

Matthew 26:47-56 Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

47 And while He was still speaking, behold, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and elders of the people. **48** Now His betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him." **49** Immediately he went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. **50** But Jesus said to him, "Friend, why have you come?" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him. **51** And suddenly, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear. **52** But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.

53 Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? **54** How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?"

55 In that hour Jesus said to the multitudes, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I sat daily with you, teaching in the temple, and you did not seize Me. **56** But all this was done that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled." Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- † Jesus, being Divine, knew all that would happen to Him, being human, prayed three times that He might avoid the suffering and the cross, being our example, willingly yielded Himself to the will of the Father, being our Savior, was made perfect by the things He suffered.
- † While Jesus was still speaking to the disciples after His three prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mount of Olives, Jesus said, "Behold, he who betrays Me is here." [Matthew 26:46, Mark 14:42]
- † Judas Iscariot came with a multitude (detachment) of soldiers armed with lanterns, torches, swords and clubs who were sent by the Chief Priests, Scribes, Pharisees, and Elders of the people. [Matthew 26:47, Mark 14:43, Luke 22:47, John 18:3]
 - ✧ Judas had given them a sign to identify Jesus, "Whoever I kiss, that is He, seize Him." [Matthew 26:48, Mark 14:44]
 - ✧ Judas went to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi," and kissed Him. [Matthew 26:49, Mark 14:45, Luke 22:47]
 - ✧ Jesus said to Judas, "Friend, why have you come? Do you betray Me with a kiss?" [Matthew 26:50, Luke 22:48]
 - ✧ "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not take Me. **But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.**" [Mark 14:48-49]
 - ✧ Jesus put a great emphasis on the fulfillment of Scriptures. [Matthew 26:54, 56, Mark 14:49, Luke 18:31, 24:25-27, 44]
 - ✧ To the soldiers, Jesus said, "Why have you come? Whom do you seek?" [John 18:4]
 - ✧ The soldiers said, "Jesus of Nazareth." [John 18:5]
 - ✧ Jesus said, "I am He." [John 18:5]
 - ✧ The soldiers drew back and fell to the ground. [John 18:6]
 - ✧ Jesus asked again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." [John 18:7]
 - ✧ Jesus said, I told you I am He, if you seek Me, let these go. [John 18:8]
 - ✧ This was to fulfill the Scripture that said, "Of those You gave Me, I have lost none." [John 18:9]

- ❖ The Scripture John refers to is from the prayer of Jesus where Jesus said, "Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled." [\[John 17:12\]](#)
- ❖ Then they came and laid hands on Jesus. [\[Matthew 26:50, Mark 14:46\]](#)
- ❖ When those around Him saw what was going to happen, they said to Him, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?" [\[Luke 22:49\]](#)
- ❖ 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. [\[John 18:10, Matthew 26:51, Mark 14:47, Luke 22:50\]](#)
- ❖ But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him. [\[Luke 22:51\]](#)
- ❖ Then Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into the sheath. Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given Me?" [\[John 18:11\]](#)
- ❖ But Jesus said to him, "Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." [\[Matthew 26:52\]](#)
- † Then Jesus said: "Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels? How then could the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must happen thus?" [\[Matthew 26:23-54\]](#)

According to my Britannica Dictionary, a legion is: *A division of the ancient Roman army, consisting of ten cohorts of infantry, with an auxiliary force of 300 cavalry, altogether between 4,200 and 6,000 men.*
- ❖ Jesus said He had at His disposal more than 72,000 angels if it were necessary. Clearly enough to deliver Him from the hands of His enemies, especially when you consider that it only takes one angel to destroy the world.
- ❖ However it also demonstrates the vast importance Jesus placed on making sure the Scriptures be fulfilled. As He stated so clearly: [\[Matthew 26:54, 56, Mark 14:49, Luke 18:31, 24:26-27, 44\]](#)
- ❖ Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Have you come out, as against a robber, with swords and clubs to take Me? I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and you did not take Me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled." [\[Mark 14:48-49, Matthew 26:55-56, Luke 22:52-53\]](#)
- ❖ Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled. [\[Matthew 26:56, Mark 14:50\]](#)
- ❖ Now a certain young man followed Him, having a linen cloth thrown around his naked body. And the young men laid hold of him, and he left the linen cloth and fled from them naked. [\[Mark 14:51-52\]](#)
- ❖ Then the detachment of troops and the captain and the officers of the Jews arrested Jesus and bound Him. [\[John 18:12\]](#)