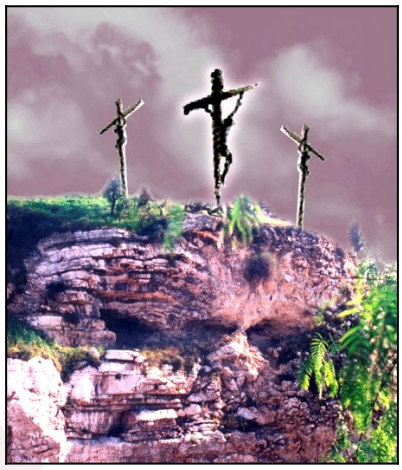
Christ's Death: A Fulfillment of OT Scripture

John 19:17-37

11-2-2025



Introduction: v.17

**** The amazing fulfillment of O.T prophetic details about the events surrounding the Messiah's death should inspire faith in Him!***

Observe 7 Fulfilled Prophesies about Messiah's death:

I. **"He was numbered with the <u>transgressors</u>" (Is.53:12) (Jn.19:18)**

II. **"He is <u>despised</u> and <u>rejected</u> of men" (Is.53:3) (Jn.19:19-22)**

III. **"They <u>part my garments</u> among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Ps.22:18) (Jn.19:23-24)**

IV. **"Honor…thy <u>mother</u>" (Exod.20:12) (Jn.19:25-27)**

V. **"In my thirst they gave me <u>vinegar</u> to drink" (Ps.69:21) (Jn.19:28-30)**

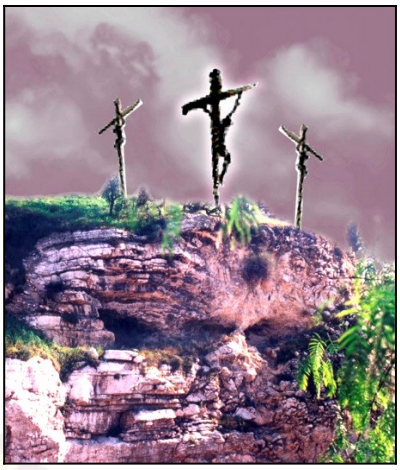
VI. **"He keepeth all his <u>bones</u>: not one of them is <u>broken</u>" (Ps.34:20; Ex.12:46; Num.9:12) (Jn.19:31-33)**

VII. **"They shall <u>look</u> upon me whom they have <u>pierced</u>" (Zech.12:10) (Jn.19:34-37)**

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Introduction:

John's purpose for writing this Gospel is to inspire faith in Christ. All of the recorded signs (miracles of Jesus), including His resurrection, are a motivation to believe on Christ (Jn. 20:31-31).

Here in John 19:17-37, the Apostle records several fulfillments of O.T. Scripture to inspire faith.

John 19:35
And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

[Note all of the times the reference to O.T. Scripture is made: v. 24 – "that the Scripture might be fulfilled"; v. 28 – "that the Scripture might be fulfilled." See also v. 36 and 37.]

Prophecy inspires faith.

What is the purpose for studying prophecy?

1. To teach us what God's plans are
   A knowledge of Bible prophecy "provides the believer with an optimistic philosophy if history" (Alva McClain)

2. To inspire us about the greatness of God (Is. 46:9-11)
   (He is omniscient [He knows all] and He is sovereign [He controls all])

3. To assure us of the unity and reliability of Scripture
   A vast portion of the Bible is given to predictive prophecy. It is said that 333 distinct prophecies were literally and exactly fulfilled at the first coming of Christ (the chances of this happening by accident have been computed as 1 in 87,000--plus 90 more zeros).

   For every verse speaking of Jesus' first coming in Scripture, there are eight which speak of His second coming.

4. To encourage us to be faithful to God and His Word

**** The amazing fulfillment of O.T prophetic details about the events surrounding the Messiah's death should inspire faith in Him!***

v.17 –

"Went forth" – Jesus went down the true "*via dolorosa*," then outside (Heb. 13:12; Lev. 4:12, 21) the city gate of Jerusalem (probably outside the Sheep Gate to the north), then outside of the Damascus Gate, leading up to the highest peak at Jerusalem, the highest peak of Mount Moriah. To the very spot where Abraham offered up his son Isaac.

"Bearing His cross" – Jesus carried on his shoulder the means by which He would die for the sin of the world.

"Skull" = *kranion* (we get our word "cranium") translated "Calvary" in Luke 23:33.

"Skull" Mountain – possibly so called because of the skulls, corpses and death associated with this place of crucifixion, or more probably because of the appearance of the hill.

The location of modern-day "Gordon's Calvary" (discovered by General Gordon) perfectly fits all of the Biblical and archaeological data regarding the location of the crucifixion.

Mount Moriah – God's place of Sacrifice

1. Moriah was the mountain God told Abraham to offer His son, Isaac. (Genesis 22)

2. Moriah was the mountain God told David to Build an Altar to stop the Death Angel from destroying the Israelites (II Samuel 24:18-f)

3. Moriah was the mountain God chose to put His name there and to build the Temple for sacrifices (Deut.12:5,11,14,18; 16:6; II Chron 3:1; II Sam.24:16-24)

4. Moriah was the Mountain God chose to sacrifice His Son upon for the sin of the world (John 19:17)

Observe 7 Fulfilled Prophesies about Messiah's death:

I. "He was numbered with the transgressors" (Is.53:12) (Jn.19:18)

v. 18

Jesus was the centerpiece of the three shameful deaths, with one criminal (robber) on either side of Him. One of the robbers would come to repentance and trust Christ that day (Lk. 23:42-43), and the other would die in his sin.

Three deaths: one man would die IN sin; one man would die TO sin (or away from his sin); and one Man would die FOR sin (for the sins of the world).

But the point here is that Jesus was "numbered with the transgressors." "He made His grave with the wicked" (Is. 53:9). Imagine the pure, sinless, holy Soon of God dying alongside common criminals. As people would pass by they would see a righteous man, yet one who would be associated with the wicked.

II. "He is despised and rejected of men" (Is.53:3) (Jn.19:19-22)

v. 19
Typically, when someone was crucified, the executioners would hang above the cross the reason why that person received the death penalty.

Since Jesus was not guilty of anything but His claim to be "king," all Pilate could write was "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews."

How true Pilate's placard was!

Jesus was a Nazarene, as He brew up in the poor, insignificant, small town of Nazareth (up near the region of Galilee). "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" was a common question.

And Jesus was indeed "the King of the Jews." But at His first coming, He was not accepted by the Jews as their king. What Pilate meant as a mockery was indeed the truth. Jesus was King of Israel in that He gave Israel its origin, He provided redemption for Israel by His death, and He will one day fight for Israel and rule over Israel when He returns as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (Rev. 19:16; Czech. 14:9).

v. 20
So that many could read the inscription, Pilate wrote it in Hebrew (for the Jews), Greek (for the Hellenistic), and Latin (for the Romans). Jesus was and is "the King" for Jew and Gentile alike.

v. 21
Christ's rejection as king by the Jews is evident from v. 21, as they request Pilate to change his inscription.

That rejection continues today! John 1:10-11
He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
[11] He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

v. 22
Since Pilate had condemned Jesus based on this change made by the chief priests, he was not about to change the title board.

III. "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture" (Ps.22:18) (Jn.19:23-24)

v. 23
Verse 23 tells us how many Roman soldiers carried out the deed of crucifying Christ. It was four men who all wanted a piece of this infamous Man's clothing. Though Jesus was rejected, He was still tremendously well known (popular). So as to have bragging rights, the soldiers ripped His remaining clothing up into four parts and divided the pieces among them.

His outer cloak, however, they did not tear up. They gambled for it (cast lots). [Note: These "lots" are one reason why I am against lottery and gambling.]

v. 24
They did not realize it, but their lottery for Christ's last piece of clothing was a fulfillment of a prophecy of David in Psalm 22:18.

IV. "Honor…thy mother" (Exod.20:12) (Jn.19:25-27)

v. 25
Three Mary's stand at the foot of the cross: Jesus mother of His incarnation, the wife of Cleophas (Lk. 24:180, and the woman who formerly was demon-possessed but was healed by Jesus.

However, only one of these Mary's had the most special attention of Jesus – His mother. Why? Because even at His death Jesus will see to it that Mary is taken care of, as He entrusts His widowed mother into the care of John, and in so doing honors His mother.

Apparently, Joseph had passed on into Eternity by this time. Mary was a widow. Jesus makes final preparations for Mary to be taken care of. He gives the responsibility to John to care for her.

v. 26-7
'Behold thy son (John) . . . behold thy mother (Mary)" –

Note: Jesus is not deifying or venerating Mary or attributing to her a position of "mother" of the church or giving her any power over John by this statement (as Roman Catholicism teaches), but rather is entrusting her into John's care so that he might meet her needs by opening his home and caring for her as a son would care for his mother.

Widows are to be cared for (Acts 6:1-2; I Tim 5:3-10)

The statement at the end of verse 27 proves that this is the intended meaning, as it explains that John would take Mary to his home and care for her as his mother.

"The dying Savior thinks of the comfort of His mother" (Robertson, p. 303).

V. "In my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink" (Ps.69:21) (Jn.19:28-30)

v. 28
So as to fulfill more Scripture related to His death, Jesus utters the words "I thirst."

"I Thirst" - This is the shortest phrase uttered from the cross.

The words "I thirst" show Christ's Humanity; He was subject to dehydration.

Due to the torments of crucifixion, the thickening of the blood, and the short gasps of air through the mouth, Jesus would have been so parched and dry.
Ps 22:15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst." (John 19:28)
Psalm 69:21 - "They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

He received the vinegar (cheap bitter wine mixed with "gall" [a pain killer] - Mt.27:34) to his lips and tasted it, but would not drink.

Imagine our precious Lord, who Himself gives the "water of life freely" receives bad, sour vinegar to quench His thirst. After tasting the vinegar, Jesus fulfills the final prophecy before His death, before surrendering His Spirit.

v. 30 – "It is Finished" - τετελεσται - paid in full (this word would be stamped on a receipt indicating that complete payment had been made)

When Jesus said, "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30), he was indicating that His work was complete; that is, the end/goal had been reached (Bill Jackson). The fulfillment is accomplished; the debt <u>has been paid in full</u>.

ILLUS: Hymn - "Jesus Paid It All" If Jesus paid it all, there is no more to pay.

Is. 53:5, 6 - <u>Substitute</u> - EX: Basketball and a man "subbing" for the other. When a <u>substitute</u> takes one's place, the former team player must <u>get off</u> the field. When Christ took our place, we got off the field. We <u>no longer</u> try to work for our salvation.

It was a mountain one-room school house where severe discipline was used to keep the rowdyism of uninterested pupils in check. The noon recess was ended and the teacher was interrogating the class with regard to the disappearance of Sally Jane's lunch. After a few minutes of verbal threats and demands, a sob was heard. It was little Billy--a thin, undernourished child. His family was the poorest of the poor.

"Did you take Sally Jane's lunch?" demanded the teacher.

"Yes, sir," mumbled Billy through his tears. "I was hungry."

"Nevertheless, you did wrong to steal and you must be punished," declared the teacher. As the teacher removed the leather strap from its place on the wall, Billy was ordered to the front of the room and told to remove his shirt. The arm of the teacher was raised over the bent and trembling form of little Billy.

"HOLD IT, TEACHER!" shouted a husky voice from the rear of the room. It was Big Jim striding down the aisle removing his shirt as he came. "Let me take his whipp'n," he begged.

The teacher was aghast, but knowing that justice must be demonstrated, he consented and laid the belt to the back of Big Jim with such force that even the stronger boy winced and his eyes watered. But Billy never forgot the day that Big Jim took his place.

--James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) pp. 34-35.

An infinite price was paid; we have an infinite salvation. If it was finite., it would run out.
EX: When we had been in Heaven for 1,000 years, an angel would come up to you, tap on your shoulder, and say, "Your time is up. You now have to spend eternity in hell."
Romans 10:3 - "Do"
Romans 10:4 - "Done"

"If you living the truth of Rom. 10:4, you're a missionary; if 10:3, you're a mission field."
"Evangelism is 'done' people going to 'do' people and telling them that the work was 'done.'"

You cannot be "doing" and "done" at the same time. If you are "doing," you are not "done," and if you are "done," you don't need to do. (Bill Jackson)

Religion says "Do"; The Bible says it is "Done"

Diagnostic Question:
If you died today and stood before God and He said to you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?" If the response is "I've lived a good life" "I didn't do anything to deserve otherwise" "I've been a good Baptist" "I was baptized as an infant," etc. -- They are trusting their works.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - "Not of works" -

II Tim. 1:9 - "Who hath saved us, and calls us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began."
Titus 3:5 - "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

Purgatory is a place of doing. Mass is an occasion of doing. Come back next week and we will do some more.

Acts 13:39 - "And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye would not be justified by the law of Moses."
Gal. 2:16 - "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall not flesh be justified."
Gal. 3:24 - "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith."

A "works" salvation denies the sufficiency and efficacy of Christ's work on Calvary.

The cross is "I" crossed out.

"When a sufficient price is paid, no further price can be exacted" (Bill Jackson, Do Or Done, p. 14).

You can't add to infinity. Christ is infinite and His work is of infinite value.

VI. "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken" (Ps.34:20; Ex.12:46; Num.9:12) (Jn.19:31-33)

v. 31
"The preparation" – the preparation for Passover. Because the Jews could not work nor require others to work during Passover (and the Law stated that a body could not remain on a cross overnight – Dt. 21:22, 23), they request Pilate to hasten their deaths by breaking their legs. Such would lead to their suffocation as they would not be able to lift themselves up to grasp air with broken and disjointed knees.

v. 33
After cracking the joints of the criminals to hasten their death, they come to Jesus and notice that He had already died (Pilate was surprised by His quick death).

v. 36
Just as not one bone of the Passover lamb was to be broken (Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12), so Jesus (the ultimate Lamb – Jn. 1:29; 1 Cor. 5:7) must have no bone broken at His death.

VII. "They shall look upon me whom they have pierced" (Zech.12:10) (Jn.19:34-37)

v. 34

"Dr. W. Stroud ("Physical Cause of the Death of Christ") argues that this fact proves that the spear pierced the left side of Jesus near the heart and since blood mixed with water came out, this proves that Jesus died literally of a broken heart" (Robertson, paraphrase of p. 305)

SEE: Zech. 12:10, 13:607; 14:1-9

Conclusion:

A boy and his father were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon, when a bumblebee flew in the car window. The little boy, who was allergic to bee stings, was petrified. The father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, and then released it. The boy grew frantic as it buzzed by him. Once again the father reached out his hand, but this time he pointed to his palm. There stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee. "Do you see this?" he asked. "You don't need to be afraid anymore. I've taken the sting for you." We do not need to fear death anymore. Christ has died and risen again. He has taken the sting from death.

-- Adrian Dieleman, Waupun, Wisconsin. Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 1.