

Assembly of Eloah

This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent -- Jesus Christ. Jn. 17:3

The Lamb's Death

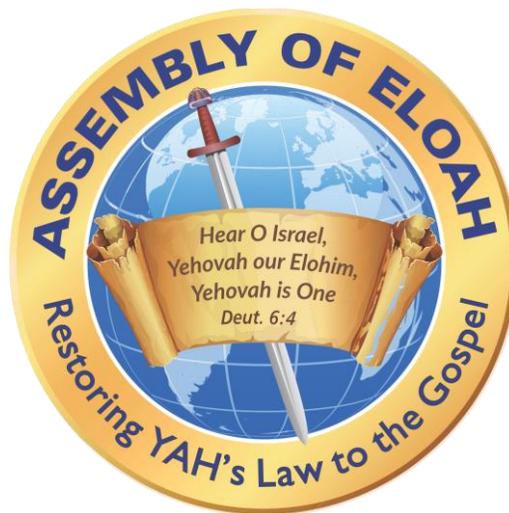
I desire merciful, steadfast, love and not your sacrificed [livestock] and that you know Me and My will, rather than submitting your burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6)

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Edition 1

James Dailley

For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him, according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will, to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all (Eph 1:9-11, 3:9, 4:4-6).



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The Plan of God

Y^ehovah has a plan to reconcile and redeem all of His fallen creation. This includes us. This was required because our forefathers made an agreement with their father or creator and failed, which we all inherited. In spite of the fact that they did not fulfill their part of the contract, we can.

Isaiah 32:6 For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against Y^ehovah (the LORD), to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail.

Ephesians 1:10-11 a plan for the fulness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to the counsel of his will,

There is a plan that will take place in an orderly time sequence when God will reconcile and unite the physical and spirit worlds according to His will.

Micah 4:12 But they do not know the thoughts of Y^ehovah (the LORD), they do not understand his plan, that he has gathered them as sheaves to the threshing floor.

Acts 2:23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

The plan of redemption was generally understood,

Acts 1:6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom {of God} to Israel?"

but the time sequence, which was a mystery, was not. In order:

Colossians 2:2 that their hearts may be encouraged as they are knit together in love, to have all the riches of assured understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, of Christ,

Ephesians 6:19 and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

Colossians 1:26-27 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now made manifest to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 4:3 and pray for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison,

The understanding of the previously hidden mystery of God's redemption was made through Christ's acceptable sacrifice and is now being declared. The covenant is renewed with the gentiles now being included (Rom. 11:25).

The repentant and baptized, spirit possessing individuals understand the overall plan but the world at large does not. We then begin to help fulfill the commission of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 13:10-17 Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For to him who has will more be given, and he will have abundance;

but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which says: 'You shall indeed hear but never understand, and you shall indeed see but never perceive. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn for me to heal them.' ¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

The disciples would receive understanding of the secrets of the kingdom, understanding that was withheld from even the prophets who longed to know. Isaiah knew about Israel and Judah's blindness.

Isaiah 6:9-12 And he said, "Go, and say to this people: 'Hear and hear, but do not understand; see and see, but do not perceive.' ¹⁰ Make the heart of this people fat, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." ¹¹ Then I said, "How long, O Y^ehovah (Lord)?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without men, and the land is utterly desolate, ¹² and Y^ehovah (the LORD) removes men far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.

Isaiah did not know that the duration of the blindness was until the full number of the gentiles were grafted into Israel and this was only later revealed by Paul when he was in prison.

Romans 11:25-29 Lest you be wise in your own conceits, I want you to understand this

mystery, brethren: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles come in, ²⁶ and so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"; ²⁷ "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins." ²⁸ As regards the gospel they are enemies of God, for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable.

Ephesians 3:1-6 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles- ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; ⁶ that is, how the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

We can see that often the reasons God does not allow understanding is so that His will and purposes can develop according to His plan. The Mysteries of God comprising the basic understanding of who God is, the effects on Christian Living and the elements of prophecy will affect our understanding of the Plan of redemption or salvation.

The Holy Spirit gives to the elect understanding of the Mysteries and makes them stewards of the Mysteries of God.

1Corinthians 4:1-5 This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ² Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³ But with me it is a very small

thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. ⁴ I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵ Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then every man will receive his commendation from God.

Titus 1:7 shows the elders (the *presbuterous* or the *episkopon*) are stewards of God.

Now is the time to declare Christ's misunderstood or mysterious activities with clear speaking of the word of God.

Colossians 4:3 and pray for us also, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison.

The Lamb's Death

Genesis 22:1-18 Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² And He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah; and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and Isaac his son; and he split wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. ⁴ On the third day Abraham raised his eyes and saw the place from a distance. ⁵ And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go yonder; and we will worship and return to you." ⁶ And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. ⁷ And Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said,

"Here I am, my son." And he said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸ And Abraham said, "God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together. ⁹ Then they came to the place of which God had told him; and Abraham built the altar there, and arranged the wood, and bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ And Abraham stretched out his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of Y^ehovah (the LORD) called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ¹² And he said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." ¹³ Then Abraham raised his eyes and looked, and behold, behind *him* a ram caught in the thicket by his horns; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the place of his son. ¹⁴ And Abraham called the name of that place Y^ehovah (the LORD) Will Provide, as it is said to this day, "In the mount of Y^ehovah (the LORD) it will be provided." ¹⁵ Then the angel of Y^ehovah (the LORD) called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶ and said, "By Myself I have sworn, declares Y^ehovah (the LORD), because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. ¹⁸ "And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." (NASB used throughout.)

Our God will provide the lamb as required but it is not what he delights in. He wishes for us to know Him personally and for us to know of His plan for His creation.

Hosea 6:6-7 For I delight in loyalty rather than sacrifice, And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings. ⁷ But like Adam they have transgressed the covenant; There

they have dealt treacherously against Me.

Hebrews 10:5-8 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, But a body Thou hast prepared for Me; ⁶ In whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure. ⁷ "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me) To do Thy will, O God.'" ⁸ After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast not desired, nor hast Thou taken pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the Law),

He does not desire sacrifice but He may require sacrifice. We have become the sacrifices which are only acceptable to God because of Christ's enabling and acceptable offering.

1Peter 2:4-5 And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Often our learning can be forced on us if we will not make the effort ourselves.

Hosea 4:6-9 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. ⁷ The more they multiplied, the more they sinned against Me; I will change their glory into shame. ⁸ They feed on the sin of My people, And direct their desire toward their iniquity. ⁹ And it will be, like people, like priest; So I will punish them for their ways, And repay them for their deeds.

The purpose of Feast attendance is to gain knowledge and to hear and learn to fear and obey our Father.

Deuteronomy 31:12 Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God, and observe to do all the words of this law.

This is being done for our benefit as well as the fallen world order. Principally, it is done so that we can know God more fully.

Isaiah 43:10 "You are my witnesses," says Y^ehovah (the LORD), "and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.

Isaiah 58:2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that did righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

Jeremiah 24:7 I will give them a heart to know that I am Y^ehovah (the LORD); and they shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart.

Jeremiah 31:34 And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know Y^ehovah (the LORD),' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says Y^ehovah (the LORD); for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Hebrews 8:11 And they shall not teach every one his fellow or every one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest.

Jeremiah 7:22-23 For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them on the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices. ²³ But this is what I commanded

them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you will be My people; and you shall walk entirely in the way which I command you, so that it may go well for you.'

This present and persistently re-surfacing world order anciently has sacrificed its children to the god Molech for health and wealth and this is still ongoing with the modern state sanctioned abortions. These modern sacrifices are being done for the same reasons as in the past.

2Kings 17:17 And they caused their sons and their daughters to pass through the [fire](#), and used divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of Y^ehovah (the LORD), to provoke him to anger.

2Kings 17:31 And the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burnt their children in [fire](#) to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

2Kings 21:6 And he made his son pass through the [fire](#), and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of Y^ehovah (the LORD), to provoke *him* to anger.

2Kings 23:10 And he defiled Topheth, which *is* in the valley of the children of Hinnom, that no man might make his son or his daughter to pass through the [fire](#) to Molech.

2Chronicles 28:3 Moreover he burnt incense in the valley of the son of Hinnom, and burnt his children in the [fire](#), after the abominations of the heathen whom Y^ehovah (the LORD) had cast out before the children of Israel.

2Chronicles 33:6 And he caused his children to pass through the [fire](#) in the valley of the son of Hinnom: also he observed times, and used enchantments, and used witchcraft, and dealt with a familiar spirit, and with wizards: he wrought much evil in the sight of Y^ehovah (the LORD), to provoke him to anger.

John 1:29 The day after, John sees Jesus coming to him and says, See, here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (BBE)

Isaiah 44:18 They know not, nor do they discern; for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their minds, so that they cannot understand.

Isaiah 45:5 I am Y^ehovah (the LORD), and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I gird you, though you do not know me,

Jeremiah 9:3 They bend their tongue like a bow; falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, says Y^ehovah (the LORD).

Jeremiah 9:6 Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me, says Y^ehovah (the LORD).

Hosea 5:4 Their deeds do not permit them to return to their God. For the spirit of harlotry is within them, and they know not Y^ehovah (the LORD).

John 7:28 So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, "You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord; he who sent me is true, and him you do not know.

Titus 1:16 They profess to know God, but they deny him by their deeds; they are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good deed.

In Preparation for Service

The Passover was to be held in the following manner. The original ordinance was given for the meal eaten on the evening following the sacrifice on the afternoon of 14 Nisan, i.e. on the evening of 15 Nisan. It was originally a

lamb eaten with bitter herbs, killed in Egypt and the blood was sprinkled on the doorposts or lintels so that the death angel would pass over the houses of the children of Israel. In this way, the firstborn of Egypt were slain and the children of Israel were *passed over*—hence, the term *Passover*. In this way, God showed what He would do with the world and that salvation was to come from the death of Messiah as the Lamb of God allowing entry to the family of God as part of the nation of Israel.

The sacrifice is ordered in Exodus.

Exodus 12:1-14 Now Y^ehovah (the LORD) said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, ²“This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year for you. ³Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, ‘On the tenth of this month they are, each one, to take a lamb for themselves, according to the fathers’ households, a lamb for each household. ⁴Now if the household is too small for a lamb, then he and his neighbor nearest to his house are to take one according to the number of persons *in them*; in proportion to what each one should eat, you are to divide the lamb. ⁵Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to slaughter it at twilight. ⁷Moreover, they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸They shall eat the flesh that *same* night, roasted with fire, and they shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. ⁹Do not eat any of it raw or boiled at all with water, but rather roasted with fire, *both* its head and its legs along with its entrails. ¹⁰And you shall not leave any of it over until morning, but whatever is left of it until morning, you shall completely burn with fire. ¹¹Now you shall eat it in this way: *with your garment* belted

around your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it in a hurry—it is Y^ehovah’s (the LORD’S) Passover. ¹²For I will go through the land of Egypt on that night, and fatally strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the human *firstborn* to animals; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments—I am Y^ehovah (the LORD). ¹³The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will come upon you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt. (NASB)

Exodus 12:29-36 Now it came about at midnight that Y^ehovah (the LORD) struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of cattle. ³⁰And Pharaoh got up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians, and there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was no home where there was not someone dead. ³¹Then he called for Moses and Aaron at night and said, “Rise up, get out from among my people, both you and the sons of Israel; and go, worship Y^ehovah (the LORD), as you have said. ³²Take both your flocks and your herds, as you have said, and go, and bless me also.” ³³The Egyptians urged the people, to send them out of the land in a hurry, for they said, “We will all be dead.” ³⁴So the people took their dough before it was leavened, *with* their kneading bowls bound up in the clothes on their shoulders. ³⁵Now the sons of Israel had done according to the word of Moses, for they had requested from the Egyptians articles of silver and articles of gold, and clothing; ³⁶and Y^ehovah (the LORD) had given the people favor in the sight of the Egyptians, so that they let them have their request. Therefore they plundered the Egyptians. (NASB)

This evening was ordered to be kept as a memorial of the sparing of Israel. This activity also looked forward to the salvation of the world through the sacrifice of the Messiah.

Exodus 12:42 It is a night to be observed for

Y^ehovah (the LORD), for having brought them out of the land of Egypt; this night is for Y^ehovah (the LORD), to be observed by all the sons of Israel throughout their generations. (NASB)

The ordinance was altered after the first Passover in the following manner.

Deuteronomy 16:1-8 "Observe the month of Abib and celebrate the Passover to Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God, for in the month of Abib Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God brought you out of Egypt by night. ²You shall sacrifice the Passover to Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God *from* the flock and the herd, in the place where Y^ehovah (the LORD) chooses to establish His name. ³You shall not eat leavened bread with it; for seven days you shall eat unleavened bread with it, the bread of affliction (for you came out of the land of Egypt in a hurry), so that you will remember the day when you came out of the land of Egypt all the days of your life. ⁴For seven days no leaven shall be seen with you in your entire territory, and none of the meat which you sacrifice on the evening of the first day shall be left overnight until the morning. ⁵You are not allowed to sacrifice the Passover in any of your towns which Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God is giving you; ⁶ but *only* at the place where Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God chooses to establish His name, you shall sacrifice the Passover in the evening at sunset, at the time that you came out of Egypt. ⁷You shall cook and eat *it* in the place which Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God chooses. In the morning you are to return to your tents. ⁸For six days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a festive assembly to Y^ehovah (the LORD) your God; you shall do no work *on it*. (NASB)

Here, we see that the ordinance was reversed from the original. In the first Passover, it was done in the houses in Egypt and no one was permitted to leave. Then, the house was protected by the blood upon the doorposts or lintels.

In this way, the elect were shown to be protected whilst in a foreign land from the activities of the death angel which was Messiah himself in his role as judge of the earth. In order to qualify for that role, he had to show his willingness to lay down his own life for the entire world he was to judge.

When Israel came into their own inheritance and entered their own lands, they were ordered then to keep the Passover outside of the homes (Deut. 16:5-7). Only on the morning of Unleavened Bread were they permitted to return to their homes. Also from this time, it could be any clean animal of the herd that was killed. The Passover was still, however, symbolized by the lamb and it was the most common and accepted animal for the meal.

We can start to see some of the symbolism and sense of the timing and activities of Jesus Christ in the Passover when he was crucified.

We know beyond doubt when the lambs were killed during the temple period. Josephus shows us that the lambs were killed from the ninth to the eleventh hour, i.e. from 3 pm to 5 pm on the afternoon of the fourteenth. The lambs were then prepared and eaten on the evening of 15 Nisan as the Passover meal. Josephus says of a Passover in the reign of Nero:

So these high priests upon the coming of their feast they call the Passover, when they slay their sacrifices, from the ninth hour to the eleventh, but so that a company not less than ten belong to every sacrifice, (for it is not lawful for them to feast singly by

themselves), and many of us are twenty in a company, found the number of sacrifices was two hundred and fifty six thousand five hundred; which, upon the allowance of no more than ten that feast together, amounts to two millions seven hundred thousand and two hundred persons (*Wars of the Jews*, Bk. VI, IX, 3).

There was, however, only one lamb – the first slaughtered at 3 pm – that was laid before the high priest as the Passover.

We are thus getting an idea of the meaning behind the sequence of events on that 14 Nisan on which he died.

The custom of the Passover was also different. In Judea, the people worked on 14 Nisan until noon, but in Galilee, they did not work at all on 14 Nisan (cf. Schurer *History of the Jewish People in the Age of Jesus Christ*, Vol. II, p. 14).

This ban on work on the Passover is because of the activities required on 14 Nisan by Deuteronomy 16:5-7. In Galilee where Christ came from, the people did what Christ and the apostles did on the day of the Passover sacrifice and went into temporary accommodation and killed the Passover. In Judea, which to all intents and purposes was a separate land as we see from the laws in the Mishnah regarding wives and property (mKet. 13:10; mB.B. 3:2; cf. Schurer, *ibid.*), they appeared to have become slack in this practice possibly because of their proximity to the Temple and possibly because of the sheer volume of work required in Jerusalem for the sacrifices that afternoon.

Nevertheless, Messiah and the apostles went into temporary accommodation as is required by the ordinance in Deuteronomy 16:5-7.

This blasphemy was allegedly against the name of God, yet he claimed to be the son of God and this was carried in Malachi as being a true statement *Have we not all one Father? Had not one God created us all?*

Malachi 2:10 Do we not all have one Father? Is it not one God *who* has created us? Why do we deal treacherously, each against his brother so as to profane the covenant of our fathers? (NASB)

Christ defended himself before the charge was even laid.

John 10:33-38 The Jews answered Him, "We are not stoning You for a good work, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself *out to be* God." ³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Has it not been written in your Law: 'I SAID, YOU ARE GODS'? ³⁵ If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be nullified), ³⁶ are you saying of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? ³⁷ If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; ³⁸ but if I do *them*, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father." (NASB)

Pilate tried to release him again with these words.

John 19:8-11 Therefore when Pilate heard this statement, he was *even* more afraid; ⁹ and he entered the Praetorium again and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ So Pilate said to Him, "Are you not speaking to me? Do You

not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?" ¹¹Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over Me at all, if it had not been given to you from above; for this reason the one who handed Me over to you has *the* greater sin." (NASB)

The power given to Pilate was given of God. Thus all government is allowed of God over the elect. Whoever falsely accuses or delivers us for judgment under false accusation or unrighteous judgment is guilty of the greater sin.

Pilate sought to release Messiah but the Jews would not hear of it. If he was right, they stood condemned by the law which they had perverted.

John 19:12-16 As a result of this, Pilate made efforts to release Him; but the Jews shouted, saying, "If you release this Man, you are not a friend of Caesar; everyone who makes himself *out to be* a king opposes Caesar!" ¹³Therefore when Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus out, and sat down on the judgment seat at a place called The Pavement—but in Hebrew, Gabbatha. ¹⁴Now it was the day of preparation for the Passover; it was about the sixth hour. And he said to the Jews, "Look, your King!" ¹⁵So they shouted, "Away with *Him*, away with *Him*, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "Shall I crucify your King?" The chief priests answered, "We have no king except Caesar." (NASB)

The passage of the crucifixion in John is well known.

John 19:17-22 They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, carrying His own cross, to the *place* called the Place of a Skull, which in Hebrew is called, Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified Him, and with Him two other men, one on either side, and Jesus in between. ¹⁹Now Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It was

written: "JESUS THE NAZARENE, THE KING OF THE JEWS." ²⁰Therefore many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, *and* in Greek. ²¹So the chief priests of the Jews were saying to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews'; rather, *write* that He said, 'I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written." (NASB)

Pilate was moved to write this verse not just by the Holy Spirit but because he was convinced of the innocence of Messiah and that he was the best or most kingly of this unjust mob who sought through their priests to kill a righteous man.

Prophecy continues to be fulfilled as the crucifixion continues.

John 19:23-24 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts: a part to each soldier, and the tunic *also*; but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. ²⁴So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, *to decide* whose it shall be." *This happened* so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: "THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEMSELVES, AND THEY CAST LOTS FOR MY CLOTHING." Therefore the soldiers did these things. (NASB)

This was to fulfil Psalm 22:1-8.

Psalm 22:1-8 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my help are the words of my groaning. My God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest. Yet You are holy, You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You rescued them. To You they cried out and they fled to safety; In You they trusted and were not disappointed. But I am a worm and not a person, disgrace of mankind and despised by the people. All who see me deride me; They

sneer, they shake their heads, *saying*, Turn *him* over to Y^ehovah (the LORD); let Him save him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him." (NASB)

Here we see the statements of Christ listed in prophecy. From verse 1, we see his cry upon the cross. We see Psalm 22:8 quoted in Matthew 27:43; Mark 15:29 and Luke 23:25.

In Psalm 22:18, we see the prophecy that they part his garments for lots.

In Psalm 22:22, we see the prophecy quoted which is uttered in Hebrews 2:12.

Psalm 22:22-31 I will proclaim Your name to my brothers; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear Y^ehovah (the LORD), praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. For He has not despised nor scorned the suffering of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard. From You *comes* my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him. The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise Y^ehovah (the LORD). May your heart live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to Y^ehovah (the LORD), And all the families of the nations will worship before You. For the kingdom is Y^ehovah's (the LORD's) And He rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, All those who go down to the dust will kneel before Him, Even he who cannot keep his soul alive. A posterity will serve Him; It will be told of Y^ehovah (the LORD) to the *coming* generation. They will come and will declare His righteousness To a people who will be born, that He has performed *it*. (NASB)

We see from this Psalm that God did not turn His face from Messiah and He did not forsake him as is often thought

because of the quote from Psalm 22:1 but God saved him.

Why then did this Lamb of God have to divest himself of his pre-existent spiritual nature and become a man not seeking equality with God as something to be grasped after he humbled himself to death even death on a cross? (cf. Phil. 2:5-8 RSV).

Eloah's Peace on all of His people.

Amen, Y^ehovah