

TIMES OF BETRAYAL

Introduction

Entering Jerusalem reminds Christians of the magnitude of the divine event, God the Son entering humanity fully human, yet fully God. The sights and sounds reminded me that Jesus declared He must go to Jerusalem. His purpose was clear and unchanging. He came to make payment for our sins.

Jesus had been followed by thousands, rejected by religious authorities, rebuffed by His own family. As the fulfilment of His purpose was about to take place, He drew near those closest to Him, the disciples. One would betray Him for money, others would betray Him out of fear. Yet, betrayal could not keep Jesus from doing His Father's will.

Upper Room

Jesus told two of His disciples to follow His instructions to obtain an *upper room* for a Passover with His disciples, Mark 14:13-15, *And he sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him, 14 and wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' 15 And he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready; there prepare for us."*

The location of the *Upper Room* is not known for certain but two sites claim authenticity. The Cenacle (Latin for *dining room*) is the site most people believe is the location of the Upper Room. It is possibly the site but not the actual room which was built in the 1200's AD. It had been turned into a mosque and still contains a *mihrab*, a niche in the wall facing Mecca. It is on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, just outside the Old City walls. The site is administered by Israeli authorities, and is part of a building that is supposedly over King David's tomb.



A street in the area of the Upper Room

The other possible site of the Upper Room is the Monastery and Church of Saint Mark in the Old City of Jerusalem and near the Cenacle. According to a 6th-century inscription found in 1940 at the monastery, this is the site of the house of Mary, mother of Saint Mark the Evangelist, Acts 12:12. It is assumed that this is where Peter went when an angel released him from prison, Acts 12:12-17. The room is now underground but the relative altitude is correct since the streets of 1st century Jerusalem were at least twelve feet lower than those of today. A notice beside the door proclaims the Church of Saint Mark to be "The first church in Christianity." in the belief that it is on the site of the original house-church of Jerusalem's early Christians.



The Cenacle - possible site of the Upper Room



A man praying in the Cenacle

The Syriac Orthodox church believes Saint Mark's is location of the following events:

- The Last Supper, Mark 14:12-25
- The post-resurrection appearances of Jesus to the disciples including doubting Thomas, John 20:24-28
- The election of Matthias as an apostle to replace Judas Iscariot, Acts 1:21-26
- The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4.

The Last Supper

Jesus' last meal with his disciples took place in the Upper Room several hours before His arrest. It was a deeply spiritual time that pictures Jesus' purpose for coming. The meal was centered on the Passover feast which is a memorial to the physical redemption of God's people. That night, Jesus initiated a memorial to His spiritual redemption of God's people. It is an ordinance to be observed until His return as a reminder of what He accomplished on the cross for all who place faith in Him alone.

This last supper was a time of instruction as Jesus taught His disciples servanthood by washing their feet. Also, it was a time of betrayal by one who had been so close to Jesus, John 13:2-5, *During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, 3 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, 4 rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. 5 Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.*

Moments after the foot washings, Judas Iscariot departed for the Temple to betray Jesus to the religious officials. This would not be the only betrayal by a disciple. That is immortalized by a rooster.

Saint Peter in Gallicantu



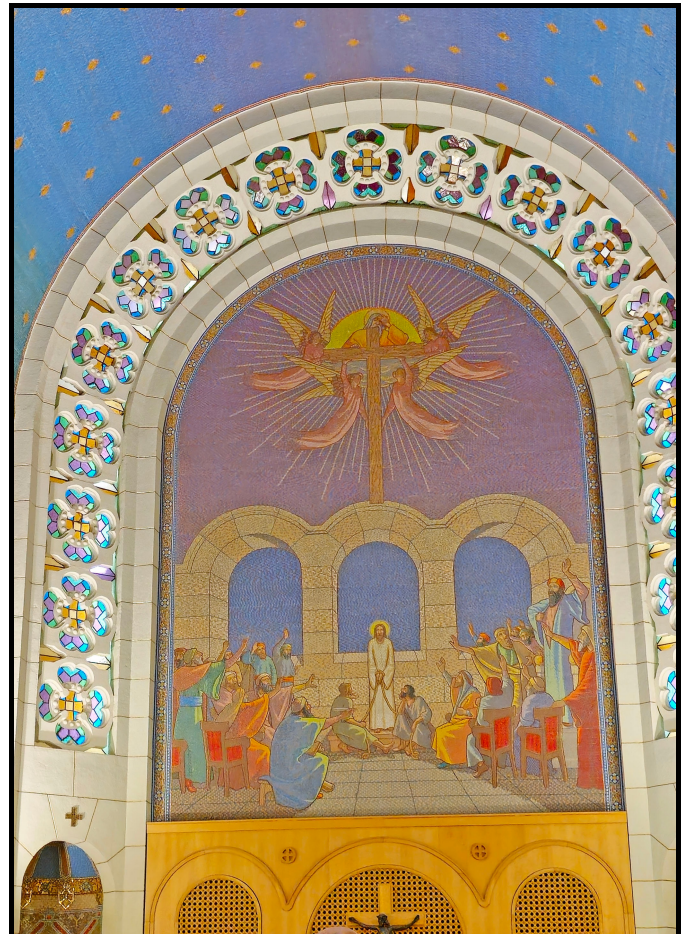
Saint Peter in Gallicantu



The possible hole in which our Savior was lowered

This is a beautiful church built on the site of High Priest Caiaphas' house where Jesus was taken after His arrest. Gallicantu is Latin for *cock's crow*. The location is not far from the Upper Room. Before he was taken to Pontius Pilate, Jesus spent the night at the home of Caiaphas in a deep hole below the house. It was so deep Jesus needed to be lowered by rope into it. The following excerpts from Psalm 88:3-9 are on the wall, *For my soul is full of troubles ... You have put me in the depths of the pit ... Your wrath lies heavy upon me ... I am shut in so that I cannot escape ... I call upon you, O LORD ...*

The church is topped by a rooster on its highest dome. It carries a message of mercy, manifested by Jesus' look upon Peter after his third denial. A look through which Peter felt remorse then the mercy and forgiveness of the Savior. Luke 22:60-62, *But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the saying of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.*



Jesus condemned to death by the Sanhedrin



Peter's triple betrayal of Jesus

Betrayal can take many forms. None are immune to the possibility of betrayal. Peter succumbed but was wondrously restored by the grace of God in Christ. John 21:15-17, *When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." 16 He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." 17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."*



Jesus taken to Caiaphas' house



Jesus foretells Peter's betrayal



Jesus coming in the clouds