

1. "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. (Lk 23:34)

- Israel, as a chosen nation, was not forsaken even though some of the Jewish people in the time of Yeshua were those who participated in executing Him. It was the will of the Father that Yeshua give Himself as the only sacrifice that could pay the debt of sin for all those whom He would redeem. "I am the good shepherd, and I know My own and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep." (Jn 10:14-14)
- Yeshua willingly gave up his life in order to pay the penalty of sin for all those whom the Father had given to Him, as we read in Jn 6:37-

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day." (Jn 6:37)

This makes it clear that Yeshua's death on the cross was an actual payment for the sins of all who would be eternally saved.

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Yeshua Messiah. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua Messiah, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Messiah, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Yeshua Messiah to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved." (Eph 1:2-6)

2. "And he was saying, "Yeshua, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise." (Lk 23:42-43)

- Here we are taught the miracle of God's grace. No one is beyond God's purpose and ability to grant them saving faith and to apply the infinite value of Yeshua's death on the cross to their account, granting them eternal salvation.
- In the thief on the cross we are confronted with this truth: no one is able to "earn" eternal salvation, for God's redemption of sinners is purely a matter of His grace.
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and **that** not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." (Eph 2:8-9)
- The demonstrative word "that" grammatically applies both to "grace" and to "faith." For all who come to faith in Yeshua, the saving faith they exercise is a gift of God's grace.
- That the thief on the cross is granted eternal salvation is a perfect example of an eternal truth, namely, that saving faith flows from the admission that one cannot save themselves. God's salvation is by faith in Yeshua alone, which includes the admission that one is unable to "purchase salvation" through their own "good works."
- "Scripture teaches that the same God who predestined the end also predestined the means. The God who decreed the salvation of the dying thief *fulfilled* His decree by giving him a faith with which to believe." [A. W. Pink, *The Seven Sayings of the Savior on the Cross*, p. 35.]

3. "But standing by the cross of Yeshua were His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Yeshua then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" From that hour the disciple took her into his own household. (Jn 19:25-27)

- Here we see the ultimate example of the love parents are to have for their children, even the most heart-wrenching circumstances. Imagine what it took for Mary to stand there watching the Son she bore being put to death by the cruelest method imaginable.

- But here we also see the Perfect Man setting an example for children to honor their parents.
- Here we see the mystery of the Incarnation unfolded, that is, the blending of Messiah's perfections. for He proves Himself to be Man—the Word made flesh.
- “Engaged as He was, in a Divine transaction, making atonement for all the sins of all His people, grappling with the powers of Darkness, yet amid it all, He has still the same human tenderness, which shows the perfection of the Man Yeshua Messiah.” [Pink, *Seven Sayings*, p. 61]

4. “About the ninth hour Yeshua cried out with a loud voice, saying, “ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?” that is, “MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?”

- Here Yeshua quotes Ps 22:1, and in doing so, He displays the human pathos of ultimate suffering, that is, the experience of facing imminent death.
- Yet still, these words of our Savior carry the reality of the deepest mystery. For in the previous sayings, He evokes the Father's forgiveness upon those who were putting Him to death, lovingly engages His beloved John to care for His mother, yet here displays the utter terror of being forsaken by the Father. Surely this displays the utter and most profound solemnity of our Savior.
- And it is this very reality that Yeshua teaches us in this fourth saying, namely, that as the Sin Bearer for all whom He would save, He, being infinite in His being, experiences the awful and terrible reality of being forsaken by the Father.
- Here we see the awfulness of sin and the very reality of what sin brings upon anyone who bears their own sin and the eternal consequences thereof. For in this cry from cross, we also witness the absolute holiness and unchangeable justice of God.
- We likewise see in this cry of Yeshua from the cross the eternal truth that there is no other way to obtain the gift of God's grace and salvation than through acceptance by faith of the price Yeshua paid for all whom He would redeem.
- This fourth saying highlights the reality and utter solemnity of Yeshua's prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, when He cried out: “Father, Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.” (Lk 22:42), proving that there was no other way to bring salvation to all those who would be saved.
- Likewise, in this cry of Yeshua from the cross we come face to face with the supreme love which Yeshua has for all those He would redeem.

5. “After this, Yeshua, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, “I am thirsty.”

- Here, once again, we have sure evidence of Messiah's true humanity. “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (Jn 1:14)
- Likewise, in this saying of our Lord, we are confronted with the intensity of His sufferings.
- Since this saying followed immediately after Yeshua's previous cry from the cross (cp. Matt 27:48) it must include not only physical agony but, for our Savior, the spiritual reality that as the sin-bearer, He was experiencing Himself what the eternal/infinite reality would be for all who are told:
 - “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’” (Matt 7:23)
 - “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; (Matt 25:41)
 - and He will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from; DEPART FROM ME, ALL YOU EVILDOERS.’ (Lk 13:27)
- Thus, in bearing the sins of all those whom He would save, our Savior experienced the very wrath of the Father upon all who would enter eternity as unbelievers and face the infinite wrath of God.
- Yeshua's suffering in this manner also teaches us that He is able to sympathize with those who are His own, in any manner of suffering they experience in this fallen world.

6. Therefore when Yeshua had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" (John 19:30)

- Here we see a cry of "victory," that Yeshua realized and fully experienced in His humanity the affirmation that His death of infinite worth was received by the Father as payment for the sins of all whom He had been given to redeem.
- "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out." (Jn 6:37)
- We likewise see in this 6th cry from the cross the fulfillment of all the prophecies which had been written regarding Him and what He would accomplish in His death & resurrection.
- Once again we see the Scriptures clearly emphasizing that eternal salvation and forever dwelling in the very presence of God for all eternity is the unspeakable gift of God's grace to all He draws unto Himself through faith in Yeshua.
- Further, in Yeshua's cry "it is finished" we are given surety that the debt of sin for all who would be saved was fully paid by Yeshua in His death and what the infinite value His death procured.
- "Christ's grave is vacant now, Left for the throne above; His Cross asserts God's right to bless, In His own boundless love. 'Twas there the blood was shed; 'Twas there the life was poured; There Mercy gained her diadem, While Justice sheathed her sword. And thence the child of faith Sees judgement all gone by, Perceives the sentence fully met: "The soul that sins shall die!" Learns how that God in love Gave Christ the sins to bear Of all who own His lordship now, That they His place might share; And cries with wondering joy, "As He is so am I, Pure, holy, loved as Christ Himself; Who shall my peace destroy" Reach my blest Saviour first; Take Him from God's esteem; Prove Jesus bears one spot of sin; THEN tell me I'm unclean! Nay! For He purged my guilt By His own precious blood, And such its virtue not a stain E'er meets the eye of God. (Hymn: "Christ's Grave is Vacant Now" by W. Noel Tompkins)

7. And Yeshua, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last.

- In this final cry of our Savior from the cross, we see Him utilizing a quote from Ps 31.
- Here are verses 1-5 of Psalm 31, verses which Yeshua, no doubt, had well in mind as He faced death for all whom He would save.

In You, O LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be ashamed; In Your righteousness deliver me. Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly; Be to me a rock of strength, A stronghold to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; For Your name's sake You will lead me and guide me. You will pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, For You are my strength. **Into Your hand I commit my spirit;** You have ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth. (Ps 31:1-5)

- Here we see our Savior, the Son of Man, the Son of God, in full communion with the Father. Having been "forsaken" as the sin bearer, the Father receives His infinite value of His death as payment for the sins of all those He would redeem eternally.
- This likewise teaches us the absolute uniqueness of our Savior Yeshua, for only by His self-sacrifice, and by no other means, is a sinner made righteous in the court of the Almighty. As Peter proclaimed to the multitude:
He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, **THE BUILDERS**, but **WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER** stone. And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11-12)
- We therefore affirm by faith that there is no other "save haven" for the sinner than to be fully forgiven by God on the basis of being "in Messiah" by the gift of saving faith, and thereby being fully received, loved, and guarded by the Father, for the Father, the Son, and Spirit are One.