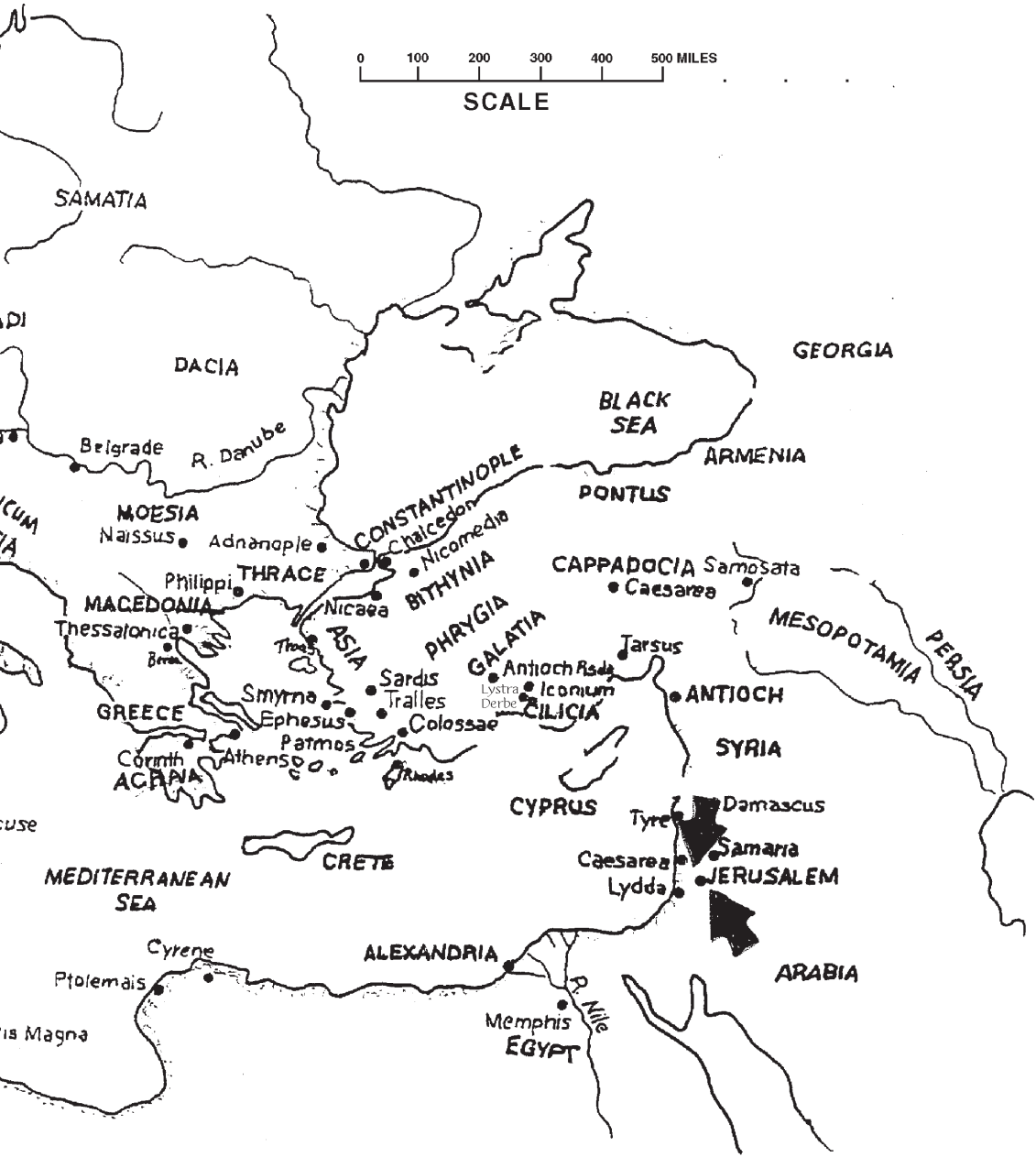
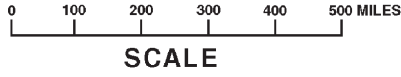




WHAT GOD DID FOR MANKIND

Arrest, Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Salvation by
the Redeemer



When Jesus finished praying, the garden area was suddenly filled with light from torches carried by the soldiers and temple guards. These men came from the High Priest and were ready for a fight for they had come to arrest Jesus. **AB John 18:4-8.** *Then Jesus, knowing all that was about to befall Him, went out to them and said, Whom are you seeking-Whom do you want? They answered Him, Jesus the Nazarene. Jesus said to them, I am He. Judas, who betrayed Him, was also standing with them. When Jesus said to them, I am He, they went backwards-drew back, lurched backward-and fell to the ground. Then again He asked them, Whom are you seeking? And they said, Jesus the Nazarene. Jesus answered; I told you that I am He. So if you want Me--if it is only I for Whom you are looking-let these men go their way. (FIGURE 4)* Jesus had an unexpected way of fighting back. When he answered, I am He, all of these men fell-lurched backward and fell to the ground. While flat on their backs Jesus asked them, "If it is only I for whom you are looking, let these men go their way". I dare say they agreed to this request. Peter, the impetuous one, may have cut the ear off while they were immobilized on the ground. These men were "slain in the spirit". Jesus, after this manifestation of God's power, was completely in charge of His own arrest.

Since it was late at night and the Jews were not ready for the Romans to know what they had done, they took Jesus to the house of Annas, the past High Priest and father-in-law of Caiaphus, the High Priest. Annas questioned Jesus about his teachings and about his disciples. **AB John 18:20-22.** *Jesus answered him, I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in a synagogue and in the temple area, where the Jews habitually congregate (assemble), and I have spoken nothing secretly. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who heard (Me) what I said to them. See! They know what I said. But when He said this, one of the attendants who stood by struck Jesus, saying, Is that how You answer the high priest?* Here Jesus put up his only defense as He explained, He had only taught in the public places of the Temple Mount area. Everyone knew this was perfectly legal. That's

probably why the attendant struck Him in the face. The day was Friday April 15, 29 A. D., and Jesus had been transferred to the custody of the chief priest, Caiaphus. At daybreak, Jesus was brought before a hastily called meeting of the Sanhedrin in the Royal Stoa of the Temple Mount. The Jewish leaders consulted among themselves about His guilt and bound Him over to Pilate, the Roman governor. From that point Jesus said very little to defend Himself. Here I recommend you see Mel Gibson's movie, "The Passion", for an in-depth and vivid look at Jesus' last hours.

We must remember this was God's plan as He had to provide the perfect sacrifice in order to redeem mankind back to Himself. God provided man with the opportunity to accept this sacrifice for his sins and overcome the hold Satan had on man since Adam's time. Of course, the Jews did wrong but they were incapable, just like all mankind, of doing right. The Romans provided the milieu for this to happen. Pilate, the epitome of hypocrisy, knew Jesus was innocent of the charges, but would rather sacrifice one man than take a chance on a Jewish uprising. Mankind because of sin could not be perfect as His Father is perfect, but had to have Jesus to enable him to come to God free of sin.

Jesus died on the cross at about three PM Friday April 15, 29 A.D. ***NIV Matt 27:50-51. And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split.*** This was God's way of telling the Jews He was through with the Temple. Kenyon explained it very well. ***Kenyon WHTC pp 42 Matthew 27:51 tells us, "And behold, the veil of the temple was rent in two from top to the bottom." No one knew what this meant. The Holy of Holies was no longer the home of Jehovah. He had moved out of the temple. Jesus had fulfilled the Abrahamic Covenant and the law of the Covenant. There was no need of priesthood any longer. The high priest finished his ministry when he made the great sacrifice of the Lamb of God, who was to take away the sin of the world. There will no longer be a Holy of Holies, a place for the atonement blood to be sprinkled. When Jesus said, "I will destroy this temple and restore it in three days," how little they understood***



Figure 4 ARREST OF JESUS

AB John 18:4-9 Then Jesus, knowing all that was about to befall Him, went out to them and said, Whom are you seeking---Whom do you want? They answered Him, Jesus the Nazarene. Jesus said to them, I am He. Judas, who was betraying Him, was also standing with them.



When Jesus said to them, I am He, they went backwards---drew back, lurched backward--and fell to the ground. Then again He asked them, Whom are you seeking? And they said, Jesus the Nazarene. Jesus answered, I told you that I am He. So, if it is only I for Whom you are looking--let these men go their way. Thus what He had said was fulfilled and verified, Of those whom You have given Me, I have not lost even one.

Him. This was going to be a new kind of life in the world. Everyone who became a partaker of this life would become a new creation.

His followers took Jesus' body down from the cross and put Him in a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea. Nicodemus provided some of the burial perfume for His body. The next day, the Jewish officials put guards on the tomb because they remembered Jesus saying He would arise in three days.

Early Sunday morning before daylight **AB Matt 28:2-4.** ***And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled the boulder back and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his garments as white as snow. And those keeping guard were so frightened at sight of him that they were agitated and trembled, and became like dead men.*** Because of God's power, the guards were slain in the spirit and became like dead men. I wonder if these guards were part of the group that was sent to arrest Jesus on Thursday night. Some of the women followers of Jesus arrived at the Tomb and saw that the stone was rolled back and the Tomb was empty. An Angel told them, "He is not here. He is risen".

Kenyon describes the meaning of this momentous event. **Kenyon WHCT pp 69-72.** ***Satan is defeated. The head of the New Creation is a victor. He is the example for all members of the New Creation. They are to be over comers, masters of circumstances and all demonic forces. "The resurrection of the Lord Jesus let love loose. It enabled God to give eternal life, a perfect redemption, a perfect freedom, to Satan-enslaved man. It made Jesus the head of a new creation". . . When the Master arose from the tomb in Jerusalem, He gave to the world a new kind of love, a new kind of life . . ."Not only imparting His nature to men, but actually coming into them and making their body His temple. This new kind of life gives to man the ability to stand in the presence of God without the sense of guilt, condemnation or inferiority". . . "After His resurrection, He carried His blood into the Holy of Holies; for you remember He died a lamb and He arose the High Priest of the New Covenant". Jesus was then enabled to go to paradise and proclaim to the awaiting saints of the Old Covenant that He had made a perfect redemption. He has***

ashed every one of the promissory notes of Atonement. Now the Old Testament saints were ready to go to heaven. By dying on the cross and rising on the third day, Jesus fulfilled God's plan for the redemption of mankind back to Himself.

Jesus appeared to His followers many times during the next forty days, doing everything from opening their eyes to the Scriptures to cooking fish for them to eat. He called His disciples to Him ***NIV John 20:21-22. Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*** Jesus put his Spirit on them to enable them to follow His instructions about going to Jerusalem to receive power from on High. I'm sure there was a lot of trepidation about being seen in Jerusalem this soon after Jesus' death especially with all the talk about His resurrection.

At the end of the forty days, they were in the area of Bethany. ***AB Acts 1:4-5 and 8-9. And while being in their company and eating at the table with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which, He said, you have heard Me speak. For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with-placed in, introduced into-the Holy Spirit . . . But you shall receive power-ability, efficiency and might-when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends-the very bounds-of the earth. And when He had said this, even as they were looking (at Him), He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight.*** Jesus was gone to be with the Father and to be the mediator between man and God.