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John 18 - Part I The Kidron

Read John 18:1: *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook^{g5493} Kedron^{g2748}, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.*

Jesus visited this garden often to pray (Lk 22:39). Why would John just now mention crossing of the Kedron? He must have had a reason. The Kedron Valley is between the city of Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives. John is the only writer of the NT who mentions it. The Greek for *brook*^{g5493} properly means *storm drain, or winter runlet*, which is normally dry except in the winter rainy season. The Greek word *Kedron*^{g2748} is from the Hebrew word *Kidron*^{h6939}, meaning *dark*. According to Smith's Bible Dictionary, the Kidron valley came to be called the *Valley of Jehoshaphat*. John's reason for mentioning it evidently had spiritual application from the OT.

The Kidron Valley was a cemetery for the common people in Josiah's time, 2Ki 23:5-7. He was one of the good kings that worked to rid Israel of idol worship. He cut down the idols, and removed idolatrous items from the temple, burned them and scattered the ashes over the graves in the Kidron Valley. There are references where others did similar things, 1Ki 15:13; 2Ki 23:4, 12. The Kidron Valley was associated with the "uncleanness" of Israel, 2Ch 29:16.

Read 2Samuel 15:22-23, 30:

1. Considering this story allegorically, how could this relate to Christ crossing the Kidron?

{David fled for his life from Absalom across the Kidron. He wept much on the Mount of Olives. Isa 22:22 is applied allegorically to the Savior in Rv 3:7, making David a type for Christ, who, in a similar situation crossed over the Kidron & suffered greatly on the Mount of Olives.}

Read Jeremiah 31:35-40:

2. What does verse 37 mean? *If the heavens above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth below can be searched out, I will also reject all the seed of Israel for all that they have done.*

{Can the heavens be measured, or the foundations of the earth searched out? If they could, then would we not have any excuse for sin, and would be a castaway. Cf Job 11:7; Rom 11:33}

2a. After coming out of Babylon, Jerusalem & the temple were rebuilt. It is the temple to which Christ came, Hag 2:3, 7. Viewing this allegorically, what city is ultimately built? Jer 1:18; Pr 25:28; Rv 21:1-3, 9-11.

2b. Considering verse 40, what might be represented spiritually by making the Kidron Valley holy & pure? {Hint: what was the purpose of Christ going to the cross? Eph 5:25-27; Jn 10:10; Heb 6:16-20. The Kidron Valley the main place of Baal & other idol worship by Israel. The actual idols, however, were in their hearts, Eze 14:1-6, & the Kidron was the place they manifested them.}

Read Matthew 26:26-30: (cp verse 29 with Mk 14:25; Lk 22:16, 18)

3. Jesus made the bread a symbol for his body, the wine a symbol for his shed blood; what did he mean by the words, *I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom?*

{Wine: Mic 2:11; Kingdom of God: Lk 17:20-21. Symbols can represent the good or bad, depending on the context. Water represents a more general understanding (Pr 18:4; Dt 32:1-2), while wine pertains more to the understanding of cross, 1Cor 5:7. Jesus began to drink “new wine” with the disciples on the day of Pentecost. No more the “fruit of his vine” Jn 15:1, but of the “new wine” being given by his heavenly Father. Jesus had already been giving them new wine, but they did not understand it. Jesus had to manifest it on the cross.}

Luke recorded a strife arising among the disciples, at that last supper, that the other gospel writers left out, Luke 22:24-30. When asked who would be the greatest, note how Jesus concluded his answer:

29 And I appoint a kingdom to you, as My Father appointed to Me, 30 that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom; and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

4. When were the disciples to receive this kingdom, and when does the judging begin? Acts 2:33

{The symbol for the consummation of Christ's reception of the Father's spirit was the cross. The symbol for the consummation of the kingdom in the disciples is Pentecost, when Jesus gave them the Father's spirit. At that time, they were made spiritual kings and began judging the 12 tribes of Israel by their teachings.}