

Thirsty? **John 19: 28** "Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."

Jesus was crucified at 9 o'clock in the morning, and He spent the first three hours on the cross in the sunlight. He likely hadn't had anything to drink at that point for more than 12 hours. Then the darkness came for three hours, and at the end Jesus cried out his **fourth saying** from the cross, "**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**" (Mt 27:46).

Our Lord's **first three statements** were centered on others - **His enemies** [*Father, forgive them*], **the believing thief** [*today you will be with me in paradise*], and **John & Mary** [*take care of each other*].

His **fourth statement**, was about **Himself AND others**, because He was forsaken when others' sins were laid on Him, for their sake. He helped others first, and did the job He was sent to do on the cross.

His **last three statements** from the cross were solely focused on Himself: His **body** - "*I thirst*" (Jn 19:28); His **soul** - "*It is finished*" (v. 30); **Isaiah 53: 10-lived 740-681 BC**

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.; and His **spirit** - "*Father, into Thy hands, I commit my spirit*" (Lk 23:46) **Body, Soul & Spirit** - all were offered by the Lord Jesus Christ in obedience to the Father.

The shortest of these statements that our Lord made from the cross is the one found in **John 19:28, "I thirst."** It is the only statement in which our Lord referred to **His body and His physical suffering**. This simple word, however, tells us **three** important things about our Savior.

1st Jesus Is A Sympathetic Savior. While Jesus was divine, He was also human. Because He walked upon this earth as a man He became very much acquainted with the difficulties of life. When He was a child, He probably skinned His knee a time or two. As a teenager, it is likely that He knew what it was like to not be part of the "in" crowd. Learning the carpenter's trade in His father's shop, He likely had a splinter or two. As a man, He knew what it was to grow tired, to be cold, to sweat, to be hungry, and, of course, He knew what it was like to be thirsty.

Jesus felt all these as He lived here among men. This is why we know He understands where we are and what we are going through in this life.

Hebrews 4: 15 *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.* **Come Unto Me**

One of Denmark's leading sculptors had a burning ambition to create the greatest statue of Jesus ever made. He began by shaping a clay model of a triumphant, majestic figure. The head was thrown back and the arms were upraised in a gesture of great majesty. It was his conception of Christ the King: Strong, Dominant.

"This is my masterpiece," he said, on the day it was completed. But, during the night a heavy fog rolled into the area and sea-spray seeped through a partially opened window of the artist's studio. The moisture affected the shape of the model so that when the artist returned in the morning, he was shocked to find a wounded figure.

The droplets of moisture that had formed on the statue created the illusion of bleeding. The head had drooped. The facial expression had been transformed from triumph to compassion. And the arms had dropped into an attitude of welcome. The artist stared at the figure, agonizing over the time wasted and the need to begin all over again. But something came over him which changed his mood.

He began to see that this image of Christ was the true one. Then he wrote at the base of the newly-shaped figure its official title: "Come unto Me!"

Jesus is a sympathetic Savior, who wants to take you in His arms and love you today! He thirsted just like you do.

2nd Jesus Is A **Scriptural** Savior. In saying "*I thirst,*" Jesus fulfilled some prophecies.

Psalm 69:21 - *They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.*

Psalm 22: 15 *My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.*

Here is the strongest evidence that Jesus can do what He has promised in **YOUR** life: He fulfilled what was foretold about HIS life.

There are in the Old Testament over 300 distinct predictions which were literally fulfilled in Christ. Some object to the assertion that prophecies fulfilled by the life of Christ are evidence of His being Who He claimed to be - the Son of God and the only Savior of men. These objections primarily fall into **two** categories:

1st Category is Fulfilled Prophecy In Jesus Was **Deliberate**. That is, Jesus sought to make Himself the Messiah by **deliberately seeing to it that His life fulfilled Old Testament prophecies**. It was all a "**set up.**"

The problem with this objection is many of the prophecies concerning the Messiah were totally beyond the human control of Jesus Christ, such as:

1. The place of His birth - [Micah 5:2](#)
2. The time of His birth - [Daniel 9:25](#); [Genesis 49:10](#)
3. The manner of His birth - [Isaiah 7:14](#)
4. The manner of His death - [Psalm 22:16](#)

2nd Category Fulfilled Prophecy In Jesus Was **Coincidental**. Professor Peter Stoner, in his book, **SCIENCE SPEAKS**, demonstrates how coincidence is ruled out by the science of probability.

Stoner says that by using the **science of probability** in reference to only eight Old Testament prophecies, we find that the probability that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled **eight of the 300+ Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah, is 10 to the 17th power (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000)!**

Suppose that we take 10 to the 17th power in silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. Do you know what would happen? The government would seize it! Actually, they would cover all of the state about two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. **What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one person.**

What about 300+ prophecies? It's incalculable! Yet...God reached down and removed that one silver dollar when He raised His son from the dead on the third day! **Jesus is a Scriptural Savior!**

Because this is so, you can rely on it: just as surely as He fulfilled what was foretold about His life, Jesus can do what He promised in your life!

3rd Jesus Is A **Sufficient** Savior.

Jesus was thirsty because of the physical agony He was experiencing. But I remind you that He had just come through three hours of darkness during which He had the sins of the world poured out upon Him. He had just

finished paying the price for our sins through spiritual suffering. During those three hours, He was abandoned by the Father, and thus, experienced Hell for us so that we wouldn't have to.

You see, Hell is a place of thirst. In [Lk 16:24](#) our Lord told about a man who died and woke up in torment in hell. There, he begged for someone to ***"dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this flame"*** Hell is a place of eternal thirst. Those who are condemned to suffer for eternity will forever **thirst**, not only **physically**, but **emotionally** and **spiritually**.

There is no thirst in heaven. Why? Because God's justice was quenched!
[Revelation 7:16](#) ***'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them,' nor any scorching heat.***

The question is not, "Do you thirst?" because all mankind has a thirst for reality, for fulfillment, for satisfaction, a thirst for forgiveness, a thirst for God.

[John 4:14](#) ***but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."***

When Jesus died a soldier put a spear into the side of his abdominal cavity, and out flowed blood and water!

Death took the very last bit of water out of the 'water of life.' Death thought it had won.

But on that day, for the first time ever, death met innocence. Death met righteousness. Death was Swallowed up in victory, on the day that the living water was thirsty!