

The Gospel of John | John 19

All Things Accomplished | Pastor Amy Little

It Is Finished

28 After this, Jesus, [e]knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!" 29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. 30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

WHAT was finished? What were the "ALL THINGS" which were now accomplished?

Question: If forgiveness was all that was to be accomplished by Jesus' death, then why not kill the infant Savior?

What is "the law"?

The law in the Old Testament is "Torah," which also means commands, statutes, judgments, precepts. It is especially used of the first five books of the Old Testament or the Mosaic Law (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy), but is often used by New Testament writers to refer to the entire Old Testament. (Technically, the Psalms and Isaiah are not part of Old Testament "law" but sometimes the term "law" was applied to the entire Old Testament because it constituted God's special revelation of instruction for Israel and ultimately for man.)

Genesis 12:1-3 (The Call of Abram) 1 The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. 2 "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

- It was a covenant of Grace in which God said I will care for you, favor you, and provide for you because of who I am and because you are my creation; NOT

because of anything you do that is right or deserving. (Scripture references: Romans 4:13-16 (The Message) and Galatians 3:15-20)

Exodus 19:3-6 – Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, "This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you [a] will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites."

The people's response comes in **Exodus 19:8** – The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

The three words "we will do" is the Hebrew word *asah* (ah-saw) which means "we will produce it." What they actually said was, "We will, on our own, produce and accomplish all the Lord has said."

What this statement said to God was this: stop assessing us or blessing us based on Your goodness. Instead, start judging us and blessing us based upon our obedience." And a new covenant was established (the Sinaitic Covenant). They exchanged the Abrahamic Covenant, which is based upon grace, for what we now refer to as the OLD COVENANT, which is based on the law as brought forth next in the 10 Commandments.

Three Purposes of the Law

1. The Law was given to shut man up to faith: to establish that no one could be saved through good works or total obedience.
2. The Law was given to identify sin and reveal man's sin and bankrupt condition as guilty before God.
3. The law provided a foreshadowing of Jesus.

Here is the rub: The law was designed that if you broke one piece of it you broke the entire bit. That means that sin was always going to be a barrier between God and his people.

James 2:10 – For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

Enter the offerings. Throughout John, we have talked about the different festivals and times the Jewish people would give offerings to God for different purposes. These were

God's set of ceremonial offerings by which his people would be able to maintain contact with Him and He with them. The basic, human inability to fulfill the letter of the law required there be some way of finding atonement for sin, and the opportunity, despite broken laws, to still approach God relationally. So God not only provided a standard of righteousness for the people to live up to, but he provided a way for them to pay for their inability to do so. This system of sacrifices is called the Levitical Offerings.

The Levitical Offerings are ceremonial sacrifices found in the first five chapters of Leviticus. They were put in place by God for three main reasons:

1. So that his people could stay in relationship with him.
2. To provide a foreshadowing of the sacrifice of Christ and a description of His sacrifice for us.
3. To provide a pattern for our own approach to God. They mark a progression of closeness to God with the first offering mentioned being the closest to God and the last one being the first step in approaching God.

The Five Offerings {Required to Fulfill the Law}

Trespass Offering: This offering deals with the sins we commit against God, others and even ourselves.

1. **Forgiveness** for the sins. When we trespass against someone, there is a penalty to be paid. We are trespassers who have broken a law and owe for our crime.
2. The offering provided **restoration**. Our sin had separated us, and now in our offering we find not only forgiveness but restoration to our relationship with God.
3. Finally, this offering provided for **restitution**.

The Sin Offering

Where the Trespass Offering deals with what we DO, the Sin Offering speaks to WHO WE ARE. We received our forgiveness in the Trespass Offering, but we receive our new identity in the Sin Offering.

The Peace Offering

Here, the worshiper celebrates because they are at peace with God and with others.

The Grain Offering

The Grain Offering represents what we offer to God and to others: the fruit of our labor. This offering was literally a grain offering: an offering of bread from the produce of the land.

The Burnt Offering

The Burnt offering represents a life totally devoted and consumed for God. To be wholly consumed for God speaks to total surrender.

So where does this land us today? What does this all have to do with the cross and Jesus' words that "all was accomplished"?

The worshipers lived in this constant cycle of offerings. Never free, never totally forgiven, never able to live in constant peace. They were eaten up with the constant awareness of their sin. And then Jesus came. And when He came, He came from God to us.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Do you see that Jesus came perfectly and accomplished ALL THINGS, so that we could come imperfectly?

The Old Covenant was between God and the people and relied on the people's ability to do right, be right, live right. God did His part and the people did theirs, on their own.

The New Covenant is a covenant between God and Jesus. God does His part and Jesus does ours.

Hebrews 10:5-10 – ⁵ Consequently, when Christ^[a] came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" **8** ... He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.