

MESSIANIC MILESTONES

THE ARREST OF THE MESSIAH

I. WHERE WAS HE ARRESTED?

A. Luke 22:39; Mark 14:32

It happened on the Mount of Olives in a garden called Gethsemane, which means “olive press.”

B. Mark 14:49

They could have seized Him in any public place He frequented, but they chose a quiet garden with few witnesses.

C. John 18:1-2

It was located across the brook Kidron. Most importantly, it was a place well known to Judas. Jesus had sought out solitude for His prayers, but not secrecy. He made Himself easy to find. Still, it stings to know a place special to the Lord became the location where He suffered treachery.

II. WHO WAS PRESENT AT HIS ARREST?

A. Luke 22:39

All the disciples, except Judas, had followed Him into Gethsemane.

B. Matthew 26:47-50_a; Luke 22:47-48

His own familiar friend Judas came to Jesus with a treacherous kiss

1. Psalm 41:9

Around a millennium earlier, David has prophesied about Judas’s betrayal.

2. John 13:18-30

Jesus applied that prophetic psalm to Judas.

C. Mark 14:43; John 18:3

Accompanying Judas was “a great multitude” which included soldiers.

III. WHEN WAS HE ARRESTED?

A. **John 18:3**

That the mob carried lanterns and torches implies it was nighttime. What they did, they did under cover of darkness.

B. **Luke 22:53**

It was an hour of darkness in more sense than one.

C. **Matthew 26:47**

He was arrested exactly when He foretold it would happen.

IV. HOW DID HIS ARREST HAPPEN?

A. **John 18:4-9**

Despite being the subject of arrest, despite being approached by a multitude of soldiers, despite their armaments – it was Jesus who commanded the situation.

1. He “*went forward*” (4).
2. He inquired, “Whom are you seeking?” (4).
3. He claimed to be the “*Jesus of Nazareth*” they wanted (5).
4. His boldness scared them so much, “they ***drew back and fell to the ground***” (6)!
5. He repeated His question and, upon their reply, affirmed His identity (7-8).
6. He commanded them to not take His disciples into custody (8-9).

B. **John 18:10-11; 2nd Corinthians 10:3-6**

He ordered Peter to sheathe his sword because His kingdom would not be won by military conquest.

C. **Luke 22:49-51; Matthew 5:44**

After Peter cut off Malchus’s ear, Jesus healed the man, exemplifying what He taught about doing good to those who hate you.

D. **Matthew 26:51-54; Luke 22:36-38; 2nd Kings 19:35**

He asserted that, if He was inclined to resist, He had a far greater force than eleven apostles armed with two swords; He could call more than twelve legions of angels! In the time Jesus walked the earth, a Roman legion consisted of 6,000 infantry and 600 cavalry. $6,600 \times 12 = 79,200$ angels! A single angel has been known to slay 185,000 Assyrians in a night. Using that as a metric, the Lord's angelic host could easily vanquish 14,652,000,000 enemies, or almost twice the current population of earth.

V. WHY WAS HE ARRESTED?

A. Luke 22:3-6

He was arrested because Judas was greedy.

B. John 11:45-53

He was arrested because they were intimidated by His miraculous power, fearing their Roman overlords would regard Him as a threat to the empire.

C. John 10:17-18

He was arrested because Jesus let them.