

I Am He

Jeff Rogers / Empty Nesters Bible Study
John 18:1-11

Our Lord's death was now only hours away. He left the upper room and is now heading to the Mount of Olives, where He would make His way under close guard to "the place of the skull," and his beaten and broken body would be nailed to a wooden cross. Nails would be driven through each arm so that he would hang suspended from a cross with only a third nail holding His feet to the cross. He would soon die an agonizing and gruesome death.

Theories abound about the cause of our Lord's death. It was staged. He overplayed His hand politically and was killed by the Romans. The list goes on. But His death was intentional, even planned down to the finest details. We see some of those details come to pass in our text today.

His death was no accident:

1. **John 10:17–18**, *For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.*"
2. **Isaiah 53:6**, *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Jesus's death was by plan and foreknowledge (Acts 2:23; 3:18; 4:27-28; 13:27; Matt 26:24; Luke 22:22; 24:44-46)

1. **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. (see also Acts 3:18, 4:27-28, 13:27, Matt 26:24; Luke 22:22; 24:44-46)*
2. **Luke 24:44–46**, *Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,*

Jesus's death was predicted by Him (e.g., Matt. 16:21; 17:22–23; 20:17–19; Luke 24:6–7, 26).

1. **Matthew 16:21**, *From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.*

I. Supreme Courage (John 18:1-4a) "knowing all that would happen"

John 18:1–4a, *When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. 2 Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. 3 So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward . . ."*

A. The history of Kidron

1. David fled Jerusalem through the Kidron from Absalom (2 Sam 15:23).

B. The familiarity of Gethsemane

1. **Luke 22:39**, *And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. John 8:1, But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.*
2. In the providence of God, Jesus went this night to Gethsemane to be found by Judas.

C. The kiss of deceit (John 13:21-30)

II. Supreme Power (John 18:4b-6) “I am”

John 18:4–6, 4b . . . and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” 5 They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, **“I am he.”** Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. **6** When Jesus said to them, **“I am he,”** they drew back and fell to the ground.

- A. Whom do you seek?
- B. “I am (He)”
 - 1. The “He” is not in the original Greek; Jesus again declares who He is.
 - a) **John 8:58, . . . “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”**
 - b) **Exodus 3:14, God said to Moses, “I am who I am.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I am has sent me to you.’ ”**
- C. Judas and the entourage of soldiers, fell to the ground (6).
 - 1. Judas exercised no authority or power over Jesus.
 - 2. The spoken word’s power (**Genesis 1:3, And God said**, Followed by verse 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26) (**Psalm 33:6, By the word of the Lord the heavens were made,) (Revelation 19:21, And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him . . .**

III. Supreme Love (John 18:7-9)

John 18:7–9, So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” 8 Jesus answered, **“I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” 9** This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: **“Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.”**

- A. Jesus, as Good Shepherd, is vigilant in protecting His sheep.(John 10:12-13)
- B. Jesus is fulfilling His word
 - 1. John 6:37-44; John 10:28; John 17:12

IV. Supreme Obedience (John 18:10-11)

John 18:10–11, Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant’s name was Malchus.) 11 So Jesus said to Peter, **“Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”**

- A. Peter’s failure to understand the necessity of Christ’s death (**Matthew 16:16-21**)
 - 1. **Matthew 16:22, And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.”**

EXCURSUS: The Garden of Gethsemane (Isa 53:4 ,5 10)

- 1. The Garden sat along the eastern side of Jerusalem with a line-of-sight to the Temple. The Kidron Valley is between the east Wall of Jerusalem and the west slope of the Mount of Olives.
- 2. Gethsemane was likely the site of a commercial enterprise during the life of Christ.
- 3. It was a place of retreat from the crowded streets of Jerusalem and the Temple for the disciples and Jesus.
- 4. Gethsemane means **“oil press.”**

Isaiah 53:4,5,10, “Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief;

