

# WHAT HAPPENED...

...on the cross...when the veil was rent...those 3 days and nights...at resurrection.

Consider this Old Testament picture of the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ, first from the King James, and then from Leeser's translation from the Hebrew.

ISAIAH 53:4-6 (King James Version)

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.  
5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.  
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.

ISAIAH 53:4-6 (Isaac Leeser translation from the Hebrew)

4 But only our diseases did he bear himself, and our pains he carried: while we indeed esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.  
5 Yet he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement for our peace was upon him; and through his bruises was healing granted to us.  
6 We all like sheep went astray; every one to his own way did we turn; and the Lord let befall him the guilt of us all.

In the 9th verse of this 53rd chapter, Isaiah says, "He made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death..." The margin of my King James Version points out that the word is 'deaths' rather than 'death'. In the Hebrew 'deaths' is plural. Jesus died twice on the cross. First, He died 'spiritually' the moment God laid our sin upon Him. Then, the moment He who knew no sin became sin, that precious body became mortal, and He could die 'physically'.

The instant He became sin, darkness came down over Golgotha, and we heard the bitter cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me."

It was the darkest hour of Eternity. Angels must have covered their faces. Yet even the disciples of Jesus did not realize He was being made sin on the cross. They give us an account from the natural standpoint of what happened--as they saw it with their physical eyes.

But they didn't know He was to die spiritually--you can't see that with your physical eyes. They did not realize He was going to put sin away and make it possible for them to receive Eternal Life, the very nature of God! They did not know that the Man of the cross was going to rise again to be the head of a new creation, the church.

They did not understand about Eternal Life--no one had ever received Eternal Life before. Oh, they had listened as Jesus said, "I am come that they might have Life, and have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). And they'd heard Him talk about passing from death unto life. But they didn't really understand that there are two kinds of death--physical, and spiritual. And they didn't understand that there was a new kind of Life coming to the world--and how everyone who became a partaker of this Life, would become a new creation, a new creature. (II Cor. 5:17.)

The disciples didn't know where Jesus went when His body was pronounced dead on the cross. They didn't see the tragedy taking place as He hung there.

They witnessed the phenomena which resulted as creation was shaken to its very center by deity's becoming humanity's substitute:

LUKE 23:44

44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

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,

No one knew then that the rending of that veil meant that the holy of holies was no longer the home of Jehovah...that Jesus had fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant...and there was no need of a priesthood any longer.

The high priest finished his ministry when he made the great sacrifice of the Lamb of God who was to take away the sin of the world.

HEBREWS 10:12

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God;

GENESIS 49:10

10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.

The priesthood was to last until Shiloh came. Shiloh had come and they did not know Him.

History tells us that 50 years after the crucifixion of Jesus there was not one member of the high priestly family living--nor could a

member of the Davidic family be found.

They did not recognize their Shiloh. They did not know the priesthood would stop functioning before God when they killed Him. They did know the Mosaic Law--which they worshiped but did not keep--would stop functioning when they nailed Him to the cross.

The Jews who stood around the cross did not know what God would give to Paul years later. But you and I can read it in the first few chapters of Hebrews, and receive the full revelation of what happened.

And hundreds of years before, Isaiah gave an expressive picture of this Messiah as our substitute.

ISAIAH 53:10-12

10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

The 22nd Psalm gives a graphic picture of the crucifixion of Jesus--more vivid than the eye-witness accounts of John, Matthew, or Mark, yet written 250 years before crucifixion was practiced, and 1000 years before the lone Galilean hung on the cross. It opens with His cry from the cross:

PSALM 22 (A translation from the original Hebrew)

1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Why art thou so far from helping me,  
from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou answerest not;  
and in the night season, I am not silent.

3 But thou art holy,  
O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

4 Our fathers trusted in thee:  
they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered:  
they trusted in thee, and were not put to shame.

6 But I am a worm; and no man;  
a reproach of men, and despised of the people....

This is a monologue. You can see Him hanging there in deep physical agony and awful shame. The knowledge that His Father has forsaken Him is breaking His heart. He remembers Israel's history, and how Jehovah had heard their cries and delivered them.

Yet notice His words, "But thou art holy..." What does He mean? He is becoming sin--for He was made to be sin. (II Cor. 5:21.)

His parched lips cry, "I am a worm, and no man..." He is spiritually dead--the worm. He

is become what He foretold, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up" (John 3:14). He has been lifted up as a serpent--synonymous with Satan. Jesus had known He was going to be lifted up and united with the adversary--and the Psalmist sees that Holy Man of God as the worm, the reproach of the people.

7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn;

they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

8 He trusted on Jehovah that he would deliver him:  
let us see him deliver him...

"Let him come down from the cross," the mob jeered, "and we will believe on him."

9 But thou art he that took me out of the womb:

thou didst make me trust when I was upon my mother's breasts,

10 I was cast upon thee from the womb:

thou art my God since my mother bore me.

Soon after His birth, an angel told Joseph to take the Child to Egypt. He was the God-cared-for Baby of Bethlehem. And now He is the God-forsaken Son of God hanging on the cross.

11 Be not far from me; for trouble is near,  
for there is none to help.

The disciples are powerless. His own people, headed by the high priest have seen that He was nailed to the cross. There is none to help.

12 Many bulls have compassed me:

strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round about.

13 They gape upon me with their mouth as a ravening  
and a roaring lion.

Who are the 'bulls of Bashan'? They are the Sanhedrin and the Senate--the leaders of the herd. They gape upon Him. They crucify Him.

14 I am poured out like water,

all my bones are out of joint:

my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Jesus died of a ruptured heart. When it happened, blood from all parts of His body poured through the rent into the sack which holds the heart. As the body cooled, the red corpuscles coagulated and rose to the top, the white serum settled to the bottom. When that Roman spear pierced the sack, water poured out first, then the coagulated blood oozed out, rolling down His side onto the ground.

John bore witness of it, "But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs; But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water" (John 19:33-34).

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.

They offered Him a drink of vinegar.

16 For dogs have compassed me;  
a company of evil doers have enclosed me;  
they pierce my hands and my feet.

Roman soldiers had nailed Him to the cross. Jews called people outside the covenant 'dogs',

17 I may count all my bones...

Every bone in His body cried out against the inhuman devilish agony. Yet to me, one of the saddest sentences which dropped from His lips was,

17 ...they look, they stare upon me.

That Holy Man of God hangs naked before His enemies.

18 They part my garments among them,  
and upon my vesture they do cast lots.

But we do not want to let the physical sufferings rob us of the reality of the Son of God being made sin for us. He died physically--but He died spiritually first. He was there by divine choice and plan. He was actually made to be sin with our sin. He was God's substitute for the human race.

WHAT HAPPENED...  
...WHEN THE VEIL WAS RENT IN TWO?

JOHN 19:30  
30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, IT IS FINISHED: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Just before Jesus yielded up His spirit, He said, "It is finished." Many think He meant that the new covenant was finished. But it wasn't. The new covenant couldn't be finished until...He was raised from the dead...He had entered into the heavenly holy of holies with His own blood to obtain our eternal redemption...and He again ascended on High and sat down at the right hand of the Father where He ever liveth to make intercession for us. Then and only then, could the new covenant be finished.

What then did He mean?

He had finished the work God the Father gave Him to do first. As a Son He had done His Father's will, spoken His Father's Word, and done His Father's works. He had finished His

earth walk as the Son of God.

JOHN 4:32-34

32 ..I have meat to eat that ye know not of. .  
33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him aught to eat?  
34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

How precious Jesus must have been to the Father. He always did that which would make glad the heart of the One who had created the first man in the garden--the man who became humanity's failure.

\* \*

But Jesus had been circumcised into the Abrahamic covenant. He had become a part of Israel. And His work as the son of Abraham was finished. He had fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant. He had kept the Mosaic law.

Now I want you to see this. When Jesus said, "It is finished," something happened in the temple!

MATTHEW 27:50-51 (ASV)

50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.  
51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom...

Jesus predicted this event. In fact, when the high priesthood and the elders brought witnesses against Him before the Sanhedrin, two of them accused Him saying, "This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days" (Matt. 26:61). Little did they realize what Jesus was referring to--and what would actually take place.

You see, the temple was destroyed as the place where Jehovah dwelled when the veil was rent from top to bottom.

Under the old covenant, the Shekinah glory of God dwelled in the holy of holies, curtained off by this veil. No one dared enter that holy place except the high priest--and he only under great precaution with the blood of innocent animals. If anyone else dared intrude, they fell dead instantly.

Josephus, the Jewish historian, tells us this curtain was 40 feet wide, 20 feet high, and 4 inches thick. Notice it was rent in two from top to bottom--not from bottom to top. Evidently, an angel from God, or someone from heaven at least, got hold of it right at the top--20 feet in the air--and ripped it apart!

Just before that happened...just before He gave up the ghost...just before He died...just before the veil of the temple was rent, Jesus uttered those strange words, "It is finished."

The rending of the veil was the rending of the Abrahamic covenant. The Abrahamic covenant

was finished.

The holy of holies was no longer the home of Jehovah. He had moved out of the temple. Jesus had fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant, and the law of the covenant.

The New Testament says, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" (I Cor. 3:16). The new creation is God's temple today. Christ's substitution made the former temple unnecessary. He has become the new High Priest.

When Jesus said, "It is finished," all heaven heard it. A new day was dawning!

We live under a new covenant--thank God--not the old one. Under this new covenant we have a new law, new commandments, and a new sacrifice. The blood of Jesus was sacrificed for the remission of our sins.

How unfortunate to me it is that men try to get under that old covenant today, trying to keep its law, when God has set it aside.

The new covenant has its priesthood, its holy of holies.

#### BUT THE NEW COVENANT HAS...

- \* Redemption--instead of atonement.
- \* Remission--instead of a scapegoat
- \* A New Birth--instead of circumcision
- \* Fellowship with God the Father--in the place of burnt offerings, peace offerings, and meal offerings
- \* The Name of Jesus
- \* The Lord's table--in place of the Passover.
  
- \* We are sons--instead of servants.
- \* We have the law of love--in the place of the law of sin and death.
- \* We have Life--in place of death.
- \* We have Righteousness--rather than condemnation.
- ~~\* When we break the Law of Love, we have an Advocate, Jesus Christ the Righteous--they had judgment, stoning, and death.~~

#### WHAT HAPPENED...

...DURING THOSE THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS?

##### MATTHEW 27:50

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

He has fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant. Now He is to become a substitute for humanity and deal with the sin problem. He is to satisfy the claims of Justice against the human race.

He could not do this with His physical life. If Jesus' physical death paid the penalty of sin, every man could have died for himself.

Sin is in the spiritual realm. It had to be dealt with in the spiritual realm. His physical death was but a means to an end. In dying spiritually, He is bearing the fruit of Adam's sin and becoming a substitution for us. When Jesus died, His spirit was taken by the adversary and carried into the place where the sinner's spirit goes when he dies.

Listen to these remarkable excerpts from the first sermon preached after the resurrection:

##### ACTS 2:23-24, 27, 29-31

23 Him (Jesus) being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it...

27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Peter gave this striking message to the crowd gathered on the day of Pentecost. He spoke by revelation. He told them Jesus was at that moment, while he was preaching to them, seated at the right hand of God. Yet there had been no intimation given in regard to that fact.

He told them Jesus' soul was not left in hell, and that His body did not see corruption in Joseph's tomb.

Keep in mind that Jesus was delivered up because of our trespasses.

Adam's sin gave Satan dominion over him. Adam did not have God's nature--he had perfect human nature. And when he listened to Satan, Satan poured his own nature into Adam's spirit. Man instantly became a liar; a cringing, cowardly being. That nature has been reproduced in the human race down through the ages.

Jesus gives us a picture of what happened to the human race through Adam's transgression.

##### JOHN 8:44

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it.

I want you to see with all clarity that Jesus took upon His own spirit, our sins. When He did, His spirit underwent a change. He was separated from God. That's why He cried, "My God, my god, why hast thou forsaken me?"

**I TIMOTHY 3:16 (ASV)**

16 And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness:  
He who was revealed in the flesh,  
Was vindicated (or justified) in the spirit,  
Beheld by angels,  
Proclaimed among the nations,  
Believed on in the world,  
Taken up in glory.

It was after He was justified in spirit that He became a begotten Son. God raised Jesus up. He was put to death in the flesh--but made alive in spirit. God justified Him in spirit--then made Him alive in spirit.

**I PETER 3:18 (The Amplified Bible)**

18 For Christ, the Messiah, (Himself) died for sins once for all, the Righteous for the unrighteous--the Just for the unjust, the Innocent for the guilty--that He might bring us to God. In His human body He was put to death but He was made alive in the spirit....

I want you to see this remarkable fact: Jesus was born-again BEFORE He was raised from the dead!

**ACTS 13:29-34**

29 And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.  
30 But God raised him from the dead:  
31 And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.  
32 And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,  
33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.  
34 And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

This passage tells us that the prophetic statement from the second Psalm, "This day have I begotten thee," was fulfilled when Christ was raised from the dead.

Colossians 2:15 gives a description of a battle which took place in hell before Jesus arose from the dead. In Luke we are told that He went into the strong man's house and bound him. Jesus, after He had been justified and made alive in spirit, became Satan's master!

**COLOSSIANS 2:15**

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

The marginal rendering is more graphic, "Having put off from Himself the principalities and the powers..." It would seem the entire hosts of hell were upon Him. He was going through agonies beyond words--when suddenly--He is justified, made alive, and He hurls back the hosts of darkness!

**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;

He put to naught the hosts of darkness. He paralyzed their death-dealing power. So when He met John He said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:18). He conquered Satan! He stripped him of his authority! (Keys represent authority.) Jesus was the master of all hell!

Now Jesus didn't conquer Satan for Himself. He conquered Satan for us. It is as though you and I personally met Satan and conquered him, stripped him of his authority, and stood a master over him.

Now we can see why Jesus gave us the power of attorney to use His name. "In my name ye shall cast out demons,...ye shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover...."

**MATTHEW 28:18-19**

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.  
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

**WHAT HAPPENED AT THE RESURRECTION?**

When the women came to the sepulchre that morning, they found it empty! The angel of the Lord was there and said to them, "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: FOR HE IS RISEN, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay" (Matt. 28:5-6).

The Lord!...He died as Jesus the lamb...He arose as the Lord High Priest!

The Lord Jesus had paid the penalty of humanity's transgressions, having been made sin, and had been justified. God the Father said to Him, "This day have I begotten thee." He'd been made alive in spirit--the first born from the dead!

The resurrection of Jesus was the greatest event which ever took place--either in the realm of human reasoning, the sense realm, or the spirit realm. Why? Because Satan was defeated!

The Head of the new creation is the victor--and the example for all members of the Body of Christ. They are to be overcomers--masters of circumstances, and of all demon forces.

When Mary Magdalene met Christ outside the sepulchre, He said to her, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" (John 20:17).

Remember His last cry from the cross had been, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" But now He has met the demands of Justice. And as He speaks to Mary about ascending to His Father, He is about to take His own blood as the High Priest into the heavenly holy of holies to make the eternal redemption!

The resurrection of Jesus let Love loose! It enabled God to give Eternal Life, a perfect redemption, a perfect freedom, to Satan enslaved man. It made Jesus the Head of a new creation. It made this new creation man a newly created being in the class with God.

### WHAT DOES THE RESURRECTION MEAN TO US TODAY?

"Well," someone might answer, "it means our physical bodies will be raised one day."

Thank God, it does mean that. It guarantees that our physical bodies will be resurrected also.

But, there's a spiritual application, a spiritual something, which belongs to us right now. **WE HAVE ALREADY BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD SPIRITUALLY!!!**

#### EPHESIANS 2:1-5

- 1 And you hath he quickened (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins;
- 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:
- 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
- 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,
- 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

'Quickened' means 'made alive.' "He hath quickened us together," means, "He has made us alive together with Christ." When Christ was made alive in spirit down there in hell, that's when we were made alive. He was our substitute. He did it for us. The spiritual resurrection has already taken place in us. We have become new creatures in Christ Jesus!

#### EPHESIANS 2:6

- 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

God has raised us up together with Christ! When Christ was raised, in the mind of God the Father, we were raised! And He has made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ!

That's where we are positionally right now--seated together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Keep this in mind as you read the unusual prayer Paul prays for the church at Ephesus. And, because this prayer is given by the Spirit, it is also for us. Paul prays...

#### EPHESIANS 1:17-23

- 17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:
- 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
- 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
- 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
- 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
- 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,
- 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

You see, we are the body of Christ--He is the Head. The feet are in the body. He has put all things under His feet--under our feet.

The resurrection not only means to us that our bodies will be resurrected some day--but that NOW we have been raised from the spiritually dead...NOW we have been raised together with Him...NOW we are seated at the right hand of the Father with Him--above all principality and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world but in the world which is to come. He has put all things under His feet (our feet) and gave Him to be the Head over all things.

So, instead of circumstances dominating us--we should be dominating circumstances. Instead of the devil dominating us--we should dominate him.

#### ROMANS 5:17

- 17 For if by one man's offence (Adam's offence) death (spiritual death, or the devil) reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

One translation reads, "Shall reign as kings in life..."

We can do that because of His resurrection!

