The Death of Jesus

Good evening,

For today's lenten devotional let us turn our bible to gospel of John 19: 28- 37

"Later,knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” (John 19:28)

When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.( John19:30)

The gospel of John, chapter 19 illustrates the final moments of Jesus . This particular gospel portion , stress the fact that the crucification and death of Jesus was a fulfillment of the scripture. Here is the brief background before those final moments. Jesus was brought in front of Pontius Pilate ( the judiciary court) for interrogation. The charge sheet read “ he proclaimed as the 'Son of GOD”. Pilate was not convinced of Jesus’s crime . Yet, he let the people decide the fate of Jesus as he was afraid of losing his power and position. But the chief priest or Pontius did not understand about God’s marvelous redemption plan written in the scripture, long before Jesus's birth. This is evident from the Pilate’s statement to Jesus. ,”Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?”(John 19:10). Here Jesus gently reminds him that he has no power over him unless it was given from above. In other words Jesus is reinstating the fact that his arrest and interrogation is nothing accidental but was a planned redemption of humankind written in scriptures.

Many a time’s people think they have the power and authority to do anything they want, but in reality God is the only one who has power and authority over every human beings.

In verse 33, we read about the soldiers breaking the legs of the crucified thieves before Sabbath. But when they approached Jesus, instead of breaking the legs they pierced the chest with a spear. As written in the scripture, "not one of his bones will be broken( Psalm 34:19-20). ", they will look on the one they have pierced". (Zechariah 12:10).Therefore, every incidents related to the crucification was nothing accidental but was clearly written in the scripture thousands of years before Christ was born.

This chapter not only talks about the great salvation and death of Jesus that was prophesied in the scripture, but also illustrates the great obedience of Jesus. He being one among the trinity, knew about this salvation and willingly surrendered his life to redeem us from our sins. We should be thankful that Jesus willingly shed his blood for us . This is the best blessing, we as Christians could ever have. Now during this Holy Week as we commemorate his death on the cross, we should be thankful in our heart for this priceless gift.

In Verse 30 we read, “when he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. Here we see that even at the last minute, and at his last breath, Jesus was following his fathers will and showing obedience to his father with a gesture of bowing his head. Here the word ‘finished’ was not the end of everything, but was a new beginning for every human being from the creation of earth. He was talking about the completion of his mission on this earth. His last word ‘finished’ was a victorious cry. Saying “father, my mission is complete. I am coming home”.

Points for reflection

1. 1.Jesus died on the cross for the redemption and salvation of all human kind

2. The crucification and death of Jesus was a fulfillment of the scripture

3. Jesus is a perfect example of obedience even at his last breath

4. On his final word 'it is finished'. Jesus was not talking about the end of his life as a looser ( sinner) but a victorious savior.