

²³ Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. ²⁴ They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

*“They divided My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.”*

Therefore, the soldiers did these things. John 19:23–24 (NKJV)

The 27th Question of the Westminster Shorter Catechism describes the various parts of Christ’s humiliation.

In this passage, we see the extreme height of that humiliation!

The goal of crucifixion was not only extreme and obvious pain but also to strip the CRIMINAL of all dignity. It deterred crime! Roman citizens were NEVER crucified.

I. *John wants us to see Christ’s humiliation as part of God’s plan, it was clearly prophesied –*

¹⁸ **They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. Psalm 22:18 (NKJV)**

1. *One of the perks of being a Roman soldier overseeing a crucifixion was you got to keep the crucified person’s possessions.*

In Jesus’ case He had five pieces of clothing which would be divided by four soldiers. Jesus would have owned:

A. *A belt, to soldier #1*

B. *Sandals, to soldier #2*

C. *A head covering or hat, to soldier #3*

D. *An outer garment, comparable to our jacket #4*

E. *An undergarment, tunic (not underwear) the main piece of clothing, this is what they gambled on.*

2. *This is EXACTLY what Psalm 22 had predicted, clothing would be divided, the first four pieces, and for His clothing they cast lots, the last piece.*

3. *John states, “**Therefore the soldiers did these things**” because he believed they had to, God ordained it.*

4. *This was just one of a string of fulfilled prophecies mentioned here by John:*

A. *In John 19:28-30 we read of Jesus receiving sour wine / vinegar, which was prophesied in Psalm 69:21 B*

B. *In John 19:31-33 we read of the decision not to break Jesus’ legs which fulfilled Psalm 34:20.*

C. *In John 19:34-37 we read of the piercing of Jesus’ side which fulfilled the first part of Zechariah 12:10.*

5. *That Psalm 22 pointed to Jesus Christ is clear from several of its verses, including its first verse which Jesus quotes from the cross –*

1 **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? Psalm 22:1 (NKJV)**

Another passage from that Psalm that I have preached on shows us both Christ’s humiliation and the benefit of His sacrifice -

⁶ **But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. Psalm 22:6 (NKJV)**

II. *What do we learn from these fulfilled prophecies?*

1. *The Old Testament pointed to Christ and His cross –*

³⁹ **You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. John 5:39 (NKJV)**

Psalm 22, in its entirety and **Isaiah 53** give us beautiful pictures of Christ and His suffering, and not only these obvious passages but Abraham offering Isaac in **Genesis 22**, points to God giving us His only begotten Son – **John 3:16**. Moses making a bronze serpent is also a picture of Christ's cross – **John 3:14**. All the Lambs, bulls, goats and other animals sacrificed all point to Our Lord Jesus Christ and what He did for us on the cross. The OT sacrifices, including the Passover, pointed forward to what Jesus would do with the prophecy. Today, we remember what Christ has done: in the Lord's Supper and as we read in the Gospels.

2. *Jesus and His cross are of central importance in all the Bible and should be in our preaching –*
1 Corinthians 2:2

3. *These fulfillments of Scripture prove God is in control, even when evil men do EVIL deeds –* **Acts 4:24-28**, quoting **Psalm 2**.

²⁴ **So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said: "Lord, You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, ²⁵ who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, And the people plot vain things? ²⁶ The kings of the earth took their stand, And the rulers were gathered together Against the LORD and against His Christ.' ²⁷ "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together ²⁸ to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done. Acts 4:24–28 (NKJV)**

4. *These passages show us that the Bible is God's Book, it is God breathed, Spirit inspired –*
2 Timothy 3:16-17

*"Whence but from Heaven, could man unskilled in arts
In several ages born, in several parts,
Weave such agreeing truth, or how? Or why?
Would all conspire to cheat us with a lie?
Unasked their pains, ungrateful their advice
Starving their gain, and martyrdom their price."
Dryden*

III. *Application:*

1. *See the OT prophecy and type referencing Christ & His cross as proof of both the Bible as God's Word and Jesus Christ as God's Son and our Savior.*
2. *Seeing God's sovereignty, even in the worst things.*