

**The Last Words of Jesus**  
**“The Sixth and Seventh Words: Victory and Contentment”**  
**John 19:29-30**

John 19:29-30 - “A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said, ‘It is finished!’ Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.”

Luke expounds on Jesus releasing his spirit.

Luke 23:44-23:46 - “By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle. Then Jesus shouted, ‘Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!’ And with those words he breathed his last.”

**What did Jesus mean when he cried out, “It is finished?”**

This phrase is one word of ten letters - "Tetelestai" - which literally means: “It is finished.” It is in the perfect tense, which means it is a past act with a present reality. The root of the word is teleios, which can mean complete or perfect.

1. Tetelestai was used by an artist when they completed a work. Like an artist, Jesus came to give us a full portrait of what God is like.

Hebrews 1:1-3 - “Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe. The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.”

2. Tetelestai was a word used by servants.

Mark 10:45 - “For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

John 17:4 - “I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.”

3. Tetelestai was a word used by priests. The Jewish people had to bring their sacrifices to the priest to be examined before it was offered on the altar, because it was against the law to offer an imperfect sacrifice.

Jesus, dying on the cross, was God’s perfect, faultless sacrifice: the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Pilate even said, “I find no fault in this man.” (Luke 23:4)

Even Judas said, “I have betrayed innocent blood.” (Matt. 27:4)

Hebrews 9:13-14 - “Under the old system, the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a young cow could cleanse people’s bodies from ceremonial impurity. Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.”

Hebrews 9:11-12 - “So Christ has now become the High Priest over all the good things that have come. He has entered that greater, more perfect Tabernacle in heaven, which was not made by human hands and is not part of this created world. With his own blood - not the blood of goats and calves - he entered the Most Holy Place once for all time and secured our redemption forever.”

God’s plan, made before he created the heavens and earth, was first announced to Adam and Eve after their sin in the garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:14-15 - “Then the LORD God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.’”

“It is finished” brought an end to the curse of death.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 - “Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?’ For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. But thank God! He gives us victory over sin and death through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**He released His spirit.**

In Luke 23:44-23:46, Jesus quoted from Psalm 31:5 - “I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, Lord, for you are a faithful God.”

John 10:18 - “No one can take my life from me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what my Father has commanded.”

Jesus died of his own free will. It was his mission (Mark 10:45). Here is our mission ...

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 - “And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. So we are Christ’s ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, “Come back to God!” For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”