

# The Final Hours of Christ: Fulfilling Prophecy and Promise

## A Study of John 19 and the Power of God's Word

We have uh a couple of delightful things to reflect on first of all just to let you know that uh Brother Jim Carricker is home he got home about 30 minutes ago so pray for his continued recovery and that's very nice okay but Jim is like me he's an old guy yeah um what's exciting is young people and so Pastor Kim is going to come and give us a word about the safe delivery of his baby girl on Sunday morning brother come on ahead and then when you're finished lead us in prayer to begin the service so um everything honestly I couldn't ask for anything better the Lord provided above and beyond what um I prayed for you all prayed for so if you you haven't been following on Facebook uh I shared there um you know some things so I'm just going to highlight from there so you guys all can know what happened um so we went to the hospital on Saturday at 400 PM um the doctor recommended we go there for the inducement appointment and um they started off with giving her half a pill of something i don't know my wife can explain what that pill is but it's supposed to induce you know the baby to come um that's all she needed they didn't have to go to the next step which is a water with in a balloon apparently that's what she was trying to avoid and she was able to avoid that cuz she was already 3 cm at that point um and then so that was around 7 p.m with that half a pill thing going um and then she started to feel a lot more uh heavier contractions at that point around 7 to like 8 and it was around 5 cm at that point uh and then at that and then after it just kept getting more and more painful and she's like uh do you think I should get epidural it's like are you in pain it's like yes okay then get get your epidural and uh I did this is the second time I told her to do that and she went with my recommendation it it went well so um so that was it took about uh an hour and a half for it to be in effect and um at that point it was around yeah 6 cm so it was she was ready to come come out um I asked if we could this is on me i asked if we could wait till midnight so she can come out in June 1st uh and she was able to um so around uh 12:25 the doctor's like "Okay we got to we got to go now." So you didn't have any Doritos in the room no there was Yeah good good nothing of that sort um uh yeah she she could only drink liquid and so uh 12:25 the doctor was the midwife was there and she was um waiting for a contraction to come i was uh holding her leg one leg uh the other nurse was holding the other leg and we pushed uh and within one contraction she just had three pushes and the baby came out so it was about four or five minutes so yeah it was four minutes because that's 12:29 a.m that's when she was uh safely delivered so couldn't ask for anything better she came out 7.5 lbs 19 in uh she's been sleeping really well like four or five hours she's latching perfectly um so yeah my wife is um she's she's resting okay good man now lead us in prayer okay i will lead us in prayer yes father thank you so much for your kindness towards each and one of us in this room um most importantly thank you Lord that we can hear from your word uh thank you that um your word is filled with promises and truths that help us in

our day-to-day walk with you Lord so help us to be nourished by your word to be filled uh I pray your Holy Spirit will make your word become life and living within our soul please bless us to this end and of course I pray for those that are still Lord struggling uh for salvation i pray that you will work upon their hearts as well that they will know thy son Jesus Christ personally as their savior and lord i pray for all those that are in uh sick god there's just uh so many to pray for at this time i I pray for uh those that um are praying for their loved ones for salvation i pray that you will continue to pour out your mercy and grace upon them um and use what uh the means of grace Lord your word and prayer and your servants Lord to um uh be poured into their lives God uh bless them in this way bless for all those that are uh sick i pray that you would help them to recover um in your timing and that you will give strength um and patience to each one uh that are waiting for your timing in your perfect timing for them to be healed thank you for this uh time again to hear your word bless our uh our time together bless Pastor Walrip as he gives a message to tonight that you will fill him with Holy Spirit and fill him with unction in Jesus name amen amen so it looks like uh my recommendations for inducing labor were not followed i had two i took a woman that was a little bit overdue for a ride in my CJ5 Jeep and she went into labor almost immediately so that's my that's basically my plan B is go for a ride in a jeep you know and uh you don't think that's a good idea i have a trampoline at home also i always do a hundred every every day so but uh nobody listens to me nobody pays attention so I want you to turn in your Bible if you would please to John chapter 19 john chapter 19 we are as we walk through uh the four gospels the life and lessons of the Lord Jesus Christ um the Lord Jesus Christ has been on the cross since about 9:00 on Friday morning uh for 3 hours he hung there uh interacted with uh the two thieves uh and then about noon the sun stopped shining and darkness was over the land from noon until 3:00 in the afternoon the Lord Jesus Christ cried out "My God my God why hast thou forsaken me." And then events proceeded over the next three hours and at around 6:00 just before sundown and the onset of the Sabbath the Lord Jesus Christ uh cried out "It is finished." And the Bible says that he gave up the ghost nobody took his life from him okay nobody killed him they crucified him but he was not killed on the cross he gave up the ghost on the cross there's a difference okay so what we have been looking at for the last couple of sessions is what happened from the moment that the Lord Jesus Christ gave up the ghost and we are now at John 19:32 which reads then came the soldiers and break the legs of the first and of the other which was crucified with him there's more to this verse than you might think at first glance want you to look back to John 19 and verse 31 to take note of what is recorded there and notice you know I I I I'm I'm wrong it was not The Hound of the Baskervilles it was another movie but I but I'm a big fan of uh um Sherlock Holmes and uh Arthur Conan Doyle who basically invented CSI there was no such thing as criminal investigation of crime scenes until Arthur Conan Doyle who was a doctor started writing about it in his Sherlock Holmes series and that literally spawned um crime scene investigation uh everywhere except Cambridge Massachusetts um uh because they they don't do it there to this day uh I guess you'd have to know about the Karen Reed murder trial nobody here i guess just me and my water my daughter watch those but anyway um so the Lord Jesus Christ um according to John 19:31 um we pay attention to what is in the verse and shouldn't you also take note as you're reading of what isn't there remember Sherlock Holmes in

the novel this didn't really happen in reality but one of the one of the crimes that Sherlock Holmes uh solved was where was the dog's bark and he solved the crime by taking note of the fact that the dog that always barked was not heard to bark so what was missing and sometimes when you read the Bible you need to not only look for what's there but you try to have the presence of mind to look for what isn't there because as you're reading the word of God we're normal human beings and normal human beings act and react don't they don't they act and react you know so notice what it says in John 19:31 the Jews therefore because it was the preparation that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day for that Sabbath day was an high day besought Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away so notice the Jews who besought Pilate were likely members of the Jewish Sanhedrin what would you what would cause you to think that well because they were the ones that went to the Antonia fortress after having illegally and unjustly tried the Lord Jesus Christ three times and then they brought him to Pilate and they were the ones absolutely determined to see him convicted of a crime he didn't commit and put to death so that they could get rid of him so was that the average ordinary common garden variety Jewish person there um actually the Jews who besought Christ who besought Pilate were likely members of the Sanhedrin because they were the ones that had had him all night long that's they brought the the Roman soldiers brought the Lord Jesus Christ to them and they they kept him all night long then delivered him to Pilate shortly after dawn the next morning and it's likely that those that went went back to the Antonia fortress to ask one more thing of Pilate would be that same group of guys that were absolutely determined to see him convicted and killed and it may very well have included also the high priest himself Caiaphas thus what is recorded is that some high-ranking Jewish men if context is king and context is always king um some high-ranking Jewish men left Mount Calvary they left Golgotha and they went back to the Antonia fortress and they appealed to Pilate they got "We got just got one more thing we want from you we got one more thing we want from you um and their appeal was to make sure that no dead bodies hung from crosses at the beginning of the Sabbath we don't want anybody we don't want to be have anybody hanging from the cross when the sun goes down okay um with with the word besought translating a word that is frequently used for asking about something or or uh or asking for something is a very common Greek word for making a request of someone what we have here in John 19:32 guys who are who are with me for discipleship this is this is an example of an appeal okay um wherein someone who is subordinate to another person who occupies a position of unassailable authority and nobody's position was more unassailable in Jerusalem at that time than the governor who represented the Roman Empire and who was the boss for the entire region and so that really is that really is an appeal what is not featured is an example um in what is not featured in this example of of the appeal process is a request for Pilate to change his mind okay typically routinely this is something that husbands need to teach their wives and moms and dads need to teach their children is that when you make an appeal to your husband or when you make an appeal to your mom or your dad you do not ask them to change their mind because in order for someone to change their mind they have to admit at least to themselves that their original decision was the wrong one and if you're making a biblical appeal you do not want to force that person to admit that they made a bad decision because what you

want them to do is to make a new decision based upon new information that's some of the wisdom that feminism has caused to no longer be handed down generation generationally from grandmothers to mothers to daughters it used to be that women in the United States and women in the west knew how to interact with very strong personality men and the way you deal with them is not butting heads with them a is and and it's not by trying to undermine them it's not by ridiculing them it's not by dis uh dismantling them it's not by it's not by accusing them of of being stupid trying to get them to change their mind it's it's encouraging their position and supporting their position and requesting that they consider a new decision based upon new information oh yeah okay okay so a dad comes home from work and he says "Okay just for that." and he makes a decision and his wife walks up to him and said "Um just want you to know such and such and such." And and the dad goes "Oh oh oh well okay." And then he and then he makes a new decision she has just employed an abbreviated form of a biblical appeal and she does it in the right way he doesn't feel threatened he doesn't feel angry he doesn't feel embarrassed and he's quite willing to arrive at the best decision for him and his wife and his children that he possibly can so they're not nobody has accused Pilate of making a bad decision the fact of the matter is Pilate made no decision he was allowing the procedures and the machinery to proceed normally routinely this is the way the Romans always did it what what this appeal is is a request that he consider a departure from normal crucifixion practices and normal crucifixion practices would be to leave them on the cross for days the request is that you depart from the normal crucifixion practice and that you not leave the condemned hanging on the crosses overnight and what probably was brought to his attention is if you allow them to take the bodies down from the cross it's less likely that there will be open rebellion against our soldiers tonight or tomorrow with the Jews being angered by us flouting the law of Moses and he Yeah okay yeah i'm not interested in creating a problem yeah go ahead permission permission granted permission granted what John's gospel is explicitly silent about however is Pilate's response we're told that he was asked we are not told that he answered did he say yes we're not told however John chapter 19 and verse 32 implicitly reveals that Pilate's response to the appeal was yes see well how do you know that how do we know what's the implicit indication that when Pilate was asked if they could take the bodies down that he almost certainly actually said yes what gives us an indication that his answer was yes because they took the bodies down these Roman soldiers are not going to depart from routine they're not going to depart from established pattern they're not going to depart from established protocol unless they have explicit authorization to do so therefore it's implicit that he said yes okay so they were allowed to depart from their routine of leaving the dead and the dying on their instrument of torture through the night onto the next day now look at verse 32 and how it begins then came the soldiers so what does that mean came came well if the soldiers referred to in this phrase came they must have been somewhere else my husband came home if a woman says "My husband came home," that means he wasn't already home because when you come and you arrive someplace you arrive from where you were not where you are right so when the soldiers came to Mount CalvaryPZ when they came to Golgotha that means the soldiers had been somewhere else correct is that not indisputable i think so if the soldiers referred to in this phrase came they must have come from somewhere besides

Golgotha well from where from where did they come to arrive at the place of crucifixion from where you may think well there's an infinite number of possibilities actually no if the Jews went to the Antonia fortress to ask for permission to take the bodies from the cross and then in the next verse we see that some soldiers came where did they come from well we're not told i know we're not told because some things are too obvious to need telling where had they Where did they have to come from where did they have to come from they came from Mars no no men may be from Mars but these soldiers didn't come from Mars no they had to come from the Antonia fortress why because the the Jews went to the Antonia fortress to ask something of Pilate the implication is Pilate said yes what's the implication he dispatched soldiers with permission to do what the Jews had requested see how much information we have if we think it through and process it so from where did these guys arrive to end up at the place of crucifixion they had to have come where from where Pilate was right they had to there's no place else for them to come from they didn't have cell phones back in those days so they had to actually be where Pilate was when he made his decision and he then dispatched them to make his decision known to the soldiers the Jews couldn't go back and say "Your boss said because they're not going to listen to the Jews about anything." Why should we do what you say just because you said our boss should do that doesn't mean our boss said that we're not going to listen to anything you Jews say if we're going if we're going to do something it's going to have to be on the basis of established authority re a reputable witness that Pilate actually said that and so what happened he sent some soldiers back to Golgotha and those Jews who had presented their appeal to Pilate and from where they were dispatched by Pilate to exceed to the Jews request okay and we get that just from the first phrase verse 32 continues "And break the legs of the first and of the other which was crucified with him." Who what where when why who what where when how why the who here him is obviously the Lord Jesus Christ it couldn't be anybody else so we're talking about the legs of the first thief and then the legs of the other thief it is highly likely the soldiers who were recently dispatched by Pilate it is highly likely that they were also soldiers who served on execution squads okay you're not going to send some green beans to a place where executions are taking place you're going to send experienced execution squad soldiers to deal with a matter that has arisen where other execution squad soldiers are waiting for a response because these guys the ones dispatched by Pilate they were the ones who broke the legs of the two thieves crucified on either side of the Savior see how do you know because the Bible says they did it wasn't the ones who were already at Mount Calvary who did that see why wouldn't they do it it's unlikely that they had the big iron mallet that would be used cuz their plan was to crucify these guys and let them die slowly over two or three days or maybe a week so if you're if you're going to dispatch these guys quickly in order to do that you're going to have to have that crucifixion okay that practice of getting a big iron mallet and whacking them on the shin bones to break their legs so that they can no longer support themselves on the on the cross and when their legs no longer support them they slump down lurch forward and they die very quickly from asphyxiation and that would be accomplished before the onset of the Jewish Sabbath so it's the guy with the mallet who comes from Pilate and one or two of his buddies who's going to be the one that's going to swing the hammer okay now does something about what those Romans did seem somewhat unusual to

you not to deny that breaking the legs of dying men hanging on crosses so they would die more quickly is profoundly unusual to us obviously everything about that would be very unusual and traumatic to us but there's something in addition to that that's a little bit curious can you see what it is granting that everything about smashing men's legs so that they quickly die of asphyxiation on the cross is traumatic and jarring and would provoke intense reactions by everybody who saw it except those guys who did it for a living okay there was something about the way they performed their acts of astonishing brutality is there something about the way they went about their brutality that seems not quite normal to you think about it look at it we know from John 19:18 that the three were crucified in a row we know that there was one thief crucified and then the savior crucified and then another thief crucified and so the Lord Jesus Christ was between two thieves one two three or one two three there is no disputing that it reads "Where they crucified him," this is John 19:18 where they crucified him and two other with him on either side and Jesus in the midst so he's in the middle so think about this that being the case that the Lord Jesus Christ was in the middle of three guys being crucified would you not have expected the soldier with the heavy bone-breaking mallet to have first gone to the thief on the left and then the person crucified in the middle and then the thief on the right or to start with the thief on the right and then go to the one crucified in the middle and then the thief on the left wouldn't you expect it to either be da da da or d whatever you're going to do if you're going to do and and maybe they're not cruel and unusual things you're going to do but if you're going to do ABC and A is located to the left and B is in the middle and C is in the right you're going to either do ABC or you're going to do CBA you're not going to do you are not going to do ACB you are not going to do CAB see how do you know that because I'm normal and I've been around a long time watching people perform tasks and I know how they go about doing it this is just the normal way normal people go about doing normal things you say "Well these guys weren't normal." I know that but cut me just a little bit of slack okay the soldier with the mallet did not do what he would have expected what we would have expected him to do did he now the act of cruelty and the bashing of the legs and all that yes he he he did he did do what Pilate wanted him to do but he didn't perform those acts in the sequence that is common sense that is normal that is routine he did this this and then this or this this and then this he did not do this this this or this this this you would have done this this this or this this this I would have done this this this or this this this normal people would do this this this or this this this he didn't do that why why you say "Well does it matter?" I don't know at this point but when you're studying the infallible word of God and you're a person who embraces the notion of inherency and verbal plenary inspiration then you assume that every word is important that every detail is for a reason why was it specifically recorded that he he he did this guy this guy and then the Lord why i i I don't pretend to know i don't pretend to know thus we come to the end of our consideration of the two thieves being dispensed with however before we depart from this verse what was not said about the thieves remember we're we're not only paying attention to the barking of the dogs we're paying attention if the dogs don't bark well there's something about the thieves that is not said they died and they departed to two different eternal destinies didn't they they arrived at Mount Calvary probably hauling their crucifixion cross piece the way the Lord did but they didn't come nearly so close to breaking down as he did because they

hadn't been beaten nearly as badly as he was but they both arrived on the scene hellbound lost recognizing that they deserve to go to hell they knew that okay and in addition to that and we now know that they had two eternal destinies because one came to Christ and the other continued in his rejection of Christ but there was also a prediction fulfilled was there not you remember the prediction now we're about 6:00 p.m on Friday sometime between 9 and noon 6 to nine hours earlier the Lord Jesus Christ made a prediction to one of them do you remember what the prediction was some of you were nodding but you are you are you nodding with timidity and knowledge or are you nodding with boldness and you're going to say something what was the prediction that happened 6 to 9 hours earlier that's right one thief turned to the Lord Jesus Christ Lord remember me in thy kingdom and the Lord responded "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise?" What do you think caused that thief what changed his mind i'm of the opinion I can't prove it but I'm of the opinion that as he's hanging from the cross and the other thief is hanging from from the cross they they see what's happening around them and I think that what they had been taught as little boys growing up attending synagogue on a weekly basis being taught things from the Hebrew scriptures i think that one that one thief recognized he sees unfolding before his very eyes the fulfillment of prophecies that he had been taught by rabbis when he was a little boy perhaps even taught by his mom and dad and then he went astray evil wicked mean and nasty but he came to a place where he realized that he deserved what he was getting okay and he saw this person between the two of us this person there are things happening in and around about this person that identifies him as the Messiah of Israel this is the son of God that's what caused the thief to turn to him and say, "Lord remember me in thy kingdom." So even in his physical condition he still had the presence of mind the clarity to pull it all together and to reach a a reasonable conclusion i'm of the opinion that faith is the correct conclusion drawn from circumstantial evidence but I believe people are so evil people are so wicked people are so dead people are so depraved that you cannot arrive at a rational conclusion from objective from circumstantial evidence unless God works a miracle of the new birth and I think that's what happened this guy trusted Christ based upon his faith in the savior the Savior said "Today thou shalt be with me." And that prediction was made six hours ago maybe nine hours ago so we will see in subsequent verses here in John chapter 19 that before the thieves died the Lord Jesus Christ had already given up the ghost of the three that were hanging on the cross the Lord Jesus Christ yielded up the ghost and then the Roman soldiers came by to break legs they broke the legs of one they broke the legs of the other and the one in the middle they recognized he was already dead and that may have been why they didn't do A B C but they did ACB because when they did A they recognized ah he's dead already let's do this guy and we'll go back and confirm that he is in fact dead so I think when the Lord Jesus Christ gave up the ghost his spirit not the Holy Spirit his human spirit because remember he's the God man went to paradise okay that's Abraham's bosom right i believe that when the one thief who was a believer his legs were then broken and he immediately lurched forward and was suffocated and died he went to paradise and guess who was waiting for him the savior was there waiting for him waiting for him and the other he went to hell the torment side okay now this is my opinion i I let me just share with you i I believe that the place of the dead prior to Christ's resurrection should properly be called hell

hades and in Hades there were two compartments there was the place of torment that we typically refer to as hell and then there was paradise Abraham's bosom and all of the righteous dead before the resurrection of Christ when they died they went there there was Abraham Isaac Jacob Joseph all you know all the prophets the ex with the exception of Elijah and Enoch i think they were with the Lord in heaven my point being when the Lord Jesus Christ got there there were all of the redeemed throughout all of history up until his death and when he rose from the dead I think he led captivity captive and after he had offered himself as the propitiation for our sins he then took everybody to heaven with him who was a who died as a believer and so the of the two thieves who both died they both went to hell but one went to the paradise side and the other went to the torment side and the one in the paradise side was there for three days others had been there for a couple of thousand years and when the Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead to his glorified body then I think he took them all to heaven that's my opinion and I'm sticking to it okay uh and the Lord Jesus Christ fulfilled his promise to the one thief on the cross what a wonderful thing father thank you for your goodness we appreciate the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ does what he says and his promises to us are true and nothing nothing can break his promise we pray your blessings upon our study of your word in Jesus name we pray amen