

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • TV200B

A television broadcast sermon delivered
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14TH, 1983
By
HENRY T. MAHAN

Transcribed, edited and published
MAY 13TH, 2012

HENRY T. MAHAN TAPE LIBRARY
Zebulon Baptist Church
6088 Zebulon Highway
Pikeville, KY 41501

John 19:30

“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”

Our Scripture this morning will be taken from the book of **John the 19th chapter, verse: 30**. Here is the title of the message: **“IT IS FINISHED.”**

I want you to listen carefully to this message. I am going to put forth every effort to make the things which I will say today to be as simple as possible.

I know that you can't simplify the Word of God. I know that redemption is the most profound subject. It is called in the Word of God, *“a mystery, the mystery of Christ, and the mystery of the Gospel.”*

I believe that even these mysteries can be expressed in simple language, in every day words, so that people, whether they believe the Bible or whether they believe what we preach, or whether they believe Christ, at least they will understand what we are saying.

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Now listen to the Scripture in **John 19:30**: I want you to listen to me; I am going to speak very simply and very plainly to you today. Paul said this in **2 Corinthians 11:3**; *“I fear (am concerned and worried) lest Satan, like he beguiled Eve (our mother), will beguile you and deceive you and take you away from the simplicity of Christ, (from the singleness and oneness of Christ).”*

I want you to listen to this message and just take the time now to sit down and listen to the entire message. I am not just going to fill in time and say words, I am going to deliver to you some things from God’s Word that are important, imperative, and essential.

In **John 19:30**, it says; *“when Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said; it is finished: and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.”*

Now someone said that the ancient Greeks boasted, prided themselves, in being able to speak much in few words, something like this, they said; “give an ocean of thought; give an ocean of matter in only a drop of language, an ocean of thought in a drop of language.”

Now, what they sought is found here in these three words, *“it is finished.”* An eternity of purpose, an eternity of promise, and an eternity of plans, is contained in these three words, *“it is finished.”*

Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed before the cross in **John 17:4**, he said; *“Father, I have glorified thee on the earth; I have finished the work you gave me to do.”*

Very simply, listen to me; the Lord God of heaven, from all eternity; (this is true), from all eternity the Lord God of heaven, according to the Bible, has determined to have a new heaven and a new earth.

You know that it is so. The Lord God from heaven from all eternity has determined to have a new heaven and a new earth. He said, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away.”* He said, *“The earth shall melt with a fervent heat.”* Heaven and earth, because sin has contaminated both, shall pass away.

There will be (isn’t this what the Bible says), *“A new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness?”* There will be a new earth and a new heaven. Now, is that clear? That’s not too hard is it? The Lord God from all eternity determined to have a new heaven and a new earth.

Do you remember when Noah landed in the Ark, God put the rainbow in the heaven and said, *“This is my covenant; this is a sign. I will establish it with you; I will never destroy the world by flood again. I will destroy it by fire but not by flood.”*

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

That rainbow tells you that every time you see it in the sky. But, when you see the rainbow, you know that God won't destroy the world by water. Remember; *"He will someday destroy it with fire."* That is what the Word says.

"There is going to be a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness." There will be no more sin; there will be no more darkness; there will be no more disease. There will be no more death; there will be no more evil or potential evil.

Everything and everyone in this new heaven and new earth will be perfect, absolutely perfect. Even the trees will be perfect. The flowers will be perfect; the streams will be without pollution, in perfection.

Every thought, word, and deed, shall be perfect just like God. That is what the Scripture says. Is that very hard? Well, let that point be established now. Let's lay that foundation and leave it there.

God is going to have a new heaven and a new earth *"wherein dwelleth righteousness."* There will be no anger, no fierceness, no malice, no greed, no hate, no death, no disease, and no sin.

Secondly: Almighty God from all eternity according to the Bible has determined to populate that new heaven and that new earth. He is going to populate it; it is going to be populated with people.

Where are they going to come from? The Bible says, *"From every tribe, every tongue, every kindred, every nation, under heaven."*

God took Abraham, the father of the faithful, out one day and told him to look at the sky. He said, *"Do you see the stars?"* A lot of you can't see them, there are billions of them. He said, *"So shall your seed be."* He said, *"Look at the sands of the seashore, so shall your seed be."*

There will be a heaven and earth, a new heaven and a new earth, *"a multitude,"* the Scripture says, *"which no man can number, out of every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven."*

That is what the Bible says, that God will destroy the old earth and the old heaven. There will be a new heaven and a new earth *"wherein dwelleth righteousness,* (holiness, God's holiness). It will be populated by people from every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven.

Thirdly: That's not too hard is it? Lay that foundation. The Lord God has determined to redeem these people.

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

He's not going to make a new race to populate heaven and earth; there will be new creatures but from an old race. He is determined to populate heaven and earth from Adam's race. That's right!

They will be a holy people with a perfect holiness and a perfect righteousness from Adam's race. They are going to be changed, transformed, made anew, regenerated, recreated, a new creation in Christ Jesus. That's right, he is going to restore them from their fall. *"He restoreth my soul."*

Those new people with new hearts and new natures, new creatures; there will not be one word or one thought or one action in them or about them or from them that will not be in perfect harmony with God Almighty's holy nature. They are going to be just like Jesus Christ.

That is what the word predestination means and is all about, it is used in the New Testament four times. That is what it says. *"We are predestinated, (or predetermined, or determined before hand, everyone whom God saves to be just like Christ), predestinated to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ."*

They will be just like the Redeemer. Those people will have the mind of God in regard to holiness. Imagine never thinking of a wrong thought. Imagine never feeling or having a wrong attitude. Imagine never in any way of disagreeing with God Almighty's perfect holiness, perfect holiness.

Not only that, these people will have the mind of God toward his judgments, toward his holy providence. They will forever praise him for his mercy and they will say "amen" to his judgments, even as God condemns the wicked, whoever the wicked may be.

The people of God are going to be so like God in his holiness, and so like God in his wrath against sin that they are going to be able to say, "amen" even to God's judgments.

You can read that in **Revelation 19** when He judged the great whore, the great religious system and cast it into hell. The Scripture says, *"The smoke of her torment ascendeth up forever, and the people of God said, amen, hallelujah, true and righteous are his judgments."*

We are going to be changed. *"We shall not all sleep,"* Paul said, *but we shall be changed,* those who populate that new heaven and that new earth. Those who populate God's kingdom in the future when the old heaven and the old earth have passed away, everyone is going to be just like His Son, in perfect holiness, in mind, in spirit, in attitude, and nature. We shall be changed. We are going to lay aside this body of flesh, this man of sin and we are going to be just like Christ.

Paul said in **1 Corinthians 15**, *"So, when this corruptible, (and I don't care who you are, you are in a corruptible body), when this corruptible shall put on incorruption, and this*

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying, death is swallowed up in victory; O death where is thy sting; O grave where is thy victory?"

Someday there will be no more death. Someday there will be no more sin. Someday there will be nothing in heaven and earth contrary to God's immaculate, infinite, perfect holiness, and nature.

That's right; Satan is going to be cast into the bottomless pit and eternal fire. All that follow him and all the enemies of Christ shall be his footstool. There will be a new heaven and a new earth populated by new creatures just like Christ.

Now wait a minute! There are two things that must be noted and I want you to note these most carefully:

First of all: These are of great importance. I laid those three or four foundation stones; will you remember them?

God is going to have a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness. God is going to populate that new heaven and new earth with a people from every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven.

Those people are going to be taken from Adam's race, elect from every nation and every tongue. We sing about it. There will be people chosen of God, redeemed by Christ, and brought to God by the Holy Spirit, believers who have been regenerated, made new creatures in Christ Jesus.

They will have the mind of God, the heart of God, the grace of God, the love of God, and the holiness and righteousness of God, forever, forever.

Two things are important: Now remember this; this is not just going to come to pass. God is not just going to pull this out of the air. God is not just going to speak and this be done. God is not going to reverse the whole thing and start over again.

From all eternity, two important things:

First of all: All of this redemptive work, this new creation, this work of restoration, this work of redemption, all of this work will be carried on in perfect harmony and agreement with God's holiness and God's holy character.

Angels can't do it; the angels can't do this work. They can't keep themselves, God has to keep them. Angels couldn't do this work. Angels can't bring restoration. Angels can't bring redemption. Angels can't put away sin. Angels can't make men new creatures. Angels can't satisfy God's Law.

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Men cannot do it; our Lord Jesus Christ says, *“It is impossible with men. Can the Ethiopian change his skin?”* No; *“Can the leper change his spots?”* No; *“Neither can you do good, who are custom to doing evil.”*

Men cannot do this work; only God can do it. Now wait a minute; only God can do it. *“Salvation is of the Lord. The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord.”* God is the Creator. God is the Restorer. Only God can do it.

Wait a minute; God Almighty as God only cannot do it, as God cannot do it. You see; God can't suffer. Man can't do it, man can't satisfy. God can do this work as the God-man; that's right. He as God can satisfy and as man He can suffer.

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so, must the son of man be lifted up; the son of man must needs go to Jerusalem.” The Son of man must die. Christ must suffer.

You see, when God determined to have a new heaven and a new earth, when God determined to save a people; (now stay with me); God didn't have to have a new heaven and a new earth; God didn't have to have a people out of Adam's race.

God didn't have to save you and me. Our Lord Jesus Christ said one day; *“God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham.”* He didn't have to have you and me.

But, when God did determine to restore Adam's fallen race, when God did determine to have a people out of Adam's race and save them, it became necessary for all of his righteous requirements to be met. That's right; it became necessary.

You see; determination brings about this necessity. Once God determined to save it became necessary because of who He is and what we are to satisfy His holy law and honor His justice.

So then; you have to have a Surety. We have to have a Representative. We have to have a Federal-head. We have to have a Redeemer. We have to have a Saviour.

This is what Job is saying. Job who realized his sinfulness after awhile said; *“I know that my redeemer liveth, my redeemer, and he shall stand on this earth in the latter days and in my flesh I will see the Lord;”* I have a Redeemer.

Moses, Isaiah, and David, all of them had talked about the coming Christ, the Messiah, and the Redeemer.

So, these two things are necessary: God is going to have a new heaven and a new earth. God is going to populate it with people *“out of every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven.”*

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

God is going to redeem some people out of Adam's race. But, he is going to do it in full harmony and accord with his holiness, with his justice, with his righteousness and with his truth.

That can only be done by God becoming a man. And Almighty God in the person of Jesus Christ became a man and the Father put all of this work, all of these purposes and plans for eternal life, the new heaven, the new earth, the saving of a people, the redeeming of a race, God put all of this in the hands of Jesus Christ.

That is who Jesus Christ is, God and man in one; that is who Jesus Christ is. Are you with me? I am saying that from all eternity, the eternal God, you say; "how do you know these things?" This is what he declares in his Word; "*heaven and earth shall pass away. There will be a new heaven and a new earth.*"

It says in the Scripture in the **Book of Revelations**; "*I saw a multitude in heaven which no man can number out of every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven.*"

They said, "*Who are these and which came they?*" They said, "*These are they which have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the lamb.*" They are redeemed from Adam's race. "*Thou hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every nation, kindred, tribe, and tongue.*"

God has made them like Christ and He has put all this work in the hands of His Son. You see; God cannot compromise His character and His holiness must be satisfied. His justice must be satisfied so He put all of this redemptive work, this work of restoration, this work of bringing a kingdom to pass in the hands of Christ.

Listen to these Scriptures: "*In Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the God-head bodily.*" Listen to this Scripture; "*The pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand.*" It says, "*God hath committed all judgment to the son.*"

Christ said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the father but by me. No man knoweth the father save the Son, he to whom the Son will reveal him.*"

You see, this is what the whole Old Testament declares, that someone is coming, that someone is coming to do a work of redemption, to perform a work of creation to restore our souls.

This someone is going to be "*a prophet like Moses*" to reveal God; "*God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake to our fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken to us by his Son.*"

He will be a prophet like Moses. "*This is my beloved Son; hear him,*" God said, "*hear him.*" He will be a priest like Melchisedek to offer a perfect, suitable, sufficient, sacrifice

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

to God, for all who believe. He will be a king like David to reign over us and give us victory.

So, the Old Testament says; *“He’s coming,”* He’s coming, He’s coming, the Redeemer is coming, the God-man is coming, the Messiah is coming, and Christ is coming.”

The New Testament says, “He’s come.” The angels announced it to the shepherds on the Judean hillside, they said that day, many years ago; *“unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.”* The angels announced it.

Then, when he was baptized of John in the River Jordan, the heavenly father spoke and said; *“this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”* Simeon said, *“Lord; now let your servant depart in peace; mine eyes have seen thy salvation.”* John the Baptist said, *“Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.”*

His works and His miracles witnessed to His authority. Every picture of redemption in the Old Testament Scriptures is fulfilled in Christ.

Finally, John comes to the end of his Book and he said, *“If everything that Jesus Christ said had been put in a book the world wouldn’t contain the books. These are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God and that believing you might have life through his name.”*

Do you understand; do you understand the person and work of Jesus Christ? Do you understand what I am saying? *“God has determined to have a new heaven and a new earth.”* That is so, it is going to be populated by a multitude which no man can number.

And God is going to redeem them out of Adam’s race, redeem them, restore them, make them new creatures to love what Christ loves and hate what He hates, to be like Him, to have no potential to fall, no probability of a fall.

We will be better off than Adam ever was. You see; Adam had the potential to fall and he did fall. But, in Christ, in his kingdom in the new heaven and the new earth, when the last enemy, death shall be destroyed and God will put away all evil, all possibility, all potential to hate, we are going to be just like the Son of God, *“heirs of God joint heirs with Jesus Christ.”*

Now, to do that, Almighty God has to work in harmony with his holiness. He has to work consistently with His justice. He can’t; God can’t dump His holiness; He can’t cease to be God. Whatever He does He must do right; *“the judge of the earth shall do right.”* Do you see what I am saying?

In order to redeem a people he had to honor his law; it can’t change. Christ said, *“I didn’t come to destroy the law, I came to fulfill it.”* He has to honor His justice.

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

So, God came down here in the person of Jesus Christ as a man. Watch this; Jesus of Nazareth is very God of very God.” The Scripture says, *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. All things were made by him; without him was not anything made that was made and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.”* He is God!

He said, *“I and my father are one.”* They took up stones to stone him and he said, *“Many good works have I done among you; for which of these do you stone me?”* They said, *“We are not stoning you for good works; you are a man and you claim to be God.”* They couldn’t understand it either.

In **John 14** the disciples said, *“Show us the father.”* Our Lord said, *“He that hath seen me hath seen the father.”* So, He is God!

All right; *“He is born of woman.”* You might say, “I don’t know how God can be born of woman.” I don’t either but that is what the Scripture says. The Scripture says, *“God himself will give you a sign, a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son and thou shall call his name Immanuel, (God with us).”*

And God said to Joseph, *“That holy thing born of Mary is none other than the Son of God.”* Now, He was born of the virgin that He might not partake of Adam’s sin. He was born of the virgin that He might not have a human father.

He was born of a virgin because He was conceived by the Holy Ghost and He is not the seed of man, He is the seed of woman, but He is a man, He is a man. He did not partake of Adam’s sin. *“Unto us a child is born but a son is given.”*

And in that same body is none other than God himself. *“His name shall be called, wonderful, counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting father, the prince of peace.”* You might say that it is a mystery; you are exactly right; that is incarnation, God became a man.

And He was tempted as a man; even Satan tempted Him on the Mount of Temptation after his period of fasting. Our Lord was tempted, this God-man, this person, who is God in human flesh, two natures in one; this God-man was tempted and tried under the law, before the law, in every point as we are but never sinned.

You see; God is going to have a new heaven and a new earth, a new kingdom, a new race of people and it will be populated with a people like Christ. He is going to do it in such a way that His law will be honored and Christ honored that law.

Then, Jesus Christ, all our sins, God caused to meet on him. *“All like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way, but the Lord hath laid on him, (or caused to meet on Him, all the sins of all believers of all generations).”*

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

Jesus of Nazareth, when He died on that cross, (judicially speaking), was the greatest sinner that ever lived. He was the greatest combination, the greatest accumulation of sin that had ever been accumulated in one spot, and it was in Christ.

God turned his back on Him. God's justice slew Him. God's righteousness slew Him. God visited Him alone. He walked the winepress of God's wrath. He drank the very bitter drags from the bottom of the cup of God's wrath. He satisfied God's wrath for every believer.

That is what the Scripture says; *"Our sins were laid on him. He was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him: by his stripes we are healed."*

Now, God's law has been honored. His justice has been satisfied. Jesus Christ when He died on that cross bought the world. It is His world, His heaven and it is His earth. It is His kingdom and they are His people.

"He died that he might be Lord of the dead and the living." God by decree made Him Lord. God by design made Him Lord. He by death became Lord, every man's Lord.

He said, *"All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* *I have all power over all flesh that I should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given me."*

Now, when Jesus Christ died on that cross, (coming back to my text now), God's purpose, a new heaven and a new earth populated by a multitude that no man can number, all just like Christ out of Adam's race; He came down here as a man.

God put all of that purpose and plan in the hands of Jesus of Nazareth, the God-man. He wasn't just an ordinary man but the God-man. He came down here and He did all that God's law demanded, all that God's justice demanded, all that God's character demanded and all that God's purpose required. He did it all.

When He finished that work on Calvary's Cross He screamed three words, when He had borne our sins and fulfilled the holiness of God, He cried; *"it is finished."* And brother, that is an ocean, an eternity of matter in three words, *"it is finished."*

It is all God's purpose. Every promise is fulfilled. Every promise is fulfilled. Every debt is paid, every sin is cancelled and every enemy is defeated. Every law is honored. Every purpose and plan is guaranteed; *"it is finished."*

God said, *"Come up here and sit on my right hand. Sit down, your work is finished until I make your enemies your footstool."*

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN

This man in **Hebrews 10:13, 10:12 through 13 and 14** says, *“This man after he had offered one sacrifice for sin forever, sat down on the right hand of God from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.”*

“For by one offering, (one sacrifice, one life, one death), he hath perfected forever them that are sanctified.”

You might say, “Preacher; what evidence do you have that all this work is finished?” It is his resurrection; *“God raised him from the dead.”* That is the first evidence. Paul said, *“We declare unto you how that the promise which was made to our fathers, God hath fulfilled to us, his children, in that he raised up Jesus of Nazareth from the dead.”*

The second evidence is his ascension. The father said, *“Come up and sit thou on my right hand till I make thine foes thy footstool.”*

The third evidence is the song of the redeemed in heaven: almighty God taught them all to sing:

“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”

IT IS FINISHED

JOHN 19:30 • HENRY T. MAHAN