

dc 19.¹⁸⁻¹⁹

¹⁸Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit—and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink—¹⁹nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men.

This reading is our 39th for Lent 2025.

Tomorrow, we begin the final week of the Savior's earthly ministry, traditionally known as "Holy Week," with his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. In yesterday's reading from Jacob 1.⁸, we considered the prophet's admonition that we "view his death" and suggested that we seek to view not only his death, but all the events of Holy Week. We will, after that, "view his resurrection" and events associated with that glorious event.

Before we begin Holy Week with its many Divine "passions," we felt it appropriate to recall the Savior's own view of those passions.

1. We have many accounts and summaries of Jesus' suffering in Gethsemane and at Calvary. Some come from eyewitnesses, such as those found in John and Matthew. Some, such as Luke's and Mark's seem to come from investigation of sources near to the events in time and space. Others come from vision, such as Enoch's, or Nephi's, or King Benjamin's. But today's witness concerning Jesus' suffering is unique. It is intimate and personal and private. It comes from Jesus' own mouth.
 - ? What do you learn and feel from Jesus' witness concerning his own suffering that you might not learn or feel from secondhand accounts?
 - ? What do you think and feel when you contemplate that Jesus lives eternally with the remembrance of the event in ways that no one else can?
2. Jesus openly admits that he wanted to "shrink" from drinking the "bitter cup."
 - ? How do you feel about this candid admission?
 - ? What does it tell you about the nature of the "bitter cup"?

We have explored the imagery of a "bitter cup" and what it tells us about Jesus ordeal elsewhere (See Luke 22.³⁹⁻⁴⁴ and 3 Ne. 11.⁹⁻¹¹).

3. Jesus refers to himself as "God, the greatest of all."
 - ? How do you feel about his calling himself "God" without any caveats such as "Son of God"?
 - ? Is he "God" to you? If so, why? If not, why not?