

2024/04/21

SERMON: JESUS' CROSS – GLORIOUS VICTORY**GOOD Morning OIC,**

JUSTIFICATION is the declaration by God that we are no longer guilty but we are made righteous on the basis of Jesus' death on The Cross to buy OUR eternal forgiveness. I have been bringing out or exegeting the meaning of Justification and many other complex but vital teachings of the Apostle Paul in the Book of Romans. Today, I want to bring out some important truths about Jesus' death on The Cross. His death is His and our glorious Victory.

We start at the first book of the Bible, Genesis, the book of beginnings. God creates the first man, Adam (**Genesis 2.7-9**) *7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

(Genesis 2.16-18) *16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." 18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."*

Then God creates the first woman, Eve in (**Genesis 2.21-22**) *21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.* Temptations by Satan(the Serpent), who spoke the direct opposite to "What God had said!" or the WORD OF GOD, led Adam and Eve to believe Satan instead of God. They ate the fruit and sinned. (**Genesis 3.4**) *4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!*

(Genesis 3.6-7) *6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.* Before God describes the curses on Adam and Eve for their sin, He pronounces His curse on the serpent. (**Genesis 3.13-15**) *13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this*

you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." **14** The LORD God said to the serpent,

*"Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go,
And dust you will eat, All the days of your life; **15** And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."*

In reference to "her seed," only one woman in all History had a seed without a man's seed for a baby, the Virgin Mary, Jesus' mother by the Holy Spirit. Now, after the Garden of Eden, Mankind will have to wait many thousands of years for God's perfect timing to send this Seed of the Woman, His very Son, Jesus, to bruise Satan's head.

Now the Bible makes it clear that the snake was possessed by Satan, and Satan would be referred to this way as in (Revelation 20.1-3) *Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. **2** And he took hold of **the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan**, and bound him for a thousand years; **3** and he threw him into the abyss and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.* Our faith is in the Bible regardless of scientific claims. But, modern scientists, claiming evolution, declare that snakes used to have legs. The snake lost its legs forever; but Satan, was going to someday lose even more, his greatest power over mankind, the power and control of Death. I could show many Biblical prophesies about Jesus, the Saviour of Mankind. But I want to highlight the Battle of the Old Serpent, Satan, against the coming and Ministry of his arch enemy, Jesus Christ.

Satan often pulls strings in sinful hearts, especially his favorite *children* to fight God's plan. Soon after Jesus' birth, the wicked King Herod was led to attempt to murder the Baby Jesus. This was not just a human's lust for power and control over the people of Israel. The Devil was orchestrating this. But God's plans cannot be prevented. In this case, His angel was a messenger to Joseph to flee Bethlehem. Reading in **(Matthew 2.13-16)** **13** *Now when they {the magi} had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."*

14 *So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. **15** He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON." **16** Then when Herod saw that he*

had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

The Bible reveals clearly that Jesus' Crucifixion was planned and executed to perfection by God. In fact, we see how God fulfilled a part of the Psalms of David against His arch enemy, the Devil. Reading (Psalm 141. 8-10) **8** *For my eyes are toward You, GOD, the Lord; In You I take refuge; do not leave me defenseless. 9 Keep me from the jaws of the trap which they have set for me, And from the snares of those who do wrong. 10 May the wicked fall into their own nets, While I pass by safely.*

Pastor Bruce, how can you say that God kept Jesus safe and the Devil fell into his own net or trap? Let's look at what Jesus said in the last days leading up to and including that infamous *Last Supper*. The day of His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, Jesus spoke in **(John 12.29-33)** **29** *So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." 30 Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. 31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." 33 But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.*

During Jesus' sharing the Passover with His Apostles, the famous *Last Supper of Christ*, in **(John 13.21-27 & 30-32)** **21** *When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me." 22 The disciples began looking at one another, at a loss to know of which one He was speaking. 23 There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved. 24 So Simon Peter gestured to him, and said to him, "Tell us who it is of whom He is speaking." 25 He, {John} leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus then answered, "That is the one for whom I shall dip the morsel and give it to him." So when He had dipped the morsel, He took and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 After the morsel, **Satan then entered into him.** Therefore Jesus said to him, "What you do, do quickly." {skipping down to verse#} **30** *So after receiving the morsel he went out immediately; and it was night. 31 Therefore when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in Him; 32 if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately.**

Satan had set the net to catch Jesus through the lost soul Judas Iscariot. **(Psalm 141.10)** **10** *May the wicked fall into their own nets, While I pass by safely.* But, what was happening was God's plan. The Devil thought the death of the Son of God would leave planet Earth as his play

room. Jesus knew that the trap was sprung on the Devil via Judas and the High Priests who had paid Judas to betray Jesus. Don't err and think that either Jesus or God were losing. Jesus was *passing by the Devil's net safely* because His only safety was in obeying His Heavenly Father up to Death on the Cross, **thus glorifying His Father**. Notice, Jesus spoke of His upcoming Death in terms of "glorified": in **(John 13.31) Now is the Son of Man glorified**. Jesus was in reality saying that *Now- the devil fell into his own net*. Jesus' Crucifixion was His Greatest Victory on Earth. Jesus said also **(John 13.31-32) and God is glorified in Him; 32 if God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and will glorify Him immediately**. Satan was caught in the net he set to kill the Son of God. The Devil would find out too late, that this was his biggest defeat since he was thrown out of Heaven. That is when Jesus said of him:" in **(Luke 10.18)** to His disciples: *And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.*

Jesus was not first glorified at His Resurrection morning, when He revealed His Glorified and Resurrected Body to His disciples. On Thursday evening at the *Last Supper*, He had said that He would be glorified by God His Father **and will glorify Him immediately**. **That must be on the Cross by His Crucifixion the very next day**. Jesus knew there was only one way back to the Father and His own Glory that he laid down for His Mission , His Death on the Cross. Jesus laid down or emptied Himself of His Glory to come to Earth as described in **(Philippians 2.6-8)6** *who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient {to His Father} to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

Now we cannot measure or appreciate all that Jesus suffered on the Cross. Crucifixion was the Romans' invention to keep citizens in fear. It was a slow death of suffocation, with excruciating pain. We see Jesus' pain and substitutionary punishment for us sinners in **(Isaiah 53.10-12)** *But the LORD {GOD THE FATHER} desired To crush Him, causing Him grief; If He renders Himself as a guilt offering, He will see His offspring, He will prolong His days, And the good pleasure of the LORD {GOD THE FATHER} will prosper in His hand. 11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see it and be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, For He will bear their wrongdoings. 12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the plunder with the strong, Because He poured out His life unto death, And was counted with wrongdoers; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the wrongdoers.*

I would say that *God's promise: I will allot Him a portion with the great*, is fulfilled in **(Philippians 2.9-11)** *9 For this reason {Philippians 2.1-8, above } also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

On The Cross Jesus fulfilled God's prophecy and God's promise of Satan's curse and of Jesus' suffering from **(Genesis 3.15)**...*her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.*” If we only consider physical pain and suffering, we might think that Jesus was the loser at the Cross. Not so. Satan's eternal pain is already arranged in **(Revelation 20.10)** *And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.*

Jesus' bruise on the heel was His death on the Cross. How can that be called only a bruise? Because Jesus was fulfilling His Mission for the Father, His greatest joy. His next great joy was seeing sinners, like me and you, set free of their punishment for their sins. It also can be said Jesus' joy included enduring His suffering on the Cross to complete God's curse against Satan in the “Garden of Eden” in (Genesis 3.15) .her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.” Satan's bruise on the head continues to this day. His biggest loss at the Cross is revealed to us in (Hebrews 2.14/AMP) Therefore, since [these His] children share in flesh and blood [the physical nature of mankind], He Himself in a similar manner also shared in the same [physical nature, but without sin], so that through [experiencing] death He might make powerless (ineffective, impotent) him who had the power of death—that is, the devil.

Satan had the power of death before Jesus' Crucifixion. We see this in **(Job 2.4-6)** *4 Satan answered the LORD and said, “Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. 5 However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face.” 6 So the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life.”* God used His Ultimate Authority to not allow Satan to exercise his usual authority to kill Job.

Therefore, Satan can no longer play the Death Card in his card game against Mankind, the human race. His head is bruised. Think about it, Christian. We have the gift of *eternal life*. The devil cannot kill anyone anymore, especially us Christians neither physically nor spiritually. Why do some of us fear such a weakened serpent? He still has power as a fallen angel, as Peter warned us all in **(1 Peter 5.8-9)** *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the*

world. The Amplified adjectives of “impotent, ineffective, powerless” are the result of Jesus' Cross. Remember what Jesus said after the Father thundered at Him and the crowd around Him in (**John 12.31-33**) *31 Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. 32 And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself.” 33 But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. “Cast out” meant loss of controlling power over men as when Jesus cast out demons, the devil's messengers.* Peter made it clear to resist this roaring lion, *firm in your faith.* Peter instructs our attitude in the original Greek (MOUNCE) “sober spirit,” *nepho /Greek which means not intoxicated, vigilant ; and “alert,” gregaoreo/Greek which means awake, watch with vigilance.* These two words do not point to fear, but confidence, by faith, in our Victory by Christ and in Christ. When we realize the Devil's schemes and roars, we resist firm in our faith and his roar will become a meow of a kitten! That faith includes asking our Saviour, now Lord of Heaven and Earth, to make trouble against the devil who makes trouble to us. The devil can cause Christians to suffer as Peter said *suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.* Please note, Peter used the words *being accomplished* thus implying that suffering does not mean defeat. Are the servants greater than the Master, Jesus? As Paul said that about such sufferings in (**2 Corinthians 4.17**) *For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,* Like our Lord, we can bring Glory to Him and the Father in our warfare against that serpent, which may include suffering that Satan inflicts on us too. But, Paul also knew that Christians have authority to make trouble to that trouble maker. **No matter how weak we are, Jesus will attack Satan when we ask Him to.** Oh but Pastor Bruce, the Lord said in the Lord's Prayer to our Heavenly Father and in (**John 17.15**) *I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one.*

Yes, Father keeps us safe from the evil one. **But it is never just about us, is it?** While every day 240 people in Osaka die and go to an eternity in Hell is it just about us? We battle the Devil for them. Without our prayers for God to take up buckler and shield against the devil and his messengers, they will continue to perish at this alarmingly high rate. Paul made that challenge clear to Christians. Paul knew the Lord and His prayer. But he knew that to be effective in bringing the Good News to the world he must fight! In (**Ephesians 6.12**) *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. The 100% Guarantee of success in battle against the Devil is by prayer to almighty God through His Son Jesus.*

Now, let us look at Jesus' final minutes on the Cross. First, let us note that Satan tried one last ditch effort to get Jesus off the Cross. Again, he used his evil children in (**Matthew 27.40**) *40 and*

saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” **But God wins, we win, Satan loses. Jesus stood tall and true to His Father on His Cross.**

Now in the following Bible verses from the Gospel by John does Jesus sound like someone losing a boxing match in the ring against the Devil? No, He sounds like the unbeatable Champion who is standing tall in His excruciating suffering. His words are well composed, as I might sit in my comfortable armchair and write this sermon!

(JOHN 19.23-30) *23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts: a part to each soldier, and the tunic also; but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. 24 So they said to one another, “Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be.” This happened so that the Scripture would be fulfilled: “THEY DIVIDED MY GARMENTS AMONG THEMSELVES, AND THEY CAST LOTS FOR MY CLOTHING.” from {Psalm 22.18} Therefore the soldiers did these things. 25 Now beside the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 So when Jesus saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved {John} standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” 27 Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own household. 28 After this, Jesus, **knowing that all things had already been accomplished**, in order that the Scripture would be fulfilled, said, “I am thirsty.” from {Psalm 69.21} 29 A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a branch of hyssop and brought it up to His mouth. 30 Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **“It is finished!”** And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.*

These are the words of the Champion and Lover of our souls, not a defeated fighter, dear saints at OIC. There are two phrases that Jesus spoke that jump out to me: 1) before asking for the sour wine (a delirious man cannot do that) the Holy Spirit inspired John to write: **knowing that all things had already been accomplished**,

I believe **ALL THINGS- the Father's Will Was Done; --thinking of us personally and our being forgiven as He took the penalty for all the sins of Mankind on Himself, --tending to His mother Mary was also important to Him.; -- Satan was bruised forever to never again have the power of Death. Therefore, His “immediate” glorification was completed and all He had to do was give His spirit back to Father. Jesus next spoke the words confirming what John was inspired to write: 2) “It is finished!”** confirming my list above but with a personal touch of His awesome love for sinners. The word Jesus spoke in the original Greek is *tello* –

a levy or debt is paid as written on 1st Century business agreements, in other words “The Mortgage Is PAID!”

A man losing a fight is losing control of himself and the outcome of the event. Jesus did neither. Jesus' glorification was at the Cross, not His Resurrection. The Resurrection was the Revelation of the Victory for us to Believe and be confident in His Finished work on the Cross. I am a rather “emotional” person, some say. I appreciate the compassion for Jesus when we sing “Above All” as we realize He thought of us personally during His Suffering on the Cross. But the Bible makes it clear that Jesus thought of obeying the FATHER, ABOVE ALL. The Bible tells us in **(Isaiah 53.10)** *But the LORD {God the Father} desired **To crush Him**, causing Him grief; If He renders Himself as a guilt offering,* Yes, Jesus was crushed like a rose petal, **but He Never Fell.** He was a Man Standing on the Cross with feet nailed to His Glorious Cross, but, by the power of the Holy Spirit, one foot on the Serpents Head. Our enemy is a wounded loser at Calvary. We must attack his weakened bruised head in prayer so that others will have their Mortgages Paid for Heaven. Some day soon, our enemy will be not only bruised, but crushed, just as Paul closed in his letter to the Churches at Rome in **(Romans 16.20)** *20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

Now let us sing together the hymn that captures much of this message: *Old Rugged Cross*

Let Us pray,

REFERENCES

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