

# IT IS FINISHED

December 2022

He knew that this week would come and it was now here. He would experience the worst expressions of human hatred, the total onslaught of demonic forces and bear the undiluted wrath of the Most Holy God. It would not be for his sins but for all of sinful, disobedient, ungrateful and rebellious mankind from all generations of human history. Jesus would descend to the lowest point of humiliation in his final week before his death.

He already had a small glimpse of descent when he came to earth. He had left the atmosphere of heaven, one saturated with the glory of God and full of love, joy, peace, comfort, light, unity, health and holiness. He then began life on earth in the darkness of a mother's womb and then was born into a world of spiritual darkness, despair, disease, division, negativity and pain. During his few years of ministry he was a healer - not a 'faith' healer, but a 'love' healer, for he was driven by compassion for hurting humanity as he traveled the towns and villages throughout Israel. Now he had come up to the city of Jerusalem where he would experience the final descent into a pain that no one had ever experienced. It began in a garden named 'oil press' or otherwise known as Gethsemane. Olive oil from the olives on the trees in this garden was produced through intense pressure in oil presses. It was also here that severe pressure would descend upon Jesus as he knelt to pray. The weight of mankind's sin came upon the soul and mind of Jesus as he collapsed to the ground. Mankind's inheritance from God had been lost in another garden because of Adam's fall. Now the second Adam was here to reclaim it, but it would require great sacrifice as he submitted his will to that of the Father.

'And being in an **Agony** [of mind], Jesus prayed [all the] more earnestly and intently, and his sweat became like great clots of blood dropping down on the ground.' - Luke 22:44 AMP

In ancient Greece a public gathering was called agon. They had athletic competitions on festival days and the athletes had intense pain as they fought to win the prize. The contests were called **agonia**. Jesus was involved in another struggle...a spiritual one. After Gethsemane, Jesus would be tried and convicted in a kangaroo court in the night for crimes he had not committed. He was then led out to be scourged by at least two Roman soldiers. Their short whips had leather thongs of various lengths on which small iron balls and sharp pieces of sheep bones were tied at intervals. Jesus' back side was filled with contusions as the iron balls forcefully hit him and the sharp bones cut deeply into his flesh. This brought great pain and weakness into his skeletal muscles which is why Jesus could not carry his own crossbar all the way to the crucifixion. 800 years before this, the prophet Isaiah spoke of the coming Messiah's suffering.

'.....his appearance was so **disfigured** beyond that of any man and his form **marred** beyond human likeness.'  
- Isaiah 52:14 NIV

Even today, Jewish rabbis will not read Isaiah 53 in the synagogue as its description of a suffering Messiah sound too much like what Jesus went through on the cross.

The Romans did not invent crucifixion but they certainly perfected it as an extreme public punishment to rid the empire of traitors and terrorists. It was meant for 'rebels' who resisted or

opposed the established order. Jesus had not come to overthrow the Romans however, but to usher in a new spiritual kingdom which made the Jewish leaders feel threatened and angry. Jesus had come to save those who were rebels against God's rule, which included all of mankind. As we mentioned in a previous message, because of Adam's fall, we were all infected with A.I.D.S. (Adam Inherited Death Syndrome - Romans 5:12). Jesus had come to take our punishment, to bear the curse that was due us.

'And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled himself and became obedient to death, **even** the death of the cross.' - Philippians 2:8 NKJV (St. Paul)

'Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree - Deuteronomy 21:23, Galatians 3:13

Based on his use of the word **even** (re: the cross), we see that St. Paul was well aware of the horror of crucifixion as was a first century Jewish historian.

*'Crucifixion is the most wretched of deaths.'* - *Flavius Josephus*

The word '**excruciating**' refers to great pain, anguish or mental distress. The root meaning is 'out of the cross'. This is a good time of the year to read the gospel accounts of the Passion week when Jesus suffered for us. You can read detailed accounts on the Internet which describe all the medical aspects of the pain Jesus experienced. The 6 inch spikes driven through the nerves in the wrist area would have caused unbelievable muscle spasms and pain.

Since crucifixion was often practiced around Jerusalem, there was a group of kind hearted ladies who took it upon themselves to offer a drink containing gall to those crucified in order to alleviate their pain. Jesus would not accept anything to alleviate the pain, for he was not dying for himself, he was the sacrificial lamb to fully bear the wrath of God's judgment against mankind. Jesus experienced the torment of hell when he cried out these words:

*'My God, my God. Why have you forsaken me?'*

It was 1000 years before this that David wrote those words at the beginning of his song of Psalm 22. It was actually a prophecy of what Jesus would experience in his crucifixion (which was not even invented yet when the Psalm was written). One chief aspect of hell that Jesus suffered on the cross was the feeling of separation from God. Here are a few other excerpts from Psalm 22 that were fulfilled as seen in the gospel accounts.

**'I am a worm** and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl their insults; shaking their heads; He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him.'

 22:6-8

Worms were compressed to create red dye to color clothes...Jesus was so bloodied that he looked more like a worm than a man. His shed blood has now enabled us to be clothed with a white robe of righteousness.

**'Many bulls surround me;** strong bulls of Bashan encircle me' 22:12-13

Bashan is a place in Israel where they have very good pastures so that the bulls there get very large and beefy. The Roman soldiers that surrounded Jesus would also fit that description. The word encircle means crown. The Romans did that when they crowned Jesus with thorns and in jest they hailed him as King of the Jews.

*'I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint, My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. My strength is dried up like pottery, my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth.'* 22:14,15

Jesus perspired profusely and the strain of hanging on the cross pulled Jesus bones out of joint. The body of Jesus dried out from dehydration and his bones could be seen. Imagine the thirst this created in him. He would die of suffocation and a broken heart. He endured the shame and pain of the cross in the heat of the day for the joy that was set before him - Hebrews 12:2 He was thinking of us.

*'They have pierced my hands and feet, I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing'. 22:16-18*

Soldiers gambled over Jesus' garments, oblivious to the historical and redemptive act taking place right under their noses. This reminds us of the apathy that most people today have towards the true **gravity of what happened at the crucifixion of Jesus. Jesus was born naked in a humble setting in the presence of a few. Jesus died naked in shame before a crowd.** The final verses of Psalm 22 reminded Jesus of the fact that his death was for the grandest of purposes.....

*'All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord,  
all the families of the nations will bow down before him.....v.27*

*Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about  
the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet  
unborn - for he has done it.' v. 30-31*

The last words Jesus uttered at death were these: **'It is finished.'** It is not a stretch to think that Jesus may have been thinking of Psalm 22 while he was dying. He was so weakened however, that he could only speak out two phrases. One at the beginning of the Psalm and then one at the end.

Jesus **last words on the cross** in the gospel accounts in the Greek is **tetelestai**, which means: **it is finished / paid in full.** The **last words of Psalm 22** which Jesus uttered from the cross were: **HE HAS DONE IT** (Hebrew translation = **IT IS FINISHED**). We were spiritually bankrupt with no way to pay for our massive sin debt. **Jesus paid it all.** Praise the Lord!

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Compared to the final judgment of hell, this earth is heavenly, for we still have light, love, beauty of creation around us, friendship, fellowship, music, food, drink, comfort and hope. In hell there will be none of that, only eternal loneliness, eternal regret and torment.