

Synchronized Falling— First Backwards and Then Down!

John 18:1-11



Something very unusual happened when the Lord Jesus was arrested in the garden. Of the four Gospel writers, only John records this peculiar incident. Judas led a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, laden with lanterns and torches and weapons (John 18:3). The term “band” signifies a Roman cohort of about 500 soldiers (one-tenth of a Roman legion). Whether there was a full cohort or somewhat less, it still indicated a significant group of soldiers. Added to this was a Jewish temple police force.

When they arrived, the Lord Jesus went right up to them and said, “Whom seek ye?” (John 18:4). They answered, “Jesus of Nazareth,” and Jesus replied, “I am He” (John 18:5). As soon as He said, “I am He” (or literally, “**I AM**”) the most amazing thing happened. As if it had been synchronized, this entire arresting force simultaneously went backward and then fell to the ground (John 18:6).

How fascinating if we could see a video of this! Men who are standing do not normally lose their balance and fall down in unison. This Divinely-caused event apparently included Judas (see John 18:5). In a moment of time a large group of men fell down, and only Jesus and the eleven disciples remained standing! As the Lord waited for them to get back onto their feet, it’s as if He were saying, “I’m going to allow you to arrest Me so that I might fulfill My saving mission, but I just wanted to manifest this little glimpse of My power so that you might know who is in complete control of this entire situation. Now you may proceed with My permission.”

How wonderful that the Great I AM is also in complete control of every situation we face in our daily lives. He does all things well!

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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