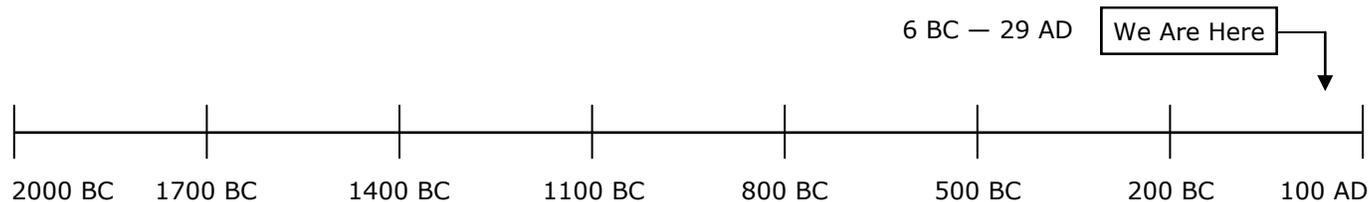


It Is Finished

BiAY.org | Reviews

Week 44: October 29 — November 4 — *The Gospels*

84% Complete — 57 Days to Go



Helpful Resources

Three Nails and a Hammer (p.237)

Making Sense of It All

- The Big Picture

All that we've read this year culminated in the events of this week. We've been waiting for ten months, and now, it has happened! Here are some of the more meaningful moments:

1. **A Pressing Moment** (*Luke 22:39-44*): We get a glimpse of how difficult Jesus' assignment really was. He knew terrible things were coming, and, yet, He set aside His own will to do what God purposed. The weight of sin pressed the blood through Jesus' sweat glands (appropriate in Gethsemane or "Olive Press").
2. **It Had to Be the Cross**: Jesus had to bear the brunt of God's wrath and endure the most barbaric torture of His day, since He would embody the sins of the world. He also had to shed His blood, so that the Father would accept it on our behalf. Besides, it was prophesied, "Cursed is the man who hangs on a tree." Jesus had to die on a tree.
3. **The Passover Lamb** (*John 13:1; Matt. 26:17*): Thousands of families sacrificed their Passover lambs the weekend that Jesus was crucified, in commemoration of the Jews escaping the Death Angel in Egypt. However, Christ was the Lamb of God who died so that we might be "passed over" by death. We are saved by the blood of the Lamb!
4. **Forsaken by the Father** (*Matt. 27:45, 46*): As Jesus became the great sin-bearer, God the Father could no longer look upon Him. He abandoned Jesus for a short time, so that He would bear the weight of our sins alone.

- It Is Finished

Of the seven statements that Jesus uttered on the cross, this one was the most significant (*John 19:28-30*). Why? What did it mean? Consider these important issues:

1. **Paid in Full**: The phrase, "It is finished" was said in one word — *tetelestai* — which is an accountant's term meaning, "paid in full." What debt was paid in full? The debt of sin owed to God the Father, not His Son's sins but, rather, the sins of the world (*1 John 2:2*). Jesus said that the Son of Man came to "give His life as a ransom for many" (*Mark 10:45*). His death on the cross was more than enough to pay in full for man's penalty of sin.

2. **Mission Accomplished:** Jesus prayed, "I brought glory to You on the earth, by completing the work You gave Me to do" (*John 17:4*). Jesus left nothing undone. In fact, when He finished His work, He sat down at the Father's side in glory (*Hebrews 12:2*).
3. **Every Last Drop** (*Matt. 26:39*): Jesus drank the entire "cup of suffering." He endured and, thus, exhausted the Father's wrath for sin. He is our propitiation (*Romans 3:25*).
4. **Completion of Prophecy:** More than 200 Old Testament passages, foreshadowing, and types were completed in the death of Jesus, from crushing the head of Satan (*Genesis 3:15*) to becoming the Suffering Servant (*Isaiah 42, 53*).
5. **Fulfillment of the Law:** Jesus said, "I did not come to abolish the laws of Moses or the writing of the prophets; no, I came to accomplish their purpose" (*Matthew 5:17*). Since no sinful human could live out the law of God perfectly, Jesus had to do it for us. Our salvation is not earned by our works but by His. He is the only way to eternal life.
6. **Sin's Power Is Broken:** Once slaves to sin, mankind is now set free by the blood of Christ. "There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ, for the power of His life-giving spirit has set you free from the power of sin and death" (*Romans 8:1, 2*).
7. **The Final Sacrifice:** Millions of sacrifices were made for sin since the beginning of time; thousands were made the weekend Jesus died, but Christ was to be the last one. The sacrificial system was to end with Him (*Hebrews 7:27*). The cross is enough, once for all.
8. **Curtain Call** (*Matt. 27:50-53*): For centuries, the veil separated God and man, but, because of Jesus, we now have personal access to God the Father, complete reconciliation. We have a Great High Priest who has ushered us straight to the throne by virtue of His shed blood. He is our only Mediator now!

- Personal Application

It is finished, now what? Take a few minutes to read the story, "Three Nails and a Hammer."

- Prophetic Passages

1. **Jesus' Betrayal** (*Matt. 26:20-30; Luke 22:14-30; John 13:18-30*)
2. **Peter's Denial** (*John 13:31-38; Luke 22:31-38*)
3. **The Coming of the Spirit** (*John 14:15-31; 16:5-15*)

The Bottom Line

Everything God *required* as a *payment* or *penalty* for sin, Jesus *fulfilled* with His *death* on the cross.

Questions to Consider

1. When you hear the words, "It is finished," what does that signal? What is finished?
2. The cross of Christ is all we need as a substitute on our behalf. Explain why.
3. What thoughts did you have as you read, "Three Nails and a Hammer"?
4. Understanding that He died for you, how, then, should you live for Him?
5. Jesus finished the work God had for Him. What work is left for you to do?