

John 19vs16-42

The Moment has come...
Mission Accomplished.

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The Moment has come... Mission Accomplished.

John 19 vs 16-42

We are going to see that there is a clear main theme in these verses... so let's read the entire passage, and look out for the main theme in these verses:

Read John 19 vs 16-42: *So he delivered him over to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus,¹⁷ and he went out, bearing his own cross, to the place called The Place of a Skull, which in Aramaic is called Golgotha.¹⁸ There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, and Jesus between them.¹⁹ Pilate also wrote an inscription and put it on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."²⁰ Many of the Jews read this inscription, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.²¹ So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews', but rather, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'"²² Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."*

²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom,²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the Scripture which says,

*"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."*

So the soldiers did these things,²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I thirst."²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished", and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹ Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews 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, and of the other who had been crucified with him.³³ But when they came to Jesus and 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 at once there came out blood and water.³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness— his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe.³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

38 After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. 39 Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. 40 So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths 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 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

There are at least three major themes in this passage.

Once again, the section works like a “sandwich” in structure:

- 1) The Death (vs 16-22) and “Burial” (vs 38-42) of God’s King
- 2) The Sacrifice of God’s King (vs 23-27) as the ‘Passover Lamb’ (vs 31-37)
- 3) The Completion of God’s plan (vs 28-30)

1) The Death and “Burial” of God’s King

A) Jesus is the KING!

The passage begins with yet more emphasis on the identity of Jesus.

How is his Kingship stressed in vs 16-22?

- v20: The inscription placed above Jesus **‘was written in Aramaic, in Latin, and in Greek.’**
- Why write in Latin and Greek and Aramaic!?

These are the languages of the intelligent WORLD! – such that ALL could understand – not just the Jews!

- Latin was the language of the Roman Empire
 - Greek the language of the intelligentsia!
 - Aramaic the local language
- One would speak in Latin but write in Greek!
 - Even in the UK it’s not that long ago that we spoke in English but wrote in Latin!

This sign causes real offence! But how does the ensuing dispute serve to underline Jesus’ identity?

Read vs 21-22: So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews’, but rather, ‘This man said, I am King of the Jews.’” 22 Pilate answered, “What I have written I have written.”

Pilate is not to be dissuaded – he insists on writing “**KING of the Jews**”... so that all who pass by might note that he found this man to be “**the King of the Jews**”.

The crucifixion scene uses Psalm 22 to show that scripture is being fulfilled. Towards the end of Psalm 22, King David says:

Psalm 22 v 27: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.

...See how this compares with a sign written in all 3 major languages proclaiming “**the King of the Jews**” so that all may understand who Jesus really is?!

“All the ends of the earth shall remember...”

B) Jesus is DEAD!

The passage ends by stressing that Jesus is definitely dead and buried. How is this point made in vs 38-42?

Read vs 38-42: After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹ Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰ So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths 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 So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

- There are two male witnesses – Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jewish law stressed the need for two witnesses in court!
- Jesus is bound up with cloths and ‘embalmed’ – it is clear that he is dead!
- The precise location of the tomb is given.

So... the passage begins with clear information concerning the identity of Jesus as he is crucified ...and ends with confirmation that he was dead and “buried”.

2) The Sacrifice of God’s King as ‘Passover Lamb’ and Suffering Servant

Twice John cites parts of the Old Testament and tells us that Scripture is being fulfilled:

- once in vs 23-27: the King suffers
- and again in vs 31-37: Jesus is the Passover Lamb and Suffering Servant

Let's look at each in turn:

A) The KING suffers

Read vs 23-27: *When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the Scripture which says,*

*"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."*

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵ but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Which particular Scripture is being fulfilled?

Psalm 22 v 18: *... they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.*

This compares precisely with John 19 v 24:

John 19 v 24: *...so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfil the Scripture which says,*
*"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."*

So the soldiers did these things...

Pinned to the cross, Jesus has no "power" to influence these soldiers, but they, unwittingly, do what God said they would do!

What is the significance of Psalm 22?

- It is a psalm/song of King David which speaks specifically about God's king suffering the judgement of God at the hand of his enemies.
- The whole psalm carries numerous images of Jesus' suffering on the cross, and also points to what his suffering will achieve.

Remember - the Psalms were written between 1010 BC and 970 BC...

- That is before crucifixion had even been invented!!
- Yet Psalm 22 could not be clearer!

Psalm 22 v 16: *For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet...*

Psalm 22 v 17: *I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me...*

- Stretched out on a cross – all your bones would be displayed...
- ...and in being killed by the barbaric and exposed death of a crucifixion you were on humiliating public display: **...they stare and gloat over me**
- The opening verse of Psalm 22 explains what is going on BOTH for David AND, now, for King Jesus as he hangs on the cross!

Psalm 22 v 1: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?*

- We see scripture fulfilled concerning the sacrificial death of God's King at the hands of God's enemies...
- **"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"** speaks of God abandoning his King in judgement.
- He is forsaken by God as he suffers...

So - in vs 23-27, we see that the King suffers...

...but in vs 31-37 we see Scripture being fulfilled concerning God's true Passover Lamb.

B) The Passover Lamb is killed

Read John 19 vs 31-37: *Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews 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, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and 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 at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵ He who saw it has borne witness— his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe. ³⁶ For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."*

What is the Scripture that is being "fulfilled" here?

John 19 v 36: *For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken."*

- This compares directly with Exodus chapter 12 and the description of the Passover Lamb:

Read Exodus 12 v 46: *“It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones.”*

- The Passover Lamb – to take away the sin of man – to deal with the wrath of God.
- Only one lamb per family. You kept the lamb in your house for 4 days – to show the bond between the lamb and the family....so that the eldest son could say, “The lamb died in my place”.
- The blood of the lamb spread around the door lintel... so that the Angel of Death would “Pass Over” the household.

John 19 v 36 also compares with Numbers chapter 9 (another reference to the Passover Lamb):

Read Numbers 9 v 12: *They shall leave none of it until the morning, nor break any of its bones; according to all the statute for the Passover they shall keep it.*

- Jesus is already dead by the time the soldiers get to him. Dead people cannot control events!! So Jesus could not possibly have “fixed it” so his bones weren’t broken.
- Just like when he controlled the dividing of his clothes from the cross – Scripture is being fulfilled even when he is dead – Jesus really is the Passover Lamb!

Now let’s look at John 19 v 37:

v 37: *And again another Scripture says, “They will look on him whom they have pierced.”*

- John 19 v37 compares with Zechariah chapter 12 – written after 522BC:

Zechariah 12 v 10: *“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”*

But these verses not only fulfil the promise of the Passover Lamb, they also fulfil Isaiah’s promise about the Suffering Servant - another passage that speaks of penal substitution...

Read John 19 v 38: *After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body.*

- This is fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy:

Read Isaiah 53 v 9: *And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

The Roman authorities would have made a common grave for the criminals who were crucified...

- Isaiah 53 v 9: ***And they made his grave with the wicked...***

...Yet this prominent Jew – clearly a man of means – “**a rich man**” - gets permission from Pilate to take the body to a tomb which he can access/afford:

Read John 19 v 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.*

So what is the POINT that John wants us to register?

- That Jesus really is “**...the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**” (John 1 v 29)

How else does John stress that it is Passover time?

- v31: ***Since it was the day of preparation...***

This refers to the day before the Sabbath – so you had to have everything done – sorted – in order not to “work” on the Sabbath!

- Passover Day was the Friday (i.e. the day of Preparation for the Sabbath)
- So we know that as this was Passover, Jesus was crucified actually ON the Passover!

Read John 19 v 35: *He who saw it has borne witness— his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth— that you also may believe.*

- John makes it as clear as possible – “I saw it”
- In fact John states it 3 times! Why?

...that you also may believe.

- This – on top of the clarity of vs 25-27 which clearly tell us John was present when these events were happening.

So, then, we have seen two sets of Scripture fulfilled:

- Jesus is the SUFFERING KING of Psalm 22
- Jesus is the PASSOVER LAMB of Exodus 12

We have also seen the identity of the one being crucified: he is '***the King of the Jews***'.

The third theme has to do with the completion of God's long-planned work.

3) *The Completion of God's Plan*

Read vs 28-30: *After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I thirst."* ²⁹ *A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.* ³⁰ *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished", and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

The word FULFIL = to FINISH – to COMPLETE... they have the same root word in the original Greek language.

- Just look again at vs 28-30 :
 - v28 *Finished... to fulfil... - to complete*
 - v30 *"It is finished."*
- The message: It's MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

What mission has been accomplished?

- God's King (Psalm 22)...
- ...has died as God's Passover Lamb (Exodus 12)...
- ...to carry God's judgement at the sins of the world.

There are just two little sections we haven't looked at so far:

Read John 19 vs 25-27: *...but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.* ²⁶ *When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"* ²⁷ *Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*

Why is this section here?

- Spot John who is providing us with such detail!
- Does this narrative show us Jesus as “the perfect son”, providing for his mother?
- Is it just to show that JOHN was a witness to these events?

What it DOES show us is that there are to be new family relationships brought about by the death of Jesus.

Read John 19 v 39: *Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight.*

Here we have another appearance of a repentant Nicodemus:

- The same Nicodemus who got such a strong Sunday school lesson in ch 3:

John 3 v 10: *“Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”*

- The same Nicodemus who tried to stand up for Jesus in front of the Chief Priests and Pharisees:

John 7 v 51: *“Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?”*

Now Nicodemus comes on the very day all his fellow Chief Priests have been victorious in crushing the nuisance carpenter... and he brings:

- **75 pounds in weight** of embalming materials!!
- That is enough for a king - this is Tutankhamen territory!
- Just think of the cost!

- Nicodemus comes clearly to Jesus – and John captures the detail:
... he **who had earlier come to Jesus by night**

- It looks like this is a man who now loves his Saviour!

Conclusion

So how does this passage fit together?

There are 3 major themes:

- 1) The Death and Burial of God’s King

vs 16-22: He is the King

vs 38-42: He is dead and is buried

2) The Sacrifice of God's King as the Passover Lamb – Penal Substitution

vs 23-27: The King suffers

vs 31-37: He is the Passover Lamb

3) The Completion of God's Plan (vs 28-30)

Right at the heart of the section: the King completing God's plan and purpose.

So let's now return to vs 28-30!

John 19 vs 28-30: *After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I thirst."²⁹ A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished", and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Jesus dies willingly – he ***gave up his spirit***.

➤ These verses fulfil Psalm 69:

Psalm 69 v 21: *They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.*

v30: ***"IT IS FINISHED"*** - meaning - 'IT IS COMPLETED.'

What does this tell us about Jesus the Saviour?

- ✓ He was **TOTALLY** in control at all times...
- ✓ ...Even when he was dead!
- ✓ All of Scripture points/reaches its great crescendo here in the death of Jesus
- ✓ Jesus is the **ULTIMATE** Passover Lamb
- ✓ John emphasises his personal witness of all this - in detail

What do we say when someone says: "I wonder if I'm forgiven?"

➤ Our response should be: "The price **SURELY** has been paid in full!"

What about the statement: "I don't think God cares about me!"

➤ Our response – "Just look at his whole plan & purpose"!

In John ch 17 v 1 Jesus said:

"Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you"

How does this passage and the events of the Cross answer his prayer?

➤ Like a multifaceted diamond Jesus is glorified from every angle :

✓ In love

John 18 vs 8-9: *Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹This was to fulfil the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you have gave me I have lost not one."*

✓ In selflessness

John 18 v 11: *So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"*

✓ In sacrifice

John 18 v 14: *It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews that it would be expedient that one man should die for the people.*

✓ In innocence

John 19 v 4: *Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing them out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him."*

✓ In sovereignty

John 18 v 4: *Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Who do you seek?"*

✓ In power

John 18 v 6: *When Jesus said to them, "I am he", they drew back and fell to the ground.*

✓ In obedience

John 18 v 11: *So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"*

✓ In fulfilment of God's plan

John 19 v 28: *After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the Scripture), "I thirst."*

What do you see at every point of the diamond?!

- The glory of God – totally in control!
- God's magnificent grace!

Next time...

Victory – the Resurrection!!

John 19 vs 16-42

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