

# PASSION WEEK – SEVEN STATEMENTS FROM THE CROSS

## OBSERVATION

## INTERPRETATION

## APPLICATION

**Monday 7:00pm, H 105 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by the vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221; email – [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com)** For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

**Chronology of the Events of the Passion Week.** The significance of these nine days is demonstrated by the Gospel writers: though Christ spent three years ministering, the four authors commit at least one-fourth (Matthew and Luke) to almost one-half (John) of their books to this single week.

**Saturday Jn. 11:55-12:1** Supper at Bethany. Anointing by Mary.

**Sunday Mt. 21:1-17; Lk. 19:29-44** Disciples bring colt. Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem (Hosanna!). Jesus in the city and temple. Retirement to Bethany.

**Monday Mk. 11:12-18** The fig tree cursed. Second cleansing of the temple.

**Tuesday Mt. 21:23-22:14, 41-46; Jn. 12:2-8** The last day in the temple. Christ’s authority challenged. Parable of the two sons. Parable of the wicked husbandman. Parable of the rejected stone. Parable of the marriage feast. The question of tribute to Caesar. The question of the resurrection. The greatest commandment. David’s son and Lord. Denunciation of the scribes and Pharisees. Lament over Jerusalem. The poor widow’s gift. Greeks desire to see Jesus. The Olivet Discourse. Parables: The fig tree, the porter, the master of the house, the faithful and evil servants, the ten virgins, the talents, the sheep and the goats. Judas betrays Jesus

**Wednesday Mt. 26:14-16; Mk. 14:10-11; Lk. 22:1-6** Day of quiet at Bethany.

**Thursday Mt. 26:17-46; Mk. 14:12-42; Lk. 22:7-46** Preparation for the Passover. 3-5pm, slaying of the lamb. The Pascal meal and the Lord’s supper. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. Judas signaled as the traitor. Apostles warned against desertion. The great upper room discourse (Jn. 13-17). The prayer in the Garden - **agony in Gethsemane**. The **betrayal and arrest**. Peter and the healing of Malchus’ ear.

**Friday Mt. 26:47-27:56; Mk. 14:43-15:46; Jn. 18:2-19:30** First Jewish trial - before Annas; Second Jewish trial - before Caiaphas; Third Jewish trial—before Sanhedrin; Jesus declared His messiahship; Jesus mocked; Peter’s denial and remorse; First Roman trial - before Pilate; Second Roman trial - before Herod; Third Roman trial - before Pilate again; Pilate handed over Jesus to the Jews; Pilate again attempted to rescue Jesus; Judas’ suicide; The road to the cross; **On the cross @ 9am: First three hours: 9:00 to 12:00 a.m. Three sayings:** “Father forgive them...” “Today you will be with me in paradise” “Dear woman, here is your son” **Second three hours - Darkness: 12:00-3:00 p.m. Four sayings:** “My God, my God...” “I am thirsty...” “It is finished” “Into your hands I commend my spirit” Supernatural phenomena accompanying Jesus’ death: Darkness, earthquake, of the temple veil; Burial of the body in Joseph’s tomb

**Saturday Mt. 27:57-66; Lk. 23:47-56; Jn. 19:31-42** Body in the tomb

**Sunday Mt. 28:1-10; Mk. 16:1-8; Lk. 24:1-35; Jn. 20:1-31** The Resurrection

**Seven Statements From The Cross:** -- Mar 15:25 *Now it was the third hour, and they crucified Him.*

**Statement 1**

*Luk 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."*

**Biblical Ref.:**  
*Luke Chapter 23  
John Chapter 19  
Mt. Chapter 27*

*(Luke 23:33-34)*

**Statement 2**

*Luk 23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."*

*(Luke 23:38-43)*

**Statement 3**

*Joh 19:26b-27 He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" [27] Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!"*

*(John 19:25-27)*

**Statement 4**

*Mat 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"*

*(Mt. 27:45-51)*

**Statement 5**

*Joh 19:28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"*

*(John 19:28-29)*

**Statement 6**

*Joh 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

*(John 19:30)*

**Statement 7**

*Luk 23:46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." " Having said this, He breathed His last.*

*(Luke 23:44-49)*

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## JESUS’ SEVEN STATEMENTS FROM THE CROSS:

### Statement 1 (Forgiveness)

Luk 23:33 *And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left. (Is. 53:12)*  
Luk 23:34 *Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.*

### Statement 2 (Salvation)

Luk 23:38 *And an inscription also was written over Him in letters of Greek, Latin, and Hebrew: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.*  
Luk 23:39 *Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."*  
Luk 23:40 *But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation?"*  
Luk 23:41 *And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong."*  
Luk 23:42 *Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom."*  
Luk 23:43 *And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise (garden)."*

### Introduction:

2200-2100 BC – Promises to Abraham  
 1000 BC David’s Prophecy – Psalm 22  
 740 BC Isaiah’s Prophecy – Isaiah 53  
 444 BC Artaxerxes Commands Nehemiah to Build the Wall  
 33-34AD Day of Visitation – Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem  
 2018-33 AD TODAY - 1985 years Later

Statement 1 Jesus did not ask forgiveness for Himself — He didn’t need to, He was sinless. Jesus did not ask for a quick, painless death — He knew His purpose for dying on the Cross. Jesus did not ask God for vengeance on the people who sentenced Him to death — instead He prayed on their behalf. Even in His suffering, Jesus was able to forgive His tormentors and care about their souls. **If Jesus could forgive those who hurt Him, He can forgive us of our sins — and give us the strength to forgive others.** Jesus’ prayer, while they were in the very act of mocking Him, **is an expression of the boundless compassion of divine grace.**

These first of the seven words from the cross seem, from their position in the record, to have been spoken very early in the awful scene, probably while the nails were being driven into His hands and feet. Different from other holy dying men, He had no need to say, "Forgive Me." Then, as always, thinking of others, He utters this prayer, uttering it, too, with the same consciousness which had been formerly expressed, "Father, I know that You always hear Me," His intercession has this for its ground, though in meekness it is not expressed: "Father, forgive them."

Statement 2 In one of His final interactions, **Jesus extended eternal life.** As he openly forgave others, Jesus sparked an internal transformation in the criminal next to Him. Our Savior did not allow His own suffering and torment to distract Him from the cries of faith from a repentant sinner. Just as He was not too preoccupied to minister to this criminal, He is never too busy for our concerns. Jesus made the remarkable statement that this thief would be in paradise with Him that very day. These two thieves had been arrested for the same crime, tried for the same crime, condemned for the same crime, and were dying for the same crime. What was the difference between them? There wasn’t any—both were thieves. **The difference lies in the fact that one thief believed in Jesus Christ and one did not.**

1 Notice there is no “it’s not fair”! You don’t understand! I didn’t do anything to deserve this! No, it’s the love of Jesus. The love of Jesus never fails. He even makes a promise of forgiveness to God for His executioners. He is practicing what He preached. He said, “*Bless those that curse you. Pray for those who despitefully use you*” (Matthew 5:44). And here we find Him praying for these transgressors as they are nailing Him to the cross. “*They do not know what they do.*” They knew what they were doing but they didn’t know the enormity of what they were doing. Jesus **recognized the blindness of His enemies** in His prayer. This **does not excuse the guilt** of those who put Jesus on the cross; but Jesus **puts His enemies in the best possible light** in His prayer to the Father. **We need to show love by praying the same way.** When we pray like this for our enemies, we promise forgiveness to God, not to the person who wronged us. We can’t make the promise to them, because they will not repent. But by making the promise to God, we keep our hearts free from the cancer of resentment and keep ourselves ready to forgive.

2 Here’s one of two dying thieves being crucified next to a Man who has the sign above His head, “This is the King of the Jews”, and **he believed it.** What faith! Somehow he believed that though He was dying, Jesus was coming into His kingdom. Lord, when you come into Your kingdom, **will You remember me?**

Notice, how easy salvation is. How simple God has made it! **What lessons** are taught here: **Here is a convicted criminal:**  
**He wasn’t “cleaned up” with his life “together”!**  
**He hadn’t been baptized nor was he a church goer!**  
**He didn’t spend time thinking about it for a long time nor attending a new believers preparation course!**  
**He hadn’t done any good works, nor would he do any before his death as he was fastened to a cross.**  
**He wasn’t able to be sanctified by having a “good Christian walk” of months or years. He would be dead within hours.**  
**He had more faith than any of the disciples! He simply believed!**  
 The comforting words of Jesus in response to his simple request,  
**Remember me. What a witness to so many!!!**

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### Statement 3 (Relationship)

**Joh 19:25** *Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.*

**Joh 19:26** *When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!"*

**Joh 19:27** *Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.*

### Statement 4 (Abandonment)

**Mat 27:45** *Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land.*

**Mat 27:46** *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"*

**Mat 27:47** *Some of those who stood there, when they heard that, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!"*

**Mat 27:48** *Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.*

**Mat 27:49** *The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."*

**Mat 27:50** *And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.*

**Mat 27:51** *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*

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**Statement 3** Jesus' first two statements clearly revealed His divinity — His power to forgive sin and to grant eternal salvation. His third statement reflects His humanity. As fully God and fully man, Jesus' concern for Mary was not just as a Savior, but as a son. His compassion for His earthly mother reminds us that Jesus also cares for our well-being and direction in life, even when we don't understand God's plans. And as Jesus asked John to care for Mary, He asks us to care for others on His behalf.

**Statement 4** Consider now, it has become completely dark at 12 noon! Or three o'clock in the afternoon. An unexplainable darkness except that in *Amo 8:9-10* "And it shall come to pass in that day," says the Lord GOD, "That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight; [10] will turn your feasts (Passover) into mourning, And all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth on every waist, And baldness on every head; I will make it like mourning for an only son, And its end like a bitter day. So at the noon hour, darkness settled down, and that cross became an altar on which the Lamb who taketh away the sin of the world was offered.

This prayer, the only of the seven sayings, given by Mark and Matthew, is the very heart and necessity of the Cross. It is the fulfillment of prophecy from *Psalms 22*. Jesus probably didn't repeat the whole psalm; yet He intimated that the whole was to be applied to Him, and that David, in spirit, there spoke of His humiliation and exaltation. This, and that other word, Into thy hands I commit my spirit, he fetched from David's psalms (though he could have expressed himself in his own words), to teach us of what use the word of God is to us, to direct us in prayer, and to recommend to us the use of scripture-expressions in prayer, which will help our infirmities.

For the first time in eternity, the Son knew the wrath and the judgment of God. Nothing from Jesus so well illustrates the depth of His suffering of soul as He felt Himself regarded as sin though sinless. *2 Co 5:21* For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Christ, at that moment, was experiencing the abandonment and despair that resulted from the outpouring of divine wrath on Him as sin-bearer!

Our sins were poured out on Jesus. God could not look upon Him carrying our sins. God cannot commune with sin! This separation from the Father must have been even more agonizing than the physical torture, yet He suffered it for our sake. **Psalms 22:1-21; Is. 52:14-53:12**

**v. 3** Jesus is saying, John, who was the only disciple and the only one Mary's other sons, to take care of her! Watch over her! The relationships that we have in Christ are often far closer than the human relationships that we have in our family. The brothers of Jesus at this point did not believe in Him. They did not believe until after His resurrection. And so there was a closer bond between John and Mary because of their common belief in Jesus as the Messiah. So John is commissioned by Jesus to take care of Mary. And John tells us, *from that hour that disciple took her to his own home (19:27).*

**4** This cry from the cross. Just about the time that He expired. These last sayings of Jesus came one after another, as God is now laying on Him our sins. We read these words in *Psa 22:1* My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? *Psalms 22* is a remarkable passage of scripture because in it is a vivid and accurate description of death by crucifixion. When that Psalm was penned, crucifixion was unknown as a means of putting a person to death. And yet the things that happened when a person is crucified are so clearly described, such as the body going out of joint, as the muscles giving way and the body going out of joint. That pull of the gravity and the excruciating pain that comes as your body begins to slip its joints. The tremendous thirst that takes place as the body is dehydrating, as it hangs there on the cross. And this description of death by crucifixion begins with, *Psa 22:1* My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? The psalmist went on to say, But then, the answer to the question, Why have You forsaken me? *"Psa 22:2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent. Psa 22:3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.* Because of the holiness of God, when God laid upon His Son the iniquities of us all, His Son was forsaken by the Father. Turning to *"Isa 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.* He took your sin, He took all of your sin, all of your iniquity, He bore the punishment for your sins. He accepted the responsibility for your sins. Again in *Isa 53:8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.* For your transgressions, He died. **Heb 10:19-22** Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, [20] by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, [21] and having a High Priest over the house of God, [22] let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

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### Statement 5 (Distress)

Joh 19:28 *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"*  
Joh 19:29 *Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.*

### Statement 6 (Reunion)

Joh 19:30 *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

Statement 5 After enduring unthinkable stress, three days of imprisonment, trials, floggings, and crucifixion, the Son of God — who made the waters of the world — **experienced extreme dehydration and thirst**. In this statement Jesus fulfilled another prophecy (see Psa 69:21...for My thirst...). Still, there is a deeper meaning to His thirst. Jesus cried out with the psalmist; He was **thirsting for the presence and fellowship of God the Father during their separation on the Cross**. Jesus didn't accept a pain-numbing drink at the beginning of His ordeal (Mar 15:23), but now He accepts a taste of greatly diluted wine, to wet parched lips and a dry throat so **He can make one final announcement to the world with a "great cry."**

Statement 6 How many times in the Gospel of John does Jesus talk about His hour? He would say, "My hour has not yet come," or "the hour is coming." It was as if Jesus was hearing the chimes of a clock that nobody else could hear. **The life of the Lord Jesus Christ — the sum total of His ministry and mission — was leading to this one, final cry, "Tetelestai" or "It is finished--paid in full."** From His birth, through His boyhood, manhood, and public ministry, **Jesus' focus was to finish the work His Father had given to Him — the work of redemption.** Joh 17:1-5 *Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, [2] as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. [3] And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. [4] I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. [5] And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

From the very beginning, Jesus' death and resurrection were **God's plan for our redemption**. If you have not experienced the finished work of the cross of Christ, you can today. Right now you can say, "It is finished. Lord God, I come to You. I surrender my life to You. I know that You have conquered sin and death and I accept Your gift of eternal life." For believers, Christ's final cry should be a constant encouragement that we do not need to spin our wheels or worry about the future because His finished work secures our glorious and eternal destiny as a child of God.

5 *Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished (19:28), The purposes of God are being fulfilled. that the scripture might be fulfilled, He said, I thirst (19:28).*

Psalms 42:1-2 says, **"As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. [2] My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?"**

The purposes of God are being fulfilled. In Psa 69:21 *They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.* The prophecy concerning the Messiah and so in order that it might be fulfilled, Jesus said, **"I thirst."**

v. 6 Joh 19:30 *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!"* There was one little item of prophecy that had not yet been fulfilled and so Jesus said, I thirst, get that final item set and now that that's accomplished, now that He tasted the vinegar, that scripture is fulfilled and so He said, It's finished. It's completed. It's done. The prophecies are fulfilled. **And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit. (19:30).** It's a definition of death that is accepted today. When a person no longer has any brain activity, the heart can still keep pumping artificially but when the brain goes flat, the spirit is departed and a person is considered dead. So He gave up His spirit.

Jesus' final word (tetelestai in the Greek) is the cry of a winner. Jesus had finished the eternal purpose of the cross. **It stands today as a finished work, the foundation of all Christian peace and faith, paying in full the debt we righteously owe to God.**

At some point before He died, before the veil was torn in two, before He cried out **"It is finished"**, an awesome spiritual transaction took place. God the Father laid upon God the Son all the guilt and wrath our sin deserved, and He bore it in Himself perfectly, totally satisfying the wrath of God for us.

This was not a cry of exhaustion, but a cry of victory! The purpose for which Jesus came, was fulfilled! Redemption for the sins of the world had been accomplished. Satan's judgment was a fact! Every religion and cult bases its teaching on works that one must do. Only true New Testament Christianity bases a belief system not on what remains to be done, **but on what He's already done.** We can't do anything to get right with God or closer to God except to realize that it's all been done. And as we continue in our walk, we continue to say, "I'm coming to You, Father, expecting Your blessing and confident of Your grace not because of who I am, but because of what Your Son accomplished when He cried, **"It is Finished."**

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### Statement 7 (Triumph)

#### The Death of Jesus

**Luk 23:44** *Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.*

**Luk 23:45** *Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two.*

**Luk 23:46** *And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.' " Having said this, He breathed His last.*

**Luk 23:47** *So when the centurion saw what had happened, he glorified God, saying, "Certainly this was a righteous Man!"*

**Luk 23:48** *And the whole crowd who came together to that sight, seeing what had been done, beat their breasts and returned.*

**Luk 23:49** *But all His acquaintances, and the women who followed Him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.*

**Statement 7** This cry was not the cry of defeat, but a cry of victory. It was not the cry of being conquered by death, but of conquering death. It was not a cry of a person who was a victim of circumstances, but One who is in control of His circumstances. As a commander who would dismiss his servant from his presence, Jesus dismissed His own spirit and went to be with God the Father as He spoke the words of *Psalm 31:5*. When the centurion at the cross witnessed Jesus' victorious cry, the officer recognized the difference between Jesus and every other dying man he had seen. It was in this moment that he said, "Surely this was a righteous Man!"

### SUMMARY:

- Father, how we thank that You so loved the world so much that You gave Your only begotten Son.
- Lord Jesus, from the foundation of the world, You came to manifest Your love for us by taking our sins and receiving the penalty and the justice of God in dying for our sins.
- Father, Your righteous demands of justice were satisfied by Jesus who bore our sins in His own body on the tree.
- In order that we sinners might know the joy of hearing His words, You will spend eternity with Me in paradise.
- O Lord, we acknowledge You as our King!
- We gladly bow our knee before Your throne.
- We pledge, Lord, our allegiance, our love, our lives to You to serve You Lord in whatever capacity You ordain.
- We love You, Lord, because You first loved us.
- Help us, Lord, to be Your disciples and to do those things always that please You.
- Give us the strength that we need to live in this world that is still rebelling against You. The world that is still saying, We'll not have this man to rule over us.
- Lord, we ask that You would rule over us.
- Thank You, Lord!

**y. 7** He cried with a loud voice commending His spirit unto the Father's hands. Lord, it's over, it's finished. *and having said this, He breathed His last* (23:46).

It's a description of death, it's the separation of a man's spirit from his body or his consciousness from his body. Today it's still used as a definition for death, the separation of a man's consciousness from his body. When the brain is no longer functioning, he is considered dead medically. Jesus had said, *Joh 10:17-18 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. [18] No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."* So we find Him giving His life for you and for me! No man takes my life from Me. That sort of puts an end to that debate that's been going on through the years as **who is truly responsible for the death of Jesus: the Romans or the Jews?** Jesus said, *No man takes my life from Me. I give My life. I have the power to lay it down. I have the power to take it up again.* And so Jesus dismissed His spirit.

### WERE YOU THERE? – Old Spiritual – Joslin Grove Choral

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Were you there when they crucified my Lord? Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?*

*Were you there when He rose up from the grave? Were you there when He rose up from the grave? Ooh sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble, tremble. Were you there when He rose up from the grave?*

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