



Lamentations 1:12 *Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.*

*There are many beautiful spots upon the earth and they have been called 'the seven wonders of the world'. Yet I firmly believe that there is a greater wonder which surpasses all the others easily, and in order to personally see this sight you would have to journey outside the ancient walls of the city of Jerusalem, and arrive at the hill called Golgotha or the place of the skull. As our text today states; many pass by this sight in regard to thought as well as to location because they are so taken up with the riches of this world. I would ask you just for a few moments to 'Behold' the cross of Calvary. The word behold indicates a firmly fixed look and you cannot understand the sufferings of Christ until you investigate these. If I was a dealer of precious stones I would ask you to closely examine the onyx, topaz, sapphire, diamond and emerald stones; so that you would fully appreciate their beauty. I desire you to look at a cluster that is very rare. This beautiful cluster is my Saviour; the Lord Jesus Christ. His colours are firstly blue which speaks of His heavenly origin, secondly white indicating the stones purity and speaking of Christ's sinless nature. The last colour red runs throughout the stone; revealing the blood Christ spilled from his body for sinners at Calvary. Truly this stone is "the Fairest among ten thousand." The latter part of our text mentions the Sorrowful Christ and this was revealed by his five wounds received while dying as a ransom for the ungodly. May I say that the devil hates the blood of Christ as it is powerful in cleansing away all sin; compare 1 John 1:7. I wonder, have you personally laid hold upon this cluster rare? If you have you can say he is precious as in, **1 Peter 2:7** **Unto you therefore which believes he is precious....***

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A HISTORICAL DOCUMENT

The first book of the Bible relates to us the account of the biological, (relating to living organisms,) geological, (the study of the structure of the earth,) astronomical, (the study of the Universe,) and anthropological, (the study of human characteristics,) and the history of the universe. And all this information is confirmed by observational science in genetics, (Genetics is the study of genes, heredity, and genetic variation in living organisms,) biology, geology, and astronomy. Because this history is revealed in the Bible, we know that it is true.

So then, if this is all true, so must the message of the Christian gospel (concerning salvation from the punishment of our sin, must be true also.)

THE ENTRANCE OF THE SON OF GOD

*That the Son of God stepped into modern history is recorded to us also, as in, **Galatians 4:4** **But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,** Yes, he came to die (but as the a sinless son of God) on a cross (because his death was a substitute sacrifice for the penalty for our sin), was raised from the dead (conquering death), and now offers a free gift of salvation to all that believe in his finished work of redemption, (to buy back,) on the cross. For you to live with God for eternity in a New Heavens and a new earth, with no death, pain, tears, or fears, if you will accept him as your living, loving, substitute sacrifice for your sin.*

WE ARE ALL GUILTY UNDER THE LAW

V.5 *To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. Now be honest, each one of us are guilty of Lying, theft, (no matter how small,) or have you ever looked with desire, or lust at another person, (even on the television screen,) you have committed adultery, have you used the name of God, or Jesus Christ as a swear word? Have you blasphemed God's name, which is a very serious sin against him, and you will be held accountable on JUDGEMENT DAY and this is only 4 of the commandments. The only escape from eternal punishment in the flames of hell is to confess your sin to the Lord Jesus Christ only, admit you cannot save yourself, ask him to forgive you, and cleanse you. Only then will the Holy Spirit enter into your body, and guide into the truth of the scriptures.*

IN THE BEGINNING THE GOSPEL

Genesis 3:15 *And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

This is the first time the gospel was preached, and that right after Adam sinned, just on 6,000 Years ago, which meant that he was separated, and all his descendants from our Creator God, who is revealing to us that he already has a plan to provide a way of salvation for sinners, even those who are on the clean or moral side of the broad road to a lost eternity.

THE FIERY SERPENTS

Numbers 21:6 *And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.*

That is because they sinned against God, these were the people that rebelled against God in a defiant way, and who refused to believe, and look at the fiery serpent on the pole to be forgiven, healed, and live.

THE DEATH OF AN INNOCENT SUBSTITUTE SACRIFICE

Genesis 3:21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them. *This was the first death on planet earth, and a substitute blood sacrifice for their sin, which revealed their nakedness. This is a great type of the robe of Righteousness of Christ, which he will give each believer, with a glorified body on the day when they will rise from the grave to meet Jesus Christ in the clouds at his coming. It is good for us to contemplate, that all this was planned before the earth or the heaven was created, showing the great ability and knowledge of our Creator God. That God the Father, and God the Son had predetermined that the Son of God would become a sacrifice for sin so that those who received the gift of salvation should be saved for all eternity.*

THE PRE-ORDAINED PURPOSE

Acts 2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: *This was the preaching of Peter the apostle, just after Pentecost, and many were convicted of their sinfulness, and their words and actions are a good example to follow, for they cried out as in, Acts 2:37* Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

THE CURE FOR ALL EVIL

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. *Please note carefully the order of actions, first repent, (to turn away from your sin,) give it up, refuse to have anything to do with it, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and he will guide you unto all truth, then be baptized, for it isn't our prerogative to change the order of the scriptures. Then when you are saved from the punishment of your sin, do as Peter commanded, be baptized as a public witness that you are saved and walking in truth and righteousness. And then follow the advice of the Holy Spirit as Paul the Apostle wrote to the Corinthians in, 2Corinthians 6:15* And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

AN ETERNAL WORK

Think about this: before the universe was created, before time existed, or man was created, God knew that we (in Adam) would sin. He knew we would rebel against our Creator. And in the wisdom and love of God, in eternity, He predetermined a plan so that we could receive a free gift of salvation. In eternity past, God planned for God the Son to step into history to provide the ultimate sacrifice as the sinless Son of God who would suffer sin's penalty of death, be raised from the dead, thus providing a way of salvation for lost sinners. Hebrews 10:18 Now where remission (freedom and pardon from punishment,) of these is, (*that is*

our sins,) there is no more offering for sin. Why would you want to offer any works, or gifts, or more so Christ himself as a sacrifice, when God forbids such a gross insult, against Christ's finished the work of salvation, and is now sat down on the right hand of his Father's throne, in the place of intercession.

THE GREATEST INSULT

*It is not only not necessary, but is an insult to the finished work of salvation which Jesus Christ accomplished on the tree of Calvary to offer him again, for Christ cried from the cross, "it is finished." Dare any try to add anything to this eternal work for it is written, **Revelation 22:18** For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: Four times this warning is written in the scriptures, not to tamper with what God has done, and written in his Holy, inspired word. As you think about the fact that in eternity, God had predetermined the Son of God would become a man to die for our sins, also contemplate these things:*

TESTIMONY IN THE TREES

When God made the trees (and all plants) on the third day of creation (Genesis 1:11), He knew that a tree would one day be used for the most evil event of history: when evil men would crucify the Son of God. And yet, by God's foreknowledge and predetermined plan, this event would occur for the salvation of souls.

SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

When God created the heavenly bodies on day four of creation, "for signs and for seasons and for days and years," (Genesis 1:14), He knew that one of the signs would be for the precise time the Son of God would become a man, born of a Virgin in a town called Bethlehem.

THE SURETY OF THE SACRIFICE

When God made the land animals on day six he knew that the sacrifice of those animals at the tabernacle, was because of our sin in Adam, a foreshadowing of the once for all never to be repeated sacrifice of the Lamb of God, so we could receive the free gift of salvation

SIGNS IN THE SOIL

When God cursed the ground, and thorns and thistles began to grow because of sin, consider the fact that God knew that one day, those thorns would be used as a mocking crown to pierce the brow of His Son before He hung on that tree, paying the penalty for our sin.

SIGNS IN THE HEAVENS

Mark 15:17 And they clothed him with purple, and platted a crown of thorns, and put it about his head, *What a poor attempt to cloth him with royal apparel, in comparison to the glory he has seated on the right hand of the throne of his Father in Heaven, or the glory of his coming to Judge the earth in righteousness, Doesn't this give you a desire to fall on your knees and worship our Creator God, and praise Him, and continually thank Him for the glory, power, omnipotence, love, grace, and mercy to lost sinners.* **Revelation 13:8** And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

THE SECOND BIRTH

*The apostle Peter tells us that we who are born again, (born the second time in the Spirit,) are, as in, **1Peter 1:5** Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Nothing we can do can merit salvation, similarly, nothing we do can keep it. Salvation is perfect, finished, and final, we cannot add to it by works, this is God's work, not ours, and extends to all realms of our lives.*

A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY

We dare not take away from it, lest we suffer at the hands of God for our foolishness as in,

Revelation 22:19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

A WONDERFUL PROMISE

Jude 1:24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, *Even fairy tales don't have a finish like this, but this is reality, this is for sure, this is a perfect future for the born twice believer, a glorious climax to a life of sin, troubles, and pain, to be removed for ever as we pass from this earth, to a spiritual life, in a glorified body, to be ever in the presence of our God, and Saviour Jesus Christ.*

Thank you for reading

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