

## 36-WHAT WORK DID HE FINISH?

Shared by the Living Water group on Face Book

When Jesus Christ prayed in the upper room the night **before** He was crucified, He stated to His Father, "I have finished (τελειόω - pronounced "tel-i-o'-o" in English and meaning to complete or accomplish) the work which thou gavest me to do. But He had not been crucified yet! Why would Christ state He had accomplished the work His Father had given Him to do? "<sup>1</sup> *These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:* <sup>2</sup> *As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.* <sup>3</sup> *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.* <sup>4</sup> *I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished (τελειόω - pronounced "tel-i-o'-o" in English and meaning to complete, i.e. (literal) accomplish, or (figurative) consummate) the work which thou gavest me to do.* <sup>5</sup> *And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.* <sup>6</sup> *I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.* <sup>7</sup> *Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.* <sup>8</sup> *For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.* <sup>9</sup> *I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.* <sup>10</sup> *And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.* <sup>11</sup> *And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.* <sup>12</sup> *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.* <sup>13</sup> *And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.* <sup>14</sup> *I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.* <sup>15</sup> *I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.* <sup>16</sup> *They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.* <sup>17</sup> *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.* <sup>18</sup> *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.* <sup>19</sup> *And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.* <sup>20</sup> *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;* <sup>21</sup> *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.* <sup>22</sup> *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:* <sup>23</sup> *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.* <sup>24</sup> *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.* <sup>25</sup> *O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.* <sup>26</sup> *And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them."* John 17:1-26 (King James Version)

When Jesus Christ stated that He had finished the work in John 17:4, He was referring to the fact that He had finished one of two of the tasks His Father had given Him. The Lord came to this world and took the form of a man. His Father had given Him **two** tasks to accomplish.

The first, **and most important**, was to provide the payment for the sin debt of everyone who would ask Him to do so. We have already discussed this in detail in other lessons. **BUT HIS FATHER GAVE HIM ANOTHER IMPORTANT TASK TO ACCOMPLISH.** The second important task He was given was to fulfill a prophecy that had been revealed to Daniel when the Holy Spirit gave Daniel an understanding of the vision that King Nebuchadnezzar saw and described in Daniel, chapter 2. King Nebuchadnezzar was only seeking a revelation of what the vision meant but the Living God also revealed an important piece of information that was going to affect where some people were going to live on the New Earth for eternity. First, Daniel explained the prophecy of the inception and eventual downfall of four major kingdoms. The Babylonian empire which was going to be replaced by the Medo-Persian empire. The Medo-Persian empire was going to be replaced by the Grecian empire. The Grecian empire was going to be replaced by the Roman empire. That answered King Nebuchadnezzar's inquiry about what he saw in the vision. **But then** the Lord revealed a prophecy about a **fifth kingdom** that was going to be established during the days of those four empires. " <sup>44</sup> *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.* <sup>45</sup> *Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."* Daniel 2:44-45 (King James Version)

There are a couple of things we would like to call your attention to in Daniel 2:44-45 (printed above). **First**, this fifth kingdom was going to be set up during the days of those four kingdoms. **That fifth kingdom that was set up during the days of those four kingdoms could not be the Kingdom of the Saved, that is, the Family of God.** That would mean the Lord was revealing that no one could become a member of the Kingdom of the Saved (the Family of God) until it was set up during the days of those four kingdoms. That would mean **everyone** who had lived and died before those four kingdoms were established were never saved! THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT! **Second**, the fifth kingdom that was going to be established would last forever. If a person is recorded as a member of that kingdom when Jesus Christ comes back to catch up the saved (the Rapture), they will always be a member of that kingdom.

**Jesus Christ set up that fifth kingdom during His earthly ministry.** That was **the other task** God the Son was called to do when He came to this earth. During His earthly ministry He was to call out, to train, to organize, to authorize, to commission and to empower a fifth kingdom to be His priests from the time of His earthly ministry to the time of the "Catching Up" (the Rapture).

. Let us repeat that and give you scripture. During His earthly ministry He was:

- 1- **To call out** (Matthew 4:18-25; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:35-49)
- 2- **To train** (there are 23 references in Matthew alone, not counting the other three Gospels, that speak of Jesus training His disciples including Matthew 5:1; 9:37; 12:49; 13:36; 15:12; 16:13; 16:29-24; 17:10; 19:10; 19:23-25; 23:1; 24:1; 26:1; 24:17-46 and 28:7-13)
- 3- **To organize** (Luke 12:32; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1st Peter 2:5; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:11-16 and Ephesians 3:20-21, just to name a few)
- 5- **To authorize** (Matthew 28:18-20; and Acts 1:1-8)
- 6- **To commission** (Matthew 28:18-20; and Acts 1:1-8)
- 7- **To empower** (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Acts 3:12; Acts 4:7; Acts 4:33; Acts 6:8; Acts 8:10; Acts 8:19; Romans 15:17-19; 1st Corinthians 2:4; 2nd Corinthians 12:9 and Ephesians 3:20-21.

"<sup>20</sup> Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,<sup>21</sup> Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." *Ephesians 3:20-21 (King James Version)*

It is important that we remember that the Lord said to the nation of Israel in Hosea 4:6,  
"<sup>6</sup> My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, **that thou shalt be no priest to me**: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." (*King James Version*)

So how do we know that our Heavenly Father gave Jesus Christ **two** tasks to accomplish? Again, because in Jesus Christ's prayer in the upper room the night at the end of the Passover Supper and then the Lords Supper, He stated that He had already accomplished one of them. And **He prayed that prayer before He was crucified on Calvary's cross.** "<sup>4</sup> I have glorified thee on the earth: **I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**<sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.<sup>6</sup> **I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.**<sup>7</sup> Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.<sup>8</sup> **For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.**<sup>9</sup> I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.<sup>10</sup> And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.<sup>11</sup> And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name (ὄνομα-authority) those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.<sup>12</sup> While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name (authority): those that thou gavest me I have kept, and **none of them is lost, but the son of perdition**; that the scripture might be fulfilled.<sup>13</sup> And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves.<sup>14</sup> **I have given them thy word**; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.<sup>15</sup> I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.<sup>17</sup> Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.<sup>18</sup> As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have **I also sent them into the world.**<sup>19</sup> And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.<sup>20</sup> **Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word**;<sup>21</sup> That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.<sup>22</sup> And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:<sup>23</sup> I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.<sup>24</sup> **Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am**; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.<sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.<sup>26</sup> And I have declared unto them thy name (authority), and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them." *John 17:4-26 (King James Version)*

We believe that when Jesus Christ said, "<sup>24</sup> Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am", He was stating His desire that **His** disciples (the scripturally

baptized members of His local, scriptural churches) abide with Him in the Holy City Jerusalem for eternity! Why? Because they were the only ones present in the upper room when Jesus Christ prayed that prayer. It is true that Jesus Christ had sheep that belonged to other folds. But the sheep of the other folds (such as John the Baptist and his disciples) will be wedding guests living **outside** the Holy City Jerusalem on the New Earth. <sup>14</sup> *I am the good shepherd; and I know mine own, and mine own know me,* <sup>15</sup> *even as the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep.* <sup>16</sup> *And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice: and they shall become one flock, one shepherd." John 10:14-16 (American Standard Version)*

In John 17:1-26 (printed above), Jesus Christ prayed, " <sup>6</sup> *I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word*". How do we know that Jesus Christ was only referring to His disciples and not to all the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people and nations? Because in that prayer, He also prayed, <sup>12</sup> *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name (authority): those that thou gavest me I have kept, and **none of them is lost, but the son of perdition**; that the scripture might be fulfilled*". There never has been nor will there ever be a person among any of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people and nations who will lose their salvation since it is the spiritual body that is "born of God". In other words, not one of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people and nations can become "lost again". If they could, Paul recorded in Hebrews 6:4-6 (printed below) that it would be **impossible** for them to be saved **again** unless Jesus Christ died **again** in order for them to be "saved" **again**! " <sup>4</sup> *For it is impossible* for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, <sup>5</sup> *And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,* <sup>6</sup> ***If*** they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." Hebrews 6:4-6 (King James Version)

Therefore, Jesus Christ was referring to those specific individuals **from among** the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people and nations that His Father had given to Him, His disciples (His local, scriptural, New Testament church in Jerusalem). Those specific individuals **from among** the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people and nations had come to Him when He called to them to be "fishers of men". It was those specific individuals **from among** the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people and nations who became His disciples, not the disciples of John the Baptist who remained with John the Baptist. Therefore, Acts 1:21-22 tells us that it was His disciples, the members of His local, scriptural, New Testament churches who " ... have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus came in and went out among us, <sup>22</sup> *Beginning from the baptism of John, until the day wherein he was taken up from us...*". And so it was His disciples, the members of His local, scriptural, New Testament churches that Jesus Christ asked His Father " *that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am*". After the White Throne Judgment, Jesus Christ will spend eternity in the Holy City Jerusalem on the New Earth. The rest of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people and nations, of course, will be members of the nations living **outside** the walls of the Holy City Jerusalem. They will **not** be members of the Bride of Christ because **the wedding guests** do not live with the groom after the ceremony. Only the bride lives with her groom. " <sup>24</sup> *And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring*

*their glory and honor into it. <sup>25</sup> Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). <sup>26</sup> And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it. <sup>27</sup> But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation 21:24-27 (New King James Version)*

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**Did you say that you are too busy with your involvement with the things of this world to give that much attention to studying your translation so you can know the truth?**

**Are you going to miss it?**

**For the world?**

**We wouldn't miss it for the world!**