became joined together to form the doctrine of the creator Deity, the Lord God of Israel.

**ELOHIM** - From the times of ADAM the teaching of the Paradise Trinity has persisted. Do you not recall how the Scriptures begin by asserting that "*In the beginning the Gods created the heavens and the earth?*" This indicates that when that record was made the Trinity concept of three Gods in one had found lodgment in in the religion of our forebears.



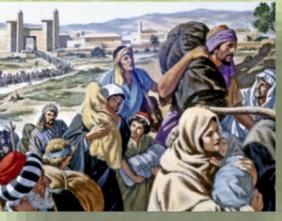
**THE SUPREME YAHWEH** - By the times of Isaiah these beliefs about God had expanded into the concept of a Universal Creator who was simultaneously all-powerful and all-merciful.



**THE FATHER IN HEAVEN** - And now do we know God as our Father in heaven. Our teaching provides a religion wherein the believer is a son of God. That is the good news of the gospel of the kingdom of heaven. Coexistent with the Father are the Son and the Spirit.

*"...When the children of Israel came out of Egypt in the days before the enlarged revelation of Yahweh, they had ten commandments which served as their law right up to the times when they were encamped before Sinai. And these ten commandments were:*

1. You shall worship no other god, for the Lord is a jealous God.
2. You shall not make molten gods.
3. You shall not neglect to keep the feast of unleavened bread.
4. Of all the males of men or cattle, the first-born are mine, says the Lord.
5. Six days you may work, but on the seventh day you shall rest.
6. You shall not fail to observe the feast of the first fruits and the feast of the ingathering at the end of the year.
7. You shall not offer the blood of any sacrifice with leavened bread.
8. The sacrifice of the feast of the Passover shall not be left until morning.
9. The first of the first fruits of the ground you shall bring to the house of the Lord your God.
10. You shall not seethe a kid in its mother's milk.

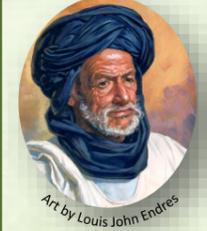


*"And then, amidst the thunders and lightnings of Sinai, Moses gave them the new ten commandments, which you will all allow are more worthy utterances to accompany the enlarging Yahweh concepts of Deity."*



Art by Dan Burr

## FLAVIUS & THE GREEK CULTURE



Art by Louis John Endres

**FLAVIUS**, the Greek Jew, was a proselyte of the gate, having been neither circumcised nor baptized. His home was exquisitely adorned with priceless treasures which he had gathered up here and there on his world travels. Flavius was agreeably surprised when Jesus entered the home that, instead of rebuking him for having these supposedly idolatrous objects scattered about the house, he manifested great interest in the entire collection and asked many appreciative questions. Jesus said:

*"Moses onetime sought to combat idolatry and the worship of false gods, why should all men frown upon the reproduction of grace and beauty? ...Moses' children have misunderstood him, and now do they make false gods of even his prohibitions of images and the likeness of things in heaven and on earth. But even if Moses taught such restrictions to the darkened minds of those days, what has that to do with this day when the Father in heaven is revealed as the universal Spirit Ruler over all?"*

*"In an age when my Father was not well understood, Moses was justified in his attempts to withstand idolatry, but in the coming age the Father will have been revealed in the life of the Son; and this new revelation of God will make it*

*forever unnecessary to confuse the Creator Father with idols of stone or images of gold."*



Art by Jon McNaughton

The next day Flavius went to Bethany beyond the Jordan and was baptized by the disciples of John.

# THE PASSOVER AT JERUSALEM

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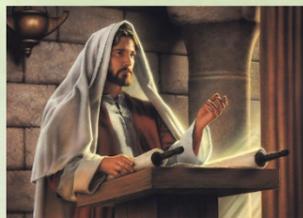
Paper 142

## THE DISCOURSE ON ASSURANCE

One of the great sermons which Jesus preached in the temple this Passover week was in answer to a question asked by one of his hearers, a man from Damascus. This man asked Jesus: "But, Rabbi, how shall we know of a certainty that you are sent by God, and that we may truly enter into this kingdom which you and your disciples declare is near at hand?" And Jesus answered:

*"As to my message and the teaching of my disciples, you should judge them by their fruits. If we proclaim to you the truths of the spirit, the spirit will witness in your hearts that our message is genuine..."*

*The Supreme Spirit shall bear witness with your spirits that you are truly the children of God. And if you are the sons of God, then have you been born of the spirit of God; and whosoever has been born of the spirit has in himself the power to overcome all doubt, and this is the victory that overcomes all uncertainty, even your faith."*



Art by Simon Dewey

## THE VISIT WITH NICODEMUS

One evening at the home of FLAVIUS there came to see Jesus one NICODEMUS, a wealthy and elderly member of the Jewish Sanhedrin. He would have gone often to hear Jesus teach, but he feared to be seen by the people in attendance upon his teaching, for already were the rulers of the Jews so at variance with Jesus that no member of the Sanhedrin would want to be identified in any open manner with him.

Upon being presented by Flavius, Nicodemus said: "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher sent by God, for no mere man could so teach unless God were with him. And I am desirous of knowing more about your teachings regarding the coming kingdom." Jesus answered Nicodemus:



Art by Clive Upton

*"I say to you, Nicodemus, except a man be born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Then replied Nicodemus: "But how can a man be born again when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born."*

*Jesus said: "Nevertheless, I declare to you, except a man be born of the spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. But you should not marvel that I said you must be born from above. When the wind blows, you hear the rustle of the leaves, but you do not see the wind—whence it comes or whither it goes—and so it is with everyone born of the spirit. With the eyes of the flesh you can behold the manifestations of the spirit, but you cannot actually discern the spirit.*

*Already does the spirit of the Father in heaven indwell you. If you would be led by this spirit from above, very soon would you begin to see with the eyes of the spirit, and then by the wholehearted choice of spirit guidance would you be born of the spirit since your only purpose in living would be to do the will of your Father who is in heaven"*

## LESSON OF THE FAMILY

Jesus sought first to make plain to his apostles that he himself was on earth living a unique life in the flesh, and that they, the twelve, had been called to participate in this bestowal experience of the Son of Man; and as such coworkers, they, too, must share in many of the special restrictions and obligations of the entire bestowal experience.

Very plainly Jesus explained that the kingdom of heaven was an evolutionary experience, beginning here on earth and progressing up through successive life stations to Paradise.

Jesus said: *"The people of another age will better understand the gospel of the kingdom when it is presented in terms expressive of the family relationship—when man understands religion as the teaching of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, sonship with God."*

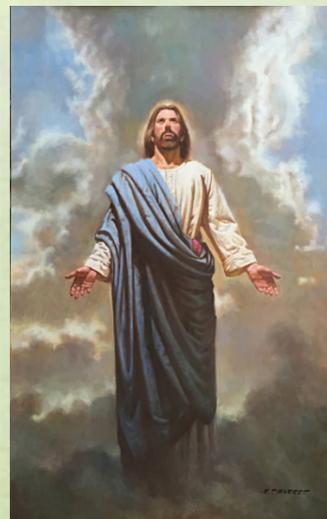
The fundamental characteristics of family life:

- 1. THE FACT OF EXISTENCE** - The relationship of father and child is inherent in all nature and pervades all living existences.
- 2. SECURITY AND PLEASURE** - True fathers take great pleasure in providing for the needs of their children.
- 3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING** - Wise fathers carefully plan for the education and adequate training of their sons and daughters.
- 4. DISCIPLINE AND RESTRAINT** - Farseeing fathers also make provision for the necessary discipline, guidance, correction, and sometimes restraint of their young and immature offspring.
- 5. COMPANIONSHIP AND LOYALTY** - The father is supremely interested in the progressive welfare of his progeny.
- 6. LOVE AND MERCY** - A compassionate father is freely forgiving; fathers do not hold vengeful memories against their children. Real families are built upon tolerance, patience, and forgiveness.
- 7. PROVISION FOR THE FUTURE** - Temporal fathers like to leave an inheritance for their sons. The family continues from one generation to another.



Art by Nathan Greene

- **JESUS** is a divine Son, one in the Universal Father's full confidence. He had been with the Father and comprehended him fully. He had now lived his earth life to the full satisfaction of the Father, and this incarnation in the flesh had enabled him fully to comprehend man.
- **JESUS** was the perfection of man; he had attained just such perfection as all true believers are destined to attain in him and through him.
- **JESUS** revealed a God of perfection to man and presented in himself the perfected son of the realms to God.



Art by Robert T. Barrett

## IN SOUTHERN JUDEA

The entire month of May was spent in doing personal work in these cities and among the people of the surrounding villages. No public preaching was done on this trip, only house-to-house visitation.

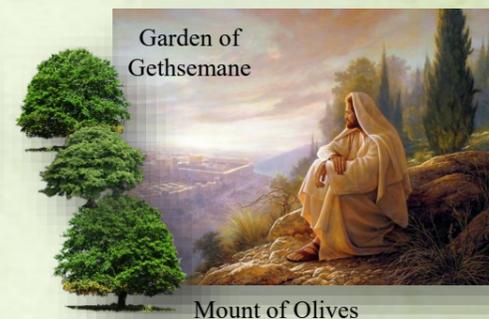
This sojourn in the south of Judea was a restful and fruitful season of labor; many souls were added to the kingdom. By the first days of June the agitation against Jesus had so quieted down in Jerusalem that the Master and the apostles returned to instruct and comfort believers.

Although Jesus and the apostles spent the entire month of June in or near Jerusalem, they did no public teaching during this period. They lived for the most part in tents, which they pitched in a shaded park, or garden, known in that day as Gethsemane. This park was situated on the western slope of the Mount of Olives not far from the brook Kidron.

When the rulers of the Jews learned that Jesus had returned to Jerusalem, they prepared to arrest him; but when they observed that he did no public preaching, they concluded that he had become frightened by their previous agitation and decided to allow him to carry on his teaching in this private manner without further molestation.

And thus affairs moved along quietly until the last days of June, when one Simon, a member of the Sanhedrin, publicly espoused the teachings of Jesus, after so declaring himself before the rulers of the Jews.

Immediately a new agitation for Jesus' apprehension sprang up and grew so strong that the Master decided to retire into the cities of Samaria and the Decapolis.



Art by Greg Olsen

## TIMELINE for PAPER 142

APRIL, 27 A.D.

- Jesus and 12 apostles stay at the home of Flavius.
- Jesus coldly received by Annas.
- Jesus and the Apostles proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven in the temple daily.
- Jesus explains to Jacob that the Father is not wrathful.
- Jesus discusses the 6 Jewish Concepts of God.
- Jesus discusses art and beauty.
- Jesus gives a discourse in the temple on Assurance.
- Jesus discusses being born of spirit with Nicodemus.
- Jesus gives a lesson of family life.

MAY, 27 A.D.

- Jesus taught the Nazarite brotherhood at Engedi.

JUNE, 27 A.D.

- Jesus set up camp at Gethsemane and received visitors, but did no public preaching.
- Simon, a member of the Sanhedrin, publicly aligned with Jesus.