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## PAID IN FULL

"So Scripture would be fulfilled." This repeating phrase in John 19 points to prophecies made many 100s of years before being fulfilled by Jesus. It confirms how the crucifixion of Jesus by sinful men was actually the hand of God. He was keeping His promise to redeem His people by blood atonement.

On Palm Sunday, the people cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He, even the King of Israel." On Good Friday they cried, "Crucify Him! We have no king but Caesar." As they kill Jesus on a cross labeled "King of the Jews," let's look at four evidences of God working out His predetermined plan of redemption.

**1- His crucifixion fulfills Jesus' own prophecy.** Several times before, Jesus had spoken of His death, including in John 12:22-33, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself." His crucifixion would also be glorification, because His resurrection and ascension were guaranteed.

Weak from flogging and torture, Jesus carried the crosspiece. They drove nails, raised Him up and drove more nails in His feet. Breathing required excruciating alternating effort of standing and sagging. This gruesome execution was designed to maximize pain and suffering. We cannot exaggerate the agony.

Yet Jesus comforts Mary in her darkest hour, prophesied in Luke 2:53. Jesus said, "dear woman, behold your son" and from then on John cared for her. Jesus had promised in Matthew 19:29 everyone leaving family or property for His sake would receive "a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life." As Mary stands at the foot of the cross, she must believe in Jesus not as mother but as disciple - as must you and I.

**2- His crucifixion affirms words of Scripture.** The Old Testament prophesies more than 300 details fulfilled by Jesus. John mentions specifics as the four Gospel writers paint the picture. Two terrorists were executed with Jesus, fulfilling Isaiah 53:12 "numbered with the transgressors." One taunted but one repented. Three crosses reminds you: one died in his sins; one died forgiven of his sins; and One died there for the sins of the world. Never forget, Jesus died the death you deserve.

The soldiers fulfilled Psalm 22:18 as they divided His garments and cast lots for His seamless tunic. They put sour wine on a sponge and held it to His mouth, fulfilling Psalm 22:15 and 69:21. Dead bodies on the Sabbath would defile the land (Deuteronomy 21:23) but the soldiers did not break Jesus' legs to hasten death, fulfilling Psalm 34:20. The piercing spear fulfilled Zechariah 12:10.

**3- His crucifixion finishes God's redemption.** Jesus, our Great High Priest, faithfully and directly obeyed in every detail of giving Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for sins. Evil human actors played their parts willingly, even if unintentionally fulfilling even specific details, as God directed His eternal plan.

"Knowing all was now finished," in verse 30 Jesus says, "**It is finished**," bowed His head and released His spirit. He died. Jesus drank the cup of wrath. Atonement was accomplished. But no one took His life. Only He has authority to lay it down (John 10). The Good Shepherd gives His life for His sheep.

**4- His crucifixion offers salvation to YOU.** The phrase "it is finished" is the Greek word "tetelestai." It means all done, mission accomplished. When stamped on purchases or receipts it meant "**paid in full**." Someone has appropriated a famous TV ad this way: Three iron nails \$2.25; one crown of thorns \$64.95; one wooden cross \$380.95; the blood of Jesus: Priceless. Paid with the Master's Card. Because some things money can't buy. As Scripture says, without the shedding of blood there is no payment for sin.

Jesus says the debt of sin you could never pay has been paid. With His blood. It is finished. Paid in full. John testifies blood and water poured out when the soldier plunged the spear. Jesus was dead. In v35 John tells the truth "**so that you also may believe**" since all these things took place to fulfill Scripture.

Eyewitness account is just part of the evidence, so YOU too will believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior. YOU could never do enough good works to outweigh the death of Jesus for your sins. The Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. HE has paid your penalty. YOU must receive Him. Only Jesus saves.

Humble yourself at the cross. Repent. Be washed in the blood of the Lamb. Nothing else can save you. He paid your debt. Receive His work on your behalf. By grace through faith. **Believe in Jesus today!**