

It is finished - Tetelestai

April 16, 2017

Scripture:

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.

Lk 23:44-46 It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 because the sun was obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. 46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last.

Psalm 31:5 Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.

Perspective: "It is finished"

The seven words of Jesus from the cross

1. "Father forgive them" (Lk 23:34).
2. "Today you will be with Me in paradise" (Lk 23:43).
3. "Woman, behold your son, [son] behold your mother" (Jn 19:25-27).
4. "My God, my God, Why have You forsaken Me?" (Mt 27:46).
5. "I am thirsty" (Jn 19:28).
6. "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit" (Lk 23:46).
7. "It is finished" (Jn 19:30).

It was the briefest and yet the fullest of His seven words.

This ("It is finished.") was not:

The despairing cry of a helpless martyr.

An expression of satisfaction that the end of His sufferings was now reached.

The last gasp of a worn-out life.

"It is finished!" is a cry of victory, not of defeat. He is really in charge!

How *Tetelestai* is used in the NT:

Tetelestai and the root Greek word (*teleo*) is used 71 times in the New Testament. Seeing how they are translated will give us a better understanding of the fullness of what it means; **it is translated:**

ending [to come to an end] (Mt 10:22; 11:1; 24:6, 13, 14; 26:58; Mk 3:26; 13:7, 13; Lk 1:33; 21:9; 22:37; Jn 13:1; Rom 6:21, 22; 10:4; 1Cor 1:8; 10:11; 15:24; 2Cor 1:13; 3:13; 11:15; Phil 3:19; 1Tim 1:5; Heb 3:6, 14; 6:8, 11; 7:3; Jas 5:11; 1Pt 1:9; 4:7, 17; Rev 1:8; 2:26; 21:6; 22:13)

to pay tribute, custom (Mt 17:24, 25; Rom 13:6, 7, 7)

continual (Lk 18:5)

uttermost (1Thes 2:16)

finally (1Pt 3:8)

perfect (Heb 10:1;

finish [ed] (Mt 10:23; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1; 2Tim 4:7; Rev 10:7; 11:7; 15:1, 8;

performed (Lk 2:39

accomplished (Lk 12:50; 18:31; 22:37; Jn 19:28, 30;

fulfilled (Ac 13:29; Rom 2:27; Gal 5:16; Jas 2:8; Rev 17:17

complete [ed] (Rev 20:3, 5, 7)

Jesus is a Sacrifice:

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.

The verbs are active, "bowing His head, He gave up His spirit" (v. 30).

When Jesus dies, he gives up His spirit.

Nobody takes his life from Him

Jn 10:18 ... "No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative ..."

Jesus willingly accepts death because it is the completion (It is finished) of God's plan.
His work as the Incarnate Word has been accomplished.
This is the moment of His glory and not His enemies.

Greek grammar:

Finished - [*Tetelestai*] is a **single word** in the original language.

This word is used in the **perfect tense**

The perfect tense describes a completed verbal action that occurred in the past but which produced a state of being or a result that exists in the present. (Glossary of Morpho-Syntactic Database Terminology)

The grammar **signifies** the full completion and irrevocability of the work of Jesus.

Definition: "It is finished!" conveys only a portion of the meaning; the verb fundamentally denotes:

"to carry out" the will of somebody; to fulfill obligations or carry out religious acts.

The verb [teleō] from which [*tetelestai*] derives denotes the carrying out of a task, and in religious contexts bears the overtone of fulfilling one's religious obligations.

"It is accomplished!"

So the last word of Jesus interprets his suffering and dying as the crowning conclusion and high point of the work that he has performed.

"It is **finished**," focuses on **completion**. Jesus' work was done.

In the original the words mean, "It is **forever done**." It is accomplished; not only 'to the end' but to the full extent mandated by his mission.

***tetelestai* was used by various people in everyday life in those days.**

A **servant** would use it when reporting to his or her master,

"I have completed the work assigned to me" (Jn 17:4).

Christ, the obedient Servant, had finished the work the Father gave Him to do. Christ willingly and deliberately gave up His life; He laid down His life for His friends.

Shepherds used it when they found a perfect sheep, ready for sacrifice;

When a **priest** examined an animal sacrifice and found it faultless, this word would apply.

Jesus, of course, is the perfect Lamb of God, without spot or blemish.

When an **artist** completed a picture, he (she) would say, "It is finished!"

The death of Jesus on the cross "completes the picture" that God had been painting.

When a **writer** completed a manuscript, he (she) would say, "It is finished!"

The death of Jesus on the cross "completes the story that He had been writing, for centuries.

The most important meaning of *tetelestai* was that used by the **merchants**: "The debt is paid in full!"

When He gave Himself on the cross, He paid our debt in full.

None of the Old Testament sacrifices could take away sins; their blood only covered sin. But the Lamb of God shed His blood, and that blood can take away the sins of the world (Jn 1:29; Heb 9:24-28).

The scope of when He cried :

"It is finished."

What was “finished”?
the making of atonement!

“it is made an end of,”
What was “made an end of”?
our sins, our guilt!

“it is paid,”
What was “paid”?
the price of our redemption!

“it is performed,”
What was “performed”?
all of the requirements of God’s law.

“it is accomplished.”
What was “accomplished”?
the work which the Father had given Him to do!

What is finished? Notice: Jesus said, “It is finished” (not “I am finished”), what did He mean?
Tetelestai - It's a comprehensive word. It will take all eternity to understand all that it contains.

In the natural, physical realm:

- 1. Jesus gave up His life.**
His life was now finished, he breathed his last, and now he is no more in this world. (2Tim 4:7),
- 2. The enmity of his persecutors had come to the end.**
When he received the vinegar, he said, “This is the last; I am now going out of their reach, where the wicked can no longer trouble.”
- 3. Jesus had accomplished the work, he had finished it.**
Jn 17:4 I have accomplished the work which You have given Me to do (Jn 4:38; 5:36).
- 4. His work on earth was consummated.**
Nothing was left more wanting; nothing remained for Him to do; nothing more awaited its fulfillment;
True, there was the committal of His spirit into the hands of the Father, which immediately followed His word here; there was His resurrection, ascension, and session on high, but these are the fruit and reward of that work which He completed.

In the realm of God's Law:

- 5. All things had been done which the Law of God required.**
The Law is fulfilled, every iota and tittle. (Mt 3:15; 5:17; Gal 4:4-5)
- 6. The righteousness and justice of God is satisfied.**
God displayed Jesus publicly, to demonstrate His righteousness (Rom 3:21-30)

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.
- 7. All things accomplished which the Father had given Him to do;**
It was a declaration on the part of Jesus - that all for which He came from heaven to earth to do was now done (Jn 4:34; 5:36).

8. Jesus was obedient unto His Father until death

Phil 2:8 ... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death on a cross

Jn 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work." (Jn 5:30, 36; 6:38; 8:29; 9:4; 14:31; 15:10; 17:4)

9. The ceremonial law is done away with.

It is now abolished, the obligation to it has ended; it has become obsolete and soon to disappear. (Heb 8:13).

The substance has now come, and all the shadows are done away. The veil is rent, the wall of partition is taken down, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances (Eph 2:14-15). The Mosaic economy is dissolved, to make way for a better hope (Heb 7:19).

In the realm of Bible prophecy:

10. Messianic prophecy is all fulfilled and accomplished.

Jn 19:28 Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty." ((Mt 1:22 2:15, 23; 4:14; 5:17; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4; 26:56; Mk 14:49; Jn 12:38; 15:25; 18:9, 32; 19:24, 28, 36)

11. The types and symbolism of the old covenant were accomplished and had been fulfilled.

That which the types foreshadowed and pointed to concerning the suffering Messiah, was accomplished and fulfilled. The shadow and figures of the ceremonial Law, the temple, Sabbaths, priesthood, offerings, and so forth, were not realized and fulfilled!

Redemption was accomplished

12. All things that was needed for man's redemption was performed.

Heb 9:12 .. through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (Rom 3:24; Eph 1:7, 14; Col 1:14).

13. The world's debt (wages of sin) had been paid.

He was made sin for all people (2 Cor. 5:21) for all time (Rom 6:10; Heb 7:27; 9:12; 10:10; 1Pt 3:18); and had suffered the penalty of God's justice which sin deserved.

14. Sin is finished, we are justified

Rom 3:24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; (Rom 3:28; 5:1-2, 9; 8:30; 1Cor 6:11; Gal 2:16; 3:11, 24; 5:4; Tit 3:7)

15. Righteousness has come

He put away all of the sins of His people, providing for them a perfect standing before God, securing for them an everlasting righteousness (Dan 9:24; Jn 1:29; Heb 9:23, 26; 11:4).

16. The power of Satan is defeated

Heb 2:14-15 ... through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (Jn 12:31; 16:11; Eph 1:21-23; 1Jn 3:8; Col 2:13-15)

17. A fountain of grace and glory is opened up.

It is clear that Jesus situation and status was changed as He left heaven and took on human form; He became like us. It is equally clear that our situation and status was changed as a result of His death upon the cross; we become like Him. This is called the Principle of Reversal; Jesus' situation was reversed so that ours might also be reversed. There are more than 100 reversals available to the believer in the Scriptures.

Jn 1:16-17 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the "Passover Lamb."

The death of Jesus fulfilled every sacrificial ceremony of the Old Testament.

The sacrificial blood of the Passover lamb was sprinkled seven times (Num 19:1-10), so there was a seven-fold sprinkling of the blood of Jesus in His crucifixion.

1. The drops of blood in Gethsemane ((Lk 22:44, see Lk 22:41-44).
2. He was beaten with their fists, His hair pulled out [by the religious powers] (Mt 26:67-68; Mk 14:65; Jn 18:22-23; Isa 50:6).
3. Scourged [for our healing] (Mt 27:26; Mk 15:15; Jn 19:1; Isa 53:5)
4. Crown of Thorns [abused by the political powers] (Mt 27:27-31; Mk 15:16-20; Jn 19:2-3)
5. He carried the cross [blood was shed] (Mk 15:20-21; Lk 23:26; Jn 19:17-18).
6. The crucifixion [His hands and feet] (Mt 27:35-36; Mk 15:24; Lk 23:33; Jn 19:23).
7. The thrust of the spear in to His side (Jn 19:33-34)

Gives a seven fold victory over:

1. Victory over all mental torment and issues of the mind.
2Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (sound mind).

1Cor 2:16 ... But we have the mind of Christ.
2. Victory in trials.
Rom 8:37 But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. (Rom ; 2Cor 2:14)
3. Victory over sickness and disease.
1Pt 2:24 ... for by His wounds you were healed. (Isa 53:5; Mt 8:17)
4. Victory over temptation, we can take every thought captive.
2 Co 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, 4 for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. 5 We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,
5. Victory over sin.
Rom 6:10-11 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (Rom 6:18, 22; 1Jn 1:7-9)
6. Victory over self.
Rom 6:6 knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; (Eph 4:24; Col 3:9-10)
7. Victory over death.
1Cor 15:25-26 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death .

1Cor 15:55-57 "O DEATH , WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH , WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

References Used in this Study:

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