

The Purpose of the Cross

[The commentary on this video must be read in conjunction with the video.]

Discussed in this video :

The complete fulfilment of the Law by Jesus/Yeshua on the Cross (the tsitsit symbolism).

Is it necessary for us Christians to wear this undergarment today?

What was the purpose of the crucifixion of Jesus/Yeshua?

Why did He say that He was going to re-erect the Temple in three days?

Commentary:

Jesus had faith in His Father to resurrect him, to raise Him from the dead. And this is presumably what He meant with his statement : "... within three days I will raise it up." Without faith we cannot please God and Jesus clearly showed His dependence on His Father to bring Him back to life after His crucifixion (which He knew He was to undergo) - see Heb. 5.7.

Kindly note : The People of the land (Ha'am Ha'retz) meaning those following Jesus at the time and on average meaning the poor, the needy (the general population who worked hard for their living).

Now, the issue at stake here, is that within three days, i.e. after His crucifixion, Jesus/Yeshua was resurrected by God the Father. He was raised in a glorified body, yet His body was uncorrupted by death (Peter, Acts 2.31). He is indeed that everlasting, risen Temple, all the Temple symbolism finding expression in Him!

The purpose of the Cross can be summarized as follows:

Jesus came into the world to save sinners (Paul, 1 Tim. 1.15) - we all put Jesus then on the Cross.

Jesus came to fulfil the law (Math. 5.17) - Jesus therefore did not come to break or nullify the law but to fulfil it.

Now, how did He do it and why? He was born to take the full law (the Torah prescriptions) upon Himself in order to work full redemption on the Cross for all mankind, instituting the "New" and "Better" Covenant (Paul). He was also, as the one brought forth by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary, namely that vessel God had prepared for His Son, the only one who could ever have satisfied the strict prescriptions of the Law, both spiritually and morally.

For this cause He was, ironically, sent to the Cross - and clearly to complete the implicit statement the Angel of the Covenant had made to Abraham when he was about to sacrifice his son, Isaac. It is of course that very same "Son of God", appearing to Abraham, who came in the fullness of times (Gal. 4) in the flesh to bring the perfect sacrifice for both Jew and Gentile, working redemption/salvation on the Cross - something that could not be attained under the Old Covenant introduced and maintained by the recurrent animal sacrifices.

What would have happened had Jesus/Yeshua not die on the Cross?

Had Jesus then not come to fulfil the law, - to satisfy the law and all its demands - conforming to all the prescriptions thereof, salvation (deliverance from the clutches of satan) would never have included the Gentiles. And the animal sacrifices, strictly speaking and in accordance with the Mosaic Law, would still have gone on as without a blood atonement there can be no remission of sin. The soul is in the blood (Leviticus) and therefore sin demanded a life for a life.

In and through Jesus/Yeshua, the forgiveness and cleansing of sin, was "optimized". Jesus' blood sacrifice on Calvary then indeed brought full redemption to the world (=optimum salvation/deliverance, purification of the flesh, namely the carnal mind and spirit within natural man causing him to live in the bondage of disobedience and a sinful lifestyle).

What Jesus/Yeshua then accomplished on the Cross was, compared to the recurrent animal sacrifices, indeed wrought by far in a better way, i.e. in a divine righteous way, also implanting within man, via the Holy Spirit, reconciliation between man and the living God. His sacrificial blood atoned for our sins and so that we can now approach the Throne with a clear conscience, full knowing that our debt was paid in full by one wholesome, Holy Spirit drenched sacrifice (Heb. 9.14). Remember Jesus/Yeshua's full anointing with the Holy Spirit and therefore His blood could completely atone for us.

The Cross therefore unshackled us from unbelief and disobedience as now we know (our conscience was awakened and brought into submission to God Most High) how to please God. Those boasting in the Cross but who are proceeding in sin and a sinful lifestyle, defying God's clear instructions to "repent and live" crucify Jesus again and again and they cut themselves off from Jesus ultimate act of grace on Calvary (Heb. 6). Those who have truly been blood-washed will not live forever (!) in sin (1 Jn 1) but their conscience will bring them back to full and complete repentance.

Jesus/Yeshua fulfilled the Law completely on the Cross:

When Jesus/Yeshua died on the Cross, handing his spirit over to his Father in death, he rightly announced: "It is finished!" All the conditions were then met by Him as God's sacrificial lamb (Ps. 40.8/Heb. 7.25). He is now reigning as God the Father's chosen eternal High Priest interceding for His followers (Paul, Letter to the Hebrews).

Within His sacrificed body on the Cross, Jesus then bound together all that was necessary to unleash God's optimum blessings upon those who believe. No more was anybody ever again to stand under the curse of the Law, i.e. condemnation (this is clear from Paul's letter to the Galatians). The Law of Moses required obedience to the utmost and therefore resulting in all the excessive rabbinical additions to the Law, i.e. in conformance thereto - else the much feared curses (juxtaposed with the blessings - Deut 28) would indeed have come into play.

Jesus/Yeshua then died on the Cross to create within the heart of mankind (our conscience and innermost being), through the Power of the Holy Spirit promised to us on Pentecost Day (Acts 2.38-39), the assurance of a living, life-changing faith in one Almighty God and in His Son Jesus the Christ (Yeshua HaMaschiach).

When Jesus hung on that Cross, He brought the one and only everlasting blood sacrifice on mankind's behalf and so that "whosoever will believe in Him, will have everlasting life" (Jn 3.16). And when He hung on that Cross, and in utmost agony, He radiated the glory of God, raising a new spiritual Temple to the glory of God His Father (Isa 53). Jesus indeed portrayed the paradox of life in death on the Cross and this, in a nutshell, summarizes the purpose of His coming in the flesh.

The Cross symbolizes the four-cornered sacrificial altar

On the Cross serving as the four-cornered altar, Jesus/Yeshua was bound (nailed fourfold to the corners of the Cross) and therefore He became the full reflection/embodiment of all the temple vessels and prescriptions of the Law, especially projecting the everlasting High Priestly office, and therefore He is now sitting in the heavens, at the Father's right hand, exercising His bestowed divinity (Math. 28.18) - acting now as our High Priest/Advocate in the heavens (Heb. 4). He is the "first to rise from the dead" (Paul) and He is also the only one who has ascended on High! (All others who are portrayed as such, i.e. to also have ascended this selfsame way, are counterfeit rulers!)*

Temples of the Living God

This is why we, His followers, believers in Jesus the Christ/Yeshua HaMaschiach, must also shine as temples of God's Spirit whilst exercising our faith in Him here below, awaiting the day of His coming (1 Thes. 4.13+, especially guarding our faith and ministries, serving one another in the spirit of Christ/Messiah, and like a faithful priesthood of old, in awe and deep reverence for our God and His Son, our Saviour Jesus the Christ (1 Pet. 1 & 2; 1 Cor. 3.9+).

God the Father glorified Jesus/Yeshua's crucifixion

Jesus/Yeshua's resurrection was indeed ratified/acknowledged by God the Father, namely on Pentecost Day and when there was a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit as had never happened before - something which is also unique to Christianity - and when the 120 who participated in this supernatural event spoke in languages they had not even learned. And apart from this extraordinary experience, a new water baptism was introduced in the Name of Jesus/Yeshua proving that Salvation was in His Name (Acts 2; 1 Cor. 6.11; Acts 4.12)]

Flesh and blood cannot enter heaven

*Flesh and blood cannot enter the heavens. This is clear from especially the Pauline doctrine. Jesus/Yeshua was therefore not born (conceived in the flesh) by the blood or the will of man (Joseph was not His biological father then and Mary was also just the vessel who carried the unborn child) but His coming in the flesh was from God Most High (Jn 1.13).

In His glorified body Jesus/Yeshua ascended on High.

Should you have problems with this type of stance I am adopting, then consult Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (9.11) quoted from CEV, 1996: "Christ came as the high priest of the good things that are now here. He also went into a much better tent that wasn't made by humans and that doesn't belong to this world" (the tent or tabernacle symbolizing here his body God had prepared in the virgin Mary, and which corresponds with 1 Jn 4 - the Son putting on flesh - and being clothed with a body not brought forth the usual way, i.e. as natural man is conceived via the sexual drive).

Heb. 9.12: "Then (after He had accomplished His purpose here below) Christ (Messiah) went once for all into the most holy place (He ascended on High and is now sitting in glory in God's abode, namely the highest heavens) and freed us from being forever gripped in sin and disobedience.

We are washed in the blood of Jesus/Yeshua (1 Jn 1.5-7)

Jesus/Yeshua enabled us, through His death on the Cross, to be washed in everlasting blood, i.e. from our natural, innermost urge/desire to hand ourselves continually over to sin and a sinful lifestyle. Just as the priesthood had to wash themselves in the washbasin in the forecourt, likewise you and I are washed in the blood of Jesus/Yeshua. This is the regeneration (spiritual) bath.

Christ/Maschiach set us free from the bondage of fear and guilt

The Law reminded the people of Israel of their trespasses and therefore they were always confronted with their sins. He, Jesus the Christ/Yeshua HaMaschiach therefore died so that we could be set free from this imposed bondage of fear and guilt and IF we believe, we can go directly to Him as our Mediator, claiming victory over sin and death - sin culminating in death - and so that we can serve God with a clear conscience.

We have been set free through the Grace of God

We have then been set free by the grace of God, not to live in sin as though we will be naturally forgiven every time we lapse into sin again, but to overcome sin with the help of Jesus, our 24/7 Advocate in the heavens - the Holy Spirit resting upon Jesus and therefore He alone is interceding for us, a viewpoint that gels well with Paul's Letter to the Romans (Isa 53; Isa 9.6; Jn 3.16; 1 Tim. 1.15; Heb. 4; 1 Tim. 2.5; Acts 2.33).

God's Holy Spirit Power enables us to indeed acquire renewal of our minds, however, always going through the sacrificial blood of Jesus for sinful man cannot approach God without the necessary blood atonement).

Jesus/Yeshua had to present Himself in His resurrected body carrying the marks of the wounds in His hands, i.e. before God the Father in the heavens, before His disciples could be united to Him by the Power of His Spirit (Acts 1.8; Act 2).

Although Christ Jesus/Yeshua HaMaschiach first and foremost had to bring the blood sacrifice in His own consecrated body on the Cross, He also had to ascend on High appearing before the Throne of God, His Father, i.e. in His resurrected, glorified body carrying the marks of redemption/reconciliation between God and mankind (Paul in his Letter to the Hebrews). Then only could the Spirit of God be bestowed upon the blood-washed.

Jesus/Yeshua's blood was not the blood of ordinary mankind

Jesus/Yeshua could then indeed ascend in that risen body as His blood was not of man - He was not brought forth the usual way as His body was fully brought forth/created by God in the virgin Mary as God's holy, kadosh, tabernacle. Christ was therefore not born, like man, in sin - that is as seed of Adam having then lived by the natural Adamic principles and nature (see Job 14.1-4) but He was indeed, i.e. according to Paul, of the seed of Abraham (Father of faith! - we must in other words grasp the "incarnation" in faith!)

Jesus is the Pauline "Adam from heaven"

Jesus/Yeshua was then indeed the "Adam from above" (Paul) - "Adam" = "man" but in the Pauline directive meaning coming from above. The apostle also, and for a definite reason, speaks in his letters of the "fullness/the full stature of the man in Christ". And this is the crux of Jesus' coming in the flesh and which is something traditional thought is so bent on sidestepping/distorting - and naturally done due to misinterpretation of the Scriptures.

The aforementioned (the Adam from heaven who came to earth to dwell among man) reminds us of the Angel (Messenger or Malach) of the Covenant who descended, appearing above the mercy seat on Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) and when the High Priest, once in a year, entered the Holy of Holies with the sacrificial blood atoning for himself and for his people - only Christ did not have to atone for Himself as He was sinless (Heb. 4).

For greater clarity on the Angel of God (malakh) consult Num. 7.89; Ex. 25.21-22; 1 Sam. 4.4; 2 Sam. 6.2 (the Lord of Hosts = the El Sar, the Captain of the Armies of God, see Josh. 5.13-15); 2 Kings 19.15, the One who is enthroned above the cherubim (keruvim in Hebrew) is that very same One who revealed His Name to Moses (Ex. 3; see also Isa. 63.12) and this ineffable Name rested upon the Ark of the Covenant - the two cherubim displayed on the Ark of the Covenant (Ps. 80.2; Isa 37.16).

Jesus/Yeshua projected as the God of Israel in ancient days and who came to His own (Jn 1; Phil. 2)

He is indeed the God of Israel and we must see His angelic appearances always as God the Father (the unapproachable Most High God) in and through His Son just as Jesus rightly explained his relationship with His Father to Thomas (Jn 14). Ex. 23.21-23; Ex. 30.6; Lev. 16; Isa. 63.9; for the Holy Spirit and the Angel of the Covenant (the great Malach or El Sar) see Isa. 63.7-9.

The Great Deliverer of Israel. Who is He?

The great Deliverer of Israel = The Angel of Presence (Presence symbolizes the Holy Spirit - see Isa. 63.11). He is the very same One who descended among ancient Israel, appearing to the prophets and bringing God's counsel in the hearing of the people; therefore Jesus/Yeshua is called (Isa 9.5) amongst others Councillor (see Isa 63.3 and compare this text with the Pauline message, namely that He who descended (Old Testament period) is the same as He who ascended on High (after Jesus/Yeshua's resurrection - see Acts 1). "Yeshua" means deliverance and with this in mind we should be able to see that Jesus/Yeshua who came in the flesh was indeed the Great Deliverer/Warrior of ancient Israel (the El Sar).

Christ's body was not like man of this creation

Just to substantiate what I have said, I'd like to also quote from The New Testament in Hebrew and English, Second Ed. 1993 : (Heb. 9.11): "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

Now, the Afrikaans translation, Die Bybel in Afrikaans, 4th Ed, 1957 (first ed, 1933) would give the translation as follows (my own translation): " not belonging/pertaining to this creation (in other words, confirming that Christ's body was not, like natural man's indeed is, of this creation - His conception was indeed immaculate going then far beyond the rules of natural procreation, i.e. via the sexual bond between man and woman).

The sinless Jesus/Yeshua (Heb. 4)

And therefore Christ's body was resurrected by God the Father (keep in mind Peter's explication of the resurrected Jesus/Yeshua and should we then approach this whole issue objectively and Biblically, we will be able to understand why the sinless Jesus/Yeshua could indeed have ascended on High, appearing before God the Father in that very same body carrying the marks of the nails in His hands and feet as proof of His atonement wrought for us on the Cross, yet only now glorified and no more to be subjected to rejection, pain, suffering even death but everlasting, also clothed with divinity and omnipotence, omniscience, immortality, etcetera (Math. 28.18; Rev. 1.8).

Should we approach this specific "technicality" in exegesis the proper way, we will be able to reject the false cultic idea that Jesus never rose from the grave in bodily form and that His body had vanished after His resurrection. Such doctrines (corresponding with the doctrines of the Jehovah's witnesses) are fallacious and should be rejected.

Jesus/Yeshua came to work salvation, breaking the power of sin over us

Kindly note that Christ came to deliver us from the bondage of sin, i.e. the POWER of sin and death over us. He renewed our minds through His redemptive work on the Cross (this is Pauline doctrine through and through). Jesus/Yeshua therefore had to die on the Cross in order to fulfil the Mosaic Law and so that He could introduce the New and Better Covenant as Paul rightly states in his Letter to the Hebrews.

Those interested to pursue the coming in the flesh of Jesus/Yeshua may consult my article (On the Divinity of Jesus) on this website.

Ester Blomerus

www.housealtarnetwork.com

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