

## John 12:27-34

“Now my soul is deeply troubled. Should I pray, ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But this is the very reason I came! <sup>28</sup> Father, bring glory to your name.”

Then a voice spoke from heaven, saying, “I have already brought glory to my name, and I will do so again.” <sup>29</sup> When the crowd heard the voice, some thought it was thunder, while others declared an angel had spoken to him.

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus told them, “The voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup> The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. <sup>32</sup> And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

<sup>34</sup> The crowd responded, “We understood from Scripture that the Messiah would live forever. How can you say the Son of Man will die? Just who is this Son of Man, anyway?”

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## Background

Some translations differ on whether verse 27 is a question. The original Greek manuscripts had no punctuation or spaces between words, making context the key to interpretation. In this verse Jesus reveals His inner turmoil as He faces the cross. His soul is troubled, but not from fear of death. Rather, He knows He will bear the sin of the world and be separated from the Father. His statement reflects deep emotion and echoes His prayer in Gethsemane.

In verse 28, the voice of God the Father was heard for the third time in Jesus’ ministry (the others in Matthew 3:17 and 17:5), confirming that Jesus’ life and death glorify God. In verses 32-33 Jesus foretells His crucifixion, saying He will be “*lifted up*,” a clear reference to the cross. In verse 34 the crowd was confused about His death, but they were missing prophecies like Isaiah 53 that predict the Messiah’s suffering and death.

## Teaching Points

### 1. The cross is the basis of God’s judgment of this world.

In verse 31, the “world” doesn’t refer to creation, but to the sinful world system and people who reject Christ. By crucifying Jesus, the world condemned itself and came under God’s judgment. Unbelievers are part of this system and live under that judgment. They may not feel it, but they remain under God’s judgment until salvation is received. The cross is the foundation of this judgment.

## **2. The cross is the basis of God's victory over Satan.**

In verse 31, Jesus calls Satan the *"ruler of this world,"* a title also seen in John 16:11 and 2 Corinthians 4:4. But Satan was defeated at the cross. Genesis 3:15 foretold that Satan's head would be crushed—symbolizing Christ's victory over him. Before the cross, Satan held the power of death, but Hebrews 2:14–15 shows that Jesus overcame that power, freeing humanity from fear and bondage. Contrary to popular imagery, Satan does not rule over hell. Though Satan still operates, his eternal judgment in the lake of fire is certain (Revelation 20:10).

## **3. The cross is the basis of God's salvation of sinners.**

Verse 32 says, *"When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself."* This doesn't mean everyone will be saved. Rather, it means that through Jesus' death on the cross, the gospel would be extended to all people, not just the Jews. Revelation 5:9 confirms this future reality in Heaven, where redeemed believers come from every tribe, language, and nation.

## **Application**

### **1. Do we recognize God's voice when we hear it?**

When God spoke from Heaven, some only heard thunder. They had a naturalistic explanation for the voice of God, and were not sensitive to God's voice. Many today still dismiss God's voice, insisting on natural explanations and denying the supernatural.

Psalm 19:1–2 says nature proclaims God's glory, but modern thinking often rejects this, crediting chance over a Creator. Sometimes, God uses life events to get our attention. Do you recognize God's voice when you hear it?