

Thoughts on the true meaning
behind Jesus' cry,

“IT IS FINISHED!”



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1. **“It is finished,”** was a Divine declaration of victory, the decisive, crushing blow against the entire kingdom of darkness, its leadership and its effect on all of God’s creation, reaching back to the rebellion and expulsion of Satan from heaven!
 - Lucifer’s rebellion in Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-17
 - The war in Heaven and Lucifer cast out of Heaven in Revelation 12:7-9.
 - The decimation of the earth in Genesis 1:1-2.
 - His eternal consequences in Revelation 20:10.
2. **What began with that ancient uprising in heaven**, when the glorious angel, Lucifer (Light Bearer), set himself against God’s authority was defeated on the cross! For generations, the enemy operated through deception, the rebellion of sin, and his authority of death. But on the cross, Jesus brought that long war to its final defeat and turning point! This was not just an event in time, it was THE very moment when the authority of the satanic kingdom of darkness was legally and eternally broken.
3. **In that cry**, He was declaring that every claim the enemy held over humanity was canceled! The Law’s accusations, the bondage of sin, and the power of death... all of it was overturned!! Colossians 2:15 says it perfectly, *And having disarmed the powers and authorities (Arche and Exousia), He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.*
 - On the brink of physical death, Jesus defeated the top demonic levels! Ephesians 6:12 *For our struggle is... against the rulers (Arche the highest), against the authorities (Exousia, the great world rulers), against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*
4. **In fulfillment of Genesis 3:15**, Jesus proclaimed that the serpent’s authority was broken, the head of the serpent crushed, and death’s power defeated. This triumphant reality is fulfilled in Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head*

(permanent), and you will strike his heel (temporary).

- Hebrews 2:14 *...so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil...*
- 1 John 3:8 *The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.*

5. **The Greek word for that cry from the cross** is *tetelestai* and it is so much more than the completion of His task as the Messiah.

- Because He spoke Aramaic, a cousin to Hebrew and the commonly spoken language, scholars have uncovered it to be “Meshlam,” based on the Aramaic root (sh-l-m), which means to complete, to finish, to bring to wholeness.
- It is closely linked to the true meaning of Shalom where the four Hebrew characters together mean: *To destroy the authority that establishes chaos.*
- When Jesus cried out, “It is Finished!” the Greek tenses mean a completed action in the past with ongoing, permanent results in the present. The work was completed at that moment and the effects continue forever! Hebrews 10:14 *By one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*
- Other ways *tetelestai* was used:
When a debt was fully paid, receipts were stamped or written with, *tetelestai*, Paid in Full! The debt of sin is completely paid, Colossians 2:14 *Having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness (through the Law)...*
When a prison sentence was served or a case resolved, *tetelestai*, stated that the penalty is fully satisfied
When an enemy was conquered and the battle was completely won, *tetelestai* was the cry. Victory accomplished! The war against satan, sin, death is won

6. **In that single Greek word**, “*Tetelestai*,” the conflict that began in Heaven and unfolded through human history reaches its decisive conclusion on the cross! The serpent’s head was crushed, the dominion of darkness is shattered, and the victory of God’s kingdom is secured forever. What the enemy initiated in rebellion, Christ answered in redemption—and finished completely.



*When He had received the drink, Jesus said, “**It is finished.**” With that, He bowed his head and (willingly) gave up His Spirit. – John 19:30*