



## Summary

This powerful exploration of John 19 takes us to the heart of God's eternal plan of redemption, revealing how the crucifixion was not an accident of history but the fulfillment of prophecies stretching back to the Garden of Eden. From the moment God spoke to the serpent about the seed of the woman who would crush his head, through promises to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and declarations through prophets like Isaiah and David, we see an unbroken thread of divine purpose. What strikes us most profoundly is the precision with which events unfolded exactly as foretold—from Pilate's inscription declaring Jesus King of the Jews, to the soldiers casting lots for His seamless garment, to the piercing of His side without breaking His bones. The study illuminates the staggering reality that Jesus bore not just physical agony but the weight of all human sin—past, present, and future—experiencing separation from the Father so we could be reconciled to God. The phrase 'tetelestai' — 'it is finished' — rings with eternal significance: the work of salvation is complete, requiring nothing we can add and diminished by nothing we can do. This reminds us that our salvation rests entirely on Christ's finished work, calling us to faith rather than effort, to trust rather than striving.





## Points

Title: The Fulfillment of Prophecy: Christ's Crucifixion and the Promise of His Return

Sermon Summary: This sermon examines the crucifixion of Jesus Christ through the lens of fulfilled prophecy, demonstrating how God's redemptive plan was declared from Genesis through the prophets and ultimately accomplished at Calvary. The message traces God's gospel declarations from Adam and Eve through the patriarchs, showing how every detail of Christ's suffering was prophesied with exactitude hundreds of years before its occurrence. The sermon emphasizes that Jesus' death was not an unavoidable tragedy due to satanic forces, but rather the intentional fulfillment of God's eternal plan for mankind's redemption. The pastor highlights the theological significance of Christ bearing the sin of the entire world and the mysterious separation within the Godhead when the Father turned away from the Son who had become sin for us. The message concludes with a call to readiness for Christ's promised return, just as He fulfilled His promise to rise from the dead on the third day.

### Key Points:

- God's plan of redemption was first declared in Genesis 3:15 and progressively revealed through the patriarchs, prophets, and ultimately fulfilled in Christ
- Jesus had complete control over the events of His crucifixion, willingly laying down His life as prophesied
- Pilate found himself politically bound and manipulated by the Jewish leaders despite knowing Jesus was innocent
- The crucifixion fulfilled specific prophecies from Isaiah 53 written 740 years earlier and Psalm 22 written 1,000 years earlier, 400 years before crucifixion was even invented
- The physical suffering of scourging and crucifixion was beyond description, yet the spiritual agony of bearing the world's sin and separation from the Father was even greater
- Jesus' seven statements from the cross reveal His concern for others, His completion of salvation's work, and His voluntary surrender of His spirit
- The declaration "It is finished" (tetelestai) means the complete work of salvation was accomplished with nothing to add or subtract
- Just as Jesus fulfilled His promise to rise on the third day, He will fulfill His promise to return for His church
- The only way to be ready for Christ's return is to already be part of His kingdom through faith in Him

### Scripture Reference:

- John 19:1-42 (primary text)
- Genesis 3:14-15 (first gospel declaration)
- Genesis 9:15-17, 22:18, 26:4, 28:14, 50:20 (gospel to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph)
- Deuteronomy 18:15 (gospel through Moses)



- Isaiah 52:14, 53:1-12 (prophecy of Christ's suffering)
- Psalm 22:1-31 (messianic psalm describing crucifixion)
- Zechariah (prophecy of piercing)
- Matthew 27:22-66 (parallel crucifixion account)
- Luke 23:26-46 (Simon of Cyrene, thief on cross, Jesus' death)
- John 3:14-15 (Jesus to Nicodemus about being lifted up)
- John 10:17-18 (Jesus' authority over His life)
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 (He who knew no sin became sin for us)
- Galatians 4:4-7 (fullness of time)
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (rapture of the church)
- Matthew 24:32-44 (signs of Christ's return)

#### Stories:

- The account of Abraham being commanded to sacrifice Isaac on Mount Moriah, foreshadowing the Father sacrificing His Son
- The bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in Numbers 21:8-9, which Jesus referenced as a type of His crucifixion
- Dr. Bob Liebman, a Jewish man in the church who was led to Christ through reading Isaiah 53, initially thinking it was from the New Testament
- The thief on the cross who could do nothing for the church, keep no laws, or be baptized, yet received salvation through faith alone
- Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, wealthy men who came secretly to care for Jesus' body with royal burial spices
- The regathering of Israel as a nation in one day on May 14, 1948, as a prophetic sign of the fig tree putting forth leaves





## Scripture

# Scripture References from the Sermon

## Explicitly Referenced Scriptures

### Old Testament

- Genesis 3:14-15 - The curse of the serpent and promise of the seed
- Genesis 9:15-17 - God's covenant with Noah
- Genesis 22:18 - God's promise to Abraham
- Genesis 26:4 - God's promise to Isaac
- Genesis 28:14 - God's promise to Jacob
- Genesis 50:20 - Joseph's words to his brothers
- Deuteronomy 18:15 - The prophet like Moses
- Psalm 22 (entire chapter referenced) - Messianic psalm of suffering
- Psalm 22:1 - "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- Psalm 22:15 - "I thirst"
- Psalm 22:18 - Division of garments
- Psalm 69:21 - Messianic reference to thirst
- Isaiah 52:14 - Beaten beyond recognition
- Isaiah 53 (entire chapter) - The suffering servant
- Isaiah 53:3-12 - Specific verses about Christ's suffering
- Zechariah (reference to "they shall look upon me whom they pierced")

### New Testament

- Matthew 24:32-44 - Parable of the fig tree and readiness for Christ's return
- Matthew 27:18 - Pilate knew the chief priests' envy
- Matthew 27:19 - Pilate's wife's dream
- Matthew 27:22-26 - "Let him be crucified"
- Matthew 27:35 - "Then they crucified him"
- Matthew 27:45-46 - Darkness and Jesus' cry
- Matthew 27:50-53 - Jesus' death and its effects
- Matthew 27:62-66 (28:27 mentioned but meant 27:62) - Guarding the tomb
- Mark 15:25 - "Now it was the third hour and they crucified him"
- Luke 23:9 - Barabbas was a murderer
- Luke 23:26-31 - Simon of Cyrene carries the cross
- Luke 23:33 - "There they crucified him"
- Luke 23:34 - "Father, forgive them"
- Luke 23:39-43 - The thief on the cross
- Luke 23:44-46 - "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit"
- John 3:14 - "As Moses lifted up the serpent"



- John 10:17-18 - "No one takes my life from me"
- John 19:1-42 (entire chapter) - The crucifixion narrative
- John 12:32 - "If I am lifted up"
- Romans (implied through references to Paul's teaching)
- 1 Corinthians 12:3 - "No one calls Jesus Lord apart from the Holy Spirit"
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "He made him who knew no sin to be sin for us"
- Galatians 4:4-7 - "The fullness of time"
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (4:16-18 specifically quoted) - The rapture
- Revelation 6, 9 - Mountains falling (referenced)
- Revelation 13:8 - "The lamb slain since the foundation of the world"

## ## Additional References by Theme

### ### The Gospel Plan Throughout Scripture

- Numbers 21:8-9 - The bronze serpent (referenced in detail)
- Genesis 3:18 - Thorns as part of the curse

### ### Related Themes (Suggested Additional Verses)

- Hebrews 10:10-14 - The once-for-all sacrifice
- Romans 5:8 - God's love demonstrated in Christ's death
- Philippians 2:5-11 - Christ's humiliation and exaltation
- Colossians 2:13-15 - Victory through the cross

**\*\*Note:\*\*** The sermon extensively covers the crucifixion narrative with particular emphasis on Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Christ's death, making this a comprehensive biblical theology of the cross.





## Quotes

No one takes my life from me, but I lay it down of myself, and I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from my Father.

He made him Jesus who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might have the righteousness of God in him.

Father, forgive them. They know not what they do. That famous and gloriously stunning declaration apparently had a profound effect on one of the two thieves being executed alongside Jesus.

When Jesus said 'It is finished, he was declaring that all of the work of salvation has been complete. There's nothing that you can add to it by your own effort, and there's nothing that you can take away from it by your own sin.

The only way to be ready for Jesus' return is to already be part of his kingdom when he does. Watch therefore and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming in an hour that you do not expect.

When all of the sin of the whole world, past, present, and future was placed upon Jesus as that pure sinless sacrifice, there was actually for the first time ever a separation in the Godhead.

The thief on the cross proves that salvation requires nothing but faith. He couldn't do anything for the church, he couldn't serve, he couldn't keep the law, he couldn't be water baptized. But he professed his faith in Jesus and received eternal life.

Jesus did exactly as he said he would. He rose from the dead on the third day. Just as Jesus rose from the dead, just as he is coming soon to take his church out of this world in an event called the pre-tribulation rapture of the church.

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## Discussion Questions

How does understanding that God's plan of redemption was declared from Genesis chapter 3 onward change your perspective on the unity and purpose of Scripture?

What does Jesus' statement to Pilate that 'you could have no power at all against me unless it had been given you from above' reveal about God's sovereignty even in the midst of human evil and injustice?

Why do you think the Gospel writers provided such sparse descriptions of the crucifixion itself, and how does this impact the way we understand and communicate the cross today?

Considering that Pilate was politically bound to do what he knew was wrong, what does this teach us about the dangers of prioritizing personal ambition over truth and justice?

How does Isaiah 53, written 740 years before Christ, demonstrate God's foreknowledge and intentional plan for salvation, and what does this mean for our trust in His promises today?

What significance do you find in the fact that the thief on the cross was saved by faith alone without the opportunity for baptism, good works, or religious rituals?

How does Jesus' cry 'My God, My God, why have you forsaken me' reveal both the depth of His suffering and the reality of what it means that He became sin for us?

What does Jesus' declaration 'It is finished' mean for our understanding of salvation, and how should this impact the way we view our own efforts and works?

Why is the emphasis on Christ's return so important for the church today, and how does watching and being ready practically shape the way we live our daily lives?

Reflecting on the fact that no one truly believed Jesus would rise from the dead despite His repeated promises, how does this challenge us to trust God's Word even when circumstances seem impossible?



## Small Group Guide: "The Trials of Jesus: Two Kingdoms on Display"

# Small Group Guide: The Crucifixion of Christ

Based on John 19 and the Fulfillment of Prophecy

## Opening Prayer

Begin by asking God to open hearts and minds to understand the depth of Christ's sacrifice and the certainty of His promises.

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## Icebreaker Question

What is one promise someone made to you that they kept, and how did that impact your trust in them?

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## Key Scripture Passages

- John 19:1-42
  - Genesis 3:14-15
  - Isaiah 53
  - Psalm 22
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
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## Discussion Questions

### Understanding God's Plan

1. **The Gospel from the Beginning:** The sermon traces God's redemption plan from Genesis through the prophets to Christ. What does this tell us about God's character and His commitment to saving humanity?



2. **Prophecy Fulfilled:** Isaiah 53 was written 740 years before Christ, and Psalm 22 was written 1,000 years before (400 years before crucifixion was even invented). How does the precision of these prophecies strengthen your faith?
3. **"It is Finished":** When Jesus said "tetelestai" (it is finished), He declared that the work of salvation was complete. What are some ways people today try to add to what Christ has already completed? How can we guard against this?

### The Reality of the Cross

4. **Sparse Gospel Accounts:** The sermon notes that the Gospel writers give very little detail about the crucifixion itself, simply stating "they crucified Him." Why do you think this is? What does this tell us about what was common knowledge in that era?
5. **Physical and Spiritual Suffering:** Jesus endured unimaginable physical torture, but the sermon emphasizes that His greatest agony was spiritual—bearing the sin of the world and separation from the Father. Why is it important to understand both aspects of His suffering?
6. **"Father, Forgive Them":** Even while being crucified, Jesus prayed for His executioners. What does this teach us about forgiveness, even toward those who hurt us deeply?

### Personal Application

7. **The Thief on the Cross:** One thief mocked Jesus; the other confessed faith and was promised paradise. Both were equally guilty, equally unable to do good works. What does this story teach us about salvation by grace alone?
8. **Pilate's Compromise:** Pilate knew Jesus was innocent but gave in to political pressure. Have you ever compromised what you knew was right because of fear or pressure? How can we stand firm in truth?
9. **"Will He Come Again?":** The sermon ends by asking if we truly believe Jesus will return as He promised, just as He rose from the dead as He promised. How does belief in Christ's return affect the way you live today?

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### Key Takeaways



1. **God's Plan is Eternal:** From before the foundation of the world, God planned to redeem humanity through Christ's sacrifice.
  2. **Prophecy Proves Divine Authorship:** The precise fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies demonstrates that the Bible is God's Word.
  3. **Salvation is Complete:** Jesus' declaration "It is finished" means there is nothing we can add to our salvation—it is by grace through faith alone.
  4. **Jesus Chose the Cross:** No one took Jesus' life from Him; He laid it down willingly for us. This was an act of love, not defeat.
  5. **Christ's Return is Certain:** Just as Jesus rose from the dead exactly as He promised, He will return exactly as He promised.
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## Practical Applications

### This Week's Challenge

Choose one of the following to put into practice:

1. **Memorize Isaiah 53:5-6:** Meditate on what it means that "by His stripes we are healed" and that "the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all."
2. **Share the Gospel:** The thief on the cross shows us that it's never too late for someone to be saved. Pray for one person in your life who doesn't know Christ, and look for an opportunity to share the good news this week.
3. **Live with Eternal Perspective:** If you truly believe Jesus is returning soon, what would you change about your priorities, relationships, or daily habits? Choose one specific area and make an adjustment this week.
4. **Practice Radical Forgiveness:** Following Jesus' example of forgiving those who crucified Him, identify someone you need to forgive and take a step toward reconciliation or release this week.
5. **Study Prophecy:** Read through Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 alongside the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion. Make a list of the prophecies fulfilled and let it strengthen your faith.



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## Reflection Questions for Personal Time

- When I consider all that Jesus endured for my sin specifically, how does that change my perspective on my daily struggles?
- Am I living as someone who truly believes Jesus could return at any moment?
- Is there any area where I'm trying to add to what Christ has already completed for my salvation?
- Who in my life needs to hear that "it is finished" and that salvation is available by grace through faith?

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## Closing Prayer Points

- Thank Jesus for willingly going to the cross to bear our sins
- Pray for those who don't yet know Christ, that they would believe before it's too late
- Ask for grace to live with eternal perspective, watching and ready for Christ's return
- Pray for boldness to share the complete gospel—that salvation is finished work of Christ alone

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## Next Week's Preparation

Read John 20-21 in preparation for studying the resurrection and Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to His disciples.

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## Additional Resources

- Read the Gospels' crucifixion accounts side by side: Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, John 19
- Study the "I Am" statements of Jesus throughout John's Gospel
- Research the Passover and how Jesus fulfilled it as our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7)



## Daily Devotional

5-Day Devotional: The Gospel Fulfilled

Day 1: The Promise Keeper

Reading: Genesis 3:14-15; Galatians 4:4-7

Devotional: From the very beginning, God had a plan. Before Adam and Eve left the Garden, before sin fully corrupted humanity, God spoke the first promise of redemption. The "seed of the woman" would crush the serpent's head. Throughout generations—to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and David—God repeated His promise. When Paul writes of "the fullness of time," he's declaring that every promise converged at Calvary. God's Word never fails. What He promises, He performs. The same God who kept His promise to send Jesus will keep every promise He's made to you. Your salvation rests not on your faithfulness but on His unchanging character. Today, reflect on God's faithfulness in your life and trust Him with your future.

Day 2: The Suffering Servant

Reading: Isaiah 53; Psalm 22:1-18

Devotional: Seven hundred and forty years before Jesus walked to Golgotha, Isaiah saw Him. One thousand years before the cross, David described crucifixion—four centuries before it was even invented. The precision of prophecy reveals God's sovereignty over history. But these passages reveal something more profound: God's willingness to suffer. "He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities." Every sin you've committed, every failure you've experienced, every shame you carry—Jesus bore it all. The physical agony was immense, but the spiritual separation from the Father was His deepest suffering. He became sin so you could become righteous. When you feel distant from God today, remember: Jesus experienced that separation so you never have to.

Day 3: It Is Finished

Reading: John 19:28-37; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Devotional: "Tetelestai" —it is finished. With this single word, Jesus declared the complete work of salvation. Nothing can be added; nothing can be taken away. The thief on the cross couldn't be baptized, couldn't serve, couldn't prove his worthiness. He could only receive grace. This is the scandal and beauty of the gospel: salvation is complete in Christ alone. Your good works don't contribute to your salvation; they flow from it. Your failures don't diminish what Jesus accomplished; His finished work covers them all. Religion says "do"; Jesus says "done." Stop trying to earn what's



already been purchased. Rest in the completed work of Christ. Let this truth transform how you approach God today—not as a debtor working off debt, but as a beloved child received by grace.

#### Day 4: The Empty Tomb

Reading: Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Devotional: Death could not hold Him. The grave could not contain Him. Jesus rose exactly as He promised, transforming history's darkest moment into its brightest hope. The resurrection proves everything: that Jesus is who He claimed to be, that His sacrifice was accepted, that death has been defeated, that your faith is not in vain. Because He lives, you will live also. Kanjana, whose memorial we honored, now experiences this reality. No more tears, no more pain, no more dying. This same promise awaits every believer. The resurrection isn't just historical fact; it's your future hope. One day, at the trumpet's sound, the dead in Christ will rise, and we'll be caught up together. Live today in light of that certainty. Your labor is not in vain.

#### Day 5: Watch and Be Ready

Reading: Matthew 24:32-44; Revelation 22:12-21

Devotional: Just as Jesus came the first time exactly as prophesied, He will return exactly as promised. The question isn't "if" but "when"—and Jesus says we won't know the hour. The fig tree has blossomed; Israel regathered as a nation in one day. The signs surround us. Yet many, like the disciples after the crucifixion, struggle to believe He'll truly come again. Jesus warns us: be ready, be watching, be faithful. Readiness isn't about perfecting yourself; it's about being in His kingdom when He appears. Have you placed your faith in Christ's finished work? Are you living with eternity in view? Don't be caught unprepared like those in Noah's day. The Son of Man is coming at an hour you don't expect. Today is the day of salvation. Be ready.

"Therefore comfort one another with these words." - 1 Thessalonians 4:18