

## 3 Days and 3 Nights

### John 19:30

“It is finished” – This would be the last words spoken by Jesus on the cross, but what do they mean?

- With the last gasp of breathe the veil in the Temple (which measured 80 ft. high, 20 ft. wide, and 18 inches thick) served as a barrier between God and man, but it was cut in half by the very hand of God when Christ died (top to bottom).

? **Question:** Many have said that the reason God tore the veil was to allow man to enter into the Holy of Holies. Is this the reason...remember: God wanted out for a specific purpose—to dwell within man (temple).

- A thick darkness hovered over Jerusalem and the people who just moments before were yelling, “Crucify Him,” now were “smashing their fist against their chest.”
- Roman soldiers were making a confession of faith at the completion of the execution, when the centurion said, “Surely this was the Son of God.”
- The Disciples hung their heads in fear as they were broken and wounded. Their King was dead.

? **Question:** While this is the picture of earth what was happening in Heaven?

- What reaction Heaven had is a mystery, but at the same time the scriptures do reveal some very critical keys to the relationship that Christ had with Heaven. The angels ministered to Christ as His temptation (**Matthew 4:11**), in Gethsemane’s garden before His death (**Luke 22:43**), and were present at His resurrection (**John 20:12**).
- Do not ever forget that the Father knew the END of the story! It was planned “from the foundation of the world!”  
 “...Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...” (**Hebrews 12:2**)

? **Question:** Before the crucifixion of Christ, when men died, what happened to their spirits?

- There are huge caverns and places carved deep beneath the earth in which before the cross their spirits descended to the lower parts of the earth, where both the righteous and the unrighteous went there, but they were in separate compartments.
- The righteous went to what is called “**Abraham’s bosom,**” (also known as paradise) and the sinner went into a large compartment of fire called hell (**Luke 16:19-31**).
- What is interesting is the fact that Jesus predicted...”**As Jonah was three days and nights in the whale’s belly, so the Son of Man must be three days and nights in the heath of the earth.**”
- When Christ “**gave up the Ghost**” (**Matthew 27:50**), His spirit went into paradise, where the righteous had waited for thousands of years for their redemption. **Ephesians 4:8-9**
- Over the period of thousands of years, the spirits of righteous men and women were taken to Paradise at death. But, Christ descended to this huge underground vault to “**preach to the spirits in prison!**”
- For the first time Abraham saw “**his seed**” that God promised him years before.
- Isaiah saw the “**virgin born**” Son of God (**Isaiah 7:14**).

? **Question:** What kind of sermon did He preach?

1. We must realize that those held in Abraham’s bosom had died under to covenant of Abraham.
2. Remember, the Law of Moses provided forgiveness for sins by the blood sacrifices “**covering**” the sins.
3. Men’s iniquities were “**hid**” from God.
4. Before the death of Christ there was no salvation through grace and mercy by faith...just the law.

What I believe is this: I believe that Jesus preached on His sufferings and on His blood! Christ had brought the ultimate visual aid with him...an eyewitness...a former thief on the cross. The former thief was the first mortal man to be forgiven by the blood of Christ! Don’t ever lose sight of the fact that Christ had told the forgiven thief, “**Today thou shalt be with Me in paradise!**”

Bonus Thought: When Christ resurrected, many saints came out of the earth with Him and many were seen in Jerusalem

? **Question:** What did Satan see?

**1 Corinthians 2:6-8**

- The “**prince of this world,**” Satan (**Ephesians 2:2**) is not an all knowing being. His power is released through the disobedience of men and women.
- His knowledge of God’s eternal purpose was hidden from him!
- In fact, many fail to realize that it was hidden to the prophets, although revealed in “**bits and pieces**”. The fullness of this mystery would be made known to Paul in **Romans 16:25-26**.
- Satan and all of the powers of darkness were unaware of what was actually happening the very day that Christ went to the cross!

### **Psalms 22**

In these scriptures it gives us several prophecies concerning the crucifixion of Christ. Notice how it begins...it continues in verse 7-8...

David went as far as to predict the gambling for the garment in verse 18.

However there is one very unusual scripture found...do you notice it?...It’s in verse 12.

- Most scholars apply this to the wicked and cruel men standing around the cross that day. But we are going to go deeper and further than most scholars.
1. The Hebrew word “**bulls**” in this passage is the word “*abbiyr*” which means “**angel, mighty one, stout.**” It implies a very strong spirit.
  2. The land of Bashan, in Moses’ time was very heavily populated with a famous race of giants. We can find one of those in **Deuteronomy 3:1-8**, with their leader named Og.
  3. While Bashan was a fertile land for raising cattle, there were no literal cattle or bulls present on mount Calvary.
  4. The second meaning of the “**bulls of Bashan**” would be the strong evil spirits that worked in the men.
  5. Jesus said...“**the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me**” (**John 14:30**). Christ knew the forces of darkness would battle against Him, but they would have no control over Him in any form! Therefore the bulls of Bashan may be a cryptic reference to the powers of darkness that gathered around the cross.

--Whether or not this was an attack by demonic spirits or the spirits of the wicked men who were against him, the “**bulls of Bashan**” added to the mental torment that was upon Christ.

- When you and I study Jesus and his actions in the Garden of Gethsemane, we can truly understand the pressure that he faced.

“Sweat became as it were great drops of blood falling to the ground” (Luke 22:44).

- He was in “agony”. The Greek word here is “*agonia*” which means a bitter struggle.
- Christ was struggling with the “will of God.” The Son of God was about to face death...something that God had never experienced.
- Satan DID NOT understand the plan. Scripture is very clear on the fact that the plan was HID with God and later revealed to the apostles. As far as Satan was concerned, his battle with Jesus was over...Actually it was just the beginning!

? **Question:** What about the burial of the body?

- Remember Heaven was watching, Satan was content, and Abraham’s bosom was listening to the word straight from the Spirit of the word.
- Joseph of Arimathea, according to Jewish tradition was a tin trader and one of the three wealthiest men in Jerusalem.
  - A. According to **Mark 14:43** he was an “**honorable counselor**”, which meant he was a member of the well-respected Sanhedrin (which consisted of 70 of the most notable men in the nation.
  - B. Joseph had the political power to ask Pilate for the body of Jesus.
  - C. What is noteworthy is to realize the fact that Pilate had no idea how Joseph or Nicodemus felt about Christ.
- Nicodemus came “**by night**” secretly to speak with Jesus.
  - A. Throughout history many have believed that Nicodemus owned the Garden of Gethsemane where Christ often prayed.
- If Joseph could have not been able to get the body of Christ, the body could have been removed by the Romans and carried to the Valley of Hinnom.

Pay Close attention here: The Valley of Hinnom was a deep canyon located on the west side of the city, and was the place where garbage, animal manure, dead animals, and other unwanted trash were thrown.

- A. In the New Testament, when Jesus speaks of hell it is the Greek word “*Gehennah*,” which means the Valley of Hinnom.
- B. A continual fire was burning in this valley. (This is not far from where Judas hung himself)

C. A criminal who died accused of blasphemy could be thrown into Gehennah, and at that moment he would be burned to ashes.

- This was NOT the plan of God!
- David as a prophet and King had written these words found in Acts 2:31... “He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption.”

With the influence of Joseph it may have saved the body of Jesus from being destroyed. Remember that none of the disciples were present to claim the body. It was two secret disciples that came public with their belief in the Lord just in time.

#### The Body:

1. There were over 100 lbs. of linen and spices were purchased and smeared over the corpse.
2. Fresh linens were purchased in order to wrap the Lord’s body.
3. Joseph allowed Christ to be buried in his own new tomb, which was a cave with a large stone to cover the entrance (this was common in Roman time).

Get this nugget: At the very moment that the Passover lambs are being offered by the priest at the Temple, God’s spotless pet lamb breathes his final breath and cries, “It is finished.”

These three words are the very words the priest would say at the completion of the Passover meal. Christ knew the final sacrifice had been made.

#### **Guarding the Grave:**

- We need to realize that there were three worlds reaching to the death of Jesus.
  1. Heaven was waiting with anticipation for the third day to arrive.
  2. Paradise was listening to Jesus proclaim the power of the blood.
  3. The guards were standing at a dead man’s grave, possibly wondering why they were there to watch a dead man’s grave.
- The prophet predicted that His “body would not see corruption.”
- It is important to not that normally by the end of the third day the body begins to corrupt.
- Did you know that BLOOD causes the corruption along with the moisture in the body?
- We need to get this in our mind for one second: When the centurion thrust a spear into Christ’s body, out came “blood and water.”

- When a person is bleeding to death, the water from the organs often goes to the area where the bleeding is occurring.
- You see by Christ's body being emptied of both blood and water, the organs were in a better condition NOT to deteriorate or corrupt.

### **Historical Reference:**

In the ARCO FILE which, is a series of large scrolls that were in a monastery in Turkey that record the occurrence at the moment of the resurrection. In the late 1800's a gentleman received special permission to translate these documents into English.

A section of the scrolls is supposed to be a letter from Pilate to Caesar concerning the burial and resurrection of Jesus.

“...I sent him to the captain of the royal guard, Milchus, to tell them to take as many of the Jewish soldiers as he needed to place them around the sepulcher. Then if anything should happen they could blame themselves and not the Romans.

When the great excitement arose about the sepulcher being found empty, I felt a deeper concern than ever. I sent for Milchus who told me he place his lieutenant, Ben Ishem, with 100 soldiers around the tomb. He told me that Ishem and the soldiers were very much alarmed at what occurred there that morning. I sent for this man Isham and he related to me as near as I can remember the following circumstances.

He said at the beginning of the fourth watch (3:00 AM) that they saw a soft and beautiful light over the sepulcher. At first they thought the women had come to embalm the body of Jesus as their custom, but he could not determine how they had gotten through the guards.

While these reflections were passing through his mind, behold the whole place was lighted up, and their seemed to be CROWDS OF THE DEAD in their grave clothes. All seemed to be filled with ecstasy while all around was the most beautiful music he had ever heard, and the place seemed to be full of voices praising God.

At this time there seemed to be a reeling and a swinging of the earth so that he turned sick and fainted and could not remain standing. He said the earth seemed to leave from under him and his senses left him

so he knew not what occurred. I asked him what position he was in when he came to himself and he said he was lying on the ground with his face earthward...”

- The fourth watch begins at 3:00 in the morning and was also often a time Christ resorted to prayer (**Mark 6:48**).
- Get this know...we know that the guards fell down as dead men and there were many dead saints seen walking through Jerusalem AFTER Christ rose from the Dead: **Matthew 27:52-53**

From the Earth, to the lower parts, to Heaven: **John 20:11-18**

We find Mary at the sepulcher weeping as Jesus stood by her. We read how she does not recognize him but why?

1. She was weeping so intensely, her eyes were blurred.
  2. Her eyes were “holden” like the eyes of the 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus, where they too did not recognize Christ.
  3. Christ was dressed in a way that she did not recognize Him.
- Mary actually thought she was talking to a gardener that perhaps kept the ground at the ground.
  - You ask...how do you know this? – It involves the garments of Jesus.
    - A. Christ was crucified nude. It was part of the “shame” of public execution on the tree.
    - B. When Joseph prepared the body, there were no “clothed” places on the body...Jesus was wrapped in new linens (similar to a mummy).
    - C. At His resurrection, the grave clothes were seen by John INSIDE the tomb. **John 20:5-7** “And he stooping down, and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulcher, and seeth the linen clothes lie, And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.”
  - When Mary saw Christ, He was clothed.
- ? Question: Where did He receive the clothes that he was wearing?
1. They were not His grave clothes.
  2. They were not buried with Him in the tomb.
  3. There is only one logical answer: The clothes Christ was wearing were brought by an angel from Heaven!

**Far Fetched Idea?** – Since, Jesus was now our High Priest, He had to have the special linen garment required by the priest to wear. Don't forget what the scripture teaches, that things in heaven needed to be purified with blood!

- When Mary saw Christ He was on His way into heaven to perform the ritual of applying His blood to the heavenly temple articles once and for all! This is why He spoke to Mary in verse 17.
- Jesus, now the High Priest, was on his way back to the Father.
- As the priest on the Day of Atonement put on four pieces of linen clothes, it is my personal belief that Jesus had these four pieces on:
  1. The Linen pants
  2. Belt
  3. Robe
  4. Headdress
- Jesus was going to “ascend to the Father” to complete His mission on purging the heavenly vessels of ministry.
- Not only did the Holy Spirit provide these garments, but we need to realize that when Jesus was bleeding during His beatings and His crucifixion the Holy Spirit was gathering His blood.

**Far Fetched Idea?** – The Holy Spirit gathered Jesus' blood in a vessel took this vessel back into the holy place of heaven and waited for the eternal High Priest to come and carry out his mission. **Hebrews 9:11-12, 21-25**

? **Question:** Still not convinced...ask yourself this...it took the blood of Jesus to purify the heavenly temple and mankind, but how can a dead man gather his own blood and carry it into heaven?

- We need to realize that He only needed to offer His blood once.
- The blood of the perfect sacrifice for humanity as presented by our High Priest removed the barrier between holy God and sinful man.

Because the blood of Christ in incorruptible and time is no more in Heaven, I personally believe that even though it has been over 2,000 years since Calvary, in the very temple in heaven there is an ark and there still is the blood of Christ on the mercy seat that is as fresh and alive as the very day that Christ placed it there as our High Priest.

When we understand this, we can understand why we are living in the age of grace: The blood of Christ is continually, perpetually making atonement for our

sins. The blood of Christ that was provided as payment for our right to have access into the presence of God still has life in it. It still contains the resurrection, life-giving power for those that believe and put their trust in it.

Get This: When we get to heaven and walk into the heavenly temple, we will be able to see the blood that gave us the right to be there.

We will see the blood that saved us from our sins.

We will see the blood that paid for us to have the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

We will see the blood that set people free from cocaine, meth, and prostitution.

Get This: The blood of Jesus is still there, still active, still alive!

? **Question:** So what does this mean for you and me?

- It means that when the devil goes to accuse the brethren (**Revelation 12:10**), his case is dismissed for lack of evidence!
- When Satan says to the Father, “I enticed Ryan Johnson to sin against You, so he has no right to have an eternal home in Your presence. I saw this one that You call Yours sin. I accuse him before You and condemn him as guilty.”
- It is then that the High Priest (our Mediator) will say to the father, “The great accuser is wrong. That sin that he committed has been paid for. By the word of his testimony, Ryan has accepted that forgiveness, and there is the blood which you accepted as payment for the sin, so it can no longer be admitted as evidence against him!” Hallelujah! It’s covered! My sin has been covered!

? **Question:** But, what about the saints from Paradise?

**Matthew 27:52-53**

? **Question:** We see that they were resurrected, but when did these saints go to heaven?

1. In **Acts 1**, Christ gathered His disciples together at the top of the Mount of Olives promising them the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
2. In verse **9** it says that He was lifted up and a *cloud* received Him out of their sight.
3. The word “**cloud**” in that passage is the same Greek root word that is used in **Hebrews 12:1** where it refers to a great cloud of witnesses and this is the

same as the Hebrew word that is used in **Joel 2** when it refers to the armies as swarming locusts.

4. Therefore, Paul is saying that Jesus was sent up in a cloud of saints.

Need more proof: **Acts 1:10** says those 2 men (it didn't say angels) in white apparel stood beside them.

Remember This:

A. **Revelation 19:14** tells us that He is coming back with an army.

B. Another words...He is not coming back alone and 2 men told the disciples that He was coming back in the same way they saw Him go, then He must not have gone to heaven alone!

- Both Greek words used in these passages of scripture are singular nouns are used as a cloud of men.
- It means a cloud of battle or thick cloud of something in flight (p.1171 of the Lidell and Scott dictionary of Greek words).
- The Greek word that was used for “cloud” in **Hebrews 12:1** (*nephos*) is a neuter gender. In **Hebrews 12:1**, the writer is talking about both believers and non-believers (neuter) who can bear witness to the events that took place while the Lord was alive.
- In **Acts 1:9**, the word “cloud” is referring strictly to those who are a part of the Bride of Christ (feminine) as they enveloped Him and ascended with Him into heaven when he lifted off from the Mount of Olives.

Don't ever lose sight that Heaven is a holy place. But, Heaven was defiled by the presence of sin. The temple needed to be purged because SIN originated at the very throne of God when Satan attempted to overthrow God.

However the sin that entered did not corrupt God Himself, but all things by the law are cleansed with the blood (**Hebrews 9:22**). The priest under the law took blood and sprinkled the altar, the Ark of the Covenant and the book of the law.

In no doubt, Christ went through the same procedure and sprinkled His blood upon the holy vessels of ministry in heaven.

**Take Note:** Look how Jesus is NOW dressed. John saw Christ in a vision in the year 95 A.D., over 60 years after the resurrection...**Revelation 1:13**.

A. This is a picture of the High Priest of heaven!

B. Jesus has entered into the heavenly temple, and by His blood, has given you and me the right to approach God!

C. We no longer need to pray to saints who have died, or rely on the prayers of an earthly mediator. The Bible says in **1 Timothy 2:5** – “For there is

ONE God, and ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

D. There is only ONE true priest to God and that is Jesus Christ. You can pray anywhere and at anytime...Jesus will hear you!

**The Mark of the Covenant:** All covenant men are marked.

1. Abraham had the sign of the covenant on his body.
2. All male children, descendants of Abraham, carried a scar of circumcision as a token of their blood covenant with God (**Genesis 18:10-14**).
3. All throughout eternity Jesus Christ will carry the scars on His body of His sufferings. People will see the scars.

? **Question:** When we have a new glorified body, we will not be blemished with physical defects. Why should Christ carry the marks on His body?

- Remember, when Thomas doubted he placed his hand into the side of Christ. As his hand went between the ribs Thomas screamed, “**My Lord and My God!**” Thomas touched the HEART of God (**John 20:26-30**).
- Those scars are the ETERNAL EVIDENCE of a proven event!

**Applying the Blood:**

And they overcame him by the BLOOD of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. (**Revelation 12:11**)

- When dealing with a demon-possessed person or a strong spiritual opposition you will hear many say, “**We need to plead the blood**” or “**I plead the blood over this situation.**”
- **Isaiah 43:26** says “**Put in remembrance: let us PLEAD together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.**”
- God is a judge and because of this we present our case before Him and if we have sinned we plead “guilty” knowing that He can forgive us through the blood of Christ.
- When dealing with Satan we have got to understand the power of the blood of Christ.

**Take Note:**

In the time of the Temple, 2 lambs were offered each day; one in the morning and one in the evening. This is very interesting because these are the 2 most important times of our day.

1. In the morning, the enemy will try to ruin your entire day.
2. In the evening we are preparing to rest

The enemy desires to distract our rest by any means possible. Therefore, a BLOOD OFFERING was prepared in the morning and the evening.

- We no longer have to go to a temple for worship, because the Bible says that our **“body is the temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 3:16)**.
- We MUST attend church and be ministered to by a pastor, but we do not offer BLOOD offerings as was once required.

? **Question:** How then do we overcome Satan by the BLOOD of Jesus?

- We have to apply the blood of Christ by our confession. Remember what **Revelation 12:11** says.
- We have got to realize that in order to be born again, we must confess our sin to JESUS and by FAITH in His blood we are forgiven.
- Then we must CONFESS that we are saved.

**Romans 10:10** – **“With the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”**

“Confess” or “confession” simply means admitting to guilt. Everyone and I do mean everyone is guilty before God. Therefore everyone desperately needs to be “redeemed” or “Bought back”, so we can once again be God’s property.

**The Blood has the power to:**

1. Redeem the Lost - **Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1:18-19)**
2. Cleanse from Sin - **In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: (Colossians 1:14)**
3. Provide access to God - **But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. (Ephesians 2:13)**

4. Grant peace with God - *And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven.*  
(**Colossians 1:20**)
5. Clear the conscience - *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*  
(**Hebrews 9:14**)

Old Covenant

Law written on Tablets of Stone  
Burnt incense for Prayer of the Nation  
Access to God through a Priest  
Forgiveness from animal blood

New Covenant

Law written on your heart  
Prayers are Stored in Heaven  
Direct access through Jesus  
Forgiveness from the blood of Jesus

The Price has been paid!  
The transaction has been completed!  
The contract has been signed in blood!

**Romans 6:23** - For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**John 3:16** - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**1 John 5:11-13** - And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.