

## **"It Is Finished, Part 3"**

### **Our Outline:**

- ***What They Could Have Known Before the Cross***
- ***What They Came to Know After the Cross***
- ***What Difference Does It Make?***
- ***Our theme twice now has been "It Is Finished". But I asked and attempted to answer this question: "What was finished?" I want us to continue today with the conclusion. Next time our plan is to re-enter Paul's second letter to the Corinthians after this short intermission.***

***As I have said multiple times now, there is no other event in ancient history about which more is known than that which occurred on those critical days so long ago. And that is because the Bible gives us understanding that the authors of human history cannot do so truthfully and with the insight that only God can give. For in many ways, he is our heavenly historian! And he is not limited as human authors are, is he, for he always knows the whole story, from the beginning to the end? Amen.***

### **I. What They Could Have Known Before the Cross:**

- ***To begin with, let's summarize what we have already considered concerning the events the apostle Paul calls "the Cross", what was happening on those days in human history from the perspective of what might have been known and perhaps even written in a newspaper article that was entirely true but complete with all of the necessary details, drawing heavily on what had already been written in God's word of truth, the Bible.***

***The Bible at that time was made up of the Hebrew and Aramaic scriptures. There was no New Testament, so called. But there was "the Law and the Prophets" and the poetic books plus the Psalms. So there were countless scriptures ranging from history to prophecy and more. The revelations of how God would accomplish the redemption of a fallen race were here and there and everywhere and all pointed forward to the coming of the Seed of the Woman as had been foretold in Genesis 3. This descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of King David would be as revealed in so many places Israel's anointed one, their Messiah. He would in God's good timing bring to pass the promised exhalation of the elect nation to rule over the Gentile nations and to fulfill the promises made to the faithful.***

*That was the major revelation of those scriptures. But there was more that was revealed here and there and especially in the typographical teachings of the Mosaic Law, and that had to do with the necessity of blood sacrifice to provide access to a holy God by sinful man. And, as we have seen in our detailed study, some portions of the Psalms and the Prophets revealed how Israel's Messiah would be rejected by his own people and be himself the very focal point of their wrath leading even to his death at their own hand. Some few prophetic statements even refer to Messiah's suffering and death in language that seems to indicate that his death was somehow sacrificial and redemptive as were the Mosaic rituals only in every way more perfect and more effective than they ever could be. We considered some of those scriptures, especially Psalm 22.*

*But that our Lord Jesus had through his death become "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" was, in the plan of God, not revealed in the Old Testament. Only through our Lord's own words was that revealed and that not openly but primarily to his disciples. Parables were used to teach the people but the interpretation of those was only given to his disciples. So what could have been known about the Cross was limited before the event itself.*

*Similarly, the Resurrection of our Lord was also revealed in type as was his death, but the timing of these events prophetically was not made known. But that the Lord God would judge his people and the world was revealed in the Old Testament in some detail, and that judgment would be accomplished by Israel's Messiah. Therefore his death AND resurrection were at least implied and in some ways even detailed, as we have seen.*

- *But some specifics such as the very nature of how that blood was to be shed and what that flow of our Savior's blood was to our Lord God, was not fully revealed yet and would only be revealed in God's good timing. That the blood must be shed was revealed however and we have read those scriptures several times here — and I hope we have taken to heart that truth that is so transforming. Amen.*

**John 19:31-37**

**31 The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day**

was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away.

32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. [See Ps. 34:20; Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12]

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. [Ps. 22:16-17; Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7]

- **Verse 34 has been our focus, a reference back to Ps. 22:14 and also Deuteronomy 15:** “But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.”

**Ps. 22:14** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

**Deut. 15:19-23**

19 All the firstling males that come of thy herd and of thy flock thou shalt sanctify unto the LORD thy God: thou shalt do no work with the firstling of thy bullock, nor shear the firstling of thy sheep.

20 Thou shalt eat *it* before the LORD thy God year by year in the place which the LORD shall choose, thou and thy household.

21 And if there be *any* blemish therein, as *if it be* lame, or blind, or *have* any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.

22 Thou shalt eat it within thy gates: the unclean and the clean *person shall eat it* alike, as the roebuck, and as the hart.

**23 Only thou shalt not eat the blood thereof; thou shalt pour it upon the ground as water.**

- ***This is the Passover meal, of course, and a comment on the preparation of that meal.*** “Only thou shalt not eat the blood thereof; thou shalt pour it upon the ground as water.” ***This should be correlated with verse 31 of John 19. For Christ was the fulfillment of the type of the Mosaic sacrificial system, if only they had known it. Some of the blood as it was poured out had to be caught to be used in the sacrificial offerings by the priesthood. The shedding of our Lord’s***

***blood was meant as a “flood” as hymn writers have expressed so well. While it is true that even one drop of Christ’s holy and precious blood would have been enough to cleanse us of every sin, that was not what had been ordained — the fulfilling of the types of Moses. For that there had to be a flood of blood. And there was, praise God.***

- ***Also, as I have said several times, although there may also be a medically significant meaning here as well, we may need to enter heaven’s glory to know more of it with certainty. And there are other spiritual meanings too, no doubt, which we will not concern ourselves with today. But for John it was essential to identify scriptures that required fulfillment as God’s plan revealed it. And that included no broken bones but a broken body indeed and perhaps even a broken heart as his pierced side revealed so dramatically.***
- ***And so it stands written for our blessing and incalculable benefit. It is comforting to know that what was required of the redemptive plan of God BEFORE Christ’s death for sin and sinners was actually accomplished, even though Satan has always worked to thwart the work of Almighty God.***
- ***But so much more of that plan had been accomplished due to Christ’s death on our behalf AND his glorious resurrection AND also through the work of God in and through his children AFTER the Cross. May this part of our study also be a comfort to us all now as we dwell in what God’s word reveals about the rest of his workings in and through us who are saved, through his abounding grace.***

## **II. What They Came to Know After the Cross:**

- ***But then the resurrection! Praise God. Once the payment for sin had been accomplished, once Christ had died, physically, and spiritually (and this is a great mystery), a new***
- ***But In the Old Testament the word “resurrection” is found nowhere in our English Bible. But the concept is revealed nevertheless in many places by implication. In the New Testament, on the contrary, it is found in many places, whether by implication or by direct statement. For example, in his references to rebuilding the temple (of his body) in three days, our Lord is near the beginning of John’s account strongly suggesting that his death at the hands of the Jews***

*will be followed by his resurrection. There is also a reference to the time frame of this, "... three days" or "... after three days".*

- *So the scriptures give testimony to the resurrection and the timing of it! John and Paul refer to the three days in reference to Christ's resurrection and Paul states that it is significant, even a part of the good news itself:*

**1 Cor. 15:1-4**

1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

**3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;**

**4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:**

- *But what scriptures was Christ referring to when he said these things or what was the apostle thinking of when we made that statement? We have seen last time that there were several, one in reference to the coming redeemer's resurrection found in the Job testimony in chapter 19, and also by implication as far as the time in his deliverance, the Jonah deliverance from the great fish:*

**Matt. 12:40** For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

- *Other scriptures also refer to the three days as important. We looked at them carefully last time and do not need to repeat ourselves again today.*

**Gen. 22:4** "Then **on the third day** Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off."

**Heb. 11:17-19**

**17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac:** and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

**18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:**

**19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.**

- *And then there is the explicit reference to bodily, physical resurrection in Job, chapter 19:*

**Job 19:23-26**

**23 Oh that my words were now written! oh that they were printed in a book!**

**24 That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock for ever!**

**25 For I know *that* my redeemer liveth, and *that* he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:**

**26 And *though* after my skin *worms* destroy this *body*, yet in my flesh shall I see God:**

**Mark 12:10-12 (See Psalm 118 which Christ is quoting here)**

**10 And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:**

**11 This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?**

**12 And they sought to lay hold on him, but feared the people: for they knew that he had spoken the parable against them: and they left him, and went their way.**

- ***Then there directly follows also the teaching on the woman who was “married” to seven men with the Sadducees, who denied even the possibility of bodily resurrection after death, asking the Lord to which of all of those “husbands” the woman would be “married” after their resurrection. It was a trick question, of course. The Lord’s answer was this:***

**Mark 12:24-27**

**24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?**

**25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven.**

**26 And as touching the dead, that they rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?**

**27 He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.**

- ***Here the Lord was quoting directly from Ex. 3:6: “Moreover he said, I [am] the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.” So there is much evidence in the Old Testament scriptures proving that the Lord God was the God of the living and therefore the God of resurrection. Of course that teaching was of fundamental***

*importance, not only to Old Testament believers of whom these revelations and often promises were given, but to all of us as well.*

- *And so, what must we conclude? Physical resurrection, first of Christ himself (as firstfruits, 1 Cor. 15:23, 23), and then of others, on his own resurrection day and then later and ultimately for all.*

*The three days and three nights, it seems to me, is to underscore the truth that this is actually a physical resurrection and not merely spiritual. And it was not merely an illusion either as if his own speaking about his impending death was not intended to be taken literally. For he really did die that cruel death and the proofs were so evident to all. And now “after three days and three nights” he had been raised from the dead, both spiritually AND physically:*

### **III. What Else They Came to Know After the Cross (And Now Part of History):**

- *Now, let us continue, for when Christ was raised from the dead, there was also much more accomplished than what we might have thought (but the scripture does give us insights into this):*

- **WHEN CHRIST WAS RAISED, SATAN WAS DEFEATED:**

**[READ ] Heb. 2:14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil...

- *See also Lk. 10:18, John 12:31, John 16:8-11, 1 John 3:8, Rev. 9:1, Rev. 12:7-9, Rev. 20:2*

- *What was accomplished by and through Christ's resurrection? Satan's full and complete defeat was assured, the foundation was laid and him that had the power of death was destroyed, in that his ultimate power was cancelled, at least in principle, and ultimately, all will be raised from the dead! His power over death has been annulled.*

- **WHEN CHRIST WAS RAISED, CHRIST'S RESURRECTION WAS PREACHED TO THOSE IN PRISON:**

**[READ ] Eph. 4:7-10**

**7 But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.**

**8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.**

**9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?**

**10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)**

- *There is so very much more implied here than we can even begin to comprehend. See also Ps. 68:18 which our Lord is referencing here. See also 1 Pet. 3:18-19; 4:6. But who could have understood the Old Testament prophecy here referred to until after the cross and the resurrection as it was revealed to Peter and Paul?*
- *What was accomplished by and through Christ's resurrection? Perhaps as we have read here it was that he preached the good news of his resurrection to many who had already died. These may have been the saved of earlier dispensations, delivering them from one heavenly location into another, even perhaps the one our Lord told his disciples about in John 14:*

**John 14:1-3**

**1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**

**2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it* were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

**3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.**

- *For, you see, the believing dead previously had gone to Abraham's Bosom, as it were! See Lk. 16:22 and so forth. But once the Cross-work had been completed, those faithful dead had a better place prepared for them with a true fellowship with their savior. Amen!*

- **WHEN CHRIST WAS RAISED, MANY OTHERS WERE ALSO RAISED FROM THE DEAD:**

**Matt. 27:50-54**

**50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.**



51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;  
52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,  
53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.  
54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

- *See also John 5:25; 12:24; 1 Cor. 15:20.*
- *What was accomplished by and through Christ's resurrection? Our Lord himself was gloriously raised from the dead **ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS** who were delivered from death (by resuscitation and not true and complete resurrection, never to die again, perhaps) ! It is as if it could not have been otherwise even, as Matt. 27 seems to imply.*

*This is far beyond our understanding, of course.*

- **WHEN CHRIST WAS RAISED, HIS RESURRECTION LIFE WAS NOW AVAILABLE TO BE SHARED WITH ALL BELIEVERS:**

**[READ ] Rom. 8:11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

**1 Cor. 15:45** And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was *made* a quickening spirit.

- *The triune God indwells us and each member for the Godhead has a part in our salvation:*
  - *The Father from whom we have our new nature*
  - *The Son whose new life we enjoy*
  - *The Holy Spirit who applies much of our eternal salvation with all of its glories to us in this life*

*See also Acts 26:23, 1 Cor. 15:23; Col. 1:18*

- *What was accomplished by and through Christ's resurrection? Well, and this is precious indeed, he was gloriously raised and*

*became a life giving spirit. And he dwells now as Paul has taught in each of us with a dynamic for life that has changed everything. Praise to the Lord of glory.*

○ **AND, FINALLY, WHEN CHRIST WAS RAISED, WE OURSELVES WERE BLESSED WITH MANY SPIRITUAL BENEFITS INCLUDING HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS:**

- *This is so important for all of us “grace” believers today, isn’t it? For Christ’s own righteousness has been “gifted” to us all today, even imputed to our accounts, so that we stand before Almighty God holy and without blemish. This is so far beyond our understanding — but it can be received by faith and comprehended by the power of the Holy Spirit. Praise God!*

*Let’s close today with some of the many scriptures that reveal the details of this as given to the apostle Paul for our benefit here and for eternity:*

**[READ ]** Rom. 3:26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. *[The imputation of Christ’s own righteousness is, together with our full and complete forgiveness, perhaps the greatest of our blessings in Christ Jesus under his abundant grace.]*

**[READ ]** Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

**[READ ]** Rom. 4:1-6

1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath *whereof* to glory; but not before God.

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.

5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

**[READ ] Rom. 4:22-25**

**22 And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness.**

**23 Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;**

**24 But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;**

**25 Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification. [Here we have both in one place, the forgiveness, and the declaration of righteousness, or justification!]**

**Rom. 8:33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.**

**Gal. 3:6-9**

**6 Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.**

**7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**

**8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed.**

**9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.**

**2 Cor. 5:19-21**

**19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**

**20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.**

**21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**

**[READ ] Rom. 6:4-11**

**4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.**

**5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection:**

**6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.**

**7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.**

8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- See also Acts 13:39; Gal. 2:16-17; 3:24; 5:1; Eph. 1:3-4.

#### **IV. What Difference Does It Make?**

- *Does the knowing of it change anything for us?*
- *For the early believers, it meant persecutions and death for many. Their lives were changed for ever. How about us? Were you changed for ever?*
- *For some though the correct question is quite different: Have you been saved? Perhaps you are only religious and have never believed the gospel of the grace of God.*
- *But for us who are saved, the question is this? What difference does the resurrection of Christ make for us, personally, and individually?*

#### ***IT MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE, DOESN'T IT?***

***[READ ] 1 Cor. 15:12-19***

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And if Christ be not risen, then *is* our preaching vain, and your faith *is* also vain.

15 Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith *is* vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

***But our faith is not in vain! Christ is risen indeed and has become the firstfruits of them that slept. Amen.***