

John 19:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Analysis

After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. The phrase εἰδὼς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἤδη πάντα τετέλεσται (eidōs ho Iēsous hoti ēdē panta tetelestai, 'Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished') reveals Christ's sovereign awareness. He knows (eidōs—perfect knowledge) that His redemptive work is complete except for this final prophetic detail.

The word τετέλεσται (tetelestai, 'accomplished/finished') in perfect tense anticipates His triumphant cry in verse 30. Everything required for salvation has been achieved; one Scripture remains to be fulfilled. Jesus speaks not from mere physical agony but conscious fulfillment of prophecy.

Διψῶ (dipsō, 'I thirst') fulfills Psalm 69:21: 'in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.' Crucifixion caused intense dehydration through blood loss, exposure, and the physical strain of pushing up to breathe. Yet John presents this cry not primarily as suffering but as scriptural fulfillment. Jesus, who offered living water to the Samaritan woman (John 4:10-14) and cried 'If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink' (7:37), now thirsts Himself. The One who satisfies all spiritual thirst endures ultimate physical and spiritual thirst, separated from the Father (Matthew 27:46), bearing sin's curse.

Historical Context

Psalm 69 is a messianic psalm quoted multiple times in the New Testament regarding Jesus (John 2:17, Romans 15:3, Acts 1:20). Its prophecy about being given vinegar to drink was written 1,000 years before the crucifixion. Jesus's conscious fulfillment of this detail demonstrates His awareness of Scripture and His identity as Messiah.

Crucifixion typically lasted hours or even days. Victims died from asphyxiation, exhaustion, dehydration, or shock. The intense thirst resulted from fluid loss and the inability to drink while hanging. Jesus's relatively quick death (six hours) surprised Pilate (Mark 15:44), suggesting the spiritual anguish exceeded even the physical torment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's sovereign awareness 'that all things were now accomplished' reveal about His control even in suffering?
2. How does the irony of Jesus thirsting—the One who offers living water—deepen our understanding of His sacrifice?
3. In what ways does Christ's fulfillment of detailed prophecy even in His dying moments strengthen our confidence in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

Μετὰ	τοῦτο	εἰδὼς	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	ὅτι	πάντα	ἤδη
After	this	knowing	G3588	Jesus	that	all things	now
G3326	G5124	G1492		G2424	G3754	G3956	G2235
τετέλεσται	ἵνα	τελειωθῇ	ἡ	γραφὴ	λέγει	Διψῶ	
accomplished	that	might be fulfilled	G3588	the scripture	saith	I thirst	
G5055	G2443	G5048		G1124	G3004	G1372	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 69:21 (Parallel theme): They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Psalms 22:15 (Parallel theme): My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

John 19:30 (References Jesus): When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Luke 22:37 (Parallel theme): For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

John 19:24 (Word): They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

Luke 18:31 (Parallel theme): Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

John 18:4 (References Jesus): Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye?

John 13:1 (References Jesus): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

Acts 13:29 (Parallel theme): And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

Luke 9:31 (Parallel theme): Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

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