

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE CROSS

It seems to me that hardly anybody has really looked into what the Bible reveals happened to Christ when he went to the cross. It seems people just assume that when Jesus died, his exemplary life, coupled with him actually being God, simply somehow squashed sin out of existence. At least for his followers.

The Bible has a way different account of what went on. Starting with the need to know what rather than who Jesus actually was. The website has a video that covers this foundational issue (1000years.org SSLNO tab lesson #14).

Jesus was and is our mediator. He says he's "the way" to his Father (John 14:6). So that must mean he's not his Father. The Bible also clearly states a mediator to God cannot be God (Galatians 3:19-20)(also John 17:3, and others).

Although he is not God, Jesus was the first human with a true Divine aspect (John 17:23). When God chose Jesus to be the Messiah, He not only constituted him perfectly sinless (I Peter 2:22), like the first Adam, He actually indwelt him, making him the first temple of His, God's, own Holy Spirit in human flesh (*op. cit.* John 17).

And, also being Spirit conceived, Jesus was born, like the pre-sin Adam, immortal (John 10:18). Without the physical aging away, God and His son would be expected to enjoy each other constantly and forever.

That's what Jesus was. It made him very different from the rest of us. But not other than us (Hebrews 2:11-14). Before the first Adam sinned, God was not only Adam's God but also took walks with him in the garden (Genesis 3:8). There was a close personal relationship that was wrecked by sin.

Jesus had this relationship. Only it was perfectly close—if you can imagine what that means. Jesus was conceived by and conjoined with God's Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20). Meaning Jesus experienced

everything in concert with God's Spirit (John 5:19, 10:30). He was perfectly prepared to completely resist any and all the temptations that he could possibly encounter (Luke 4:13). Sin was neither original equipment nor an option with Jesus.

Not only did Jesus experience God as intimate, most importantly, God had an actual stake in the being of Jesus. This "stake" presumably gave God a palpable human point of reference. Something He could sense, feel. In no other way. And in the sinless sonship of Jesus, an empathic, familial bond of love (John 15:9, et al.).

God had called into being a sinless, permanent, intimacy sanctuary in which His Own Spirit might complete the image of Himself with Jesus (John 10:38), the first born, followed by the rest of those in His kingdom (John 17:21).

The perfect worship and adoration of the son filled Jesus' bodily temple with an infinite comfort and delight offering to God (Matthew 12:18). In fact, this human temple constituted the *a priori* reason for the creation and existence of the entire universe (Ephesians 1:3-11; Matthew 25:34). . .but with a dark, a black precondition.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son sanctuary image to provide the same eternal life and joy for all His chosen ones by means of what must be done to the chosen one (John 3:16-17). And what had to be done can be sensed only if you know what Jesus was. . .to his Father.

When Jesus went to the cross, none of what happened with the trial or the insults or the whipping or even the nailing to that wooden T-post caused any actual harm to the divine image sanctuary that was Jesus.

No, the event that shook the universe was the forced desertion. An abandonment that was impossible. That is impossible unless the unimaginable happened.

God polluted His son—with sin (II Corinthians 5:21). This event requires us to know not only what Jesus was but also what sin does. That is what any sin does to any relationship with the completely Holy, sinless God.

Any sin makes God recoil with disgust. Even hatred. It's like sin removes you from God's creation (Matthew 27:46). Your spiritual essence is transferred to some dark and evil state. A state worse than the worst slavery.

In fact, the Bible refers to us as slaves. Slaves to sin (Romans 6:20). The Bible's slavery analogy is also, apparently, close to the mark. We know slaves can be bought and sold. What if the evil master that is sin has a price that could allow God to actually ransom and free a slave from sin?

The Bible teaches that this transaction actually takes place (Romans 6:18). But God's purchase of a slave is not denominated in money or any imaginable commodity (I Peter 1:18-19). The justice of God requires an eye for an eye kind of transaction (II Corinthians 5-15).

What every believer lost when justice condemned him to sin's slavery, God redeemed, ransomed, when He sold His innocent son to that evil. A loss sale not in mortal human terms. Not only the loss of the exquisitely sweet connection to His own perfect son, but a twisting of the love worship into fierce hatred as the Christ actually became God's greatest sacrilege.

This is what actually happened at the cross. The only way to the Father through the defilement and destruction of all that Jesus was, purchased God's right to us. But we can't be more than property slaves this way.

What happened next made the entire horror more than worthwhile. In what was arguably the most awesome display of the power of our infinite God, He rebuilt, restored the life and the soul, and most importantly, the wondrous spiritual home that sin had burned down when Christ became the penalty of sin (John 2:19-21).

The severe justice of God cleared the way for the first born to be born again. Paving the way for all believers to be awarded their own family tie as temples as well as children of the living God (Ephesians 2:19-22).

The wonder of Easter could never have happened without what first had to happen at the cross.