

Title: Judas Iscariot, Betrayal and Idolatry.

Author: Richard John HARVEY.

Previous Qualifications: MA (Theol), M Mgmt Ent.

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Statement of Originality.

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Signed,

Richard John HARVEY.

Dedication.

I would like to dedicate this thesis to my loving and supportive wife Libby and our children David and Cassie. Without their patience, this thesis would never have been completed.

I also owe a great debt of gratitude to my excellent supervisor, the Reverend Dr Fergus King, who has been a model of humility and scholarship as I worked through my first full length thesis. Without his wisdom and willingness to challenge my reasoning, I am convinced that this thesis would have been much less valuable. I am also grateful to A/Prof Marguerite Johnson and Dr Alan Libert for their very helpful suggestions.

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Abbreviations.

A. General Abbreviations

GNT	Greek New Testament.
LXX	Septuagint
MT	Masoretic text
NT	New Testament
OT	Old Testament
Q	Quelle (“Sayings” source in the Gospels)
UBS	The United Bible Societies’ Greek Text

B. Abbreviations for Books of the Bible.

OLD TESTAMENT

Gen	Zeph
Exod	Hag
Lev	Zech
Num	Mal
Deut	
Josh	
Judg	
Ruth	
1 Sam	
2 Sam	
1 Kings	
2 Kings	
1 Chron	
2 Chron	
Ezra	
Neh	
Esth	
Job	
Ps(Pss)	
Prov	
Eccl	
S of Sol	
Isa	
Jer	
Lam	
Ezek	
Dan	
Hos	
Joel	
Amos	
Obad	
Jonah	
Mic	
Nah	
Hab	

NEW TESTAMENT

Matt
Mark
Luke
John
Acts
Rom
1 Cor
2 Cor
Gal
Eph
Phil
Col
1 Thess
2 Thess
1 Tim
2 Tim
Titus
Philem
Heb
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude
Rev

C. Abbreviations of the Names of Pseudepigraphical and Early Patristic Books

Bib. Ant.	Ps.-Philo, Biblical Antiquities
Pss. Sol.	Psalms of Solomon
Adv. Haer.	Irenaeus, Against All Heresies
Adv. Marc.	Tertullian, Against Marcion

D. Abbreviations of Classical Literature.

Jos.	Josephus.
Ag. Ap.	Against Apion.
Ant.	Jewish Antiquities.
J.W.	The Jewish Wars.
Life	The Life of Josephus.
Xen.	Xenophon.
Cyro.	Cyropedia.
Mem.	Memorabilia.
HG.	Historia Graeca.

E. Abbreviations of Orders and Tractates in Mishnaic and Related Literature.

Sanh.	Sanhedrin
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Abstract.

In recent times, some commentators from within mainstream Christianity such as Karl Barth, Hans-Josef Klauck and William Klassen have attempted unsuccessfully to defend or exonerate Judas Iscariot. This thesis will assess the evidence for Judas' betrayal of Jesus. It has three main original contributions to knowledge.

Firstly, a thorough analysis of παραδίδωμι, the verb used for Judas' act of handing over Jesus, will show that it is consistent with betrayal, it is overwhelmingly a divine act and it is normally coercive. Similarly, Matt's use of ἑταῖρος is a master-stroke, continuing the pattern from the LXX and Josephus, where a previously close friend betrays. These two terms alone suffice to establish Judas' guilt.

Secondly, Judas is not only a traitor as he uniquely encapsulates the three main rivals to God – human, demonic and material. Like other human rivals to God, he is powerless, linked with evil and directly judged by God. Satan enabling Judas to betray Jesus (Luke 22: 3; John 13: 2) shows Judas' betrayal in the worst light but there is a deeper parallel. Both are named rebels, allowed to remain in God's presence until irrevocably cast out. The third rival is money: 'You cannot serve both God and money.' (Matt 6: 24; Luke 16: 13). Judas was paid to perform the divine like function of handing someone over to death. Although human, he displayed the essential features of an idol.

Mark's stark portrayal of Judas' guilt is only enhanced by Matthew and Luke. If Mark 3 casts Judas as an outsider, Luke 6 calls him πρόδοτης. If Mark 14 links Judas with the chief priests in plotting against Jesus, Matt 23 inserts three παρουσία parables to show presumed disciples of Jesus being exposed in increasingly severe terms. Finally, Judas' disrespectful 'Rabbi' to Jesus in Gethsemane (Mark 14: 45), when he knew Jesus was so much more reflects the oral element of blasphemy in 1st CE Judaism. Abrogating to himself the divine privilege of handing over may fairly be called blasphemy by action.

In conclusion, there is sufficient evidence to show that Judas is a traitor and a blasphemer who has all the essential literary features of an idol. The electronic form of this thesis uses BSTHebrew and SPIonic. Quotations in English are taken from the NIV, unless otherwise indicated. SBL abbreviations are used.