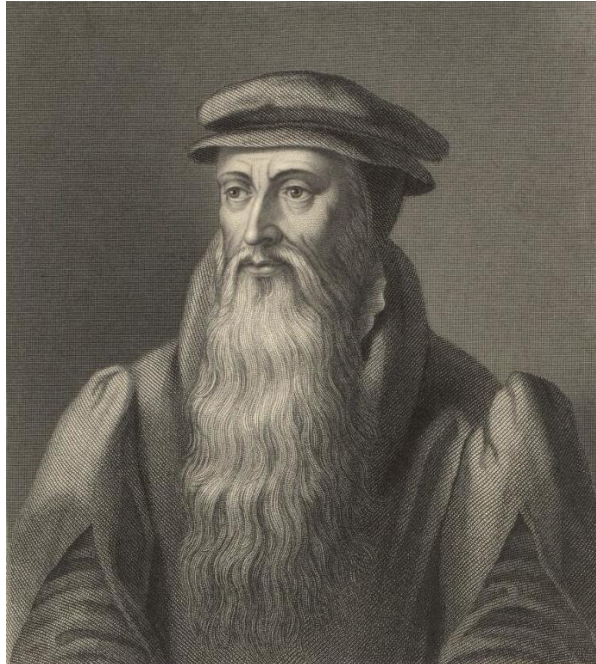


## John 17:1-5, “Jesus Magnificent Prayer”

5.28.23

I've mentioned to you several times that I seek to begin messages by finding a hook that I can use to perhaps, capture your attention and your minds for what we'll seek to learn that day. Our minds are so active...it's hard to slow down, to quiet down so that we can listen and truly have “ears to hear.” For today, this passage is easy to find a hook...it's the longest prayer recorded in the Bible, and that ought to grab our attention. It's a prayer that Jesus prayed, that caused Him to sweat blood...and that certainly ought to capture our attention.

John 17 is called the “High Priestly Prayer of Jesus.” It's a prayer that's so profound and so magnificent that it's like we're eavesdropping into the Holy of Holies...the very throne room of God. To think that we would have the privilege to listen in as the Son of God pours out His heart and soul to His Father, is amazing. We're so blessed to have this prayer. It's a treasure beyond treasures. So, much so, that as I studied, I discovered that for instance, on his death bed in 1572, John Knox:



the great Scottish theologian and reformer said to his wife:

**“Read to me John 17 where I cast my first anchor.”** John Knox, Scottish Theologian

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Martin Luther...this man:



the great German Theologian and seminal figure of the Protestant Reformation said:

**“Jesus opens the depths of His heart, both in reference to us and to His Father and He pours it all out. It sounds so honest, so simple; yet it is so deep, so rich and so wide, no one can fathom it.”** Martin Luther, German Theologian, Protestant Reformer

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Let’s begin now to look at this magnificent prayer together. Our title for today’s message and our new series for the next five (5) weeks is: “Jesus’ Magnificent Prayer.”

**John 17:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,<sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

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I want you to take a look at the screens at the picture we’re using for our sermon series:



This is a familiar depiction of Jesus praying this magnificent prayer. Now, where does that picture depict the location of the prayer? Where? In the Garden of Gethsemane. That's actually where I'm believe the prayer occurred, but some say it happened in the upper room, because of the wording in John 18. Would you look down to:

**John 18:1**

**<sup>1</sup>When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered.**

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So, you have that account, but we know there are four gospels...the other three known as the synoptic Gospels (similar gospels...John's stands alone as unique in that it's not really a chronological account of Jesus' life). What I want to show you is how the synoptic gospels (using Luke's as the example, while I could also show you Matthew and Mark's are the same) picture Jesus praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. See verse 39:

**Luke 22:39-46**

**<sup>39</sup> And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. <sup>40</sup> And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." <sup>41</sup> And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, <sup>42</sup> saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." <sup>43</sup> And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. <sup>44</sup> And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>45</sup> And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."**

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So, where do we land on this? Upper Room/ Garden of Gethsemane? Well, I believe both locations are possible and He likely prayed in both locations. But, the part that's interesting to me...is that back in John's Gospel, they've already left the upper room at **the end of John 14, verse 30. Flip back there with me.** He's in the upper room, He's finished talking about sending the Holy Spirit and the peace that would come, SHALOM, upon His leaving, and then He says.

**John 14:30:31**

<sup>30</sup> I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, <sup>31</sup> but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.

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“Rise, let us go from here,” appears that they headed out and began that walk to Gethsemane. So, trying to synchronize the events is perhaps a bit difficult, but in all honesty, I believe He prayed in both locations and it’s WHAT HE PRAYED THAT MATTERS. **Now, let’s look at the prayer. 17:1.**

**John 17:1**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you.”

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Now, as we see Jesus begin the prayer...we see the purpose of the prayer. “Glorify the Son, that Father may be glorified.” We also see that down in verse 5...

**John 17:5**

<sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

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It’s all about glorifying the Father. Think of that! Jesus knows He’s soon going back to be with His Father. He’s going home, to heaven. But, to do that...Jesus would have to die first...and that’s the “hour has come” part in verse 1. He’s asking His Father to help Him finish the work...to complete the rescue mission on the cross. And I want to remind you of how Jesus endured the cross. Heb. 12:2.

**Hebrews 12:2**

<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

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Jesus was able to endure the cross knowing He would return to His Father and the glory He had with Him. Yes, on the cross, Jesus finished the job, and that’s verse 4.

**John 17:4**

<sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

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We all know that Jesus was born for the cross. He was born to die. He would complete His substitutionary atonement for us on the cross. And the next day He would say: “It is finished!” Jesus would ultimately rise from the dead and then 40 days later, return to heaven where He would be seated (having finished the job) at the right hand of who? His FATHER! Church, we must not miss what Jesus calls God: FATHER. In this wacky day of people putting their personal pronouns on their emails or social media profiles, (which is ridiculous and only indicates that people are being led like sheep to the slaughter by the elites of our day out of fear and intimidation), Jesus calls God, the masculine pronoun, Father. And that will never change, no matter the culture.

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You see, the relationship between Jesus and God is described as Father and Son...emphasizing a shared nature. Jesus said, “If you’ve seen me, you’ve seen the Father.” Jesus and God exist within a family...Father, Son, Spirit. No issues with pronouns. God is not a woman. He’s not her, a she or an it...God is a “He” and He’s Father, and He decided that from the beginning...not us.

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So, the hour has come. Finally, that long awaited period of time was upon Jesus...something He’s known all His life...He’s going to die a gruesome death with all of our sin placed upon Him. It was the hour when all the prophecies about the Messiah would be fulfilled...dozens and dozens of prophecies...when all the “types” and all the “symbols” would be fulfilled. It would be the hour of

triumph over the prince of this world...Satan...the hour of triumph/victory over death...the hour that only Jesus could take...the hour of the cross lay before Him. The hour in which He had all authority over all that would happen to Him. Verse 2.

**John 17:2**

<sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

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God has given Jesus all authority over all flesh...that's all life. That's Matthew 28:18. Right before Jesus ascended to heaven, He said:

**Matthew 28:18**

<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

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God has given to Jesus all authority in "heaven and earth." By the way, the Greek word (ouranos) used for "heaven" there, means: "the universe." Jesus has power over the entire universe. He has authority over everyone and everything in the entire universe, and that authority was given to Him by His Father.

Church, something else we see in verse 4 is us. We are the bride of Christ...and just as a bride is "given away" by her Father at a wedding altar, God gave to His Son a bride at the altar of a cross. Thus, as followers of Jesus, we are the bride of Christ. **Are you part of the bride?** Are you following Jesus? If you haven't, you will be left outside of the wedding feast in heaven, because you will have been cast into outer darkness into Hell. Don't let that be you. Jesus died for you! He loves you!

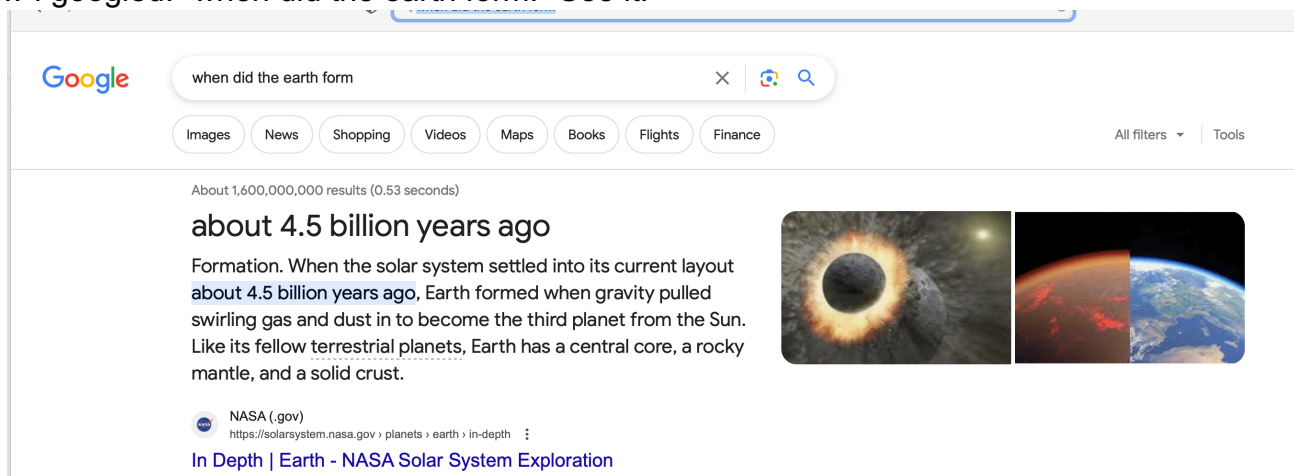
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Yes, Jesus has all authority over all of HEAVEN AND EARTH. Remember, John 1:1?

**John 1:1**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

"The Word," that's Jesus. But the world says, "No, it's not, in the beginning: The Big Bang." You know I googled: "when did the earth form." See it:



When did the earth form? "About 4.5 billion years ago." ABOUT. Don't miss that. They're guessing. They need a big number for evolution to make sense. They say, "Earth formed when gravity pulled swirling gas and dust in, to become the third planet from Sun. Like its fellow terrestrial planets..." You know what I want to ask: where did the "swirling gas and dust" come from? Where did "gravity" come from? I can hear them: ***"Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain...just believe us...we're the great and powerful Google."***

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Oh...one more...this one is my favorite. "What happened to the dinosaurs." Google says:

The screenshot shows a Google search page. The search bar contains the text "what happened to the dinosaurs". Below the search bar are several filter buttons: "Videos", "Images", "News", "In the bible", "Extinction", "Shopping", "In Jurassic Park", "On Isla Sorna", and "In Dragon Ball". To the right of these buttons are "All filters" and "Tools". Below the search bar, it says "About 20,700,000 results (0.78 seconds)". The main search result is a snippet from the Natural History Museum website, titled "How an asteroid ended the age of the dinosaurs". The snippet text reads: "Sixty-six million years ago, dinosaurs had the ultimate bad day. With a devastating asteroid impact, a reign that had lasted 180 million years was abruptly ended." To the right of the text are two images: one showing dinosaurs in a landscape, and another showing an asteroid impact on Earth. At the bottom of the search results, there are links for "About featured snippets" and "Feedback".

"Sixty-six, (it used to be 65, I guess the science changed ☺), million years ago, dinosaurs had the ultimate bad day (they even have a picture of it...that's hilarious). With a devastating asteroid impact, a reign that had lasted 180 million years was abruptly ended." Where's the crater that thing made? Again: ***"Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain...just believe the great and powerful Google."***

Church, it takes more faith to believe that stuff than it does to believe that "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Either way it takes faith. I'll take the Word of God...with all of its fulfilled prophecies...proving it's reliable and trustworthy in all things...every date, place, name, event...it's never been disproven in one instance, not once, regrading a stated claim ever made in Scripture. The Word of God is the final authority in all matters, in all things.

Church family, the material universe is not eternal, but was brought into being by God. Before that, nothing existed except God. **When the beginning BEGAN...God was already there!** Theologians call this the "Aseity of God," (a-s-e-i-t-y), the aseity of God. Meaning: nothing gives Him life; and nothing takes life from Him. He is life. He is existence. Jesus said, "I AM." That's God's name. "AM," meaning: "existence." Grasp this: God has existed eternally as God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and that's a relationship of eternal glory, even prior to the creation of the universe. **Yes, Jesus was headed back to glory, heaven and it brought Him joy!**

How about you, believer? Does it bring you joy to know that you're headed to heaven? It should. But for many Christians...they don't think about heaven much. Is that you? You see...what we think most about is what motivates us and what we actually live for. For many Christians they don't live for heaven, because they seldom think about...thus, they live for earth...because they're consumed by the stuff that goes on down here. We forget this is not our home...we're just pilgrims passing through.

Remember from last week...your home is God's, your kids are God's. Your talent and abilities are God's. Remember Graduates...your education and your career should be for God. If you and I live for just money and stuff...we'll be nothing more than hamsters on a wheel, chasing possessions and it'll never be enough. **For me, I can't wait to get to heaven.** No, I don't want to die...I love life...but heaven is going to be beyond anything we can fathom and that's because Jesus is there. And do you want to know what the essence of eternal life is going to be? Jesus tells us. Watch verse 3:

**John 17:3**

**<sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.**

Eternal life is knowing God! The ONLY TRUE GOD...did you catch that...**the only true God**, because there is only **ONE true God**. The others don't exist. They're all fakes, concocted by Satan.

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

**4** "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

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Church, there are two entities of power in the universe: God and Satan. Who is stronger? God. Satan is nothing more than a dog on a leash and he can only do what God allows him to do and the wonderful thing is: what God allows Satan to do always plays right into God's hands. God is the only true God and eternal life is getting to know Him. Yes, eternal life is so much more than streets of gold, gates of pearl and walls of jasper...all of that will be beautiful...but, the joy of eternal life is going to be knowing God the Father, and His Son Jesus in their fullness, and it'll take an eternity to do that!

**1 Corinthians 13:12**

**12** For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known."

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Church, as we close, think about it: in heaven today is the God-Man, Jesus Christ...the One who came to this earth and lived just like us...took all of our sin upon His sinless body...paid that sin debt on the cross, then was raised to life, then caught up to heaven...right back to glory, to the right-hand of His Father...the One, who "in the beginning, (not the Big Bang), made the heavens and the earth." Do you know Him? To know Him is to have eternal life. To not know Him will mean eternal doom. Jesus loves you! Trust Him today and know the joy of eternal life!