

# INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

## FOURTH QUARTER: THREE MONTHS' STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

A. D. 30.]

John 18:1-14.

### LESSON I. JESUS BETRAYED.

[Oct. 3.]



1 When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

2 And Judas also, which betrayed him, knew the place: for Jesus oftentimes resorted thither with his disciples.

3 Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons.

4 Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them.

6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward and fell to the ground.

7 Then asked he them again, Whom seek ye? And they said, Jesus of Nazareth.

8 Jesus answered, I have told you that I am he: if therefore ye seek me, let these go their way:

9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

10 Then saith Peter having a sword he drew it, and smote the high-priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

12 Then the band and the captain and officers of the Jews took Jesus, and bound him first: for he was father-in-law to Caia-phas, which was the high-priest that same year.

13 And led him away to Azarias the son of the high-priest, which was the high-priest that same year. 14 Now Caia-phas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.

### General Statement.

It is now midnight, perhaps a little later, after the last supper. The full moon looks down upon a company at the garden of Gethsemane, on the western slope of the Mount of Olives. The eleven disciples are there, just awakened from their sleep, dazed and bewildered. And the Saviour is there, with the marks of the agony through which he has just passed still lingering upon his face, though his look is calm and majestic. The battle has been fought under the olive-trees, and the Conqueror has come forth to receive his crown. There is another company near at hand, Judas and the band of enemies. Perhaps they have been watching near the garden, as a place where the traitor would pass by and pause on his road to Bethany; perhaps they had lurked in the shadows on Mount Zion, and had followed the Saviour and the disciples from the supper-room. Their presence is not unknown to Jesus, for in spirit he has seen every footstep. He now comes forward to the entrance of

the garden, and confronts his foes. Judas the traitor comes out from the group, and with a pretended love greets him with a kiss. The Saviour turns from his perfidious lips toward the band of enemies. At his look of mingled innocence and kindness they fall back and fall down upon the ground, but after a moment, they little knot around their Master have gathered courage. Peter, ever the first to act, draws his sword, and strikes at the leader of the band, who chances to be the servant of the high-priest. Jesus gives him a gentle rebuke, and by a touch heals the wound upon his enemy's head. Even after such a sign of might and of mercy, his captors seize him, while his disciples scatter, and the unresisting Saviour is bound and carried away a prisoner. We see in the outskirts of the strong two disciples following, the faithful John near at hand, and the sly Peter afar off.

### Explanatory and Practical Notes.

**Verses 1. Had spoken these words.** "These words" are the teachings contained in John 13 to 16, and the prayer in chap. 17. The full round of instruction had been given, and now Jesus was ready for his sufferings. **He went forth.** Out of the city, probably from Mount Zion, to go toward the Mount of Olives. The brook Cedron. Properly, "the winter-torrent." Cedron, the valley of Jehoshaphat, on the east of Jerusalem. **Where was a garden.** The garden of Gethsemane, as we learn from the other gospels. It is uncertain whether the site marked by tradition is the true one or not. **Into the which he entered.** Here took place the agony, which belongs at this point in the history, but is not narrated by John.

**2. Judas also.** He had left the twelve at the supper-table some hours before, and was now approaching the garden with his band. Contrast the spirit and motive in each of those two companies! **Knew the place.** Knew that it was a place favored of his Master for prayer and meditation, and that he was likely to be there after the supper. **Oftentimes resorted.** It would appear to have been a place where Christ was wont to go for retired conversation with his disciples.

**3. Judas received a band.** Rev. Ver., "the band of soldiers." It was a detachment from the garrison at the tower Antonia, overlooking the temple. **And officers.** These were the police of the temple, who were controlled by the Jewish council. **Pharisees.** These are named because as a party they were opposed to Jesus. **Cometh thither.** Perhaps they had watched the near the supper-room for the coming of Jesus and the disciples, and had followed them at a distance. **With lanterns and torches.** Not used to light their way, as the moon was full, but to search the shrubbery

and hiding places among the caves on the side of Mount Olivet.

**4. Jesus therefore, knowing.** Our trials come upon us as unknown, and are, therefore, the more easily endured. Our Saviour saw the dark cloud gathering over his head, and knew the very moment when the things that were coming upon him, referring to his sufferings as already present. **Went forth.** He did not want to break. The Rev. Ver. reads, "knowing all the things that were coming upon him," referring to his sufferings as already present. **Went forth.** He did not want to be arrested in the garden, but went out of it to meet his enemies, his spirit having obtained the victory over his flesh in the agony. **Said unto them,** Judas sprang forward to greet him with the traitor's kiss; Jesus spoke a moment with him, and then turned to the throng. **Whom seek ye?** He knew them, and their leaders knew him; but he asked the question that they might declare their purpose.

**5. Jesus of Nazareth.** More precisely "Jesus the Nazarene," the name by which he was known, bearing with it a shade of contempt. (1) *He who was once despised is now crowned with glory.* **I am he.** There was no hesitation nor hiding. He declared himself at once to be the one for whom they were seeking, and he declared it with such majesty as to startle his enemies. **And Judas also.** Sixty years afterward the scene appears before John's eyes just as in that dreadful hour every actor in it stood; the group of enemies, the traitor, and the Saviour rising before them calm and serene.

**6. They went backward.** The majestic appearance, the glorious look upon his face, and the calmness of his words, made an overwhelming impression upon the band. Unconsciously each one drew back from his presence, and fell prostrate. **Fell to the ground.** All