

Thorn-Crowned Devotions

Week Six

Creation Finished

This week we focus upon the sixth message given by Jesus while He was on the cross... Finished! As we work up to this declaration by the Lord, we need to consider that it is in the character of God to finish what He starts.

Our first introduction to God in the Bible comes in the book of Genesis. The Spirit is about the great work of creation and each day begins something that continues on to today: *light and darkness, oceans and sky, dry ground and vegetation, sun and moon, fish and birds, animals and man*. Not only was his work “good,” it was also perfect because having begun it continued. We read this,

And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

Genesis 2:2

What God begins he brings it to completion in a way that has ongoing benefit. The world was created to enable mankind to live with a holy God and have fellowship with him. Male and female, man was to represent God upon this earth (1:26-27).

When sin entered the world man was no longer able to walk in fellowship with God because we were now unholy. This was not and is not the end of the story. Before creation God had a plan to deal with our sin and to bring us once again into fellowship with him.

That plan, devised before the world was created, meant Jesus would have to become a man and die in our place to pay the price so that God could make us holy once again. That plan is finished also and has ongoing benefits to anyone who will believe today.

Temple Finished

Being recipients of the grace of God does not protect us from becoming sinners. Adam and Eve were living in a wonderful place with daily fellowship with the most wonderful being in all the universe. They still sinned.

God rescued his people from Egypt and caused them to build the Tabernacle as a place where he could meet with them even though they were still unholy. It was a place that reminded them through courtyards and curtains that they were separated for a time. Later Solomon built a great Temple on this plan. By rebellion, Israel lost this Temple. After the Babylonian exile, God put it in the hearts of the elders to build another Temple with a veil dividing the Holy Place from the place where God met the high priest, the Most Holy Place. They finished the Temple March 12, 515 BC.

And the elders of the Jews built and prospered through the prophesying of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah the son of Iddo. They finished their building by decree of the God of Israel and by decree of Cyrus and Darius and Artaxerxes king of Persia; and this house was finished on the third day of the month of Adar, in the sixth year of the reign of Darius the king.

Ezra 6:14–15

Through the years, Herod had embellished the same Temple making it more ornate and enlarging the grounds around it, but it was the same Temple they had completed earlier with its veil in place.

It was the veil in this finished Temple which tore from top to bottom when Jesus finished the work of salvation.

Mission Finished

The work which was planned before the world was created, which was necessitated by man's plunge into sin, and foreshadowed in the sacrifices and in the Temple, which had been prophesied through the millennia was near completion.

When Jesus had tasted it, he said, "It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

John 19:30 (NLT)

As the message we studied last week, this message is again but one word packed with meaning. "It" refers to the work, providing salvation so that man could be restored to fellowship with a holy God. This verb is in the passive voice meaning it did not accomplish itself it was done by another, by Jesus Christ dying on the cross. This one act has ongoing benefit even to today. That is why Jesus spoke it in the perfect tense.

The apostles picked up this theme in their proclamation of a finished work of salvation:

¹⁰ For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Romans 6:10

¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebrews 10:10

For this message, Jesus selected a term common in business. We have found papyri which are receipts for taxes with this word written across them. What does it mean?

PAID IN FULL

Prophecy Finished

Through the centuries, God had given words to holy men, prophets such as Moses, Elijah and Elisha, King David, and Isaiah. They foretold not just what God was going to do in their day, but also what God was going to do for us in our day (*1 Peter 1:10-12*).

The Gospel of John, for instance, has numerous direct quotes from Scripture which are about the Messiah and which are fulfilled in Jesus' life and words. Take a few moments today and look there to see the finishing of these prophecies:

1. Shows the Father's glory 1:14 (Isaiah 60:1-2)
2. Zeal for God's House 2:17 (Psalm 69:9)
3. Crucifixion 3:14 (Numbers 21:9)
4. That Prophet 5:46; 6:14; 7:40 (Deuteronomy 18:15)
5. Riding a Colt 12:14-15 (Zechariah 9:9)
6. Jewish Unbelief 12:38-40 (Isaiah 53:1; 6:10)
7. Betrayer Eats with Him 13:18 (Psalm 41:9)
8. Hated 15:25 (Psalm 69:4)
9. Disciples Scatter 16:32 (Zechariah 13:7)
10. Son of Destruction 17:21 (Psalm 41:9; 109:7-8)
11. Gambling 19:24 (Psalm 22:18)
12. Given Sour Wine 19:28-29 (Psalm 69:21)
13. No Bones Broken 19:36 (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12)
14. Look on Him Pierced 19:37 (Zechariah 12:10)
15. Rise from the Dead 20:9 (Psalm 16:9-10)

Time Finished

⁴Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. (Ephesians 1:4–5 *NLT*)

God’s plan was devised before the world was created, finished by Jesus death on the cross, reminds us of the prophetic truth that our time is coming to an end. People are still tempted into the folly of thinking that nothing has changed since time began and nothing will change in the future.

³Most importantly, I want to remind you that in the last days scoffers will come, mocking the truth and following their own desires. ⁴They will say, “What happened to the promise that Jesus is coming again? From before the times of our ancestors, everything has remained the same since the world was first created.” (2 Peter 3:3–4 *NLT*)

We know change is all around us, but we have difficulty grasping the concept that time will come to an end. God will not allow this sinful world to continue forever. That was not the plan.

One of the last things revealed to Daniel was the end of time.

¹“At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. ²And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:1–7 *ESV*)