



The Book of Luke 2Q 2015 Lesson 13 Crucified and Risen

SABBATH

When you think of the Crucifixion and Resurrection – what comes to mind?

Do you understand any of it? Why did Christ have to die? What was accomplished?

Just this morning I received an email with a link to a blog by Brian Zahnd regarding the Cross:

Jesus Died for Us...Not for God

<http://brianzahnd.com/2015/04/jesus-died-us-god/>

Brian Zahnd

“You killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead.” –The Apostle Peter, Acts 3:15

Golgotha is where the great crimes of humanity — pride, rivalry, blame, violence, domination, war, and empire — are dragged into the searing light of divine judgment. At Golgotha we see the system of human organization that we blithely call “civilization” for what it is: an axis of power enforced by violence so corrupt that it is capable of murdering God in the name of what we call truth, justice, and liberty.

Golgotha is also the place where the love of God achieves its greatest expression. As Jesus is lynched in the name of religious truth and imperial justice he expresses the heart of God as he pleads for the pardon of his executioners. At the cross we discover that the God revealed in Christ would rather die in the name of love than kill in the name of freedom. Our savior is Jesus Christ, not William Wallace.

The cross is both hideous and glorious, simultaneously ugly and beautiful. It’s as hideous as human sin and as glorious as divine love. It is a collision of sin and grace. But it is not a contest of equals. In the end love and beauty win. We call it Easter.

What the cross is not is a quid pro quo where God agrees to forgive upon receipt of his Son’s murder. What the cross is not is an economic transaction whereby God gains the capital to forgive. These legal and fiscal models for understanding the cross simply will not do.

Jesus does not save us from God, Jesus reveals God as savior. What is revealed on Good Friday is not a monstrous deity requiring a virgin to be thrown into a volcano or a firstborn son to be nailed to a tree. What is revealed on Good Friday is the depths of human depravity and the greater depths of God’s love.

Before the cross is anything else, it is a catastrophe. It is the unjust and violent lynching of an innocent man. It is the murder of God. Jesus is sacrificed by the Father only in this sense: The Father sent his Son into our system of violent power (civilization) to reveal how utterly sinful it is — so sinful that it will murder the Innocent One. God did not will the murder of his Son, he simply knew it would occur. But even Plato knew that. In imagining what would happen to a perfectly just man in our unjust world, Plato said, “our just man will be scourged, racked, fettered...and at last, after all manner of suffering, will be crucified.” (The Republic, Book II, p. 37) Plato wrote



that three centuries before Christ. God knew what Plato knew. For Jesus to proclaim and inaugurate the kingdom of God in the midst of our unjust and violent world would require a supreme sacrifice.

The death of Jesus was a sacrifice. But it was a sacrifice to end sacrificing, not a sacrifice to appease an angry god. It was not God who required the sacrifice of Jesus, it was human civilization. A system built upon violent power cannot tolerate the presence of one who owes it nothing. The sacrifice of Jesus was necessary to convince us to quit producing sacrificial victims; it was not necessary to convince God to forgive. When Jesus prays for forgiveness on the cross he was not acting contrary to the nature of God, he was revealing the nature of God as forgiving love.

Think of it this way: Where do we find God on Good Friday? Is God found in Caiaphas seeking a sacrificial scapegoat? Is God found in Pilate requiring a punitive execution? Or is God found in Jesus, absorbing sin and responding with forgiveness?

The Apostle Paul says God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. (2 Corinthians 5:19) And this should not be misread as God reconciling himself to the world...as some mistaken atonement theories do! Jesus died for us...not for God.

The crucifixion is not what God inflicts upon Jesus in order to forgive, the crucifixion is what God in Christ endures as he forgives. The cross is where God absorbs sin and recycles it into forgiveness.

The crucifixion is not the ultimate attempt to change God's mind about us — the cross is the ultimate attempt to change our mind about God. God is not like Caiaphas seeking a sacrifice. God is not like Pilate requiring an execution. God is like Jesus, absorbing sin and forgiving sinners.

The cross is not about payment, the cross is about forgiveness.

Good Friday is not about divine wrath, Good Friday is about divine love.

Calvary is not where we see how just God is, Calvary is where we see how unjust civilization is.

As long as we think Jesus died for God instead of dying for us, we will never see the sinfulness of human civilization and the beauty of the divine alternative: the kingdom of God.

The justice of God is not retributive justice. In the end retributive justice changes nothing. The justice of God is entirely restorative. The only thing God will call justice is setting the world right, not punishing the innocent. (Our sense of retributive justice is derived from the fact that we are more punished by our sins than for our sins.)

The bottom line is this: God did not kill Jesus, human civilization did. We did. Jesus absorbed the blow in love and forgave us. The Father vindicated his Son on Easter. Now Jesus calls us to follow him into the kingdom of grace, the kingdom of love, the kingdom of God.

Let us follow the Lamb.

BZ

Read first paragraph, "From childhood..." What was the Father's will for Jesus?

- "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" 2Cor 5:19



Does this text give any indication of what God's will was for Jesus?

- "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do... I have revealed you..." John 17:4,6

Does this text give any indication of what was necessary in order to achieve that reconciliation? Why was this necessary? Why is this the determining factor?

Is anything else necessary in order to reconcile use to God besides revealing God, which destroys lies and wins us to trust?

Yes, a new nature – thus Jesus became the second Adam and developed a perfect humanity by the exercise of His human brain.

Read the second paragraph, "Throughout..."

How do you understand the "must"? Why "must" Jesus do this? Did Jesus not have an option? He did. Jesus was not required to this for some need of His own, or because He was robotic in some way and was preprogrammed to carry out certain actions. Here is a quote from the book *The Desire of Ages*:

The grain of wheat that preserves its own life can produce no fruit. It abides alone. **Christ could, if He chose, save Himself from death. But should He do this, He must abide alone.** He could bring no sons and daughters to God. Only by yielding up His life could He impart life to humanity. Only by falling into the ground to die could He become the seed of that vast harvest,--the great multitude that out of every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, are redeemed to God. {DA 623.4}

He had freedom and He could choose not to do these things, but such a choice had consequences.

So, it should be: IF, then He must, and the IF is IF He wants to rid the universe of sin, refute the lies of Satan, redeem and heal humanity then He must. Why? Why could He not save Himself and us?

Because that is how reality works. God is love, God wants His intelligent creatures to love and trust Him and operate in harmony with His character of love. Love cannot be programmed like a computer, it requires real freedom, further love cannot be obtained by force, deceit, threat, or punishment. Therefore, the only means to fix this creation and to restore the universe to love was for Christ to become part of this creation and actually live perfectly, love perfectly, as a member of this species and ultimately refuse at all costs, including the cost of His own life, to act in self interests, thus destroying the infection of fear and selfishness and establishing a new and perfected humanity.



SUNDAY

As we review the record of Jesus' experience in Gethsemane, what do we learn?

- Did Jesus struggle in Gethsemane?
- What was the source of His trial, pain, suffering?
- Was God inflicting it upon Him?
- Did He experience human emotions?
- What impact did his human emotions have upon him? In what directions did they pull Jesus? Was Jesus tempted by His own human emotions?
 - Heb 4:15 and James 1:14 would support that He was
- Why did an angel come to Jesus?
- What did the angel do for Jesus?
- What would have happened had the angel not strengthened Jesus?
- What does this mean? What do we learn?
- Why does death happen?
- What is the source of life? God, what does sin do? Separates us from God—the source of life—and results in death.
- Jesus, “who knew no sin became sin for us so that we might become the righteousness of God.” In Gethsemane, Jesus experienced what unremedied sin results in, and felt the unity with His Father disintegrating, and He fell down dying.
- Did God lay a hand on Jesus in Gethsemane or at the Cross?
- Was Jesus helpless, or could He have at any time stopped what was happening and return to heaven? What does it mean that He didn't?

Here is a historical quote from a founder of the SDA church:

To the heart of Christ it was a bitter task to press His way against the fears, disappointment, and unbelief of His beloved disciples. It was hard to lead them forward to the anguish and despair that awaited them at Jerusalem. And Satan was at hand to press his temptations upon the Son of man. Why should He now go to Jerusalem, to certain death? All around Him were souls hungering for the bread of life. On every hand were suffering ones waiting for His word of healing. The work to be wrought by the gospel of His grace was but just begun. And He was full of the vigor of manhood's prime. Why not go forward to the vast fields of the world with the words of His grace, the touch of His healing power? Why not take to Himself the joy of giving light and gladness to those darkened and sorrowing millions? Why leave the harvest gathering to His disciples, so weak in faith, so dull of understanding, so slow to act? Why face death now, and leave the work in its infancy? The foe who in the wilderness had confronted Christ assailed Him now with fierce and subtle temptations. **Had Jesus yielded for a moment, had He changed His course in the least particular to save Himself, Satan's agencies would have triumphed, and the world would have been lost.**



{DA 486.1}

Agree or disagree? Why?

MONDAY

Top of the page, “Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve.” (Luke 22:3)

And what happened after “Satan entered Judas”?

- Did Judas levitate?
- Did Judas begin having objects float around the room?
- Did Judas talk in a weird voice?
- Did Judas begin frothing at the mouth?
- Did Judas go into hysterics?

What did Judas do? He acted selfishly, deceitfully, evilly! He rejected truth. He rejected love. He betrayed the one he claimed to love and serve. He joined with the religious institution of his day, used coercive power and took away Jesus’ freedom.

The point—does having Satan enter a person mean that person will necessarily manifest supernatural signs and wonders?

TUESDAY

Read first two paragraphs, “For all else...” Do people have a choice in whether they accept the God Jesus revealed at the Cross or reject Him? And if a person judges Jesus to be a fraud and rejects the God of love preferring a god of coercive power, what is the result?

What if a person accepts Jesus, but misinterprets the entire meaning through the lens of imperial law, and thus believes God was executing Jesus at the cross?

Here is another quote from *The Desire of Ages*:

At the cross of Calvary, love and selfishness stood face to face. Here was their crowning manifestation. Christ had lived only to comfort and bless, and in putting Him to death, Satan manifested the malignity of his hatred against God. He made it evident that the real purpose of his rebellion was to dethrone God, and to destroy Him through whom the love of God was shown. {DA 57.2}

By the life and the death of Christ, the thoughts of men also are brought to view. From the manger to the cross, the life of Jesus was a call to self-surrender, and to fellowship in suffering. It unveiled the purposes of men. Jesus came with the truth of heaven, and all who



were listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit were drawn to Him. The worshipers of self belonged to Satan's kingdom. **In their attitude toward Christ, all would show on which side they stood. And thus everyone passes judgment on himself.** {DA 57.3}

In the day of final judgment, every lost soul will understand the nature of his own rejection of truth. The cross will be presented, and its real bearing will be seen by every mind that has been blinded by transgression. Before the vision of Calvary with its mysterious Victim, sinners will stand condemned. Every lying excuse will be swept away. Human apostasy will appear in its heinous character. **Men will see what their choice has been.** Every question of truth and error in the long-standing controversy will then have been made plain. **In the judgment of the universe, God will stand clear of blame for the existence or continuance of evil. It will be demonstrated that the divine decrees are not accessory to sin. There was no defect in God's government, no cause for disaffection.** When the thoughts of all hearts shall be revealed, both the loyal and the rebellious will unite in declaring, "Just and true are Thy ways, Thou King of saints. Who shall not fear Thee, O Lord, and glorify Thy name? . . . for Thy judgments are made manifest." Revelation 15:3, 4. {DA 58.1}

Do we believe that a person, by how they judge God, actually passes judgment upon themselves?

But is it in the verbal acknowledgement and profession of faith that one passes their judgment? In other words, is it by taking a public stand, being baptized, and proclaiming with one's mouth that they believe in Jesus? Or is it by loving and trusting God with one's entire being, which may result in taking that public stand...?

Can a person state publicly that they don't believe in Jesus but still be saved?

Would it depend on who they understand Jesus to be? If they have been presented with a Jesus from the Crusades, and they reject a god who would slaughter people who believe differently, does that mean they have rejected the true Christ?

Didn't Jesus say many false messiah's would go out into the world?

So, what is it we must make a judgment about? Who God is, and then whether we love and trust this God. It is not enough to believe in God, the devils believe in God and it terrifies them, why? Because while they believe He is real, they also believe lies about His character. We must do more than believe IN God, we must actually "know" Him for who He is as revealed in Christ, then we also love and trust Him!

In C.S. Lewis' last book of the Narnia series Lewis describes a Calormene soldier named Emeth and his encounter with Aslan the lion. Emeth was a worshipper of Tash, and as a result was terrified when he came face to face with Aslan. This is that encounter from the book:



I fell at his feet and thought surely this is the hour of death, for the Lion will know that I have served Tash all my days and not him.

But Aslan's response?

Son thou art welcome. But I said, alas Lord I am no son of thine but the servant of Tash. He answered, Child all the service thou hast done to Tash I account as service done to me.

I questioned the Glorious One: Lord, is it then true that thou and Tash are one? The Lion growled and said, It is false. Not because he and I are one, but because we are opposites, I take to me the services which thou hast done to him. For I and he are of such different kinds that no service which is vile can be done to me, and none which is not vile can be done to him. Therefore if any man swear by Tash and keep his oath for the oath's sake, it is by me that he has truly sworn, though he know it not, and it is I who reward him. And if any man do a cruelty in my name, then, though he says the name Aslan, it is Tash whom he serves and by Tash his deed is accepted".

Emeth questions once more:

Lord, I have been seeking Tash all my days.

Beloved, said the Glorious One, unless thy desire had been for me thou shouldst not have sought so long and so truly. For all find what they truly seek.

So is how one responds to Christ the dividing line? Absolutely, but it divides on how one responds to the character and methods of Christ, not the idea of Christ. Does one value love, truth and freedom, believe God is like Jesus and surrender in trust to Him? OR does one value power, force and legal justice and thus believe in a authoritarian god who will torture and kill those who refuse him?

WEDNESDAY

The Resurrection – the lesson asks, “Why is the resurrection of Jesus so pivotal in apostolic preaching and in the faith of the early church?”

Paul says in 1Cor 15:14: “If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.”

If Christ has not risen again, then God is not the source of life, Christ didn't procure remedy, and our belief is a fraud.

In considering the resurrection, I wanted to share 2Cor 5:1-10 from *The Remedy*:



¹Now we know this earthly body is like a tent or hospital gown that wears out easily and leaves us exposed. And if this earthly body, our individuality currently occupies, is destroyed, we have an eternal body that will never wear out, a heavenly dwelling place for our individuality not built by human hands.²Meanwhile, the older we get, the more we groan, longing to be free of this deteriorating body and clothed in our perfect heavenly body,³ because when we have exchanged this mortal body for our heavenly one, we will not be found sick, dying and exposed.⁴For while we are in this collapsing tent, we groan with the burden of aging and slow decay. We don't want to die to be rid of this worn-out body, but to be translated directly into our heavenly body so that this mortal may be swallowed up by eternal life.⁵Now God's intention for us has never changed. He created us to live eternally and has given us the Spirit to heal our minds as the first phase of our restoration, guaranteeing our future complete recreation.

⁶We certainly know that as long as this frail body is our home, we remain away from the Lord⁷but we live by trusting God with how things will turn out, not by waiting to see the future restoration.⁸Therefore, we are confident while in the mortal body, even though we prefer to be translated into our heavenly body and be at home with the Lord.⁹Our goal is to please him by living in harmony with his design for life, whether we are in this mortal body or our heavenly one¹⁰for we will all appear in Christ's examining room so that each one may be accurately diagnosed and receive what his or her condition warrants, whether from compliance or non-compliance with God's treatment plan.

THURSDAY

After His resurrection Jesus used several methods for communicating this truth to His followers. What methods of communication were used?

- Road to Emmaus – Jesus took them through Scripture showing how all the prophecies were fulfilled in His life
- The angel proclaimed it to the women at the tomb
- The women proclaimed it to the disciples
- Jesus appeared to the followers, Mary, Emmaus, upper room
- Jesus ate fish – why?
- Jesus told Thomas to put his hands in Christ's side why?

Why is it important to include all three evidentiary threads, Scripture, science and experience?

Because any one by itself can be twisted, manipulated, misunderstood.

- Scripture alone is used to teach many things that contradict reality
- Experience alone can be unreliable,
 - consider someone giving false testimony, but they are very sincere and believable,
 - or consider magicians how they can make something seem to be real, but it isn't



- Science alone, often has only partial evidence

FRIDAY

Read top paragraph, “The significance...” thoughts? Did angels need the cross?

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or **things in heaven**. Col 1:19,20

For it seems to me that God has put us apostles on display at the end of the procession, like those condemned to die in the arena. We have been made a spectacle to the whole universe, **to angels** as well as to human beings. 1Cor 4:9

It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven-- **things into which angels long to look**. 1Pet 1:12

Read question 1 – What do you think of their idea of faith? What is our faith in, the things we can't see or understand, like eternal life, mansions in heaven, resurrection – or is our faith in God? And has Jesus come to reveal God to us so we can see and understand Him?



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Remedy – Dr. Jennings’ New Testament Paraphrase is now available on our website, BOTH the Android and Apple Version is not Available! First update for Apple Version now available – most glitches fixed, but if not let me know.

- This is a **FREE** app
- Please read the preface to understand the approach to this paraphrase
- We have cards available to share with others and will ship them at no cost
- Also, if you find typos please email those to us so we can fix any missed typos

CARDS – If you have any of our ministry business cards please check to see if they have our current address: PO Box 28266 Chattanooga, TN 37424. If they are the old ones please discard them. We will be happy to send new ones, just email us. Thanks!

Prayer Request:

Please Pray God will bless our efforts to share this beautiful message about Him at The General Conference of SDA in San Antonio Texas, July 1-12, 2015. Our booth is A481 and we are giving away DVDs and books. Pray God will make this an amazing event for the advancement of the truth about Him!

The Journal of the Watcher:

The Journal of the Watcher is an illustrated ebook available

For ANDROID in the APP

For APPLE in the iBooks store and in the APP Store – your choice slightly different controls and features.

We are also having it rendered as a “movie” for itunes, for all those people who don’t have smart devices or Apple computers. Will let you know when it is available in itunes.

Come and Reason Ministries FREE APP is now available for ios and android. The app allows access to our materials on your smart phones and tablets. Please download the app! **Be sure and type in Come and Reason Ministries** and search in your app store as another unofficial app with our logo is out there.

Distribution: Our materials now are available in South Africa. To request materials in South Africa email comeandreason.sa@gmail.com Thanks to Samuel Jacobs who manages distribution for us.

And in Australia email australia@comeandreason.com and Thanks to Simon Harrison who manages our ministry down under.

June 20, 2015: JFEST, Come and Reason Ministries will have a booth at JFEST to give away our materials. JFEST is at Camp Jordan. We will have class at our normal time on June 20. We need some volunteers to work our booth that day – please let us know if you are local and can help out.

July 1-12: GC session at San Antonio. Come and Reason will have a booth in the exhibit hall, booth A481. Please come by and see us if you are there. We will have class at our regular times here in Collegedale.

August 1: Dr. Jennings will be speaking to the Petaluma, CA SDA church.

September 3,4: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Baptist Boomer’s Conference in San Antonio, TX.

September 12: Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Vallejo Dr., CA SDA church.

September 23-26: American Association of Christian Counselors World Convention at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville TN. Come and Reason will have a booth in the exhibit hall, and Dr. Jennings will be doing a preconference workshop and regular conference presentation, as well as commencement speaker for Light University graduation.

October 24: Dr. Jennings will be speaking in Puyallup, WA.

AMAZON Smile: Amazon now has a program that a percent of all your purchases will be donated to support a charity. Come and Reason Ministries is a registered Charity. So, you can select us, and whenever you shop in their smile.amazon.com site a portion of your purchase will benefit this ministry.

NOTE: WARNING: There is another ministry with a similar name called “Come Reason Ministries” and they are located in California. Please be sure and select **Come AND Reason Ministries Located in Collegedale TN.**