

*The human race has been consistently betrayed by both the spiritual and natural leaders that are supposed to represent them, since the beginning of time. Mankind continues to reject God's eternal purpose for them.*

*They even tried to kill Jesus as a baby.* **MAT 2:1** Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, **2** Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. **3** When Herod the king had heard [these things], he was **troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.** & **16** Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

*Three times the religious leaders tried to trap Jesus, because he was a threat to their position, power and wealth.* **LUK 11:52** Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered. **53** And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to urge [him] vehemently, and to provoke him to speak of many things: **54** Laying wait for him, and seeking to catch something out of his mouth, that they might accuse him.

*Betrayed by one of his disciples: Judas.* **MAT 26:14** Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, **15** And said [unto them], What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. **16** And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.

*Even his friends slept during his great agony.* **MAT 26:40** And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? **41** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak. *Peter also denied him 3 times.*

*Falsely accused and tried, tortured and murdered... supported by the state.* **MAT 27:17** Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? **18** For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. **19** When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. **20** But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. **21** The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. **22** Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? [They] all say unto him, Let him be crucified. **23** And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. **24** When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but [that] rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed [his] hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye [to it]. *Pilate did nothing about protecting an innocent man, even though he knew better.*

*Jesus rises from the dead, but the betrayal continues.* **MAT 28:11** Now when they were going, behold, some of the watch came into the city, and shewed unto the chief priests all the things that were done. **12** And when they were assembled with the elders, and had taken counsel, they gave **large money** unto the soldiers, **13** Saying, Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him [away] while we slept. **14** And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you (*bribe the government*). **15** So they took the money, and did as they were taught: and this saying is commonly reported among the Jews until this day.

*Betrayed by the church once again.* **1JOH 2:18** Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that **antichrist** shall come, even now are there **many** (*large number*) **antichrists**; whereby we know that it is the last time. **19** **They went out from us**, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would *no doubt* have continued with us: but *they went out*, that they might be **made manifest** that they were not all of us. **20** But ye have an **unction** (*anointing... spoken to the whole church*) from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

*Sadly, we also risk betrayal by our own minds.* **HEB 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil heart** of unbelief, in departing from the living God. **JER 17:9** The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?

*The only solution.* **ACT 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. *On no occasion were the lives of the general population considered valuable, by the religious or political leaders of the day. There is help available in the true church... Save yourselves and keep walking in a love of the truth.*