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**APOSTOLIC VERSE BY VERSE BIBLE STUDY**

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**“JESUS’ GLORY PRAYER”**

**John 17:1-13**

***John 17:1, "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:"***

In chapters 13–16, John presents Jesus’s “Farewell Discourse,” the final teachings and exhortations he gave to his disciples in the upper room after the Passover supper. In chapter 17, John records the prayer Jesus spoke at the conclusion of their time together—just before his betrayal. This is the real “Lord’s Prayer” and is often called the High Priestly Prayer of Christ, or what I call “Jesus’ Glory Prayer.” Acknowledging that the hour had come for the Son and the Father to glorify each other, Jesus prays for Glory of Himself, His disciples, and His believers. The Father and Son love one another and desire to “glorify” one another before a watching world. Those who come to God through Jesus Christ are called to participate in this divine love, bringing glory to God through our faith in and obedience to the Son. This speaking directly to the Father was partially for the benefit of Jesus' followers. This looking toward heaven tells these disciples of the home of the Father. This glory of Jesus would appear to be anything but glory. This victory that Jesus wins here is victory over the flesh, as well as victory over Satan and death. His hour had finally come. This refers not only to His death, but also to His resurrection and exaltation. Glorify refers to the Cross and the Resurrection.

***John 17:2, "As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him."***

As John has already made clear, everyone who believes in Jesus receives eternal life. The Father loves the Son so much that he desired to give this redeemed humanity to him as a gift. The Father gave the Son authority over all flesh and then gave us to him so that the King would have a people to rule. Jesus is ruler over everything. Verse 2 means that the giving of eternal life directly depended on the glorification of the Son. Jesus is creator God, as we read in chapter one of St. John. It says all things were made by Him. The Creator had dominion over His creation. Our flesh was made from the dust of the earth by creator God. The life we experience is the result of the breath of life breathed into us by God. We are a free agent. We can refuse eternal life. Jesus purchased eternal life for all of mankind. Those who accept it will have eternal life with Him. We are His workmanship.

***John 1:1-3***

***1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.***

***2 The same was in the beginning with God.***

***3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.***

***Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”***

***John 17:3, "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.***

In his prayer, Jesus gave a definition of eternal life. It is a personal relationship and continual fellowship with God. This is important because it does not merely refer to an existence that lasts forever. After all, everyone will live eternally, either in heaven or in hell.

***John 5:28-29***

***28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,***

***29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.***

Eternal life, then, is not merely the continuation of life but the experience of God’s reality. This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent Jesus Christ. To receive eternal life is to enter into the divine realm with the goal of experiencing an intimate relationship with God through Jesus, a relationship that will grow throughout eternity. It is the uninterrupted, deepening knowledge and experience of God. This is the purpose for which we were created. Those who refuse to know Jesus as Saviour and Lord shall experience death, and not life. If we recognize Jesus as Saviour and Lord, we have eternal life. Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life. No man comes to the Father except by Him.

***John 17:4, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."***

Jesus glorified the Father on the earth by completing the work he gave him to accomplish. Through the miracles Jesus did and the messages He brought, He brought glory to the Father. He said He had done the works of the Father. He also said, if they had seen Him they had seen the Father. Jesus brought the good news of the gospel to the earth. Jesus brought salvation through faith, and not works. His teaching was exactly as He and the Father wished. His miracles caused many to believe on the Father and the Son. The cross would be the final work. Jesus hung on the cross six hours. The work was completed, and the rest would begin. Jesus even said on the cross, "It is finished". I have finished means “I have made perfect or completed.” This verb is in the active voice, indicating Christ had finished His active ministry. He now assumes a passive role. In 19: 30 (“It is finished”) the passive voice suggests that He has by then finished His passive ministry as well. We bring glory to God in the same way by pursuing his will for our lives.

***John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”***

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

***2 Timothy 4:7-8***

***7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:***

***8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.***

***John 17:5, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."***

Jesus prayed the Father would glorify him in [his] presence with that glory he had with the Father before the world existed. Jesus clearly affirmed his pre-existence. Before the incarnation, before Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary, before the creation week even began, Jesus, the Son of God, existed in the glorious presence of God the Father. And to this glory he would soon return. For the Creator of the world to be housed in a body of flesh, had to be a terrible come-down. This had all been planned from the beginning to restore fallen man to fellowship with the Father. The first flesh man (Adam) had failed. This is why it was necessary for Jesus to take on the form of flesh. The second Adam (Jesus) would restore mankind to full fellowship with God.

***I Corinthians 15:22, "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."***

***I Corinthians 15:45, "And so it is written. The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."***

***John 3:6 "That which is born of flesh is flesh: and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."***

The glory of the Father is in the Son. The Son will return to His original glory in heaven, and we will join Him there. The celestial glory that Jesus had from the beginning was temporarily hidden (veiled) during His earthly life. At the ascension of Christ, Jesus was both glorified and transfigured.

***Philippians 2:5-7***

***5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:***

***6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:***

***7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:***

***Colossians 2:9-10***

***9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.***

***10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:***

It is interesting to contrast the post-resurrection appearances of Christ with the post-ascension revelations. In the former, Christ often concealed His glory to the point that He was not recognized, such as by the disciples at Emmaus (Luke 24:16, 31), or by Mary Magdalene who thought He was the gardener (20:14). The post-ascension revelations involve His radiant appearance. The difference between John’s meeting with Christ in John 21 and in Revelation 1 was that of seeing the Resurrection body (not glorified) and of later seeing the transformed and celestial body (glorified). Someday Christians will also be glorified together with Christ in our glorified bodies.

***Romans 8:17-18***

***17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.***

***18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.***

***1 Corinthians 15:40 “There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another.”***

***Philippians 3:20-21***

***20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:***

***21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”***

***John 17:6, "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."***

To manifest is to make real. Jesus has made the Father real to the people. He has stopped them from thinking of a bunch of laws and has revealed the personality of God to them. We see in this, that Jesus' followers have been given Him by the Father. We will see in Revelation, that those who make it to heaven to be with Jesus (the Christians) are sealed with Jesus' name. We really are sealed here with that name, Christians (believers in and followers of Christ). God giving these to Christ just means the Spirit of God wooed them and they came and received the gift of life through Christ. Jesus confessed that he had faithfully revealed the Father to his disciples, those who had kept [his] word.

***John 17:7, "Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee."***

***John 17:8, "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."***

God made all of humanity on the sixth day of creation, so really it all belongs to Him. The Christians were given to Jesus Christ when He bought and paid for them with His blood on Calvary. As a result, they believed that Jesus had been sent by God. He really was the Messiah, just as he claimed. This prayer Jesus is praying to the Father here, is more for those listening than Him speaking to the Father. Jesus has spoken true words. The words Jesus had spoken to them were the words of life. These disciples do believe, and they do believe that Jesus is one with the Father in the Spirit. The spoken and the written Word originates in heaven. Jesus is that Word.

***John 17:9, "I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."***

***John 17:10, "And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them."***

Next Jesus prayed, not for the world, but for his disciples whom the Father had given him. Jesus was glorified in them because they had received everything he revealed to them. The world rejected Jesus. Jesus prays for those who received Him as their Christ (Messiah). This shows a definite separation between the people of God and the people of the world. The Christians are in the world, but we are not of the world. This is showing the unity of Spirit of the Father and the Son. Human souls belong to the Father and are Christ's, if they choose to live and not die. Jesus is overjoyed at the loyalty of the disciples to Him. They do not uplift their own name, but the name of the Father and the Son.

***John 17:11, "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."***

As Jesus prepared to leave the world, he prayed that the Father would protect his disciples by his name, that is, by the Father’s name. In Scripture, names do not merely identify people but speak of their character. Therefore, Jesus was asking that God would protect them by keeping them connected to their holy and righteous Father. Specifically, he asked that God would grant that Jesus’s followers might be one, as the Father and Son are. In other words, he prayed for the unity of his disciples—that they’d be unified in love in the same way that the persons of the Godhead are unified in love. Jesus speaks this as if the crucifixion has already taken place. Jesus' speech lets them know that He will not be physically with them much longer. We know that these disciples are not one in the flesh. Jesus is speaking of the Spirit. They must be in one accord in the work that they have been left to do. Their thoughts and intents must be one, as the Father's and Jesus' Spirit are one. Their intents are the same. Jesus is praying to the Father for the unity of the Spirit in these disciples. Let them operate as a unit and not as individuals. Jesus, perhaps, was saying not to break up in little groups that we today call denominations. We Christians should be one in Christ.

***John 17:12, "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."***

While Jesus was with his disciples, he protected them. None of them was lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture could be fulfilled. God knew far in advance that Judas would betray the Messiah. Nevertheless, Judas’s rebellion could not thwart the divine plan. On the contrary, it facilitated it. Understand that even wickedness falls under the sovereignty of God—not because God prescribes it, but because he uses it. How much better would it be for you to fulfill God’s purposes through your obedience than through your rebellion? The twelve who followed Jesus the closest were still with Him, except for Judas Iscariot who was really evil from the beginning. In one of the earlier lessons, John had said that Judas Iscariot was a thief from the beginning. These disciples had walked closely with Jesus and loved Him. They had seen Him perform many miracles of healing. They had seen Him raise the dead. They had seen Him walk on the water and feed the multitude with five loaves and two fishes. Their love for Him was all wrapped up with their admiration for Him, as well. He had taught them things that He had not revealed to the multitudes. He had cared for them, as the Shepherd cares for His sheep. He had even endured them with power themselves to minister and heal. These eleven disciples would actually found the church. This son of Satan (Judas Iscariot) was one of the group, so that the Scripture could be fulfilled. Judas' lust for money made him follow the way of the flesh. Judas had his own free will and chose death over life.

***John 17:13, "And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves."***

Jesus spoke these things to his disciples so that they would have his joy completed in them. Notice that it’s his joy. This “Glory” prayer of Jesus for His followers to the Father is in great part for these disciples to hear, and for all believers for all ages to hear. Jesus explains His relationship with the Father in this prayer. He even emphasizes their position with the Father. In verse 13, He explains His joy is to be sufficient for them for their stay on earth, until He takes them home to heaven with Him. One of the most vivid messages in this prayer, to me, is that Jesus' followers are to walk in the footsteps He left on the earth and to look for their home not made with hands, but the one He has prepared for them in heaven. He, also, reminds them in this prayer, that they belong to Him. It is the will of the Father that the Christians belong to Christ.

**QUESTIONS**

1. Where did Jesus look when He prayed?

2. What hour was He speaking of?

3. Who would be glorified in this?

4. Who had the Father given Jesus power over?

5. What would Jesus give to those who the Father gave Him?

6. Who made all of humanity and how?

7. What is life eternal in verse 3?  
8. What did Jesus say He had finished?  
9. How long had Jesus had this glory with the Father?  
10. As in Adam, all die in Christ, all shall be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

11. That which is born of flesh is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

12. Whose name had Jesus manifested?  
13. What does manifest mean?  
14. Jesus had shown them what?  
15. What day of creation was man made?  
16. What had Jesus given unto the disciples?  
17. The Word Jesus had spoken to them was the Word of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

18. Who is the spoken and written Word?  
19. Who did Jesus not pray for?  
20. What shows the unity of the Spirit of the Father and Son?  
21. Jesus prays the Father will keep whom?  
22. When Jesus tells the disciples to be one, what is He speaking of?

23. What was Judas Iscariot called in verse 12?  
24. Why had Jesus spoken this in the world in verse 13?