

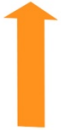
# SEVEN ARROWS



What does this passage say?



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?



How does this passage change the way I relate to people?



What does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

## MATTHEW 26:17-29



The Gospel writers spent a great deal of time describing the final days of Jesus' life, revealing this is centrally important to a proper understanding of Jesus. He was sent to die as the fulfillment of God's plan. Jesus knew this plan all along, continually reminding His disciples of what was to come. God used one disciple, Judas, to hand Jesus over to those who wanted Him dead. Prior to this betrayal, Jesus reminded His disciples of what the future held on final time. He took the bread and wine at the annual Passover meal and used it as a picture of His death. His body would be broken like the bread they tore to share and eat, and His blood would be poured out like wine they would drink. This death would fulfill the new covenant promise God made to His people through the prophet Jeremiah. Those who had faith in Jesus' work would receive a new heart, allowing them to love God and reflect Him the way they were created.

## LUKE 22: 39-62



Jesus' prayer in the garden revealed the pain He faced. He knew His death would not be easy. In fact, it was the most heinous way a human could die. The pain was compounded by the fact that He would face the full wrath of God for the sins of the world, and He would feel, in a very real way, the anger of God for the first time. Jesus asked the Father if there was any way He could avoid drinking the cup of God's wrath-but He knew the Father's plan. As an act of humble submission, He committed Himself to God's will rather than His own desires. The disciples didn't have the same level of commitment. They couldn't even stay awake to pray. Peter-the one who recently called Jesus "the Christ"-even denied knowing Jesus. Thankfully God is not like people. People are short-sighted and selfish. However, God faithfully follows through on the plan made long ago and willingly keeps His promises, even when it causes Him pain.

# LUKE 23:18-56



The Lamb of God died. The human players in this story are men like Herod and Pilate, but the main character is God. He's the One who wrote this story and brought it to fulfillment in ways no one could have imagined. The Promised One hung on a tree-a vivid picture of the curse of God for human sin. Because of our sin-every selfish action, every corrupt thought, every desire for things God doesn't approve-we deserve this kind of death, and it should have been sinful people on the cross. But instead, it was the sinless Son of God who died. Even on the cross, Jesus looked beyond His pain and brought salvation to a criminal hanging by His side. Few would have imagined that this death would bring salvation to multitudes more in the years to follow. It's hard to imagine how a dead man in a tomb could bring salvation, but with the power of God, nothing is impossible.

## MATTHEW 27:45-66



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Various signs accompanied the death of Jesus, none more significant than the temple veil being torn. Since the time of the tabernacle and the temple, the people were barred from God's presence, and a curtain hung between them and the altar of God. People could not approach God because His holiness would literally have destroyed them. Only a specific person-the High Priest-could enter behind the veil, and he could only enter at a specific time of the year after offering animal sacrifices. Jesus' death changed all that. God tore the veil in the temple from top to bottom showing that people could now approach God with confidence. Because of Jesus' perfect life and sinless death on their behalf, there was no longer a need for an earthly high priest or a veil to protect sinful people from God. Faith in Jesus is sufficient to cleanse our sin and make us holy, allowing us to enter the presence of God.

## PHILIPPIANS 2:4-11



This passage is one of the earliest known songs in the church. The story it tells can be imagined as two great mountains with a large valley in the middle. On the top of the first mountain stands Jesus prior to His life and death. He's with God, possessing every aspect of the glory of God. On the second mountain is Jesus after His death and resurrection. He's once again with God, and worshipers are gathered around His throne proclaiming His glory. In the middle lies the valley of Jesus' life and death. He willingly laid aside His glory with the Father, took on human flesh, and came to a broken world. The God of the universe became a servant and gave His life to pay for the sins of His people. This type of humility-this great love-is the reason He is worthy of our worship and praise.