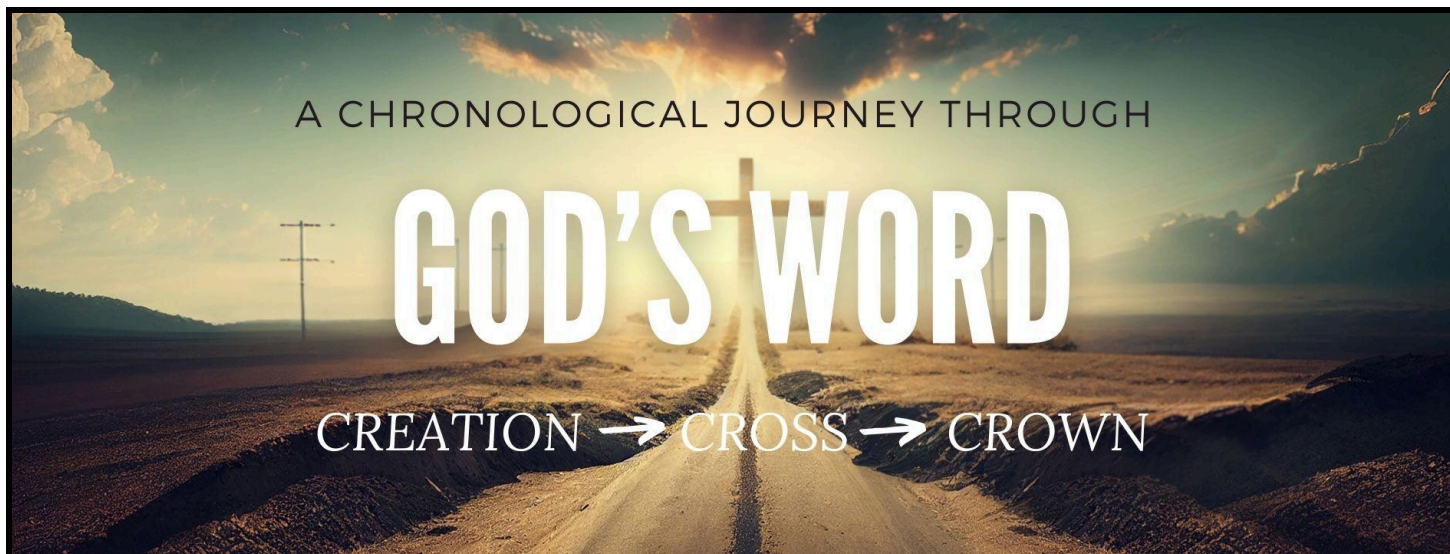




DEVOTIONAL FOR JOHN 14-17; MATTHEW 27; MARK 15; LUKE 23; JOHN 18-19

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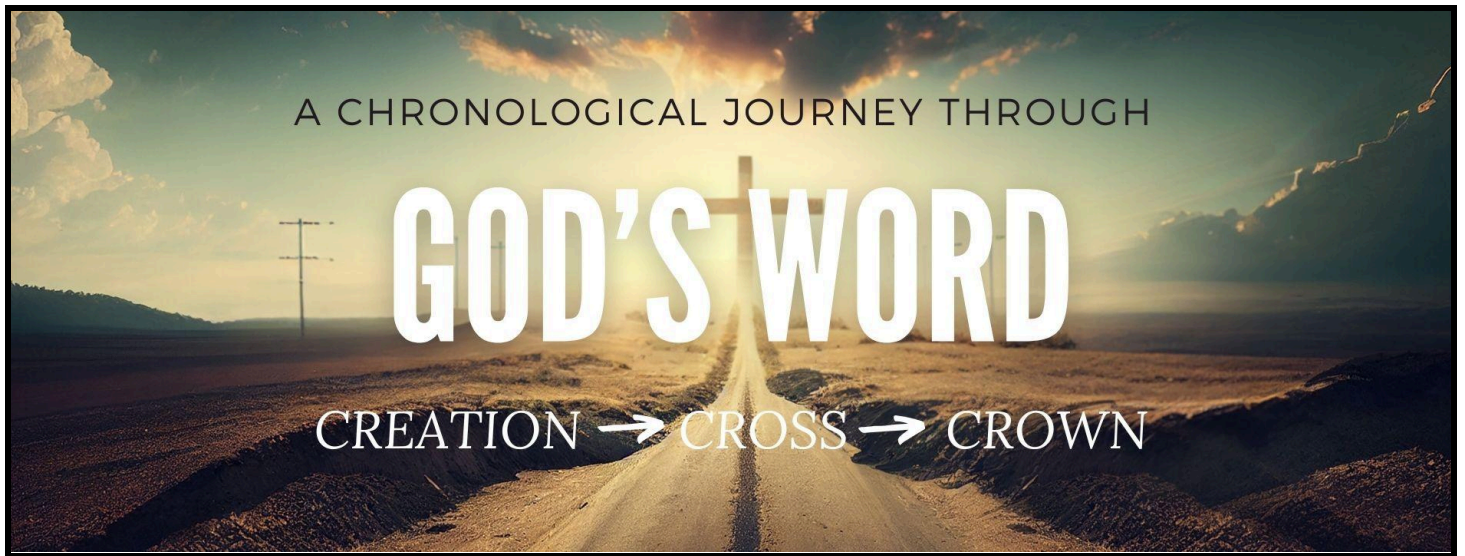
It was a dark day for all humanity! Eve had just been seduced into becoming a transgressor by disobeying the Word of God, and Adam, having just eaten the forbidden fruit, caused the depravity of all mankind to ensue, for "in Adam all die" (1 Cor 15:22). Mankind had now lost access to a right relationship with God as He had intended in the garden of Eden (which means "pleasure") and as such, God drove out Adam and Eve from the Garden. Genesis 3:24 says: "He drove out the man, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life."

Now fast forward roughly 4000 years, and we find ourselves at about the time of Jesus in John 14-19. In a classic passage that many use, but maybe fail to realize just how profound the statement is that Jesus makes when He says, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father but through me" (John 14:6).

Did you catch it? In Genesis 3:24, God uses three words: way, sword (Ephesians 6:17), life. In John 14:6, Jesus brings our attention back to three words: way, truth, life. This illustrates that the way back to the Father is now accessible again for all mankind. Jesus is the only Way to the Father, the only source of Truth, and the only access to Life. Not Moses, not Abraham, nor the Law, nor even being a Jew by birth, could provide what only Jesus can- full access to a pleasurable relationship with God (Ephesians 1:3)!

But this good news is only the beginning of what God has given us in Christ! For we have been given access to the very glory of Christ (John 17:22)! In John 17, we find Jesus praying for His disciples in something known as the "High Priestly Prayer." But in verse 20, we see that He is also praying for us as His soon to be established Church. And what is His prayer? That we as His Church would become perfectly one with one another in the same capacity as Jesus and His Father are perfectly one. Jesus isn't praying for just mere unity, but perfect oneness (John 17:20-24). He isn't praying we would just get along, endure, or even just tolerate one another. He is praying that we would be so perfectly one as His Church, that the world couldn't help but believe the Gospel (John 17:22-23). This means that pursuing perfect oneness, and not just mere unity, is one of the greatest evangelistic tools we have in our arsenal of divine weaponry.

But at this point in Jesus' ministry, these truths were still impossible! They laid unapproachable and simply just teachings of what will be once the New Covenant is established. For until He laid down His life, shed His blood, and



conquered death itself, the Way to the Father could not be opened (Hebrews 9:15-17) and these promises could not be attained. He must first finish what He began in order to make this access available to all who would both humbly confess, and surrender their lives to Jesus as the Lord of their life (Romans 10:9, Galatians 5:24).

In John 19:30, we see Jesus utter another prophetic fulfillment with a second set of three words on the cross: "It is finished!" According to the Gospel of John, these were the last words uttered by Jesus on the cross. All that was needed to bring mankind back into having full access to the Father had now been accomplished!

This means that not only is the way to God now accessible, and all the spiritual treasures in Heaven unlocked for those who believe (Ephesians 1:15-21; 2 Peter 1:3-4)...but it is also now fully possible to, "do all things through Him who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13).

Jesus is the only way!

Questions:

1. Do you look to God's Word for your direction in life or do you look to man? (Psalm 119:9, 105)
2. Read John 5:39, 46. How often do you look for Jesus when reading the Old Testament?
3. Do you truly believe you can do all things through Christ? (Philippians 4:13)