

Introduction

Earlier this week in my daily Bible reading, one of the places that I was in was Joshua, and I came across one of my favorite verses. Joshua was about to die, and he said that “not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.” I have found in my life that God has always been faithful to His word and His promises. In the mornings when I wake up, I begin giving thanks to God and one of the biggest things that I thank Him for is His faithfulness. He has been so faithful to me and our family, always providing for us, just as He promises that He will do.

(Jos 23:14) “Now behold, today I am going the way of all the earth, and you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one word of all the good words which the Lord your God spoke concerning you has failed; all have been fulfilled for you, not one of them has failed.”

When God tells us that He will do something; He does it. In Numbers 23:19, we find that when God says something, He will do it. If He has spoken something, He will make it good.

(Nu 23:19) “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?”

From the days of eternity, God established a plan to send Jesus to save us from our sins. In His foreknowledge, He knew that men would sin and need a Savior to set them free from their sins. So, according to His predetermined plan and foreknowledge, He sent Jesus. Every part of the plan was detailed and given to us through the mouths of the prophets. Jesus’ birth fulfilled all the prophecies concerning His birth. He was a descendant of David, born in Bethlehem, and born to a virgin. He was called out of Egypt, and His family moved to Nazareth, so that He would be called a Nazarene. These all fulfilled prophecies.

(Ac 2:23) “this *Man*, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put *Him* to death.”

We have been looking at Jesus’ Departure Plan. Like the other parts of the plan, the prophets prophesied about it. Jesus met with Moses and Elijah at His transfiguration, and they discussed His departure plan which He was about to accomplish. Jesus communicated that plan to His disciples. He told them that He would be betrayed, and handed over to the chief priests, who would condemn Him. Then, He was to be handed over to the Gentiles, who would mock, spit, scourge, and crucify Him. After three days in the grave, He would be raised from the dead, and return to the Father.

(Lk 9:30–31) “And behold, two men were talking with Him; and they were Moses and Elijah, {31} who, appearing in glory, were speaking of His departure which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.”

So far, in this series, in Part 1 we covered His betrayal, arrest, and condemnation by the chief priests. In Part 2, we looked at being handed over to the Gentiles, where He was examined by Pilate and Herod, and declared innocent, was mocked, spit upon, beaten, scourged, and then taken to be crucified. In Part 3, we looked at His crucifixion, and how Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies and Scriptures, His family responsibilities, and His mission. At the end of His life, He stated, “It is finished”, and He gave up His spirit.

Following the Departure Plan

1. Betrayal and Arrest (Jn 18:1-12) (Part 1)
2. Delivery to the chief priests (Jn 18:13-27) (Part 1)
3. Condemnation by the chief priests (Jn 18:19-24) (Part 1)
4. Delivery to the Gentiles (Jn 18:28-19:16) Part 2)
5. Crucifixion of Jesus (Jn 19:16-30) (Part 3)
- 6. Death and Burial of Jesus (Jn 19:31-42) (Part 4)**
7. Resurrection of Jesus (Jn 20:1-18) (Part 5)

In our passage today, John 19:30-42, we will be looking at Part 4, the death and burial of Jesus. We will find that three other specific prophecies were fulfilled. First, there was the fulfillment of unbroken bones. Second, there was the fulfillment of being pierced. Third, there was the fulfillments of being with a rich man in His death.

4. Part 4: Scriptures Fulfilled in Jesus' Death and Burial

1. Fulfillment of unbroken bones
2. Fulfillment of being pierced
3. Fulfillment of the grave of a rich man

(Jn 19:31–42) “Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away. {32} So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; {33} but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. {34} But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. {35} And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. {36} For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.” {37} And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.” {38} After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret *one* for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body. {39} Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds *weight*. {40} So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. {41} Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. {42} Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”

1. Fulfillment of unbroken bones

The first scripture fulfilled was the fulfillment that His bones would not be broken. Jesus said, “It is finished!”, bowed His head and gave up His spirit. Jesus had died. Normally, when someone was crucified, it took three or four days for the person to die. It was a very long, drawn-out, and painful experience. Then, the birds of prey would come and eat away at the flesh. When they were taken off the cross, they would typically throw the bones off on the side of the road. There was no dignity or honor given to the criminal. In Jesus' case, He was put on the cross at the third hour, or 9:00 a.m., and He gave up His spirit at the ninth hour, or 3:00 p.m., days before the normal criminal would have died. Jesus gave up His Spirit; He laid His life down on His own.

(Jn 19:30) “Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”

(Mk 15:25–26) “It was the third hour when they crucified Him. {26} The inscription of the charge against Him read, “THE KING OF THE JEWS.”

(Mt 27:46) “About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

This was on Friday, the day of preparation for the Passover Feast, which would be on the Sabbath. It was not just a normal Sabbath; it was a high day. A high day is when the Sabbath coincided with one of the major feasts, and in this case the Passover. The Jews knew that it took several days for a person to die on the cross, and they did not want the bodies left on the cross on a Sabbath.

(Jn 19:31) “Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and *that* they might be taken away.”

Their request that the bodies not be left on the cross related to Deuteronomy 21:22-23, where if someone was hung on a tree, his corpse was not to hang all night on the tree so that the land was not defiled. They were to take the person down and bury him. At the time that the law was given, they did not hang people; they stoned them. This was prophetically given for when Jesus was going to be crucified on the cross. The Jews were more concerned with appearing righteous by taking the bodies down before the Sabbath than they were about condemning a righteous man to death in an illegal trial with false witnesses. It was pure hypocrisy. (Jesus became a curse for us so that we could inherit the blessings of God. See Gal 3:13.)

(Dt 21:22–23) “If a man has committed a sin worthy of death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, {23} his corpse shall not hang all night on the tree, but you shall surely bury him on the same day (for he who is hanged is accursed of God), so that you do not defile your land which the Lord your God gives you as an inheritance.”

So the Jews asked Pilate that the legs might be broken. When a person was on the cross, they would push themselves up with their legs to breathe. By breaking the legs, the person could no longer push themselves up, and would die very shortly after. When the soldiers came, they broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him. The soldiers would take a large mallet and crush the femur bone with a powerful blow. Once shattered, the person could no longer push himself up to breathe, and death came very rapidly.” When the soldiers came to Jesus, they saw that He was already dead, so they did not break His legs.

(Jn 19:32-33) “So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; {33} but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.”

In verse thirty-six, John wrote that these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.” Every single Scripture was fulfilled in the Departure Plan. God always fulfills His words and promises.

(Jn 19:36) “For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.”

In John 1:29, John the Baptist identified Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In 1 Corinthians 5:7, Paul wrote that Christ is our Passover (Lamb). It was important for the legs of Jesus not to be broken because of the laws pertaining to the Passover lamb.

(Jn 1:29) “The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

(1 Co 5:7) “Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed.”

In Exodus 12:5, God said that the Passover Lamb was to be an unblemished male. Unblemished meant that it could not have a broken leg, be disfigured in any way or have any defects. In verse forty-six, and in Numbers 9:12, the law said that they were not to break any bone of it.

(Ex 12:5) “Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats.”

(Ex 12:46) “It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it.”

(Nu 9:12) “They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break a bone of it; according to all the statute of the Passover they shall observe it.”

In Leviticus 22, we find that to be accepted, the lamb had to be perfect. It could not be blind, fractured, maimed, or having a running sore or eczema or scabs. Jesus had been examined by Pilate and Herod and declared innocent. He was without sin or blemish or defect. Since the lamb was not to have a fractured or broken bone, it was critical that His legs not be broken.

(Le 22:19–22) “for you to be accepted—it must be a male without defect from the cattle, the sheep, or the goats. {20} Whatever has a defect, you shall not offer, for it will not be accepted for you. {21} When a man offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the Lord to fulfill a special vow or for a freewill offering, of the herd or of the flock, it must be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no defect in it. {22} Those that are blind or fractured or maimed or having a running sore or eczema or scabs, you shall not offer to the Lord, nor make of them an offering by fire on the altar to the Lord.”

When John wrote that they did not break Jesus’ legs to fulfill the Scripture, he was not necessarily writing just about the laws pertaining to the Passover Lamb. He was probably referring to the prophecy by David in Psalm 34:20 that “He keeps all his bones, not one of them is broken.” Jesus gave up His spirit early, knowing that the legs of those being crucified would be broken, so that His legs would not be broken, fulfilling the requirements of the Passover lamb, and of David’s prophecy.

2. Fulfillment of being pierced

The second fulfillment of scripture was that He was to be pierced. When the soldiers saw that Jesus was already dead, and did not break His legs, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. Why did the soldier pierce His side? There are a number of reasons for it. First, when a soldier pierced the person in the side, the spear would be thrust up into the heart, and if the person was alive, he would be immediately killed by this.

(Jn 19:34) “But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.”

The second reason for piercing the side would be to verify His death. If only blood came out, it would indicate that the person had still been alive. If both blood and water came out, it would indicate that the person had already died. There are several medical theories about the blood and water. First, if the spear went through lungs, pleural fluid may have come out, and then as the spear went into the heart, blood would have come out. The second theory is that the water was a pericardial fluid, which comes from the pericardial sac around the heart. The third theory is that the blood had already begun to break down and separate. The clotting and settling of blood after death would result in dark red blood and then a lighter serum, which is watery. Since not much time has passed, I am inclined to believe that the spear pierced the pericardium and the heart, and the water was the fluid around the heart, and the blood was from the heart. In any case, the piercing of the side verified that Jesus was dead.

John wrote that these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture. It was not just that His legs would not be broken, but also that He would be pierced.

(Jn 19:36-37) “For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, “Not a bone of Him shall be broken.” {37} And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”

What were the prophecies and scriptures about being pierced? The primary prophecy is in Isaiah 53:5, where we find that “He was pierced through for our transgressions.”

(Is 53:5) “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed.”

In Zechariah 12:10, we find that the inhabitants of Jerusalem will look on the Messiah that they have pierced, and will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son. God said that He would pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication. God poured out grace on us through Jesus’s death on the cross.

(Zec 12:10) “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”

Why was the verification of Jesus’ death so important? Jesus had taught that He would be raised from the dead in three days. In order to be raised from the dead, He would first need to die. If the disciples took His body down before He was dead, they could then bring Him out in three days and say that He had risen from the dead. Therefore, it was critical to verify that He had died. It was not just for the purpose of not breaking His legs; it was for verification.

In verse thirty-five, John said, “and he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.” John saw Jesus crucified. He saw Him declare, “It is finished!”, and to give up His spirit. He saw the soldiers come and break the legs of the other two men, and that Jesus’ legs were not broken. He saw the soldier pierce His side, and that blood and water flowed out. He testified that these things happened and are true.

(Jn 19:35) “And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

John’s purpose is not just for verification, so that the Jews cannot contest the fact that Jesus died on the cross. His purpose for writing the gospel was so that people would believe. All the miracles and signs that He wrote about were to convince people to believe. Once again, John testified that Jesus’ legs were not broken, that His side was pierced, that blood and water came out, and that Jesus had died on the cross. He testified of these things, “so that you also may believe.”

On a different note, in Matthew Henry’s commentary, he wrote that the blood and water that flowed out of Jesus were significant. He mentioned two great benefits for all believers: justification and sanctification. The blood is for our atonement and remission of sins, and the water is for purification and regeneration. He said that the two always had to go together. Both of these flowed out of the side of Jesus, our Redeemer.

(Matthew Henry) “The blood and water that flowed out of it were significant. 1. They signified the two great benefits which all believers partake of through Christ—justification and sanctification; blood for remission, water for regeneration; blood for atonement, water for purification. Blood and water were used very much under the law. Guilt contracted must be expiated by blood; stains contracted must be done away by the water of purification. These two must always go together. You are sanctified, you are justified, 1 Corinthians 6:11. Christ has joined them together, and we must not think to put them asunder. They both flowed from the pierced side of our Redeemer. To Christ crucified we owe both merit for our justification, and Spirit and grace for our sanctification; and we have as much need of the latter as of the former, 1 Corinthians 1:30.”

3. Fulfillment of the grave of a rich man

The third fulfillment was that Jesus was with a rich man in His death. After the soldiers had pierced the side of Jesus and verified His death, “Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.” Joseph was no longer a secret disciple of Jesus. He came out in the open by going to Pilate and asking for the body of Jesus. This was going to be known by everybody.

(Jn 19:38) “After these things Joseph of Arimathea, being a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus; and Pilate granted permission. So he came and took away His body.”

What else do we know about Joseph? In Luke’s account, we find that he was a good and righteous man, a man of character. Luke also records that he had not consented to their plan and action. His non-consent would have put him at odds with the rest of the Council, who had come up with a plan to arrest and condemn Jesus to death, and then to turn Him over to Pilate to execute on their demand.

(Lk 23:50–51) “And a man named Joseph, who was a member of the Council, a good and righteous man {51} (he had not consented to their plan and action), *a man* from Arimathea, a city of the Jews, who was waiting for the kingdom of God;”

In Matthew's account, we find that Joseph was a rich man from Arimathea. We do not know how he attained his wealth, only that he was a rich man. Scholars do not know where the town of Arimathea is. The leading view of scholars is that Arimathea is a Greek form of the Hebrew place called Ramathaim, or Ramah for short. It is in the hill country of Ephraim, northwest of Jerusalem.

(Mt 27:57) "When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus."

In Mark's account, he records that Joseph was a prominent member of the Sanhedrin Council, who was waiting for the kingdom of God. He was not just a wealthy man; he was a prominent member of the Council. His current actions of identifying with Jesus was certain to get him removed from the Council, put out of the synagogue, imprisoned, and quite possibly, put to death. The Scriptures are silent about what happened to him afterwards. There are lots of stories and traditions about his life after this, but none of them are verifiable. What we can say is that Joseph's action were courageous and very generous.

(Mk 15:43) "Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up courage and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus."

Joseph's action also fulfilled the scripture that in Jesus' death, He was associated with a rich man. We find that prophecy in Isaiah 53:9, where Isaiah prophesied that "His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death..."

(Is 53:9) "His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth."

Next, we find that "Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight." In John 3, we saw that Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews, and a Pharisee. He was a seeker, who wanted to ask Jesus questions, but in private. Nicodemus was also part of the Sanhedrin Council, so it is very likely that these two men were not just co-workers, they were friends. Now, they are more than just friends, they are believers, disciples of Jesus, and brothers in the Lord. Nicodemus has also come public with his faith in Christ. Like Joseph, he faced dismissal from the Council, imprisonment, and possibly death. There is no Biblical evidence of what happened to Nicodemus, but according to church tradition, he was removed from the Council, and persecuted. His actions also reflected courage and generosity.

(Jn 19:39) "Nicodemus, who had first come to Him by night, also came, bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about a hundred pounds weight."

(Jn 3:1-2) "Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; {2} this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God *as* a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

John wrote that Joseph and Nicodemus "took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. This was no small amount of spices; John records that it was about a hundred pounds weight, which far exceeds the amount of spices normally used. This reflects the burial of a wealthy person or a royal person. We do not know the

exact worth, but it is probably several years wages. This was an extravagant and costly gift that Joseph and Nicodemus used.

(Jn 19:40) “So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen wrappings with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews.”

John records that they wrapped the spices in the linen wrappings. They put it in between the layers of wrappings that they used. These fragrant spices helped offset the smell of the body as it began to break down. This was the burial custom of the Jews, and these two religious leaders would have been well aware of the burial customs. They were also aware of the time. The Jewish day begins at sundown, as there was darkness and then light, the first day. The Sabbath would begin at Sundown, and so there is a tight timeline to get Jesus buried before dark.

Next, we find that there was a garden near Golgotha, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. In Matthew’s account we find that this new tomb was Joseph’s tomb. He had it hewn out in the rock, and was most likely planning to use it for himself.

(Jn 19:41) “Now in the place where He was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid.”

(Mt 27:59–60) “And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, {60} and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.”

John concludes, saying because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there. Since there was a hurry to get Jesus wrapped and buried before sundown, the nearness of the tomb to Golgotha was very convenient. While Joseph may have had the tomb prepared for himself, I believe it was God that directed him to do it, and God had other purposes for that tomb. Sometimes we do not fully understand why God has us do certain things, and it is only later that we fully understand His purposes.

(Jn 19:42) “Therefore because of the Jewish day of preparation, since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.”

There is another reason for the urgency besides being the day before the Sabbath. Jesus was going to be in the tomb for three days. It is late on Friday, and at sundown, Saturday will start. Jesus needed to be buried in the tomb on Friday, be there Saturday, and then be raised up on the third day, Sunday. God’s time schedule in the Departure Plan had to be fulfilled. In John 2, Jesus told the religious leaders that if they destroy this temple, He would raise it up in three days. They thought He was referring to the physical temple, but Jesus was speaking of the temple of His body. After Jesus had been raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

(Jn 2:19–22) “Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” {20} The Jews then said, “It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?” {21} But He was speaking of the temple of His body. {22} So when He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.”

The account in John 2 was in the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Near the end of His ministry, right after His transfiguration, Jesus began to show His disciples the Departure Plan. He told them that He had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and the chief priests and scribes and be killed. Then, He would be raised up on the third day. The timing was very important so Joseph and Nicodemus needed to prepare His body for burial, and bury Him before sundown, fulfilling the prophecy. At that time, they were probably not cognizant of this fact, and were probably not trying to fulfill the prophecy; this was God fulfilling His word.

(Mt 16:21) "From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day."

This tomb was in a garden by Golgotha, and this is very apropos. In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit in the garden, and brought sin into the world. Because of their sin, the whole world was under sin. Now, Jesus has come and paid for the sins of the world, and is buried in a garden right by the place that He was crucified to pay the debt for sin. Paul devotes Romans 5 to the contrast of the sin by Adam and the grace brought by Jesus. In concluding he wrote, "So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."

(Ro 5:18–19) "So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men, even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. {19} For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous."

Conclusion and Applications

In Matthew 5, Jesus said that He did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but He came to fulfill it. Then He said, "For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished." In our text today, not the smallest stroke was left out; all were accomplished.

(Mt 5:17–18) "Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. {18} For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

It was prophesied that not a bone of His body would be broken, and when the legs of the other two being crucified were broken, they did not break Jesus' legs. Jesus was the perfect Lamb of God, unblemished and without a broken bone. This was to fulfill the prophecy.

It was prophesied that He would be pierced for our transgressions, and when the soldiers came to break the legs of the men being crucified, and saw that Jesus had already died, one of them pierced His side, fulfilling the prophecy. It also verified His death, so that there were no questions about His death later on.

It was prophesied that in His death, He would be with a rich man. Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple, and a wealthy member of the Sanhedrin Council, asked Pilate for the body, and he came and buried Jesus in a tomb in the garden by Golgotha, fulfilling the prophecy.

It was also important that He was buried before sundown. It was prophesied that He would rise on the third day, and by burying Him before sundown, the third day became Sunday. Jesus was raised on the third day, fulfilling those prophecies. Next week, we will look at the resurrection of Jesus in John 20.

Our first application comes from verse thirty-five, where John testified that He witnessed all these things, and that his testimony is true. He said he wrote these things so that you may believe. The fulfillment of all of the prophecies are proof that Jesus is the Son of God, the Messiah, and the Lamb of God, who took away the sins of the world.

(Jn 19:35) “And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.”

Even though Jesus paid for the sins of the world, His payment is only applied to those who believe in Him. In John 8:24, Jesus said, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

(Jn 8:24) “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”

There is a saying that “only two things are certain in life: death and taxes.” That is not exactly accurate. There is something else that is certain. In Hebrews 9:27, God tells us that it is appointed for all men to die once, and after this come judgment. Unless we believe in Jesus, we will die in our sins, and when we face judgment, we will be eternally separated from God and assigned to a place of torment.

(Heb 9:27) “And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment,”

The word, gospel, means good news. The good news is that even though we have all sinned and deserve to die and be judged for our sins, God has provided a payment for our sins. The question is, “Do you believe in Jesus, the Son of God?” The second question is similar, “Have you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior?” Belief is not merely an intellectual belief or assent; it is to act upon that belief by becoming a follower of Jesus. If you have not received Jesus yet, I encourage you to ask Jesus to come into your life, forgive you of your sins, and to be your Lord. Simply pray something like this. “Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for the sins of the world. I believe that You were raised from the dead on the third day. I ask You to come into my life, and be my Lord and Savior. I ask You to forgive me of my sins. I yield my life to You today, and want to follow You. I pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

Our second application is to stand upon God’s word. It comes from the overall emphasis in the passage, that every scripture was fulfilled. God wants you to trust Him and His word to us. He wants you to stand on His word and His promises. He wants you to build your life upon the strong foundation of God’s word. It will never fail, and all his promises will be fulfilled.

What are the needs in your life? Do you need peace? Find God’s promises about peace and stand on them, and He will give you peace. He promises to give peace that surpasses understanding. (Php 4:6-8)

Do you need hope? Are you in despair? Find God's promises about hope. Let Jesus be the anchor of your soul, a sure and steadfast hope. (He 6:19) Let Him fill you with hope. He is the God of hope. (Rom 15:13)

Do you need provision? God tells us not to worry or be anxious about our food, clothing, and shelter. He takes care of the sparrow, and He can take care of you. There is a condition: we must seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to us. (Mt 6:33) God tells us to honor Him with our first fruits, so that our barns will be filled with plenty and our vats will overflow with new wine. (Pr 3:9-10) Find God's promises about provision and build your life on His word.

Are you facing temptation? God promises not to allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able. He is faithful, and promises to provide you with a way of escape. Put God's promises in your heart and stand on them so that you can overcome the temptations you face. (1 Cor 10:13)

Whatever your need, stand on God's word. These promises have been given to us so that we have everything that we need pertaining to life and godliness.

(2 Pe 1:3–4) “seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. {4} For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

Closing Prayer

Father God, thank You for all Your promises. Thank You for Your word. Thank You for the Law and the Prophets, and Your promise that You will always fulfill Your word. Thank You for being faithful and trustworthy. Thank You for fulfilling everything regarding the death and burial of Christ. Father, I pray that those hearing this word this morning would be convicted of their need for You, and would believe. I pray that those with any kind of need in their life would be encouraged to search Your word and find the scriptures and promises that pertain to their needs. I pray for us to build our lives upon Your word. I pray that we will accept the Scriptures for what they really are, the word of God that performs its work in us. I pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Discussion Questions

- Even though it was Scriptural, why was it hypocritical for the Jews to take down the bodies so that they would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath?
- Jesus died in six hours on the cross, rather than the normal three to four days it took for someone being crucified to die. Why was His quick death on the cross critical?
- Why was the verification of Jesus' death by the soldier so important?
- Out of Jesus' side came blood and water. Is there any spiritual significance to blood and water in our lives?
- Why does John say that Joseph had been a secret disciple of Jesus?
- How did Jesus' death on the cross convince Joseph and Nicodemus to openly confess Jesus?
- What do the spices that Nicodemus brought reveal about His relationship with God?
- How does this passage give you more confidence in the word of God?
- What is one application in your life that you have from this passage?

Following the Departure Plan – Part 4 (Jn 19:30-42)

Introduction (Jos 23:14, Nu 23:19, Ac 2:23, Lk 9:30–31, Jn 19:30-42)

Part 4: Scriptures Fulfilled in Jesus' Death and Burial

1. **Fulfillment of unbroken bones** (Jn 19:30-36, Mk 15:25–26, Mt 27:46, Jn 19:31, Dt 21:22–23, Jn 1:29, 1 Co 5:7, Ex 12:5, 12:46, Nu 9:12, Le 22:19-22, Ps 34:20)

2. **Fulfillment of being pierced** (Jn 19:34-37, Is 53:5, Zec 12:10)

3. **Fulfillment of the grave of a rich man** (Jn 19:38-42, Lk 23:50-51, Mt 27:57, Mk 15:43, Is 53:9, Jn 3:1–2, Mt 27:59–60, Jn 2:19–22, Mt 16:21, Ro 5:18–19)

Conclusion and Applications (Mt 5:17–18, Jn 19:35, 8:24, He 9:27, Php 4:6-8, Rom 15:13, Mt 6:33, Pr 3:9-10, 1 Cor 10:13, 2 Pe 1:3-4)

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