

## Gethsemane

Having said these things, YAHSHUA went out with His disciples beyond the winter torrent of the Kidron. There was a garden there, which He and His disciples entered, and Judas, who was betraying Him and delivering Him up also knew the place, because YAHSHUA had often retired there with His disciples (John 18:1-2). The Kidron Valley is situated on the eastern side of the Old City in Jerusalem; it separates the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives; this area is known to have been one of the main burial grounds of Jerusalem. It was in that close proximity that our Lord found a garden where He and His disciples would go often. It was a place away from the crowd, a place for prayer and rest. But it was going to be in that Garden that one day one of His disciples would betray Him; it would be to that garden that Satan would come again to tempt Him. This would be Satan's "opportune time".

When they arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane, on that Thursday night after having eaten the Passover meal, He said to the disciples, "Sit down here while I go over yonder and pray". In that hour He began to show grief and distress of mind and was deeply depressed; He told them, "My soul is very sad and deeply grieved, so that I am almost dying of sorrow. Stay here and keep awake and keep watch with Me". And going a little farther, He threw Himself upon the ground on His face and prayed saying, My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but as You will and desire (Matt. 26:36-39). YAHSHUA was now in the Garden of decision; no longer a peaceful place where He would be fellowshiping with His Father; Gethsemane had become a place for spiritual warfare. He faces now the enemy, who had come in His darkest hour to tempt Him. Luke's Gospel says that while He was praying in agony [of mind] and more earnestly and intently, His sweat became like great clots of blood dropping down upon the ground (Luke 22: 44). The agony that He felt in that battle field no one will ever understand with the human mind. The battle field in that garden only He could win against the forces of the evil one. From that location, many years past, Satan had brought Adam and Eve down to their knees and from that time on he became their lord; because of that, we all fell into their condemnation. YAHSHUA'S suffering in that garden, no longer of Eden, but Gethsemane was for the purpose to redeem the human race from Satan; the woman, when tempted, did not fight against the deceitful and cunning Serpent; she thought it to be a good idea and she fell together with her husband. Thank YAHWEH for His Son's victory over the enemy in the Gethsemane Garden! YAHSHUA completed the purchase of the human race with His own blood. That is, those whosoever will come to Him. In our "Gethsemane Garden" there will be always a serpent. In the Gethsemane Garden of diseases, he comes and torments with fears of all kinds; in the Gethsemane Garden of grief, he torments with suicide; in the Gethsemane Garden of rejection, he torments with self-rejection leading one to self-destruction. Our Lord YAHSHUA suffered all in the Garden of Gethsemane, so we wouldn't have to. He suffered depression, He suffered rejection; His soul was about to die, yet He fought for all of us. The writer of the book of Hebrews says, Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself, so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds. You have not yet strolled and fought agonizingly against sin, nor have you yet resisted and withstood to the point of pouring out your [own] blood (Hebrews 12:3, 4).

When the time comes for us to go to our “Gethsemane Garden”, we must stand firm in our faith and never run away from it; the temptations in that garden will be strong and the battle, too. But He Who promised is faithful; He said, I will never leave you nor forsake you in your agony at the Gethsemane. He will stand with us to comfort and to deliver us in His own time. The Gethsemane Garden, where the crossroad happens, is also the place for the anointing, if we don’t faint. The anointing will only take place in one’s life through suffering. Therefore let’s run the course with courage and faith to the end, as Paul did. He had to go through many Gethsemane Gardens. One of them was the thorn in his flesh so he would not be proud; but with that thorn YAHWEH gave him also grace, after Paul had prayed three times for its removal. Three times, he said, I called upon the Lord and besought [Him] about this and begged that it might depart from me; but He said to me, My grace, which is (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you; for My strength and power are made perfect and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness. He humbly accepted the will of YAHWEH in this matter and he said, Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ may rest upon me! So because of Christ, I am pleased in weaknesses, in insults, in catastrophes, in persecutions, and in pressures. For when I am weak, then I am strong (II Cor. 12: 8-9). The apostle John, after being thrown into a cauldron of hot oil, and surviving it, was sent to an isolated Island to die. But in that Gethsemane Garden, he was given visions of the future plan YAHWEH has for us and for the world. Never ask for the anointing without being prepared to go through the Gethsemane Garden. It will be there that the serpent will come to tempt you in your weakness. But it will be there also that the presence of the Holy Spirit will guide and comfort you, if you remain faithful, believing YAHWEH’S purpose, and strength to carry you through to complete the work He had begun in you. Gethsemane time can well be a time to prepare us for something very challenging ahead of us. In this school of life we cannot pick and choose only what we want; but we can surrender all we are going through to His loving care and purpose. Remember Job’s sufferings in his Gethsemane Garden; he had to go through the test we couldn’t bear. But in his faithfulness, his sufferings were counted all worth to prove Satan his faithfulness to his YAHWEH.

Gethsemane is not only a garden of tears and heavy sweat; but it is also the place of anointing and victory. It is a place where tears of sorrow will be changed into tears of joy, it will be where we will experience our Lord’s love and learn to know Him. Job, at the end of his experience in Gethsemane, said, I have heard of You [only] by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I loathe and abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes (Job 42:5-6). The Gethsemane Garden is a place for brokenness. A broken and contrite heart the Lord will not despise (Psalm 51: 17). Remain there until time to leave for the complete renewing of your soul; others will see and will be blessed with what the Lord has done in your behalf.

#### Prayer

Lord, lead me always to Calvary to appreciate what You have done for me; increase my faith and strength while I am in my Gethsemane, for the darts of the enemy are piercing my soul with fear, doubt of the unknown. The darkness of the garden brings me shadows of uncertainty because the serpent found a place to be near me. My face is completely absorbed by my tears

of sorrow – inconsolable sorrow; help me to remain steadfast in your love to the end of my journey through the Gethsemane Garden.

In YAHSHUA'S name,

Amen!