

# *The Cradle, The Cross & The Crown*

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On the Eve of Christ's birth, earth was oblivious to what was happening, but heaven wasn't. The innumerable holy and elect angels were waiting in anticipation, waiting to break forth in praise, worship and adoration to the birth of a newborn child, a child who meant: God had sent forth His salvation.

Gal. 4:4-5 But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Consider: There was a farewell in heaven.

Part of a possible conversation the Son had with the Father is recorded in Hebrews 10:5-7 Wherefore when He cometh into the world, He saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

<sup>6</sup> In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

- ❖ The body of Christ, divinely prepared by God to be the instrument to bring God to men, would be the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Consider: "Jesus Christ bid farewell to His Father and began a journey that would end thirty-three years later on a cross. Then through His resurrection, He would be glorified, exalted and restored back into heaven to the glory that He knew before He came."

Jesus left heaven with all the fanfare of heaven as angels waited to shout their praises. God was being made manifest in the flesh. The Holy Spirit had taken 9 months to accomplish His work. He fashioned in the womb of Mary a body like no other. This body would be inhabited by the second person of the Trinity. The fullness of time was come when Jesus would be made of a woman to redeem mankind. Hope Was Born Again!

John MacArthur: Jesus came to suffer and to die.

- Bethlehem happened so Calvary could happen.
- He was only a baby so He could be man and die. He only lived in order to die.
- Those soft baby hands fashioned by the Holy Spirit in Mary's womb were made in order that nails might be driven through them.
- Those chubby feet, pink and unable to walk, were one day to walk a hill and be nailed to a cross.
- His sweet head with sparkling eyes was formed in order that someday men might crush into it a crown of thorns.
- His tender body, warm and soft, wrapped in swaddling clothes, would one day be ripped open by a spear to reveal a broken heart.
- God prepared the body to be the ultimate sacrifice.

The Result Of The Fall Of Man: Lost the following 4 things.

1) Property God Gave The Earth and Its Dominion To Man:

Psalm 115:16 The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man.

When God created man, He gave him dominion not only over the earth, but also over all the animal creation. Yet man lost the dominion which God had entrusted to him. It is apparent that the result of the fall was that Satan 'stole' man's property. So it was through default that Satan took control of this world from man and became "the prince of this world."

Adam Sold Our Birthright By Reason Of His Sin.

2) Liberty Man Lost His Freedom Or Liberty At The Fall.

John 8:34 Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin."

Adam sold himself into slavery to sin and Satan. As children of a slave we are born into slavery.

3) Life In the Garden of Eden God had warned Adam of the consequences of disobedience:

Gen. 2:17 "... but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

It's clear: Death Is The Consequence Of Sin: Man lost his life. He died spiritually the very moment he disobeyed God. He ultimately died physically because God expelled him from the Garden of Eden thus denying him access to the Tree Of Life. (Gen 3:24)

4) Legacy - Ability To Produce Godly Offspring

➤ Gen. 1:27 "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."

Given a commission to multiply and to fill the earth, man fell into sin before he could do so. Man lost his ability to reproduce seed in God's likeness.

Gen. 5:3 "And Adam ... begot a son in his own likeness, after his image..."

Eph. 2:2 We are brought forth into this world as "children of disobedience."

Man lost the dominion of the earth. Man is the reason the nations rebel against Christ.

Man is the reason there is the prince of the power of the air.

*How Can Jesus [Our Kinsman Redeemer] Redeem For Us ALL We Have Lost?*

3 Prerequisites Must Be Met:

1. Jesus Had To Become Our Kinsman (member of our family) in order to redeem fallen man and what we lost. This established the legal right. [Lev. 25:47-49]

John 1:14 The Eternal Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

In Heb. 2:10-18, Jesus calls us BRETHREN and qualified Himself to redeem us by partaking of our humanity. The Word says that in all things He was made like His brethren.

Rom. 8:3 At Calvary's cross He was made "in the likeness of sinful flesh" and exhausted God's judgment for us. The cross makes Him our nearest Kinsman.

He destroyed him who had the power of death.

2. The Kinsman Must Have The Power To Redeem All Man Has Lost.

Isa. 50:2 "Is my hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver?"

Redeeming what man has lost is the realm where Jesus excels.

I Tim. 2:5-6 For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men...

3. The Kinsman Must Be Willing To Redeem.

Titus 2:14 He gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us...unto Himself, a people for His own possession. He has set His heart upon us to restore all we lost, but He also wants to possess us.

### The Revelation Of Jesus Christ Reveals

1. A War For The Inheritance Of Jesus Christ

2. The Restoration Of The Inheritance God Promised His Son, Jesus Christ.

A. Ps. 2:7-8 ...the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the nations for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.

B. Matt. 28:18 All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

C. Heir To His Church - Eph. 1:18 "the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints" [The church is also His inheritance.]

The amazing thing is we are not only His inheritance, we can be "joint-heirs."

Rom. 8:16-18 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ [share His inheritance with Him]; IF so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. [only we must share His suffering if we are to share His glory.] For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Revelation 4:1 allows us to look inside an open door into heaven. After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come Up Hither, And I Will Show You Things Which Must Be Hereafter.

Through that door we see a throne, and someone sitting upon it. From the throne come flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In Revelation 5 we see the One sitting on the throne holding a scroll written on both sides with seven seals. The scroll of Rev 5 is a deed of redemption, effectively a will of inheritance. It is the legal document proving that a qualified Kinsman has paid the price to redeem the land once forfeited by His family.

As each seal is broken, the deed of redemption reveals what must occur for the Kinsman-Redeemer to Physically Repossess The Land, wresting it from enemy squatters, and Returning It To Those Who Were Originally Given Dominion Over It.

A mighty angel proclaims, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll"?

John weeps and weeps, for it seems that no one is worthy. Then John beholds a lamb, looking as if it had been slain. The Lamb comes and takes the scroll, and then a new song is sung: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Key Point: The Lamb That Was Slain Is The One Who Made The Inheritance Possible.

In dying, He not only purchased the inheritance, He also purchased men and women for God to be a kingdom of kings and priests to serve God, and reign with Him on earth.

The Lamb, Jesus Christ, purchased with His blood a permanent inheritance which is this world, the nations, all who will believe, and the heavens around us. It is all His.

Our Kinsman Redeemer's Successful Restoration of ALL we lost: The Inheritance

#### 1. Restored Property

God says to the Son: Ps. 2:8 "Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession."

Zech. 14:9 And the LORD shall be King Over All The Earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and His name one.

Gabriel said of Jesus: Luke 1:32-33 "The Lord will give Him the throne of his father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

Isa. 9:6 "The government will be on His shoulders"

Rev. 2:27 and He will reign over the world "with an iron scepter."

Key Point #1: Jesus Will Reign Over The Earth As A Man.

Dan 7:13-14 In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

Dan. 7:18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even for ever and ever. [WOW!]

Key Point #2 We will be able to fulfill the original command given to man (along with Jesus) to exercise dominion over the earth in the Millennium.

Rev 5:9-10 "... you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them to be kings and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

Key Point #3: Rev 11:15 ...there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He will reign forever and ever."

Key Point #4 I Cor. 2:6-8 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None Of The Rulers Of This Age Understood It, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

## 2. Restored Liberty

### a. Our Kinsman Redeemer (born of a woman) Redeemed Us From Slavery:

Gal 4:3-5 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

### b. We Are Redeemed From Slavery To Fear.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship.

Luke 4:18 Jesus (in fulfillment of Isaiah 61:1) said that He had come "to preach deliverance to the captives".

Isa. 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

### c. Those Who Follow Jesus Will Be Set Free From Slavery To Sin:

John 8:31-32, 36 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, [continue in my Word] you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Romans 6:17-18 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Col 1:13-14 For he has Rescued Us From The Dominion Of Darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### d. We Are Also Freed From Bondage To Religious Law.

Gal 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

## 3) Restored Life

Our kinsman (who "shared in our humanity") came to avenge our spiritual death by destroying "him who holds the power of death" i.e. the devil:

Heb 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by his death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

#### 4) Restored Legacy

Jesus started a new line of humanity with those who are "born again":

Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

God Places Importance On Our Inheritance: There are ~350 references to inheritance.

- Acts 26:18 "...to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they May Receive forgiveness of sins and an INHERITANCE Among Them That Are Sanctified By Faith In Me."
- Col. 1:12 "...giving thanks unto the Father, who has qualified and made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light."
- Col. 3:24 "...Knowing that of the Lord ye shall Receive The Reward Of The Inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.
- I Peter 1:4 "...unto an Inheritance Incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."
- Our Inheritance is Indescribable!  
Paul tried to explain the inheritance: I Cor. 2:9 Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. It is an inheritance far beyond our finite mind and limited experience.

If our Christian lives are not characterized by a continuous apprehension of the greater fullness in Christ, there is something seriously wrong with us.

Phil 3:14 I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.

Christ's Attitude: Heb. 12:2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who For The Joy Set Before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Col. 3:1-4 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup> For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

<sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. [Wow!]

II Cor. 4:16-18 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; <sup>18</sup> While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Acts 20:32 And now I commend you to God, and to the Word Of His Grace, which is able to build you up, and To Give You The Inheritance Among All Them That Are Sanctified.