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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1672 ~ A Plot to Kill Jesus.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

Following the death of Moses, his successor Joshua led the people of Israel into the land of Canaan and conquered the main tribes. There were some setbacks to face but overall, Joshua maintained a good attitude in trusting God and His promise that Israel would one day inherit the land of Canaan.

Joshua gave leadership to the people in worshipping God and following the laws that God gave to Moses. Before he died, Joshua warned the people against turning to idolatry. He publicly renewed the covenant between God and Israel, urging the people to maintain a wholehearted devotion towards God and a committed, lasting love for Him.

After the death of Joshua, however, the Israelite people repeatedly fell into periods of revolt against God and His ways. At these times, God's hand of protection remained no longer on them and so the surrounding nations oppressed the Israelites and stole their valuables. When the Israelites returned to God in repentance, they experienced God's deliverance from their enemies through divinely appointed judges. In all, there were 15 judges over the land until Samuel the priest took up his role as national leader under God's direction.

During Samuel's lifetime, the Israelites kept asking for their own king to lead them into battle. Up until that point, God had been the people's king and their rejection of His sovereign rule brought in a transition from judges to a monarch ruler over the kingdom. The first king Saul whom God appointed gradually changed from being a humble man to a proud king. God replaced him with Israel's greatest king, David, a man known for his many military conquests and the writing of many psalms and songs found in the Bible.

After the death of David and his son Solomon, the kingdom of Israel was divided into a northern area still called Israel and a southern area called Judea. After this time, God called many prophets into His service as the spiritual decline worsened in both Israel and Judea. The prophets kept calling the people back to repentance and the true worship of God. They also made many predictions about the future of Israel and the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah. The prophets didn't understand everything that they were writing under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. One prophet, Daniel, even dared to ask God what the prophecies he had written meant. But God didn't tell him.

The prophets often gave short-term predictions as well as a long-term prediction, some taking more than 2,000 years to be fulfilled. The last of the Old Testament prophets was Malachi, who lived in 425 BC.

In the New Testament, prophecies from God were mostly given by devout men of God. But in today's *Bible Adventure*, a man in direct opposition to the Lord Jesus made the prediction about Jesus' death and this became true.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

This meeting to decide what the Pharisees and religious leaders should do with the Lord Jesus is listed in John's Gospel in the last section of Chapter 11.

At this meeting, the speakers reviewed what they had seen and heard about the Lord Jesus' activities over the past three years. They couldn't find one thing they could have Him arrested for. They also admitted to themselves that their efforts to kill Jesus had failed every time. They didn't understand that it wasn't God's timing for Jesus to die at that point. But they did understand that more and more people were trusting in Jesus the longer that He ministered to them. What could the leaders do?

If the Romans took away the Jewish people's freedom of worship in the temple and synagogues, they would automatically take away their sacrificial system. The selling of animals to people coming from a distance to worship God would cease. How then would the chief rulers make any money out of offering sacrifices? They would be the big losers of much wealth if the Roman authorities intervened any further into their nation's way of life.

In Luke, Chapter 16, Jesus told the story of a rich man and a beggar named Lazarus. This was not a parable but a glimpse into the afterlife at that time. In the story, Jesus gave His most frightening warning to the rich Jewish leaders. He described two men, a rich Jew and a poor beggar. One man lived in luxury, satisfying his every need, while the other lived a lifetime of misery in ill-health and poverty. The beggar was despised by the people he begged from so he could get food to live.

The rich man was respected by all and considered a good man. He thought of himself as a religious man and a good Jew. But it's recorded only a few verses earlier in the same chapter that Jesus said no one can serve both God and money. The Pharisees, who loved money, mocked Jesus' teachings. Jesus told them, "You are the ones who make yourselves look right in other people's sight, but God knows your hearts. For the things that are considered of great value by people are worth nothing in God's sight." God always opposes the proud yet He loves to lift up the humble.

Both the rich man and the beggar in the story died. It's then we see a reversal in the men's situation. The beggar's spirit was taken by the angels to Abraham's side in paradise. But the rich man's spirit went down to hell. The rich man wasn't cast into hell because he was rich, but because he loved his riches for himself and he didn't use them to help those in need. When the rich man reached hell, his mind was suddenly opened and he saw what a terrible mistake that he'd made. He had lived for his money, his pride and himself instead of for God.

The rich man pleaded with Abraham for mercy, although he himself had shown no mercy when living on earth. He called Abraham his father because Abraham was and is the father of all Jews, asking for water to cool his burning tongue. But there was no relief possible to offer the rich man, as there was a great ravine between hell and Abraham that no one could cross. This separation showed that the judgment of God once made is final.

The judgment of God cannot be overturned once executed. If a person doesn't care for God and his neighbour in this life, God won't care for him or her in the next life, which lasts forever. This warning still applies for those who live in comfort today yet ignore the poor at their door.

The rich man then asked a favour of Abraham that the beggar might be sent back to the earth to warn his five brothers not to come to this terrible place. Abraham told him that his brothers should listen to Moses and the prophets. But the rich man said that wasn't enough to convince them. He had an idea that if someone rose from death and went to his brothers, they would then turn from their sins. But Abraham replied, "If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, then they will not be convinced even if someone were to rise from death."

Now this precise thing had already happened with Lazarus of Bethany. Even though some of the Pharisees had seen him rise and come out of the grave, the ruling body of elders still refused to accept Jesus as the Son of God. When a person's heart is hard, even seeing supernatural miracles will not change their mind.

Caiaphas the high priest told the leaders at their meeting that it would be better that Jesus die for the people, than to have the whole nation destroyed by a religious uprising. He thought that it would be better to kill one innocent man than to lose everything else. Caiaphas believed that if the Jews didn't destroy Jesus, the Romans would certainly destroy Him. Caiaphas also thought that with Jesus' death, the Jews would all be saved from increased Roman interference. Yet he was thinking and speaking from a worldly point of view with words that also had a prophetic spiritual meaning, something that he had not intended to convey.

Jesus did die for the people – to save them spiritually and many were saved. That prophecy was soon fulfilled and yet through the ages, is still being fulfilled. When Caiaphas the high priest spoke his words to the religious leaders, he didn't realise that he was making a prophecy on God's behalf with a different meaning. When Jesus died He died for more than just the Jewish people – He died for all the people of the world throughout every generation in history and still yet to come.

Once the Jewish leaders had decided at this meeting to kill Jesus, they plotted together on how to put Jesus to death. Although they thought that by killing Jesus their nation would be saved, they were totally wrong! Instead, because they killed Jesus, their nation was utterly scattered and destroyed. Only 40 years later, the Roman army destroyed the Jewish temple, all of Jerusalem and all of its inhabitants. The Israelites lost both their place as leaders and a nation. They also lost their position as most favoured by God.

One of the sad things of life is seeing some people believe that they are doing God's will by causing great harm or death to a godly person. All of us who love the Lord Jesus as our personal Saviour and friend know that there will be times of persecution that must be faced while we will live on earth. Yet these times can increase our focus on Christ, find His grace to be completely sufficient for our needs and instil within us a stronger determination to do His will without fail.

In Psalms, Chapter 86, Verse 11, it says: "Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth." How much do all Christians need to learn God's ways!
We mustn't rely on worldly principles to enable us to get through situations without God's mercy, kindness and truth.

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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