

Resurrection Sunday

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Sub-title: "It is Finished"

Today is Resurrection Sunday:

- We commemorate the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ
- On the Jewish Calendar this time of the year is called "Passover"
- In the world, this time of the year is called "Easter"

1 Cor. 5:7 (NLT) ... *Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.*

For 2000 years, the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been preached, proclaiming the Good News of His sacrificial death, His burial & His glorious resurrection.

Matthew 27:35-36,45-46, John 19:28-30 (NKJV) *Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." ³⁶ Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there ... ⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" ²⁸ After this, Jesus, **knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"** ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ **So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.***

- These Bible passages record the crucifixion Jesus Christ
- They also report the last words He spoke before His earthly life ended
- Jesus Christ died as the Lamb of God, sacrificially, for us
- He suffered & died as our substitute to purchase our eternal salvation

Isaiah 53:4-6 (HCSB) *Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But **He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities**; punishment for our peace was on Him, and we are healed by His wounds. ⁶ We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and **the Lord has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.***

- We should seek a thoroughly understanding of:
 - the extent of Christ's suffering for us
 - the extent of what He achieved for us through His death on the cross

- Such an understanding determines:
 - The extent of our love for Jesus Christ
 - The extent of our gratitude toward Him
 - The extent of our desire & commitment to worship & serve Him

Luke 7:47 (Msg) ... She was forgiven many, many sins, and so *she is very, very grateful*. If the forgiveness is minimal, the gratitude is minimal.

- Minimal forgiveness - not based on the quantity of sins we have committed
- Minimal gratitude is based on our ignorance of the magnitude of our guilt before God
- Rom. 3:23 says "... *all have sinned and come short of the glory of God*"

CHRIST'S LAST WORDS BEFORE HIS DEATH: "IT IS FINISHED!"

1. Jesus Christ finished His mission on earth

John 17:4 (NKJV) (Father) I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

John 19:28 (NLT) Jesus knew that *His mission was now finished*, and to fulfil Scripture He said, "I am thirsty."

- Jesus left the splendour & comfort of heaven to become a man
- He suffer inhumane abuse & died a cruel & shameful death to offer salvation to all people from eternal damnation

Philippians 2:6-8 (Msg) He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of Himself that He had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. ⁷ Not at all. When the time came, He set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became human! ⁸ Having become human, He stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, He lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

2. Jesus Christ fulfilled the Scriptures concerning His purpose & function

Luke 4:20–21 (NKJV) Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. 21 And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 24:44 (Ampl) *Then He said to them: This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything which is written concerning Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.*

- There are multiple prophecies concerning Jesus as the Messiah, most of which He has already fulfilled
- A small selection of these prophecies:

The Prophecy	O.T.	N.T.
A descendant of David	Isa. 9:6–7; 11:1	Matt. 1:1
Born of a virgin	Isa. 7:14	Matt. 1:23
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matt. 2:1
Lived in Nazareth	Judges 13:5, Isaiah 11:1	Matt. 2:23
Rejected by His own	Isaiah 53:1–3	John 1:11
Enters Jerusalem in triumph	Zech. 9:9	John 12:12–19
Betrayed by a friend	Zech. 11:12–13	Matt. 26:14
Died with criminals	Isa. 53:9	Matt. 27:38
Buried with the rich	Isa. 53:9–12	Matt. 27:57–60
Lots cast for His clothes	Ps. 22:18	Luke 23:24
Offered vinegar to drink	Ps. 69:21	Matt. 27:34
His dying words are given	Ps. 22:1; 31:5	Matt. 27:46
No bone is broken	Ps. 34:20	John 19:36
His side to be pierced	Ps. 22:16; Zech. 12:10	John 19:34

- It is a great faith-building exercise to study the O.T. prophecies concerning Jesus Christ, and their fulfilment in the N.T.
- The fulfilment of most of these prophecies was outside of Jesus' control
- Only God Almighty could have orchestrated this supernatural phenomenon
- There were multiplied centuries from the time these prophecies were given, to the time that they were fulfilled

3. Jesus Christ fulfilled the requirements of God the Righteous Judge

Isaiah 53:10–11 (ASV) *Yet **it pleased Jehovah to bruise him**; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of Jehovah shall prosper in his hand. **11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied...***

- God the Father didn't derive any pleasure from His Son's suffering, any more than an earthly judge would get pleasure from handing down a sentence on a criminal offender

- Rather, as the righteous Judge, God was satisfied that divine justice had been met for the sins of mankind, and that through Christ's substitutionary death He was able to forgive all sinners who called on Him for forgiveness

4. Jesus Christ fulfilled (the requirements of) the Law of Moses & redeemed us from the curse of the Law

Matthew 5:17–18 (NKJV) *Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. **I did not come to destroy but to fulfill**. 18 For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law **till all is fulfilled**.*

- Devine law demanded death for the person who broke God's laws

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) *For **the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Galatians 3:10,13-14 (NLT) *... those who depend on the law to make them right with God are under His curse, for the Scriptures say, "**Cursed is everyone who does not observe and obey all the commands that are written in God's Book of the Law.**" ... ¹³ **But Christ has rescued us** from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, **He took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing**. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."*

- When Christ died on the cross He fulfilled the requirements of the Law & paid the price demanded by the Law
- **"It is finished"** (Greek – tetelestai)
- This phrase was commonly used:
 - By merchants when they received payment for the goods they sold
 - They would say: 'Tetelestai' - the price is all paid
 - Bankers used it when the final payment had been made on a debt
 - Tax receipts written on papyri found from ancient times had the same word (tetelestai) written across them, meaning "paid in full"
- Jesus Christ has paid for our eternal salvation 'in full'

Romans 10:12–13 (NKJV) *For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "**whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.**"*