

## The All Sufficient Cross 3: From Death to Life

### 1. **'Substitutionary Sacrifice of Jesus Christ':**

*"And the LORD has laid on Him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all" (Is. 53:6)  
"For the transgressions of My people He [Jesus] was stricken." (Is. 53:8)  
"...When You [God] make His [Jesus'] soul an offering for sin." (Is. 53:10)*

### 2. **Nature of the exchange?** Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we receive (1) 'Peace' instead of turmoil; (2) 'Forgiveness of our sins' instead of condemnation; (3) 'Divine Health' instead of sickness; (4) 'Christ's Righteousness' instead of guilt; (5) 'Life' instead of death.

### 3. **How did Jesus offer His soul for our transgressions? What does it mean?**

a. **Divine justice:** *"But if any (permanent) harm follows, then you shall give life for life ('soul' for 'soul' – as fair exchange of equal value is required), eye for eye, tooth for tooth, and for hand, foot for foot, burn for burn, wound for wound, stripe for stripe." (Ex 21:23-25).*

b. **Life is in the blood:** *"For the life (soul) of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul." (Lev 17:11). E.g. Soul departs from the body when blood ceases to flow.*

c. OT Animal sacrifice could never 'take away' sins (only provide cover for 1 year) (Heb 10:11)! – 'Unfair exchange of souls.' e.g. Offering of 2 dogs in exchange for 2 slain human lives would be an insult to the family!

d. *"...Because He [Jesus] poured out His soul unto death...He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors." (Is 53:12)*

**Jesus poured His soul to death by pouring His blood from His body!** He was beaten, scourged, crowned with thorns, crucified, and after death He was speared so that the remaining blood drained out of his body!

e. How much is your soul worth? How much is Jesus' soul worth (to God)? "The soul who sins shall die." (Ezk. 18:20). **God 'overpaid' for our soul!** This is the ultimate extravagant exchange for our soul!

f. We need to be very careful how we speak of the blood of Jesus! Some churches remove this as an 'offensive thing'. Without the blood of Jesus there is no salvation, nor forgiveness of sin (Heb 9:22).

g. **What is the result of Jesus' soul (blood) offered as sacrifice before God?** When Jesus died on the cross and poured out His blood **the 'life of God' was released into the universe.** Up to that time this life of God had been '**confined**' within Godhead. It is now available to anyone who will receive it through faith in Jesus.

### 4. **Christ our 'Last Adam' and 'Second Man' (1 Cor 15:45, 47)**

*And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The **last Adam** became a life-giving spirit...The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the **second***

***Man** is the Lord from heaven. (1 Cor 15:45, 47)*

a. The rapid spread of sin: Adam's 1<sup>st</sup> born son Cain murdered Abel! Humanity can be likened to a very large tree with many branches (generations). But deadly disease (sin) is at the root of this tree spreading to every branch and eventually choking & killing the whole tree.

b. To this diseased dying tree called, 'Adamic Race', Jesus came (as the Branch) and died as the 'Last Adam.' **When Jesus died and was buried as the Last Adam, all of the evil inheritance was 'terminated in Jesus'!**

c. **Outworking of rebellion:** *"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: ...And they rebelled against Me...Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity...The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints, from the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but wounds and bruises and putrefying sores; They have not been closed for bound up, or soothed with ointment." (Is. 1:2, 4-6)*

*But Jesus paid in full: "...his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness..." (Is. 52:14). Jesus as the last Adam took all that rebellion and it's consequences, died and was buried with it. When He rose again, **He rose as the head of the new race** (no longer sinful, hopeless 'Adamic race') – but 'God-Man' (Emmanuel – 'God with us') race!*

d. *"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour, **that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.**" (Heb 2:9 c.f. John 10:10)*

e. Eventually the sick & dying 'Adamic tree' will be cut down and be burned, but the new race grafted in Jesus' 'Emmanuel tree' will go on into eternal life! (John 15:1-8 c.f. 2 Pet 1:3-4)

### 5. **Beautiful Prophetic Illustration in Joshua (Joshua 3:14-17)**

a. Joshua is about to cross over Jordan ('descend' & 'flow down') and lead Israelites to promise land. Joshua positioned the priests who bear the ark of the covenant to go before the people of Israel by 2000 cubits. (It was harvest time when Jordan overflowed to its banks.) As soon as the priests' feet touched Jordan, the stream stood still and rose in a heap very far away at the city called Adam, beside Zaretan ('perplexity' & 'tribulation'), so that the waters flowing into the Salt Sea (Dead Sea) was cut off.

b. Jesus as the greater Joshua will lead His people to the promise land at the end of the age during the great harvest. Jordan represents the sea of humanity flowing down to its destination – i.e. 'Dead Sea'. Crossing this river also represents the fear of death. When we follow Jesus and take the step of faith through this river and into the promise land, our genealogy (spiritual & genetic history) will roll back all the way to 'Adam', and all the 'tribulations & perplexity' proceeding from Adam's sin & streams flowing toward Dead Sea (death) will be cut off in our lives!