

CHAPTER THIRTY-EIGHT

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CROSS FOR US

For the individual the cross has a double meaning. It is the basis of our justification, the putting our past in order legally. The cross is the ground of our justification. Our sins must all be laid on the Surety. He must bear them as substitute for others, so that we, having died to sin, shall now live unto righteousness.

ISAIAH 53:6

6 ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.

1 PETER 2:24

24 WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, BEING DEAD TO SINS, SHOULD LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED.

HEBREWS 9:28

28 SO CHRIST WAS ONCE OFFERED TO BEAR THE SINS OF MANY; AND UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM SHALL HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME WITHOUT SIN UNTO SALVATION.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

21 FOR HE HATH MADE HIM TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

The destruction of man was occasioned by the fall, historically one single event. Must Jesus now, in the same manner, be raised from His fall by the Surety through one single event, the "one act of righteousness" of Golgotha.

ROMANS 5:18

18 THEREFORE AS BY THE OFFENCE OF ONE JUDGMENT CAME UPON ALL MEN TO CONDEMNATION; EVEN SO BY THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF ONE THE FREE GIFT CAME UPON ALL MEN UNTO JUSTIFICATION OF LIFE.

The Greek word "dikaion" (righteous deed) means a single right act. Not through the righteousness of the holy life on earth of Jesus was salvation gained. It was through the one act of righteousness, His obedience unto death. As the nature of sin consists in the separation of the creature from the Creator, who is the Source of all life, it consists consequently in his death. Because of the necessity that sin and propitiation shall correspond; the Redeemer must endure the sentence of this death. Through His death the restoration of life is effected.

HEBREWS 9:22

22 AND ALMOST ALL THINGS ARE BY THE LAW PURGED WITH BLOOD; AND WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION.

Only through death could He take away the strength of him who had the power of death, the devil.

HEBREWS 2:14

14 FORASMUCH THEN AS THE CHILDREN ARE PARTAKERS OF FLESH AND BLOOD, HE ALSO HIMSELF LIKEWISE TOOK PART OF THE SAME; THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL;

The redemption must consist in this, that death, that great enemy of men, must become the means of their salvation. The necessary continuance and punishment of sin must become the way of redemption from sin.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:56

56 THE STING OF DEATH IS SIN; AND THE STRENGTH OF SIN IS THE LAW.

EPHESIANS 2:16

16 AND THAT HE MIGHT RECONCILE BOTH UNTO GOD IN ONE BODY BY THE CROSS, HAVING SLAIN THE ENMITY THEREBY:

But this means that the death of Christ is the death of death. His death was both physical and spiritual. This is brought out more by the story of the brazen serpent in the wilderness and the story of how David slew the giant with the giant's own sword. This is the logic of salvation. It stands firmly rooted and unimpeachable in God's redeeming plan. On its compelling demonstration all proud attacks of unbelief are shattered. The hated "blood theology" of the Bible, with the crucified Christ as its center, remains nevertheless the rock of salvation.

HEBREWS 9:22

22 AND ALMOST ALL THINGS ARE BY THE LAW PURGED WITH BLOOD; AND WITHOUT SHEDDING OF BLOOD IS NO REMISSION.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:2

2 FOR I DETERMINED NOT TO KNOW ANY THING AMONG YOU, SAVE JESUS CHRIST, AND HIM CRUCIFIED.

GALATIANS 3:1

1 O FOOLISH GALATIANS, WHO HATH BEWITCHED YOU, THAT YE SHOULD NOT OBEY THE TRUTH, BEFORE WHOSE EYES JESUS CHRIST HATH BEEN EVIDENTLY SET FORTH, CRUCIFIED AMONG YOU?

To many the blood of Jesus is a stumbling stone and a rock of offence, a sign everywhere spoken against.

1 PETER 2:8

8 AND A STONE OF STUMBLING, AND A ROCK OF OFFENCE, EVEN TO THEM WHICH STUMBLE AT THE WORD, BEING DISOBEDIENT: WHEREUNTO ALSO THEY WERE APPOINTED.

ACTS 28:22

22 BUT WE DESIRE TO HEAR OF THEE WHAT THOU THINKEST: FOR AS CONCERNING THIS SECT, WE KNOW THAT EVERY WHERE IT IS SPOKEN AGAINST.

LUKE 2:34

34 AND SIMEON BLESSED THEM, AND SAID UNTO MARY HIS MOTHER, BEHOLD, THIS CHILD IS SET FOR THE FALL AND RISING AGAIN OF MANY IN ISRAEL; AND FOR A SIGN WHICH SHALL BE SPOKEN AGAINST;

To the redeemed, the blood of Jesus really means the living corner stone, chosen, costly, and most firmly grounded.

1 PETER 2:4

4 TO WHOM COMING, AS UNTO A LIVING STONE, DISALLOWED INDEED OF MEN, BUT CHOSEN OF GOD, AND PRECIOUS,

1 PETER 2:6

6 WHEREFORE ALSO IT IS CONTAINED IN THE SCRIPTURE, BEHOLD, I LAY IN SION A CHIEF CORNER STONE, ELECT, PRECIOUS: AND HE THAT BELIEVETH ON HIM SHALL NOT BE CONFOUNDED.

ISAIAH 28:16

16 THEREFORE THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD, BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION FOR A FOUNDATION A STONE, A TRIED STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER STONE, A SURE FOUNDATION: HE THAT BELIEVETH SHALL NOT MAKE HASTE.

PSALMS 118:22

22 THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REFUSED IS BECOME THE HEAD STONE OF THE CORNER.

It is appointed to be the falling and rising of many. To one a Savior of death unto death, to the other a Savior of life unto life. To the Jews the cross is a stumbling-block; to the Greeks it is folly. The cross is the truth, the power, and the wisdom of the Most High.

LUKE 2:34

34 AND SIMEON BLESSED THEM, AND SAID UNTO MARY HIS MOTHER, BEHOLD, THIS CHILD IS SET FOR THE FALL AND RISING AGAIN OF MANY IN ISRAEL; AND FOR A SIGN WHICH SHALL BE SPOKEN AGAINST;

2 CORINTHIANS 2:15-16

15 FOR WE ARE UNTO GOD A SWEET SAVOUR OF CHRIST, IN THEM THAT ARE SAVED, AND IN THEM THAT PERISH:

16 TO THE ONE WE ARE THE SAVOUR OF DEATH UNTO DEATH; AND TO THE OTHER THE SAVOUR OF LIFE UNTO LIFE. AND WHO IS SUFFICIENT FOR THESE THINGS?

1 CORINTHIANS 1:23

23 BUT WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED, UNTO THE JEWS A STUMBLINGBLOCK, AND UNTO THE GREEKS FOOLISHNESS;

ROMANS 15:8

8 NOW I SAY THAT JESUS CHRIST WAS A MINISTER OF THE CIRCUMCISION FOR THE TRUTH OF GOD, TO CONFIRM THE PROMISES MADE UNTO THE FATHERS:)

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

18 FOR THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS IS TO THEM THAT PERISH FOOLISHNESS; BUT UNTO US WHICH ARE SAVED IT IS THE POWER OF GOD.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:24

24 BUT UNTO THEM WHICH ARE CALLED, BOTH JEWS AND GREEKS, CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD, AND THE WISDOM OF GOD.

So deeply was the thought of substitution impressed in advance on the Old Testament that sometimes it uses one and the same word for sin and sin offering. In Exodus 34:7 and I Samuel 2:17 this word means sin. In Numbers 32:23 and Isaiah 5:18, it means the punishment of sin. In Leviticus 6:18, 23 and Ezekiel 40:39 the sin offering. Thus also Christ, Who knew no sin, was "made sin for us," that is, was caused to be the sin offering.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

21 FOR HE HATH MADE HIM TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

Indeed, He Himself testified to this truth of substitution. It was not first taught by Paul, whom unbelief slanders as the "falsifier" of Christianity. For in Matthew 20:28 Christ says Himself that He gives His life "a ransom price instead of many." There for "instead of" the original text used "anti." When, for example, at Genesis 22:13 the Greek Old Testament says that Abraham offered the ram "for" his son. When in the catalogue of kings it says that the son became king "for" his deceased father (Genesis 36:33-35) it is

plain that "anti" has the meaning "instead of." Thus Paul drew from Christ Himself his right to describe the self-offering of the Lord as a "ransom price instead of all."

1 TIMOTHY 2:6

6 WHO GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL, TO BE TESTIFIED IN DUE TIME.

Now, let us discuss the basis of sanctification. Christ the Lord died on the cross that we might be saved from the cross. That for us is the excluding, judicial side of His death, the release provided by Golgotha. Nevertheless, in spite of this, Christ died there on the cross in order that we should come on the cross together with Him. This for us is the including, moral side of His death, the obligation of Golgotha. We are "planted together" with the Crucified One and associated organically with "the likeness of his death."

ROMANS 6:5

5 FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN PLANTED TOGETHER IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH, WE SHALL BE ALSO IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION:

We are followers, cross-bearers, corns of wheat as He was, who only through death really live.

MATTHEW 10:38

8 AND HE THAT TAKETH NOT HIS CROSS, AND FOLLOWETH AFTER ME, IS NOT WORTHY OF ME.

JOHN 12:24-25

24 VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, EXCEPT A CORN OF WHEAT FALL INTO THE GROUND AND DIE, IT ABIDETH ALONE: BUT IF IT DIE, IT BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT.

25 HE THAT LOVETH HIS LIFE SHALL LOSE IT; AND HE THAT HATETH HIS LIFE IN THIS WORLD SHALL KEEP IT UNTO LIFE ETERNAL.

We are called to share in the character of the indeed dark, but none the less precious foundation of our own redemption. We have been "crucified with Christ."

GALATIANS 2:20

20 I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: NEVERTHELESS I LIVE; YET NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME: AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.

For us: The world around is dead through the Crucified One. Through the cross it is "crucified" for us and we to the world.

GALATIANS 6:14

14 BUT GOD FORBID THAT I SHOULD GLORY, SAVE IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BY WHOM THE WORLD IS CRUCIFIED UNTO ME, AND I UNTO THE WORLD.

The world within us is likewise with us on the cross.

ROMANS 6:6

6 KNOWING THIS, THAT OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DESTROYED, THAT HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIN.

ROMANS 6:11

11 LIKEWISE RECKON YE ALSO YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN, BUT ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

The world beneath us is completely conquered through the cross.

COLOSSIANS 2:15

15 AND HAVING SPOILED PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, HE MADE A SHEW OF THEM OPENLY, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM IN IT.

GENESIS 3:15

15 AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THEE AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN THY SEED AND HER SEED; IT SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.

AND FINALLY THROUGH THE CROSS, THE WORLD ABOVE US IS, FOR US, GRACE AND BLESSING. THE CURSE OF THE LAW IS DONE AWAY.

GALATIANS 3:13

13 CHRIST HATH REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW, BEING MADE A CURSE FOR US: FOR IT IS WRITTEN, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE:

The indictment contained in its commandments, which testified against us, is cancelled and nailed to the cross.

COLOSSIANS 2:14

14 BLOTTING OUT THE HANDWRITING OF ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO US, AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS;

God's glance can no longer fall on the curse of the law without at the same time failing on the cross. It likewise has been crucified and died together with Him.

GALATIANS 2:19

19 FOR I THROUGH THE LAW AM DEAD TO THE LAW, THAT I MIGHT LIVE UNTO GOD.

The law of God has suspended death over the sinner and Christ has borne this in his place.

GALATIANS 3:10

10 FOR AS MANY AS ARE OF THE WORKS OF THE LAW ARE UNDER THE CURSE: FOR IT IS WRITTEN, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT CONTINUETH NOT IN ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW TO DO THEM.

Thus Christ also has died "through" the law. But thereby the law has lost any further valid claim against Him. By means of the execution, the man condemned to death becomes subject to the authority that executes him. After His death, that authority has no more power over him. He is dead to the one who killed him. Thus Christ also is now dead to the law.

Now what Christ experienced, the believer in Him experienced together with Him.

ROMANS 6:5-11

**5 FOR IF WE HAVE BEEN PLANTED TOGETHER IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH, WE SHALL BE ALSO IN THE LIKENESS OF HIS RESURRECTION:
6 KNOWING THIS, THAT OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DESTROYED, THAT HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIN.**

7 FOR HE THAT IS DEAD IS FREED FROM SIN.

8 NOW IF WE BE DEAD WITH CHRIST, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHALL ALSO LIVE WITH HIM:

9 KNOWING THAT CHRIST BEING RAISED FROM THE DEAD DIETH NO MORE; DEATH HATH NO MORE DOMINION OVER HIM.

10 FOR IN THAT HE DIED, HE DIED UNTO SIN ONCE: BUT IN THAT HE LIVETH, HE LIVETH UNTO GOD.

11 LIKEWISE RECKON YE ALSO YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN, BUT ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

Thus, we also dead as regards the law, and live now in the liberty of the One raised from the dead.

ROMANS 7:4

4 WHEREFORE, MY BRETHREN, YE ALSO ARE BECOME DEAD TO THE LAW BY THE BODY OF CHRIST; THAT YE SHOULD BE MARRIED TO ANOTHER, EVEN TO HIM WHO IS RAISED FROM THE DEAD, THAT WE SHOULD BRING FORTH FRUIT UNTO GOD.

For mankind corporately also there has been introduced through the cross a completely new order. This new order exists in three respects. 1. The Removal of the Law. As to the inner life the cross signifies the fulfillment and therefore the abolition of all Levitical sacrifices. Therewith the annulment of the Levitical law in general. The sacrifices were the basis of the priesthood, and the priesthood was the foundation of that law.

HEBREWS 10:10-14

10 BY THE WHICH WILL WE ARE SANCTIFIED THROUGH THE OFFERING OF THE BODY OF JESUS CHRIST ONCE FOR ALL.

11 AND EVERY PRIEST STANDETH DAILY MINISTERING AND OFFERING OFTENTIMES THE SAME SACRIFICES, WHICH CAN NEVER TAKE AWAY SINS:

12 BUT THIS MAN, AFTER HE HAD OFFERED ONE SACRIFICE FOR SINS FOR EVER, SAT DOWN ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD;

13 FROM HENCEFORTH EXPECTING TILL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE HIS FOOTSTOOL.

14 FOR BY ONE OFFERING HE HATH PERFECTED FOR EVER THEM THAT ARE SANCTIFIED.

HEBREWS 7:18

18 FOR THERE IS VERILY A DISANNULLING OF THE COMMANDMENT GOING BEFORE FOR THE WEAKNESS AND UNPROFITABLENESS THEREOF.

HEBREWS 7:11

11 IF THEREFORE PERFECTION WERE BY THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD, (FOR UNDER IT THE PEOPLE RECEIVED THE LAW,) WHAT FURTHER NEED WAS THERE THAT ANOTHER PRIEST SHOULD RISE AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC, AND NOT BE CALLED AFTER THE ORDER OF AARON

Christ through the cross has become "the end of the law." He is the Surety of a better covenant, even the covenant, through which "the called receive the promise of eternal inheritance."

ROMANS 10:4

4 FOR CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH.

HEBREWS 7:22

22 BY SO MUCH WAS JESUS MADE A SURETY OF A BETTER TESTAMENT.

MATTHEW 26:28

28 FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS.

HEBREWS 9:15-17

15 AND FOR THIS CAUSE HE IS THE MEDIATOR OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, THAT BY MEANS OF DEATH, FOR THE REDEMPTION OF THE TRANSGRESSIONS THAT WERE UNDER THE FIRST TESTAMENT, THEY WHICH ARE CALLED MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL INHERITANCE.

16 FOR WHERE A TESTAMENT IS, THERE MUST ALSO OF NECESSITY BE THE DEATH OF THE TESTATOR.

17 FOR A TESTAMENT IS OF FORCE AFTER MEN ARE DEAD: OTHERWISE IT IS OF NO STRENGTH AT ALL WHILE THE TESTATOR LIVETH.

But inasmuch as the Levitical priesthood is dissolved the "former tabernacle" is gone. The veil of the temple is rent, and the way into the most holy place is free. The whole people of God is now a kingdom of priests.

HEBREWS 9:8

8 THE HOLY GHOST THIS SIGNIFYING, THAT THE WAY INTO THE HOLIEST OF ALL WAS NOT YET MADE MANIFEST, WHILE AS THE FIRST TABERNACLE WAS YET STANDING:

MATTHEW 27:51

51 AND, BEHOLD, THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE WAS RENT IN TWAIN FROM THE TOP TO THE BOTTOM; AND THE EARTH DID QUAKE, AND THE ROCKS RENT;

HEBREWS 10:19-22

19 HAVING THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BOLDNESS TO ENTER INTO THE HOLIEST BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS,

20 BY A NEW AND LIVING WAY, WHICH HE HATH CONSECRATED FOR US, THROUGH THE VEIL, THAT IS TO SAY, HIS FLESH;

21 AND HAVING AN 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.

1 PETER 2:5

5 YE ALSO, AS LIVELY STONES, ARE BUILT UP A SPIRITUAL HOUSE, AN HOLY PRIESTHOOD, TO OFFER UP SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD BY JESUS CHRIST.

1 PETER 2:9

9 BUT YE ARE A CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, AN HOLY NATION, A PECULIAR PEOPLE; THAT YE SHOULD SHEW FORTH THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO HATH CALLED YOU OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS MARVELLOUS LIGHT:

REVELATION 1:6

6 AND HATH MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO GOD AND HIS FATHER; TO HIM BE GLORY AND DOMINION FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.

Our next topic is the admission of all nations to salvation. But as the law is done away inwardly it must also have been done away outwardly. Until the cross, the law was Israel's "tutor unto Christ." It was the "hedge" that separated the Jewish people from peoples of the world.

GALATIANS 3:24

24 WHEREFORE THE LAW WAS OUR SCHOOLMASTER TO BRING US UNTO CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.

EPHESIANS 2:14

14 FOR HE IS OUR PEACE, WHO HATH MADE BOTH ONE, AND HATH BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION BETWEEN US;

The nations were "without law" and "aliens as regards the covenants of the promise."

ROMANS 2:12

12 FOR AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED WITHOUT LAW SHALL ALSO PERISH WITHOUT LAW: AND AS MANY AS HAVE SINNED IN THE LAW SHALL BE JUDGED BY THE LAW;

EPHESIANS 2:12

12 THAT AT THAT TIME YE WERE WITHOUT CHRIST, BEING ALIENS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL, AND STRANGERS FROM THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE, HAVING NO HOPE, AND WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD:

There existed a tension between the Jewish people and the people of the world. There was a kind of "enmity" in the annals of salvation, which did not permit those "far off" and those "near" to come together.

EPHESIANS 2:15

15 HAVING ABOLISHED IN HIS FLESH THE ENMITY, EVEN THE LAW OF COMMANDMENTS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCES; FOR TO MAKE IN HIMSELF OF TWAIN ONE NEW MAN, SO MAKING PEACE;

But now Christ is our peace. By the fulfillment of the law He has removed "the middle wall of partition." Both, Jews and Gentiles, are in the one body of His church. He has reconciled to one another, as well as to God, through the cross.

EPHESIANS 2:13-16

13 BUT NOW IN CHRIST JESUS YE WHO SOMETIMES WERE FAR OFF ARE MADE NIGH BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

**14 FOR HE IS OUR PEACE, WHO HATH MADE BOTH ONE, AND HATH BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION BETWEEN US;
15 HAVING ABOLISHED IN HIS FLESH THE ENMITY, EVEN THE LAW OF COMMANDMENTS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCES; FOR TO MAKE IN HIMSELF OF TWAIN ONE NEW MAN, SO MAKING PEACE;
16 AND THAT HE MIGHT RECONCILE BOTH UNTO GOD IN ONE BODY BY THE CROSS, HAVING SLAIN THE ENMITY THEREBY:**

Therefore the fulfillment of the law through the death of Christ signified that "the promise to Abraham had broken through the bounds of the Mosaic law."

GENESIS 12:3

3 AND I WILL BLESS THEM THAT BLESS THEE, AND CURSE HIM THAT CURSETH THEE: AND IN THEE SHALL ALL FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.

GALATIANS 3:13-14

13 CHRIST HATH REDEEMED US FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW, BEING MADE A CURSE FOR US: FOR IT IS WRITTEN, CURSED IS EVERY ONE THAT HANGETH ON A TREE:

14 THAT THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME ON THE GENTILES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST; THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH.

This further meant the enlargement of salvation beyond Israel to the peoples of the world. It meant that the way to salvation was by the extreme straitness of the cross. It passed from the nationalism or preparation into the universalism of fulfillment.

JOHN 11:52

52 AND NOT FOR THAT NATION ONLY, BUT THAT ALSO HE SHOULD GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE THE CHILDREN OF GOD THAT WERE SCATTERED ABROAD.

JOHN 12:32

32 AND I, IF I BE LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME.

Now we are going to look at the universal effect of the cross. Jesus triumphed over the world. In fact, He is going to return to this earth as the King of all Kings. He is going to judge this world. The prince of this world, satan, will be cast out.

JOHN 12:31

31 NOW IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS WORLD: NOW SHALL THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD BE CAST OUT.

It was through the cross that the dying One triumphed.

REVELATION 5:5-6

5 AND ONE OF THE ELDERS SAITH UNTO ME, WEEP NOT: BEHOLD, THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDA, THE ROOT OF DAVID, HATH PREVAILED TO OPEN THE BOOK, AND TO LOOSE THE SEVEN SEALS THEREOF.

6 AND I BEHELD, AND, LO, IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE AND OF THE FOUR BEASTS, AND IN THE MIDST OF THE ELDERS, STOOD A LAMB AS IT HAD BEEN SLAIN, HAVING SEVEN HORNS AND SEVEN EYES, WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD SENT FORTH INTO ALL THE EARTH.

Through the victory that Jesus acquired, He was able to open the plan of salvation to all nations. This, of course, was God's intention since the foundation of the world.

GALATIANS 3:24

24 WHEREFORE THE LAW WAS OUR SCHOOLMASTER TO BRING US UNTO CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.

Until the cross the law, as Israel's "tutor unto Christ" was a "hedge" that separated the Jewish people from the peoples of the world.

EPHESIANS 2:14

14 FOR HE IS OUR PEACE, WHO HATH MADE BOTH ONE, AND HATH BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION BETWEEN US;

The nations were "without law" and were "aliens as regards the covenants of the promise."

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12 THAT AT THAT TIME YE WERE WITHOUT CHRIST, BEING ALIENS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF ISRAEL, AND STRANGERS FROM THE COVENANTS OF PROMISE, HAVING NO HOPE, AND WITHOUT GOD IN THE WORLD:

There existed a tension between the two, a kind of "enmity" in the annals of salvation. It did not permit those "far off" ;and those "near" to come together.

EPHESIANS 2:15

15 HAVING ABOLISHED IN HIS FLESH THE ENMITY, EVEN THE LAW OF COMMANDMENTS CONTAINED IN ORDINANCES; FOR TO MAKE IN HIMSELF OF TWAIN ONE NEW MAN, SO MAKING PEACE;

But now Christ is our peace. By the fulfillment of the law He has removed "the middle wall of partition. Both, Jews and Gentiles, have been reconciled to one another, as well as to God, through the cross.

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16 AND THAT HE MIGHT RECONCILE BOTH UNTO GOD IN ONE BODY BY THE CROSS, HAVING SLAIN THE ENMITY THEREBY:

Therefore, the fulfillment of the law through the death of Christ signified that "the promise to Abraham had broken through the bounds of the Mosaic law."

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14 THAT THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME ON THE GENTILES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST; THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH FAITH.

This meant the enlargement of salvation beyond Israel to the peoples of the world. Salvation was now available to "whosoever will."

JOHN 11:52

52 AND NOT FOR THAT NATION ONLY, BUT THAT ALSO HE SHOULD GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE THE CHILDREN OF GOD THAT WERE SCATTERED ABROAD .

JOHN 12:32

32 AND I, IF I BE LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME.

It was through the cross that Jesus robbed the principalities of their armor.

COLOSSIANS 2:14-15

14 BLOTTING OUT THE HANDWRITING OF ORDINANCES THAT WAS AGAINST US, WHICH WAS CONTRARY TO US, AND TOOK IT OUT OF THE WAY, NAILING IT TO HIS CROSS;

15 AND HAVING SPOILED PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, HE MADE A SHEW OF THEM OPENLY, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM IN IT.

It was through His death that He took away the might of him who had the power of death, the devil.

HEBREWS 2:14

14 FORASMUCH THEN AS THE CHILDREN ARE PARTAKERS OF FLESH AND BLOOD, HE ALSO HIMSELF LIKEWISE TOOK PART OF THE SAME; THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL;

Hence His victorious cry "It is finished." The casting out of Satan: as to its power--it is based on Golgotha. As to its realization--it comes about gradually. As to its final result--it will in due time be complete.

REVELATION 20:10

10 AND THE DEVIL THAT DECEIVED THEM WAS CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, WHERE THE BEAST AND THE FALSE PROPHET ARE, AND SHALL BE TORMENTED DAY AND NIGHT FOR EVER AND EVER.

Therefore, there is a double sense in Scripture regarding the expression, "uplifted."

JOHN 3:14

14 AND AS MOSES LIFTED UP THE SERPENT IN THE WILDERNESS, EVEN SO MUST THE SON OF MAN BE LIFTED UP:

JOHN 8:28

28 THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THEM, WHEN YE HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, THEN SHALL YE KNOW THAT I AM HE, AND THAT I DO NOTHING OF MYSELF; BUT AS MY FATHER HATH TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS.

JOHN 12:32

32 AND I, IF I BE LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME.

PHILIPPIANS 2:9

9 WHEREFORE GOD ALSO HATH HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, AND GIVEN HIM A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME:

For the being "lifted up" on the cross and the being "exalted" to the throne of heaven belong together, and in Greek the one word is used for both events. The Crucified One is the Crowned One.

PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11

**10 THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THINGS IN HEAVEN, AND THINGS IN EARTH, AND THINGS UNDER THE EARTH;
11 AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.**

HEBREWS 2:9

9 BUT WE SEE JESUS, WHO WAS MADE A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS FOR THE SUFFERING OF DEATH, CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOUR; THAT HE BY THE GRACE OF GOD SHOULD TASTE DEATH FOR EVERY MAN.

Therefore, the old prince of this world must be cast out, because the new, the rightful Prince will enter. Therefore, the earth shook at the death of the Lord, and the sun lost its light.

MATTHEW 27:52

52 AND THE GRAVES WERE OPENED; AND MANY BODIES OF THE SAINTS WHICH SLEPT AROSE,

LUKE 23:44-45

**44 AND IT WAS ABOUT THE SIXTH HOUR, AND THERE WAS A DARKNESS OVER ALL THE EARTH UNTIL THE NINTH HOUR.
45 AND THE SUN WAS DARKENED, AND THE VEIL OF THE TEMPLE WAS RENT IN THE MIDST.**

So, it can be said that the cross of Christ is the great no to every sin.

JOHN 12:31

31 NOW IS THE JUDGMENT OF THIS WORLD: NOW SHALL THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD BE CAST OUT.

Therefore, in the day of the world's destruction the earth will convulse and the sun be covered with shame. The moon will no more shine, the stars will grow pale, and heaven and earth will flee from before the great white throne.

HAGGAI 2:6

6 FOR THUS SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS; YET ONCE, IT IS A LITTLE WHILE, AND I WILL SHAKE THE HEAVENS, AND THE EARTH, AND THE SEA, AND THE DRY LAND;

HEBREWS 12:26-27

26 WHOSE VOICE THEN SHOOK THE EARTH: BUT NOW HE HATH PROMISED, SAYING, YET ONCE MORE I SHAKE NOT THE EARTH ONLY, BUT ALSO HEAVEN.

ISAIAH 24:23

23 THEN THE MOON SHALL BE CONFOUNDED, AND THE SUN ASHAMED, WHEN THE LORD OF HOSTS SHALL REIGN IN MOUNT ZION, AND IN JERUSALEM, AND BEFORE HIS ANCIENTS GLORIOUSLY.

REVELATION 20:11

11 AND I SAW A GREAT WHITE THRONE, AND HIM THAT SAT ON IT, FROM WHOSE FACE THE EARTH AND THE HEAVEN FLED AWAY; AND THERE WAS FOUND NO PLACE FOR THEM.

But then, indeed, out of the old world, by the transfiguration of its basic elements, which had been dissolved by fiery heat, there will emerge a new and glorious world. At the end of the time the universe must experience its death, its "Golgotha." Also, immediately after, on the basis of the cross, the universe will experience its resurrection and Easter morning through the transfiguring power of God. This is the prophetic meaning of the darkening of the sun and of the quaking of the earth in the moment of the death on Golgotha.

Next we look at Christ as the Corn of Wheat. Through all these experiences "Christ became the corn of wheat whose world-redeeming love laid Him in the earth on Good Friday. It was the corn of wheat which on Easter Sunday broke through the soil and began to grow towards heaven. It was the corn of wheat whose golden stalk ascended to heaven on Ascension Day. Likewise, it was the corn of wheat whose ears, rich with myriads of grains, bent to the earth on Pentecost and scattered seeds out of which the church should be born."

JOHN 12:24

4 VERILY, VERILY, I SAY UNTO YOU, EXCEPT A CORN OF WHEAT FALL INTO THE GROUND AND DIE, IT ABIDETH ALONE: BUT IF IT DIE, IT BRINGETH FORTH MUCH FRUIT.

Our next portion of study reveals the cross from eternity to eternity. Thus, we see the cross in eternity. The Lamb is foreknown before the foundation of the world. The cross can also be seen in the past. Gethsemane, Gabbatha, Golgotha were revelations of the cross. The cross is in the present. The crucified Christ is the living foundation theme of our own proper proclamation.

I CORINTHIANS 2:2

2 FOR I DETERMINED NOT TO KNOW ANY THING AMONG YOU, SAVE JESUS CHRIST, AND HIM CRUCIFIED.

The cross is in the future. The Savior is formerly humbled then as King or the manifested Messianic kingdom.

PHILIPPIANS 2:8-11

11 AND THAT EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

The cross is also in glory. The Lamb is the precious stone which is the foundation of the heavenly city. He is in the midst of the throne. He the Lamb, is the object of worship of the blessed spirits.

REVELATION 21:14

4 AND THE WALL OF THE CITY HAD TWELVE FOUNDATIONS, AND IN THEM THE NAMES OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES OF THE LAMB.

REVELATION 5:6

6 AND I BEHELD, AND, LO, IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE AND OF THE FOUR BEASTS, AND IN THE MIDST OF THE ELDERS, STOOD A LAMB AS IT HAD BEEN SLAIN, HAVING SEVEN HORNS AND SEVEN EYES, WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD SENT FORTH INTO ALL THE EARTH.

In summation, let me remind you that Jesus had suffered total hell by dying both physically and spiritually in order to obtain our salvation. He bore these things so we would not have to bear them. Our sins had been laid on Him.

ISAIAH 53:6

6 ALL WE LIKE SHEEP HAVE GONE ASTRAY; WE HAVE TURNED EVERY ONE TO HIS OWN WAY; AND THE LORD HATH LAID ON HIM THE INIQUITY OF US ALL.

He had truly become our substitute.

HEBREWS 9:28

28 SO CHRIST WAS ONCE OFFERED TO BEAR THE SINS OF MANY; AND UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM SHALL HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME WITHOUT SIN UNTO SALVATION.

I PETER 2:24

24 WHO HIS OWN SELF BARE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE, THAT WE, BEING DEAD TO SINS, SHOULD LIVE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED.

Dying alone, with Father or Holy Spirit, Jesus provided both salvation and healing. We, too, must die. We must die to selfishness.

I CORINTHIANS 15:31

31 I PROTEST BY YOUR REJOICING WHICH I HAVE IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD, I DIE DAILY.

GALATIANS 2:20

20 I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST: NEVERTHELESS I LIVE; YET NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME: AND THE LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME.

GALATIANS 6:14

14 BUT GOD FORBID THAT I SHOULD GLORY, SAVE IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, BY WHOM THE WORLD IS CRUCIFIED UNTO ME, AND I UNTO THE WORLD.

ROMANS 6:6

6 KNOWING THIS, THAT OUR OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED WITH HIM, THAT THE BODY OF SIN MIGHT BE DESTROYED, THAT HENCEFORTH WE SHOULD NOT SERVE SIN.

ROMANS 6:11

11 LIKewise RECKON YE ALSO YOURSELVES TO BE DEAD INDEED UNTO SIN, BUT ALIVE UNTO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.