

John 18:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went forth with his disciples over the brook Cedron, where was a garden, into the which he entered, and his disciples.

Analysis

When Jesus had spoken these words—This marks the transition from the Upper Room Discourse (chapters 13-17) to the Passion narrative. Jesus deliberately **went forth** (ἐξῆλθεν, exēlthen), the same verb used of His voluntary mission from the Father (8:42, 13:3). He was not arrested; He advanced toward His appointed suffering.

Over the brook Cedron (τοῦ χειμάρρου τῶν Κέδρων, tou cheimarrou tōn Kedrōn) —The Kidron Valley, flowing between Jerusalem and the Mount of Olives, held profound typological significance. David crossed it fleeing from Absalom (2 Sam. 15:23); now the greater Son of David crosses it to face betrayal and enthronement. This was the ravine where animal blood and temple refuse were disposed—Jesus crosses toward His role as sin-bearer. **Where was a garden**—Gethsemane. Sin began in a garden (Eden); redemption is secured in a garden (Gethsemane) and completed at a garden tomb (19:41).

Historical Context

John wrote 60-90 AD, emphasizing themes his readers would recognize. The Kidron crossing evoked David's humiliation and return to glory. First-century Jews would see Jesus as the true King entering His passion voluntarily, not as victim but victor. Gethsemane ("oil press") was a private olive grove where Jesus frequently met with disciples (18:2), making Judas's betrayal more intimate and treacherous.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's deliberate crossing of the Kidron reveal about His willing acceptance of the Father's plan versus being a passive victim?
2. How does the garden motif (Eden, Gethsemane, garden tomb) frame the biblical narrative of fall and redemption?

Interlinear Text

Ταῦτα εἰπὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐξῆλθεν σὺν τοῖς
these words had spoken G3588 When Jesus he went forth with G3588
G5023 G2036 G2424 G1831 G4862

μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ πέραν τοῦ χειμάρρου τῶν Κεδρῶν ὅπου
disciples he over G3588 the brook G3588 Cedron where G3699
G3101 G846 G4008 G5493 G2748 G3101

ἦν κῆπος εἰς ὅν εἰσῆλθεν αὐτοῦ καὶ οἱ μαθηταὶ¹
was a garden into the which entered he and G3588 G3101
G2258 G2779 G1519 G3739 G1525 G846 G2532

αὐτοῦ
he
G846

Additional Cross-References

Mark 14:32 (Parallel theme): And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray.

Matthew 26:36 (References Jesus): Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

2 Samuel 15:23 (Parallel theme): And all the country wept with a loud voice, and all the people passed over: the king also himself passed over the brook Kidron, and all the people passed over, toward the way of the wilderness.

John 18:26 (Parallel theme): One of the servants of the high priest, being his kinsman whose ear Peter cut off, saith, Did not I see thee in the garden with him?

John 14:31 (Word): But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence.

1 Kings 15:13 (Parallel theme): And also Maachah his mother, even her he removed from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove; and Asa destroyed her idol, and burnt it by the brook Kidron.

2 Kings 23:12 (Parallel theme): And the altars that were on the top of the upper chamber of Ahaz, which the kings of Judah had made, and the altars which Manasseh had made in the two courts of the house of the LORD, did the king beat down, and brake them down from thence, and cast the dust of them into the brook Kidron.

2 Kings 23:6 (Parallel theme): And he brought out the grove from the house of the LORD, without Jerusalem, unto the brook Kidron, and burned it at the brook Kidron, and stamped it small to powder, and cast the powder thereof upon the graves of the children of the people.

2 Chronicles 30:14 (Parallel theme): And they arose and took away the altars that were in Jerusalem, and all the altars for incense took they away, and cast them into the brook Kidron.

2 Chronicles 15:16 (Parallel theme): And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron.