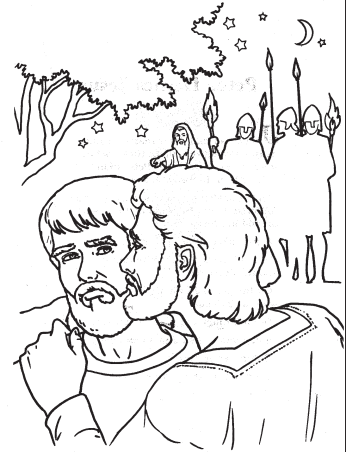


יְהוּדָה אִישׁ קְרִיּוֹת מוֹסֵר אֶת יֵשׁוּעַ

Yehudah 'ish K'riyot Betrays Yeshua

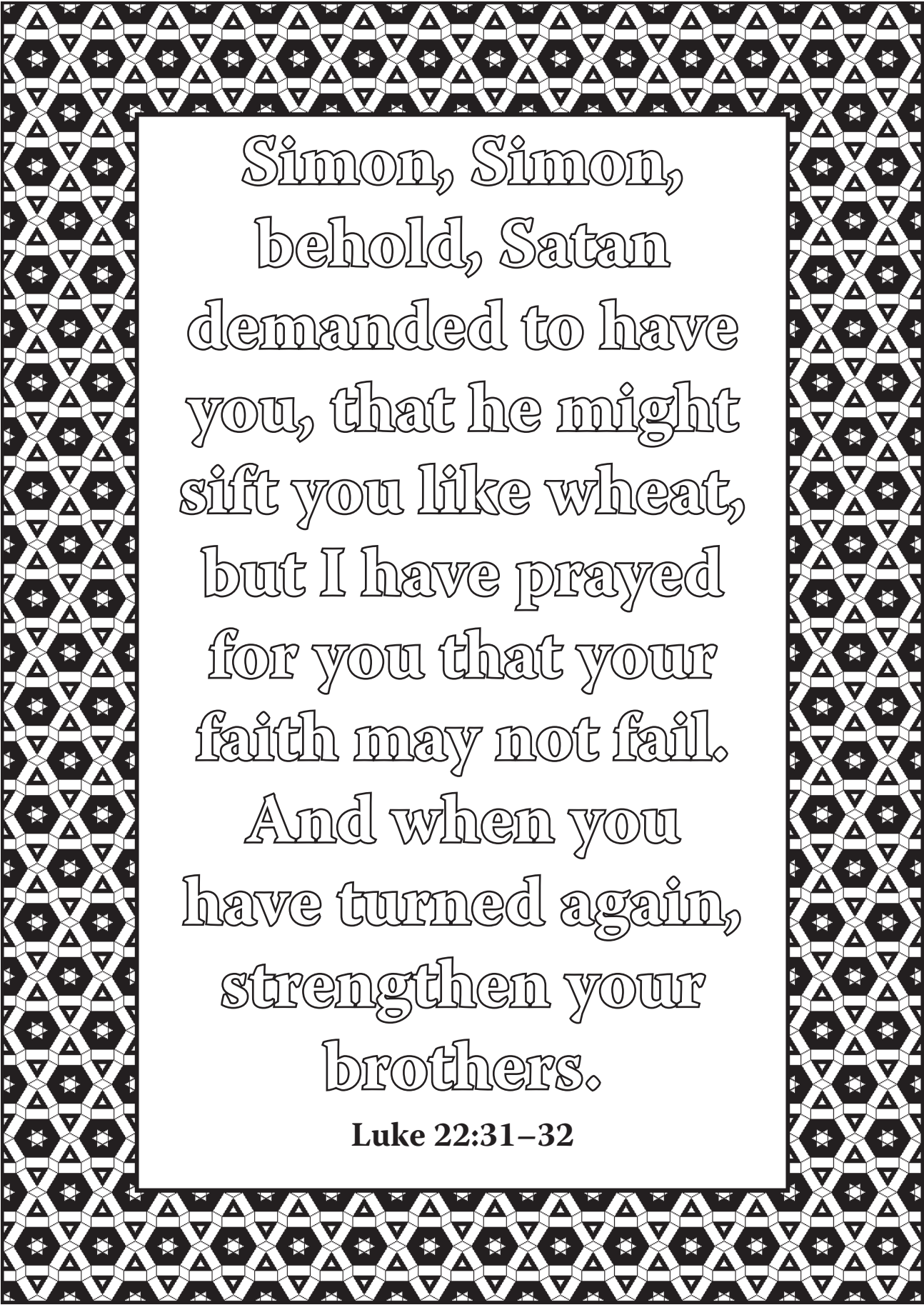
At the last Pesach seder in which Yeshua participated before He was executed by Rome for treason against the supreme rule of the Emperor, a curious thing happened. While they were going through the seder, Yeshua stopped and said, “Truly I say to you that one of you will betray Me.” Immediately the bewildered talmidim began to say, “Surely not I, Master!” But Yeshua responded, “I’m not talking about all of you. I know the ones I have chosen. But the Scripture must be fulfilled which prophesy of Me when they say, ‘Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me’” (Ps 41:9). Well, Shimon Cephah simply could not stand the suspense, so he motioned to Yochanan who was sitting next to Yeshua, and whispered to Him, “Ask the Master about whom He is referring! He’ll surely tell you!” So Yochanan went back to his place at the table, and reclining against Yeshua said, “Master, who is it?” The Yeshua said, “The one sitting close to Me, who uses the very same bowl of salty water and bitter herbs that I am using, is the one. Watch and see! The one to whom I am about to give the matzah dipped into bitter herbs is the one who will betray Me.”



At that moment Yeshua took a piece of matzah and dipping it into the bitter herbs, He handed it to Yehudah ben Shimon the zealot. Yehudah, trying to cover up his true intentions, said, “Master, surely I am not the one am I?” And Yeshua answered, “You have said so yourself. Surely the Scriptures have foretold the betrayal of the Son of Man, but woe to the person who does the betraying!” When Yeshua spoke those words, an evil spirit entered into Yehudah ben Shimon. Then Yeshua said to him, “what you are about to do, do it now—enough of your deceit!”

Now the others at the table were unaware of what had taken place. When they saw Yeshua talking to Yehudah privately, they presumed that he was giving him instructions about purchasing the things they would need during the remainder of the Festival week, or about giving tzedekah to the poor. They presumed this to be the case because Yehudah was the talmid who was in charge of gathering money for the needs of the Yeshua and the rest of the talmidim.

Well, Yehudah ben Shimon had been uncovered and his evil intentions made known. As a result, he got up quickly from the seder table and left. He didn’t just go outside and think about what the Master had said. Already he had talked with the Jewish leaders who had cooked up the plan to accuse Yeshua before the Roman officials. So leaving the seder, he went to the Roman guards to explain how he would betray Yeshua. He knew that following the seder, Yeshua and His talmidim would retire to the garden where He often prayed. In the dark of the night, he would go to that place with the Roman guards, and greet the Master with a customary hug, pressing his cheek against the Master’s face. That would be the sign for the Roman guards to rush in and take Yeshua into custody. His plan was to do it all at night when the crowds who were following Yeshua would have still been engaged in their seders. Before the light of day had come, it would all be over!



Simon, Simon,
behold, Satan
demanded to have
you, that he might
sift you like wheat,
but I have prayed
for you that your
faith may not fail.

And when you
have turned again,
strengthen your
brothers.

Luke 22:31–32