

THE STORY of THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**Lesson 24****John 19.30; Luke 23.46****“MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!”**

The Lord Jesus has now come to the victorious conclusion of -- not only His agonies and sufferings of the Cross -- but also the successful and victorious accomplishments of His lifetime's ministry...all the works He had come to do -- all the commandments the Father had given Him to obey -- all the responsibilities and commitments He had taken upon Himself to complete.

When He conversed with Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration, the subject of their discussion was **“the decease which He would ACCOMPLISH at Jerusalem.”** *Luke 9.31.*

When Jesus Christ exclaimed: **“IT IS FINISHED!”** He spoke only one word. **“TETELESTAI”** (past perfect tense of *teleo*, which means “to complete, to bring to a conclusion, to end a work or project or mission by fulfilling everything the job required.”) That's what you can see with a TELEscope=the end.

So, this was **not A CRY OF DEFEAT OR A CONCESSION STATEMENT.**

Jesus was not throwing in the towel...giving up...or opting out.

Nor is He just petering out or running out of steam.

In fact, HE FINISHED HIS MISSION WITH STRENGTH TO SPARE. *Luke 23.46* indicates that Jesus made His last two statements, not only in conjunction with one another, and within the same brief space of time, but also He made both of these statements **“with a loud voice”**, meaning that He summoned strength and made both of these statements on purpose.

And, without a doubt, also, He must have shouted out **“TETELESTAI!”** accompanied with a rush of JOY. *Hebrews 12.2* discloses the emotions and even the feelings which the Lord Jesus experienced in His soul as He suffered and died: **...who FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM endured the cross, despising the shame...** THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM WAS IN SIGHT NOW! The reverberations of that joy were already beginning to shake and vibrate on the chords of His own soul.

And, the JOY and VICTORY of this cry was not heard just on earth only.

Do you doubt that the saints who had already died and gone to Paradise were witnessing also from Glory what was transpiring on earth ON THEIR BEHALF? {We know for sure that THE ANGELS DESIRE TO LOOK INTO THESE THINGS [*1 Peter 1.12*]...and that golden cherubim arched over the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat and constantly witnessed with worship, awe, and wonder at what Yahweh was doing for these elect mortals EVEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SACRIFICES AND SERVICES...and that their figures were woven into the veil and tapestries which separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. **Surely the ransomed elect who had already arrived and anchored within the veil [*Hebrews 6.19*] were witnesses also!**}

Don't forget that when Jesus Christ died on the Cross, He was not only dying for the sins of ALL THOSE WHO WOULD BELIEVE ON HIM FROM THEN ON, but He was also dying to take away ALL THE SINS OF THOSE WHO HAD BELIEVED ON HIM BEFORE HE DIED!

Romans 3.24-25: being justified freely by His grace

through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith,
to demonstrate His righteousness,
**BECAUSE IN HIS FORBEARANCE GOD HAD PASSED OVER
THE SINS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED...**

That doesn't mean that God ignored the sins which were committed under the Old Covenant, but rather that **GOD PROVIDED THE MEANS ONLY FOR THEIR COVERING FOR A TIME...and NOT TO TAKE THEM AWAY!**

Hebrews 9.15: And for this reason He is the Mediator of the New Covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Do you doubt for one second that when Jesus Christ cried out "**IT IS FINISHED!**" -- that ALL HEAVEN knew precisely what He meant? And, do you believe for one second that the ransomed citizens of Heaven took it in stride...or yawned...or went about Heaven's business as usual?

YOU KNOW THEY DIDN'T! When Jesus cried from the Cross "**IT IS FINISHED!**" -- there echoed throughout the Heaven the victorious shout from millions of saints and angels: "**IT IS FINISHED! IT IS FINISHED! IT IS FINISHED! HE HAS DONE IT!**"

What jubilation and sanctified dancing in the streets of Paradise there must have been when the Son of God **SUCCESSFULLY AND VICTORIOUSLY COMPLETED THE WORK NECESSARY TO REDEEM THEM AND SECURE HEAVEN FOR THEM!**

This word inescapably takes us back to His **LIFE'S PURPOSE** which the Lord Jesus repeated over and over...it never changed...and He never got away from it or deviated from it.

Hebrews 10.7: Then I said, "Behold I have come -- In the volume of the Book it is written of Me -- to do Your will, O God."

Luke 2.49: Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

John 9.4: I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day...

And then, when He prayed His Prayer of Consecration to the Father in **John 17.4**, He said with confidence: **I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.**" And, He was saying that...not only in prospect of going to the cross...but also because HE HAD ALREADY COMPLETED AND SUCCESSFULLY FINISHED ALL THE WORKS THE FATHER HAD GIVEN HIM TO DO DURING HIS LIFETIME.

Now, He was going to the Cross to **SEAL THE FRUITS** of all those works and **PUT THEM INTO FORCE...ACTIVATE THEM...PUT HIS WORKS TO WORK!** And, He would **FINISH** that, too.

We admire people who attempt great works and achieve them in spite of difficulties and obstacles. We celebrate discoverers, pioneers, patriots, inventors, teachers, crusaders of good causes, even athletes -- and even many common folks among our own peers who persist against all odds to faithfully serve God and set worthy examples for us to follow. They, too, finished their works with faithfulness and dignity.

But, no one ever had placed upon him the responsibilities and commitments which the Lord Jesus assumed upon Himself. And He is declaring here in His dying breath that EVERY DETAIL OF EVERY RESPONSIBILITY HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED.

So, when Jesus exclaimed: ***"IT IS COMPLETED...FINISHED!"*** -- WHAT HAD HE DONE?

HIS HUMAN SUFFERINGS WERE COMPLETED

He had been a Man of Sorrows and intimately acquainted with griefs of all kinds all during His entire lifetime -- but now ALL HIS SUFFERINGS HAD BEEN ENDED AND COMPLETED. He hadn't given up. He hadn't quit. And, He didn't succumb to anything. He had ENDURED every grief and pain to the fullest and absorbed every jolt of agony. But, HE WOULD SUFFER NO MORE...NOT EVER AGAIN. ***2 Corinthians 13.4: For though He was crucified in weakness, yet He lives by the power of God. Romans 6.9: knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.***

HE HAD OBEYED EVERY ONE OF HIS FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS

Jesus Christ had received this commandment to die from His Father. He was obedient to the point of death...even the death of the Cross. There was no instruction His Father gave Him which He did not perfectly complete. ***Hebrews 4.8: ...though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.*** He didn't LEARN OBEDIENCE from the position of DISOBEDIENCE -- because He was NEVER disobedient. But, He LEARNED OBEDIENCE in the sense that HE MUST EXPERIENCE HIS SUFFERINGS IN ORDER TO EXERCISE OBEDIENCE AS A MAN. HE PERFECTED THE PRACTICE OF OBEDIENCE AS A MAN by being obedient to His Father's commands.

ALL THE SYMBOLS AND PICTURES OF THE CEREMONIAL LAW WERE FULFILLED.

He finished and completed every detail of His shadow which had been promised and predicted in all the sacrifices, services, ceremonies, and feasts which were prefigured in the Old Testament teachings. Every animal, every movement, every color, every element (gold, silver, bronze, wood), every fabric -- everything was significant because it prefigured something that HE WOULD BE...and something HE WOULD DO. And, HE FINISHED EVERY DETAIL PERFECTLY.

But, perhaps, best of all and most of all, **HE COMPLETELY FINISHED ALL THE PROMISES GOD HAD MADE IN HIS COVENANT OF GRACE.** He satisfied God's justice. He paid for our sins. He took them away. He bore our punishment for us...in our place. He secured the riches of God's grace and our inheritance in Heaven. HE FINISHED IT ALL AND GIVES IT FREELY TO US!

This is why God insists that we can't add anything to what Christ FINISHED for us to pre-qualify for His salvation or earn His favor. Christ FINISHED our salvation's work for us because we couldn't have done it for ourselves. And, if you try to add anything to what He FINISHED...then you not only insult what He did, but anything you could add to what He FINISHED would spoil it by being mixed with it.

And something else -- IF CHRIST FINISHED YOUR SALVATION'S WORK FOR YOU...and then FREELY GIVES IT TO YOU BY HIS GRACE, then YOU CAN REST AND HAVE ASSURANCE IN YOUR SECURITY IN HIS GRACE. God's Covenant is sufficient, and faithful, and good for ever!

“FATHER, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT”

This is actually a prayer that Christ prayed as He voluntarily and deliberately gave up His own life.

Luke 23.46: And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, “Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit.” And having said this, He breathed His last.

The verb which Jesus used here [paratitheme] means both “COMMIT”: **to hand over, to place, to deposit it someone’s care for safekeeping;** or “COMMEND”: **to recommend oneself or somebody else to another for acceptance, approval, safekeeping, protection.**

Christ is publicly confessing one last time before He dies that ***GOD HAS BEEN IN CONTROL OF HIS DEATH ALL ALONG.***

Yes, His enemies had murdered Him [*Acts 2.23*]. But, His Father is the One who provided Him to make this sacrifice for His people [*Hebrews 10.5-10*]. And, Jesus Himself is the One who said, “**No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.**” {*John 10.18*}

Christ ALWAYS did everything He did TO PLEASE HIS FATHER [*John 8.29*], and His obedience to death was the ultimate PLEASURE to His Father. ***Isaiah 53.10:* Yet IT PLEASED THE LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and THE PLEASURE OF THE LORD SHALL PROSPER IN HIS HAND.** {That’s where He was committing all His service and life’s work, wasn’t it? ***“INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.”***}

So, when He made this final statement from the Cross, He was praying that the Father would receive His service He had given the Father on our behalf, and BE PLEASED WITH WHAT HE HAD DONE.

He was COMMITTING THE JUDGMENT AND EVALUATION OF HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS TO THE FATHER...and asking the Father to USE HIS SERVICE to accomplish what the Father wanted to do.

The Lord Jesus TRUSTED HIS LIVED AND HIS DEATH to the Father’s evaluation.

1 Peter 2.21-23: For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth”; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but COMMITTED HIMSELF TO HIM WHO JUDGES RIGHTEOUSLY.

And, do you know what else? If Jesus Christ could trust the Father with HIS life and death...

HIS service and all the works He had done for the Father...and the gracious outcome and implementation of all the sacrifice and offerings of Himself He gave the Father FOR OUR REDEMPTION AND SALVATION -- then you, too, can COMMIT ALL YOUR ISSUES, MATTERS, AND AFFAIRS TO HIM AS WELL.

1 Peter 4.19: Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God COMMIT THEIR SOULS HIM in doing good, AS TO A FAITHFUL CREATOR.

And then, to give one final, lasting, parting expression of HIS OWN CONFIDENCE AND SATISFACTION WITH WHAT HE HIMSELF HAD DONE, He concluded His Passion experience by gracefully, submissively, willingly, deliberately, voluntarily, and gladly DYING.

John 19.30: And BOWING HIS HEAD, He gave up His spirit.

You, too, can believe...trust...depend upon...and rest in Him.