

**Introduction: Victory through Faith: Blood of Christ: “It is Finished!”  
John 19:30; Glay Posch’s “Tetelestai!”; Literal Blood & Physical Death:  
Intro**

3) It was His mission to be completely alert during the judgment about to occur.

4) However, after He was judged, He was offered a different drink, a wine referred to as οἶνος /*oinos* /.

5) It was considered to relieve thirst more effectively than water. It was far cheaper than οἶνος /*oinos* / and therefore a favorite drink of the lower classes of society and those of moderate income such as the Roman soldiers.

6) By drinking this wine the Lord did three things:

a) He fulfilled the prophecy of:

**Psalm 69:21 - They gave me gall [ a synonym for myrrh in Mark 15:23 which He refused ] for My food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink [ the sour wine of John 19:29-30 ].**

b) He indicated that He was most definitely alive. Dead men do not drink.

c) He had indicated in John 19:28 that He was thirsty. He had one thing left to say and its content was to be crystal clear. The οἶνος /*oinos* / wine would help clear His throat for the shout which was about to follow.

7) That shout was one word in the Greek, the perfect passive indicative of τελεω /*teleo* /:

**ΤΕΤΕΛΕΣΤΑΙ /*tetelestai* / - “It is finished!”**

perfect: Intensive. The parsing of this verb reveals that it is our Lord’s spiritual death which saves and that nothing else can be added to that finished accomplishment. Therefore it becomes important to understand the details about this intensive perfect. I quote from:

**Dana, H. E. and Julius R. Mantey. *A Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*. Toronto: The Macmillan Company, 1955; pp. 200-202:**

a) The perfect tense is the tense of completed action.

b) Its basic significance is the progress of an act to the point of culmination and the existence of its finished results.

c) It obviously implies a process, but it views that process as having reached its consummation and it exists in a finished state.

- d) The *intensive* perfect places emphasis on these existing results.
- e) This is the emphatic method in Greek of presenting a fact or condition; a strong way of saying that a thing *is*.
- f) The Greek intensive perfect presents an existing fact more forcibly than any English construction can accomplish.

Therefore, we may conclude that the translation, “It is finished,” does not stress the end result of the action in an intensive enough way.

passive: Indicates that the subject receives the action of the verb.

- a) The subject is “it” and *it* refers to the three-hour long judgment imposed upon the Lord as He died spiritually for our sins.
- b) This spiritual death is dramatized by a representative analogy which looks back to the annual ritual associated with the Day of Atonement and the literal blood of the sacrificial animals.
- c) That representative analogy is the phrase, “the blood of Christ.”

indicative: Declarative; a statement of fact. When special attention is directed to the results of the action, stress upon the existing fact is intensified.

Consequently, we develop the following expanded translation which takes into consideration all these concepts:

**John 19:30 b** - “Tetelestai! — It has been finished in the past with the existing result that it stands finished forever.”

20. His Spiritual death is over because judgment is completed.

21. Salvation is now available to any who believe in the finished work of Christ on the cross.

22. That which has been finished is referred to by the phrase, “the blood of Christ.”

23. Our Lord was most definitely alive when He drank the wine and shouted this proclamation of an accomplished fact.

24. Giacomo Puccini’s last opera was based on a play by 18th-century Italian dramatist, Carlo Gozzi /GOAT-see/, entitled *Turandot*. It was the story of a cruel Chinese princess and Puccini was motivated to do extensive research into ancient Chinese melodies. This contributed to

Puccini's failure to complete this opera, lacking a final duet proclaiming the love between Princess Turandot and Prince Calaf. Suffering from cancer of the throat, he was forced to go to Brussels, Belgium, for surgery. He died a few days later, November 29, 1924, with the incomplete score of *Turandot* in his hands.

*Turandot* was performed posthumously at La Scala, the world-famous opera house in Milan, on April 25, 1926, and Arturo Toscanini, who conducted the performance, concluded the opera at the point Puccini had reached before dying. Two final scenes were later completed by Franco Alfano from Puccini's sketches. A part of that final portion completed by Puccini before his death was the tenor solo by Calaf entitled, "Nessun dorma."

A few years ago, Glay Posch, member of the Houston Opera Company and of Berachah Church, was asked to put doctrinal lyrics to the Puccini melody of "Nessun dorma." The result was most successful. Her virtuoso performance and doctrinal lyrics combine to create a magnificent proclamation of truth within a composition which generates an attitude of reverence and respect. You hear her rendition on Eucharist Sundays, here as an exclamation point on our study of John 19:30 is Glay Posch's lyric which she entitled, "Tetelestai! (It is Finished!)":

### TETELESTAI!

TETELESTAI! (IT IS FINISHED!)  
 OH, HOW THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED;  
 FOR AGES STILL, REPEATED  
 VIC'TRY AT DAWNING;  
 THE PRINCE OF PEACE — VICTORIOUS!  
 SATAN — DEFEATED!

UPON THE CROSS, HE PAID THE PRICE  
 FOR ALL THE WORLD,  
 THE CHOSEN SACRIFICE.  
 GOD SENT HIS SON TO DIE AT CALVARY  
 WHAT LOVE FOR SINNERS,  
 WHAT SPLENDID LOVE!

(A ROYAL FAMILY TO GLORIFY OUR SAVIOR;  
 WHAT RICH POSSESSION!)  
 LET ALL REJOICE,  
 FOR CHRIST, THE KING, IS RISEN!  
 GLORY TO OUR SAVIOR—GLORY TO CHRIST  
 FOREVER AND EVERMORE!

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(Set to “Nessun dorma” from *Turandot* by Giacomo Puccini.)

25. It becomes obvious that Jesus Christ died twice on the cross, a doctrine confirmed by the Hebrew of:

**Isaiah 53:9** - While His burial would be assigned with criminals, nevertheless He would be associated with a rich man in His deaths.

26. The Hebrew noun *muth* is plural and refers to first His spiritual then His physical death.

27. The New Testament offers a summary on the subject of spiritual death in:

**Hebrews 9:13** - If the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of the red heifer [ **the rebound offering** ], sprinkling those who have been defiled, sanctifies for the cleansing of the flesh [ **covers postsalvation sins** ],

**v 14** - how much more will the blood of Christ [ **sacrificial spiritual death** ], who through His eternal Spirit [ **sustaining ministry of the Holy Spirit** ] offered Himself without spot or blemish to God [ **impeccability** ], purify your conscience [ **forgiveness of postsalvation sins following rebound** ] from dead works [ **personal sins** ] to serve the living God [ **divine good** ]?

28. Nevertheless, there were two deaths and the Lord being true humanity did possess literal blood. This leads us to the next paragraph of our discussion.

#### D. Literal Blood and Physical Death:

1. The Lord’s literal blood is associated with His somatic death which we have already mentioned in 1 John 5:7 and John 19:34.

2. In John 19:30 we find that once His salvation work was completed, He announced that it was finished, pushed His head forward, and surrendered His human spirit.

3. Once He dismissed His human spirit, it went into the presence of the Father in heaven while His soul went into the presence of departed pre-cross saints in the Paradise compartment of Hades.

4. At this point His body remained in a lifeless state still nailed to the cross.