

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE CROSS!

by Ekkehard Hornburg

“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” Joh. 3:14-15

“And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” Joh. 12,32

Reinhard Bonnke has written a booklet with the title From Minus to Plus. There he describes how on the cross Jesus crossed out the human minus and transformed it into a plus. Jesus has restored us to our condition before the Fall. He treats us as if sin had never existed. We look as righteous as Adam did before the Fall because of what happened on the cross.

When Adam sinned he experienced a transformation from plus to minus – a negative rebirth, as it were. Adam was sinless and he became sin. Jesus, the second Adam, experienced the same thing on the cross. He, the Righteous One, was made sin for us so that through him we could once again be the righteousness of God. The price for our redemption was the blood of Jesus!

Several years ago an elderly lady asked me to take her jewellery to the pawnbroker's because she needed some money. The jewellery could be “redeemed” (bought back) until a particular deadline, otherwise it would go to the pawnshop. When the deadline came, the lady did not have the money to buy her jewellery back. I “redeemed” her jewellery with my own money and gave it back to her.

This is a picture of what Jesus did on the cross for us. He paid a ransom for us and redeemed us from the “pawnshop of sin” that all people are sitting in. All the descendants of Adam are prisoners of sin and death. Jesus was the only person who was not under Satan's dominion and was therefore in a position to set us free. Jesus was not descended from Adam, but rather came directly from God. He was the God-man! Jesus was without sin and therefore in a position to reverse Adam's fall.

On the cross, Jesus took on Adam's fallen condition. The punishment for Adam's sin fell on Jesus. Jesus became what we were – sin – so that we could once again become the righteousness of God.

When Adam sinned, he died. He immediately died spiritually and only later physically. The life of God left him and his spirit was now without God. When Jesus went to the cross and took on our condition, identifying with our sin, he died the same death. He died spiritually and became a lost son, like Adam. Jesus became the curse (Gal 3:13), he became sin (2 Cor 5:21) and he was made sickness for us (Is 53:10). Jesus hung all alone on the cross. He was forsaken by God and humans. He experienced darkness and Satan now had power over him. Jesus took our place and the punishment for a sinner is hell. Jesus went to hell for us and suffered our punishment.

Only once the price had been paid, the sin had been atoned for and righteousness restored, could God clear him of guilt and make him righteous again. When sin had been atoned for, God sent the Holy Spirit to the realms of death and hell and brought Jesus out of this condition. Jesus died as a “sinner” and was justified again after three days and re-established as a son. Jesus was justified in the Spirit (1 Tim 3:16) and made alive in the Spirit (1 Pet 3:18).

Jesus was dead in the spirit because we were dead in the spirit. Jesus was made alive in the Spirit and therefore we can be made alive again, in the Spirit. When God raised Jesus from the dead, he said, “You are my Son; **today I have become your Father**” and “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son,” Heb 1:5. Peter says we have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God (1 Pet 1:23). In rebirth we experience what Jesus experienced when the Father “became his Father”, justified him and re-accepted him.

For three days and three nights, Jesus was not the Son but a sinner, with our sin. He became what we were. When God raised him and made him righteous again, Jesus became the Son again. Jesus became the firstborn of the new creation. Jesus was the first one to be born again. Now all people can be born again. No sinner ever went to hell and came out again. Jesus was the only one who went to hell and came out as a victor. The devil and his demons thought that they had Jesus forever because Jesus surely must have sinned like the first Adam. For when Adam sinned, he lost the life of God and came under Satan's rule. What Satan did not know was that Jesus did all that for us, suffering for our sins instead of his own and going to hell for us. Jesus suffered our punishment. He took our sickness away and was cursed for us. Jesus did all that for us. Satan miscalculated the situation; for if he had known what God's plan was, he would never have crucified Jesus (1 Cor 2:8).

On the cross, Jesus became the snake on the pole. The snake is a symbol of the Fall and of the devil. Jesus became sin for us; he entered the dominion of Satan for a short time. He went into hell as a “sinner”, a “loser”, and suffered our punishment, but he came out as victor over death, the devil and hell.

The cross is the greatest “refuse incinerator” of all time. There all the rubbish of humankind was dumped on Jesus and burned in God's judgment. Jesus became subject to the sin, all diseases and the curse that lay upon humankind. He was our lightning conductor, which was hit by the wrath and punishment of God. We should have been hanging there; it should have hit us; we should have gone to hell, but Jesus went for us. All that remained was a little pile of ashes. The devil, sin and disease are now as powerless as ash. You can step on ash, it is harmless. Jesus has turned the devil into ashes; he has disarmed and dethroned him. The devil is now powerless. The only power he has is what we give him because of our lack of knowledge.

Through the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross, we are no longer slaves to sin and the devil. We are sons and daughters of God. In God's eyes we are as sinless as Adam before the Fall. God treats us as if sin had never existed. What a Jesus, what a redemption, what a love! “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (i.e. he was the only person who was not fathered by a man but was born of a virgin), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,” John 3:16.

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