

"The drew back and fell to the ground."

John 18:1-11

When Jesus had spoken these words, He went forth with His disciples over the ravine of the Kidron, where there was a garden, in which He entered with His disciples. 2 Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place, for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. 3 Judas then, having received the Roman cohort and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. 4 So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. 6 So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Therefore He again asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." 8 Jesus answered, "I told you that I am He; so if you seek Me, let these go their way," 9 to fulfill the word which He spoke, "Of those whom You have given Me I lost not one." 10 Simon Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. 11 So Jesus said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?"

We pick up the action today in verse 4.

John 18:4-6

4 So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. 6 So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

The order of business today is to address this question:

/What made Judas, the temple guard, and the Roman soldiers fall to the ground? \

If you want to understand a passage of scripture, what is the first thing you should do?

Check out the neighborhood./pic\

/John crafted verses 4-6 with great care.\ Particularly verse 5. The verse next door.
The verse that sets up the action of verse 6.

5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.

We have the two essential facts that will allow us to answer our question.

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1. Jesus said to the Roman soldiers and the Temple Guard, "I am He". I AM.
2. Judas, who was betraying Him, was standing with them.\

Let's take these one at a time.

I AM. John features this statement. It appears three times in this passage: verse 5, verse 6, and verse 8.

/We saw last time that the statement "I am" has major significance to the Jews. \

We saw this in John 8. We saw this again in Exodus 3.

/ “I AM” in fact was a sacred name.\

It was so holy that the Jews wouldn't pronounce or even write it.

/It was the name that Yahweh, the LORD God of Israel, gave Himself.\

This is the LORD God's self-identification! The eternal self-existent One.

/So when Jesus said “I am”, He identified Himself as the LORD God of Israel. \

That is why the unbelieving Jews wanted to stone Him to death at the end of chapter 8 of this gospel.

/This is the first reason why those soldiers were knocked to the ground. He was declaring Himself to be God in the flesh.\

Yet, there was another detail that John included in verse 5.
Nothing he wrote is without significance.

John 18:4-6

4 So Jesus, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" 5 They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am He." And Judas also, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. 6 So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.

/Judas, who was betraying Him, was standing with them. This detail immediately precedes verse 6.\

At this point I need to refresh our memories about an earlier event involving Judas. /In chapter 13. Jesus predicted His betrayal – and pointed out his betrayer.\

Lets return to chapter 13 to see what had happened.

John 13:1-4

13 Now before the Feast of the Passover, Jesus knowing that His hour had come that He would depart out of this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

*2 During supper, [the Passover meal – the Last Supper] **the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon, to betray Him,** 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come forth from God and was going back to God, 4 got up from supper, and laid aside His garments; and taking a towel, He girded Himself.*

Judas who would betray Jesus. But who put into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus?

/The devil put into the heart of Judas the motivation to betray Jesus.\

But it was even worse than that.

John 13:21-32

When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." 22 The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. 23 There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." 25 He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him."

So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 After the morsel, Satan then entered into him. Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." 28 Now no one of those reclining at the table knew for what purpose He had said this to him. 29 For some were supposing, because Judas had the money box, that Jesus was saying to him, "Buy the things we have need of for the feast"; or else, that he should give something to the poor. 30 So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night.

31 Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him;

/During the Passover meal, Satan actually entered into Judas.\

This is the same Judas that is now standing next to the Romans and the Temple Guard in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Satan was inside him.

SO put together fact #1 and fact #2.

/Jesus is the LORD God of Israel.\

/Satan is in Judas.\

The LORD God of Israel on one side. Satan on the other. Something's gotta give.

/Add in the Romans and the unbelieving Jews – and all of the LORD's enemies were assembled there \:

/The world. The evil religious leaders. And satan.\

All the players are in place for a great confrontation. Who will win?
Who is the greatest?

We know who will ultimately triumph. Satan knew also. But this was hour.

/One day, the LORD will completely wipe out Satan and his minions.\

But not now. Not yet.

/First, there was a cup for Jesus to drink. \

Matt 23:11-12

"But the greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 "Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.

/In God's eyes, the greatest is the servant of all. \

Phil 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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/This is the second reason why those soldiers fell to the ground.\

/When those soldiers fell to the ground, it was but a foretaste of that day when every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.\

Even here, Jesus showed that they could do nothing to Him without His consent.

At that moment, Jesus could have called upon 72,000 angels to fight His enemies. They were armed and ready.

/But Jesus had one goal that day: gaining the greater victory. \

Col 2:13-15

13 When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, 14 having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

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/In the garden that night, GOD the Father sent a message with the words "I AM" \

This is My beloved Son. He created you and this garden and the oceans and the sky.

John 18:6 So when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground.