

## The Cross of Christ (Part 2)

### John 19:16-42

In the previous verses Pilate has unsuccessfully sought to release Jesus.

At about six in the morning “...they took Jesus...to the place called the Place of the Skull...Golgotha” (16b-18), which is a bus station today. How many people daily travel through that station and see the place where Jesus was crucified?

#### First: The Crucifixion 18-27

a) 18 – Between two thieves – Isaiah 53:12

- The impenitent thief mocks Jesus
- The other repents

Luke 23:39-43 - <sup>39</sup> One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup> But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup> And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup> And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup> And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

b) 19-21 – The King of the Jews

c) 23-24 – They gambled for Jesus’s garments

Isn’t it amazing that Jesus literally had nothing left to him when he died.

The Great High Priest wore a seamless garment (Ex 28:31-32).

There is a sense in which the seamless tunic removed from Jesus at the crucifixion corresponds to Aaron’s garments of glory and beauty (Exodus 28:2).

The “tunic” of Aaron’s garments is the same word as the “garments” of skin God made for Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21) to cover their nakedness. It’s a reversal of the curse. Jesus goes from being full clothed to being naked, taking on our humiliation and punishment.

d) 25-27 – Jesus’s care for his mother

Teana and I were talking about this the other day. “No one ever cared for me like Jesus.”

#### Second: The Death of Jesus

a) 28-29 - The Scripture is fulfilled

Luke 18:31 - *And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.*

There are at least 20 OT prophecies fulfilled in the last 24 hours of Jesus's life.

This one, "I thirst" is a fulfilment of:

Psalm 22:14-15 - *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; <sup>15</sup> my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.*

Psalm 69:21 - *They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.*

Jesus didn't accept the pain-numbing drink at the beginning (Matt 27:34; Mark 15:23) but now he accepts this drink, perhaps to wet his lips so that he can make one final announcement.

b) 30 - It is finished

Jesus spoke 7 times on the cross - Jesus spoke 7 times on the Cross (Lk 23:34; Jn 19:36; Lk 23:42; Mt 27:46; Jn 19:28,30, Lk 23:46), and this is his next-to-the-last word (He said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" after this)

"telestai" (OH & John 19:28/ =

- A servant's statement – "I have completed the work assigned to me" (Father/son)

John 6:38 - *For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.*

John 4:34 - *Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish (teleioo) his work.*

John 17:4 - *I glorified you on earth, having accomplished (teleioo) the work that you gave me to do.*

Frank Boreham - *"When the painter or the sculptor had put the last finishing touches to the vivid landscape or the marble bust, he would stand back a few feet to admire his masterpiece, and, seeing in it nothing that called for correction or improvement, would murmur fondly, 'Tetelestai!' 'Tetelestai!'" "IT IS FINISHED!" All the Old Testament "pictures" (types) of Messiah were fulfilled in Christ and were only a "shadow of what is to come; but the substance (reality) belongs to Christ." (Col 2:17). The death of Jesus on the Cross "finished the picture" of redemption, a masterpiece which had been in the Father's heart "from before the foundation of the world"*

- a victor's cry
  - 'paid in full' also written on receipt or bill
- when a promissory note was paid, the one holding the note wrote "TETELESTAI" across it.
  - A deed to property was not in effect until it was dated and signed, and when this was accomplished, the clerk wrote "TETELESTAI" across the deed.
  - When someone had a debt and it was paid off, the creditor would write "TETELESTAI" on the certificate of debt signifying that it was "PAID IN FULL".
  - Archaeologists digging in Egypt uncovered the "office" of an ancient "CPA." In this office they found a stack of bills, with the Greek word "tetelestai" inscribed across each bill - "Paid in full"!
- Crimes

Adrian Rogers – *"When a Roman citizen was convicted of a crime, he was thrown into prison. A 'Certificate of Debt' listing all his crimes was nailed to his cell door so that anyone passing by could know what he had been accused of and the penalty assessed. When the prisoner had served his sentence and was released from bondage, the indictment was taken down from the door and the judge who had put him in prison would sign the indictment and write across it the word TETELESTAI. The freed prisoner was then given this document and if questioned as to why he was out of jail, he could point to the indictment across which the judge had written TETELESTAI. He could rest in safety and security because the word TETELESTAI guaranteed his deliverance and his liberty. The charges for those crimes could never again be brought against him. He would never be a victim of 'double jeopardy' (having to pay for the same crime twice). When Jesus cried 'TETELESTAI' on the cross, He was saying that anyone who places his trust in His sacrificial death on their behalf, receives in essence a 'certificate of debt' with the inscription of 'tetelestai', indicating that all their 'crimes' (past, present and future) against God have been PAID FOR IN FULL! In light of this truth, Paul could write that because our debt was PAID IN FULL by Jesus, God 'has forgiven you all your sins: Christ has utterly wiped out (Greek = completely obliterated) the condemning evidence of broken laws and commandments which always hung over our heads, and has completely annulled it by nailing it over His own head on the Cross. And then having drawn the sting of all the powers ranged against us, He exposed them, shattered, empty and defeated, in His final glorious triumphant act!" (Col 2:14-15). Erwin Lutzer adds that "On the cross, the justice of God was fully satisfied when our heavenly Substitute paid the great price of ransom. As Spurgeon put it, we can stand with confidence despite the thunder of the law and the lightening flash of justice, 'for we are safe beneath the cross.' He paid the very last cent of the wages of our sin."*

*Telestai* is in the perfect tense (past completed act with present effect). Jesus's sacrifice occurred in a particular space of time and place but its effects are eternal.

It is the perfect tense of the verb *teleo* which is derived from *telos* (a goal achieved, a consummation, a result attained) and means to bring something to a successful end to or to its

intended or destined goal. It does not mean just to complete a task but to carry it out fully, to bring it to the finish or to perfection.

Hebrews 9:26 - *But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*

Frank Boreham - This divine self-satisfaction appears only twice, once in each Testament. When He completed the work of Creation, He looked upon it and said that it was "very good," (Ge 1:31) when He completed the Work of Redemption, He cried with a loud voice TETELESTAI! (Jn 19:30) It means (in essence) the same thing."

A.W. Pink – *"Eternity will be needed to make manifest all that TETELESTAI contains."*

Charles Simeon – *"since the foundation of the world there never was a single word uttered, in which such diversified and important matter was contained. Every word indeed that proceeded from our Saviour's lips deserves the most attentive consideration: but TETELESTAI eclipses all. To do justice to it, is beyond the ability of men or angels: its height, and depth, and length, and breadth, are absolutely unsearchable."*

Charles Spurgeon - *"The general religion of mankind is "DO," but the religion of a true Christian is "DONE." IT IS FINISHED is the believer's conquering word. INCARNATE LOVE has fulfilled His self-imposed task. Jesus, as the Substitute for sinners, was condemned to die, and He died that He might finish the work of our redemption. Your sins have sustained their death-blow, the robe of your righteousness has received its last thread (cf 1Cor 1:30; 2Cor 5:21). It is done, complete, perfect. It needs no addition; it can NEVER suffer any diminution. Oh, Christian, do lay hold of this precious thought. I may not be able to state it except in weak terms, but let not my weakness prevent your apprehending its glory and its preciousness. This thought is enough to make a man leap, though his legs were chained with irons, and to make him sing, though his mouth were gagged. We are PERFECTLY ACCEPTED in Christ, and our justification is not partial (cf Ro 5:1; Ro 5:9; Ro 8:30). It does not go to a limited extent, but goes the whole way. Our unrighteousness is covered. From condemnation we are entirely and irrevocably free. 'Consummatum est.' The work is done, redemption is accomplished; the salvation of My people is forever secured. Sin will never be mentioned against them anymore, forever. Oh, wondrous deed of Deity! Oh, mighty feat of love accomplished once for all!"*

*The resurrection is the Father's 'Amen' to the son's 'It is finished.'*

*Lifted up was He to die,  
"It is finished," was His cry;  
Now in heaven exalted high;  
Hallelujah! what a Saviour.  
-Phillip Bliss*

c) 31-33 & 36 – Jesus died before the two thieves

Of course, they broke the legs to hasten death so the crucified person couldn't stand up and catch their breath.

The Science of the Crucifixion  
by Cahleen Shrier (Associate Professor in the Department of Biology and Chemistry)

*It is important to understand from the beginning that Jesus would have been in excellent physical condition. As a carpenter by trade, He participated in physical labor. In addition, He spent much of His ministry traveling on foot across the countryside. His stamina and strength were, most likely, very well developed. With that in mind, it is clear just how much He suffered: If this torture could break a man in such good shape, it must have been a horrific experience.*

*Normally, to breathe in, the diaphragm (the large muscle that separates the chest cavity from the abdominal cavity) must move down. This enlarges the chest cavity and air automatically moves into the lungs (inhalation). To exhale, the diaphragm rises up, which compresses the air in the lungs and forces the air out (exhalation). As Jesus hangs on the cross, the weight of His body pulls down on the diaphragm and the air moves into His lungs and remains there. Jesus must push up on His nailed feet (causing more pain) to exhale.*

*In order to speak, air must pass over the vocal cords during exhalation. The Gospels note that Jesus spoke seven times from the cross. It is amazing that despite His pain, He pushes up to say "Forgive them" ([Luke 23:34](#)).*

*The difficulty surrounding exhalation leads to a slow form of suffocation. Carbon dioxide builds up in the blood, resulting in a high level of carbonic acid in the blood. The body responds instinctively, triggering the desire to breathe. At the same time, the heart beats faster to circulate available oxygen. The decreased oxygen (due to the difficulty in exhaling) causes damage to the tissues and the capillaries begin leaking watery fluid from the blood into the tissues. This results in a build-up of fluid around the heart (pericardial effusion) and lungs (pleural effusion). The collapsing lungs, failing heart, dehydration, and the inability to get sufficient oxygen to the tissues essentially suffocate the victim.<sup>5</sup> The decreased oxygen also damages the heart itself (myocardial infarction) which leads to cardiac arrest. In severe cases of cardiac stress, the heart can even burst, a process known as cardiac rupture.<sup>6</sup> Jesus most likely died of a heart attack.*

<https://www.apu.edu/articles/the-science-of-the-crucifixion/#:~:text=When%20they%20came%20to%20Jesus,surrounding%20the%20heart%20and%20lungs>.

Rock of Ages by Augustus Toplady  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee  
Let the water and the blood,  
From Thy riven side which flowed

*Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power*

Note: You and I know that the physical torture of the cross was horrendous but there was a part of the cross that was far worse.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Matthew 27:45 - *Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land<sup>[a]</sup> until the ninth hour*

- An earthquake
- The raising of the dead
- The temple curtain torn in two

This wasn't a normal eclipse because the total darkness of a normal eclipse lasts for 7 ½ minutes at the most.

d) 34 – Blood and water

Remember that before the crucifixion, Jesus had endured a night of beating.

Those who were flogged would often go into hypovolemic shock, a term that refers to low blood volume. In other words, the person would have lost so much blood he would go into shock. The results of this would be:

- 1) The heart would race to pump blood that was not there.
- 2) The victim would collapse or faint due to low blood pressure.
- 3) The kidneys would shut down to preserve body fluids.
- 4) The person would experience extreme thirst as the body desired to replenish lost fluids.

There is evidence from Scripture that Jesus experienced hypovolemic shock as a result of being flogged. As Jesus carried His own cross to Golgotha (John 19:17), He collapsed, and a man named Simon was forced to either carry the cross or help Jesus carry the cross the rest of the way to the hill (Matthew 27:32–33; Mark 15:21–22; Luke 23:26). This collapse indicates Jesus had low blood pressure. Another indicator that Jesus suffered from hypovolemic shock was that He declared He was thirsty as He hung on the cross (John 19:28), indicating His body's desire to replenish fluids.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/blood-water-Jesus.html>

His sustained, rapid heartbeat caused fluid to gather in the sack around the heart and lungs: pericardial and pleural effusion, which burst out onto the ground when his heart/lungs were pierced.

- Water is essential for our physical life
- Blood is essential for our spiritual life

Note: Following water and blood throughout the Bible is an interesting study

e) 35 – The point of John’s Gospel

John 20:30-31 – *Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.*

f) 37 – The Scripture is fulfilled

In Pilate’s claim that Jesus is the ‘King of the Jews,’ John “roots Jesus as deeply possible in the historic, ancient religion of Israel. Christianity, he implies, is not a completely new thing. Jesus is the fulfillment of all the biblical prophets’ longings and visions, and he is the one who will come to rule and renew the entire universe. (Tim Keller on Mark’s Gospel Introduction).

**Nancy Guthrie** in *I See Jesus*.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus by Chris Tomlin

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.  
Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

30c – and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit

John 10:18 - *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.*

### **Third: The Burial of Jesus**

#### a) 38-39a – Joseph and Nicodemus

Bodies were normally kept on the cross as a warning to other people while it rotted or was eaten by wild animals. But the Jews did not want that spectacle staining the Passover.

#### b) 39b-40 – Spices and linen cloths

Spices –

John 12:1-8 – *Six days before the Passover, Jesus therefore came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. <sup>3</sup> Mary therefore took a pound<sup>[a]</sup> of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii<sup>[b]</sup> and given to the poor?” <sup>6</sup> He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, “Leave her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> For the poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me.”*

Linen cloths –

John devotes specific attention to Jesus’ burial clothes. He tells us that Nicodemus brought about a hundred pounds of myrrh and aloes to spice Jesus body, and that He was bound in linen wrappings. We find out that His body and His head were wrapped separately. (John 19:39-40; 20:6-7).

When Jesus was raised from the dead, He apparently passed through these wrappings, leaving them behind as they were. Only John tells us of these things. Also, only John tells us that the soldiers divided Jesus’ garments into four parts, but did not divide His seamless tunic (John 19:23-24).

John 20:3-8 - *So Peter went out with the other disciple, and they were going toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both of them were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> And stooping to look in, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the face cloth, which had been on Jesus’<sup>[a]</sup> head, not lying with the linen cloths*



*but folded up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;*

c) 41-42 – The Garden tomb

Jesus is the only person in history to borrow a tomb because he knew he wouldn't be there when the owner needed it.