

Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ

March 10, 2022

It is Finished

The Apostle John recorded the last moments of Jesus' life as he hung dying upon the cross, writing, *"After this, Jesus **knowing that all things were now accomplished**, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished**: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."* John 19:28-30.

Jesus' final words on the cross, *"It is finished,"* speak more than just of an end to his suffering that day. It was a declaration that the entire purpose for which he came into the world was now accomplished. After his resurrection, Jesus told the disciples, *"These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, **that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**"* Luke 24:44. Every prophecy of Messiah and his work upon earth were now fulfilled.

The prophecies of Christ which were *"written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms"* can be separated into two different categories. In one group are prophecies which

were given to confirm to everyone that Jesus is in fact the Messiah whom God promised would come into the world. These prophecies spoke of his virgin birth, the events of his life, the power of his ministry, and of course his sufferings, death and resurrection. I count twenty-five different passages where the New Testament writers pointed out events in Jesus' life and connected it to prophecies, saying, *"That the scripture might be fulfilled."* These prophecies, which pinpointed events in Jesus' life, confirmed to those who believed the scripture that Jesus truly is *"the Christ."* | John 5:1.

This group of prophecies was demonstrated when John the Baptist, who was in prison, sent disciples to ask Jesus, *"Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?"* Jesus answered, *"Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: **The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.**"*

Matthew 11:4-5. Jesus knew that John would understand the meaning of his words because John knew the prophecy of the Christ which said, *"... your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. **Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.**"*

Isaiah 35:4-6. These prophecies described the events of Jesus' life so clearly that anyone who believed

God's word would be assured that Jesus of Nazareth was in fact the Christ of God.

The other group of prophecies dealt with that which could not be seen with the natural eye. These told of the victory and redemptive work of Christ upon the cross. The first of these is found in God's words to the serpent when he told him the seed of the woman "*shall bruise thy head.*" Genesis 3:15. This was a promise that Satan would be destroyed by one who was born of a woman. You could not see this fulfillment with the natural eye, but the Apostle John was clear, "*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*" 1 John 3:8. The writer of Hebrews also confirms this, telling us that Christ became flesh and blood "*that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.*" Hebrews 2:14.

This brings us back to the clearest prophecy of the purpose of Christ's first appearing ever recorded in the scripture. Gabriel told Daniel of six things which would be accomplished when Christ came. These are (1) "*...finish the transgression,* (2) *make an end of sins,* (3) *make reconciliation for iniquity,* (4) *bring in everlasting righteousness,* (5) *seal up the vision and prophecy,* and (6) *anoint the most Holy.*" Daniel 9:24.

The words "*to seal up the vision and prophecy*" is a promise that everything in the vision would be accomplished before this specific time period expired. The Hebrew word used for "*seal up*" is translated another time in this same verse as "*make an end,*" and it means "*to close up.*" Before

Christ's ministry was finished upon earth he would "*make an end*" of everything he was sent to accomplish. He would finish it all! Jesus' last words on the cross, "*It is finished,*" were a declaration that he had not failed in any way to accomplish all that he came to do.

The work of redemption is a finished work. It is a mistake to view it as something Christ must do in the future. Paul dealt with this, saying, "*Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)*" Romans 10:6-7. Do not look to the future or even the second coming of Christ for the fulfillment of anything the prophets said Christ would do when he came. He has already destroyed the devil, made an end of sin, made reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in everlasting righteousness. Those who believe the gospel and trust in Jesus Christ receive and experience this great deliverance from sin and Satan! Those who refuse the truth, struggle on in the darkness.

The glory and power of the gospel is not received through a religious process. Neither is it something Christ will accomplish in the future. You can be free from every work of Satan today because "***It is finished!***"