



The Life of Jesus (134)

The Crucifixion of Jesus
(12)

The Seven Last Words of
Jesus on the Cross (7)



John 19:30

#1 (6) It Is Finished

3) Fulfillment of God's Words

The second meaning of “It is finished” is that Jesus finished all the prophecies in the Old Testament about the Messiah.

The Old Testament is full of stories, symbols, indications, and prophecies about the coming Messiah and His ministry. The Scriptures had already described Jesus' birth, ministry, suffering, and death hundreds of years before He was born, and they all came to pass just as described in God's appointed time.

#2 a) The Birth of Jesus Christ

When the angel Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus, he said, “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (Mt 1:21-23)

Here the angel is quoting a passage from Isaiah 7:14, which says, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (Is 7:14)

This prophecy was written around 700 hundred years before Jesus’ birth and was fulfilled through the power of the Holy Spirit according to God’s timeline.

“But when **the set time** had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman…” (Gl 4:4)

#3 a) The Birth of Jesus Christ

The prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem also came true.

“But you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, **out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel**, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son...” (Mc 5:2-3)

This prophecy was written around the same time as the prophecy in Isaiah, and it was fulfilled about 700 hundred years later when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

“In those days **Caesar Augustus** issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world (This was the first census that took place)... And everyone went to their own town to register. **So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem** the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David...

#4 a) The Birth of Jesus Christ

... He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.** She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” (Lk 2:1-7)

Joseph, Jesus' father, was living in Nazareth, which means that Jesus would have been born in Nazareth unless something special happened. But, at the time of Jesus' birth, Joseph and Mary happened to be in Bethlehem.

However, this wasn't by chance. The important question is why Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem at that time. As Luke reveals, it was because Caesar Augustus had ordered a census.

So, what this shows us is that **God is faithful and never fails to accomplish His word**, and that He can use even the most powerful person in the world at the time, the Roman Emperor, to do so.

#5 a) The Birth of Jesus Christ

But after Jesus was born, Joseph and Mary left for Egypt because King Herod was trying to kill Him. This fulfilled a prophecy by the prophet Hosea.

“An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. **And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”**” (Mt 2:13-15)

After Herod died, Joseph and Mary went back to Nazareth. This fulfilled another prophecy.

“He went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.” (Mt 2:23)

#6 b) The Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus began His ministry in earnest when He was about 30 years old. After being tested by the devil, Jesus lived in Capernaum. This fulfilled yet another prophecy.

“When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali – to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles – the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned” (Mt 4:12-16)

Jesus healed many people during his three-year ministry, which also fulfilled a prophecy.

“When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases.” (Mt 8:16-17)

#7 b) The Ministry of Jesus Christ

Jesus also taught people God's word. When He taught, He mostly used parables, which was also in accordance with prophecy.

“Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: “I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world.”” (Mt 13:34-35)

During His ministry, Jesus was often rejected by elders and religious leaders, which had also been prophesied.

Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?” (Mt 21:42)

Here, Jesus is quoting Psalm 118:22-23. The stone refers to Jesus and the builders represent religious leaders. Even though they rejected Him, He became the cornerstone, the foundation.

#8 b) The Ministry of Jesus Christ

At the end of His ministry, Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, which fulfilled a prophecy written in Zechariah 9:9.

“As they approached Jerusalem… Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me… **This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:** “Say to Daughter Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”” (Mt 21:1-5)

After entering Jerusalem, Jesus spent His last week there before His death. That Thursday night, He was sold by one of His disciples for 30 pieces of silver, and all the rest deserted Him and fled. But this, too, had been foretold in the Bible.

#9 c) The Betrayal and Abandonment of Christ

“When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

(Mt 27:3-10)

#10 c) The Betrayal and Abandonment of Christ

This is the fulfillment of what the prophet Zechariah said.

“I told them, “If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.” So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, “Throw it to the potter” – the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord.” (Zch 11:12-13)

About the betrayal of Jesus, Zechariah 13:7 also says, “Awake, sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!” declares the Lord Almighty. “Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered...” (Zch 13:7)

#11 d) The Capture, Trials, Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

After that, Jesus was arrested, interrogated, mocked, and crucified, then resurrected from the dead on the third day. All of these things were prophesied in the Old Testament.

“He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away.” (Is 53:7-8)

“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.” (Is 53:5)

“...He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors” (Is 53:12)

About the resurrection, Psalm 16:10 says, “You will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay” (Ps 16:10)

#12 d) The Capture, Trials, Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Psalm 22 accurately describes Jesus' mockery and suffering.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?... All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.” ...I am poured out like water... My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth... People stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” (Ps 22:1, 7-8, 14-15, 17-18)

In addition to these prophecies, we can find many figures, events, symbols, and indications that point to Jesus Christ in the Old Testament, such as animal sacrifice, the Passover Lamb, the snake lifted up on the pole in the wilderness, the high priest and goats on the Day of Atonement, and more. And as we've talked about during Bible readings, all the festivals of Israel actually point to Jesus and His ministry.

#12 It Is Finished

The point is that the entire life and ministry of Jesus, from His birth to His death and resurrection, was prophesied and foreshadowed in the Old Testament.

That's what the apostles testified to. The apostle Peter said, "This is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer." (Ac 3:18)

The apostle Paul also said, "... I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen - that the Messiah would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles." (Ac 26:22-23)

#12 It Is Finished

When introducing the gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul said, “He promised the gospel beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures… Now… the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.” (Rom 1:2, 3:21)

“… My gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God…” (Rm 16:25-26)

That’s the reason Jesus said, “You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me” (Jn 5:39)

Luke 24:27 also says, “Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” (Lk 24:27)

#13 It Is Finished

This is what He meant when He said “It is finished.” Every prophecy written about the coming Messiah in the Old Testament was fulfilled in Jesus’ life. **Even though the name Jesus doesn’t appear in the Old Testament, it is filled with His traces.**

And there’s no plausible explanation for how all of this was perfectly planned, prophesied, and fulfilled, **except that God did it.**

God planned all this and revealed it through His prophets hundreds of years before He fulfilled it through His Son, so that we who read about it now can’t help but confess that God is alive and that He has done all these things.

So, when Jesus said, “It is finished,” **He declared God’s sovereignty, unimaginable wisdom, and almighty power in our salvation.** This, again, gives us assurance of salvation. Salvation is not something we earn by doing things on our own. **God is sovereign over salvation.** It has been planned, revealed, and accomplished by God alone. Our role is to joyfully accept what God has already done with faith.

Memory Verses

“This is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer.” (Ac 3:18) (1)

“He promised the gospel beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures... Now... the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.” (Rom 1:2, 3:21) (2)

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me” (Jn 5:39) (1)

“Beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.” (Lk 24:27) (1)

Reflection Questions

1. What are some prophecies that Jesus fulfilled in His life? What does the fact that they were written hundreds of years before His birth tell you about God and His salvation?

2. What do you think is the relationship between belief and knowledge? Is knowledge important in having faith in God? Why or why not?

3. How do you think faith based on knowledge differs from faith not based on knowledge? Do you think your faith is based on correct and sufficient knowledge of God? If not, what efforts do you want to make to have stronger faith in Him?