**What Jesus Accomplished on the Cross**

* **Part I: The Cross and Individual Sinners**
  + **The Forgiveness of Sins**
  + **The Defeat of Death and Promise of Eternal Life**
  + **Our Adoption As Children of God**
  + **Our Sanctification As a Believer**
* **Part I *(continued);* the cross defeats death and offers us eternal life—starting now**
* I Cor. 15:25-26
* For (Christ) must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.
* I Cor. 15:54-55
* “Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”

* John 5:24
* “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”
* In dramatic demonstrations of overcoming death, Jesus:
  + Rose from the dead
  + Went to *Sheol* between His crucifixion and resurrection and released the righteous Old Testament saints’ spirits to ascend to heaven
* **Because of the cross, we can be adopted into the family of God**
* Rom. 8:15
* For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are *children of God*.
* **The cross provides the opportunity for our sanctification as a believer**
* Christ perfected forever those that He bought, justified, and sanctified as holy
* Heb. 10:9-10
* Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will…” And by that will*, we have been made holy* through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
* **Part II: The Cross and the Curse, Creation, and the Nations: the Cross:**
  + **Overcomes the Curse of Genesis 3**
  + **The Redemption of Creation**
  + **The Redemption of the Nations**
* **The cross overcomes the “curse**”
* Gen. 3:17-19
* “…cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you...By the sweat of your face, you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground.”

* The cross eliminates the curse placed on man, woman, and the creation given in the Garden and satisfies the “Deep Magic” of the satan (similar to the White Witch of Narnia/Aslan conflict)
  + And frees mankind to worship the Creator God, not the created satan

* Gal. 3:13-14
* Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. For it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed *us* in order that the blessing promised to Abraham would come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus...
* John 12:31
* "Now judgment is upon this world; now the prince of this world will be cast out."
* Col. 2:13-15
* And you...being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses...and the ordinances against you…having nailed them to the cross. *Having disarmed principalities and powers*, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them.
* **The cross redeems the creation**
* Rom. 8:19-21
* For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration...in hope that the creation itself will be *liberated from its bondage to decay* and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.
* God’s intention: redemption, overcoming, destroying the evil works of the devil, driving out pagan rule and philosophies, and advancing the Kingdom on earth—*now*
  + Not just forgiving sinning disciples
  + Our goal as leaders in the church: teaching believers how to walk in the Power and Presence of the Spirit
  + Helping the Spirit advance the kingdom of God
  + Not simply babysitting a passive church who is just waiting to go to heaven
* **The cross redeems the nations**

* The Tower of Babel
  + God scattered the nations and assigned angel principalities to guide and rule them (Deut. 32:8; Psalm 82)
  + The nations worshipped these angels and they fell
  + These angels became the false gods of Mesopotamia, Canaan, Greece, Rome, Norse mythology
  + Then God called Abraham to birth a nation the Lord would use to redeem these fallen nations and overthrown their pagan gods
* Old Testament nations and their false gods are under judgment for:
  + Their idolatry
  + Their sinfulness
  + Their injustices
  + Their pagan worldview
  + Their treatment of Israel
* Is. 34:2-4
* For the indignation of the Lord is against *all nations*, and His fury against all their armies; He has utterly destroyed them. He has given them over to the slaughter…. (and) all the *host of heaven* shall be dissolved.
* Nations (including Israel) who dishonored God with their idolatry, violence, and injustice will be judged
* Nations can’t be “saved” or sent to hell
  + Nations are judged by suffering the consequences of their evil during this life (empires rising and falling, e.g.: Rome; the Third Reich)—as they are destroyed by other nations
  + These nations will also answer to God for how they treated Israel in judgment at Armageddon and at the beginning of the Millennial Reign (Ps. 84; Ezek. 38-39; Joel 3:1-2; Zech. 14)
  + *And for how they treated Christ's "brothers"* (Matt. 25:40; 45)
* Ps. 2:7-9
* The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the *nations your heritage*, and the ends of the earth your possession. *You shall break* them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”
* Num. 14:20-21
* "I have pardoned them as you requested,” the LORD replied. “But as truly as I live, *all the earth* shall be filled with the glory of the LORD."
* Matt. 25:31-32
* "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be *gathered all the nations* (Gr. ethne) and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats."

* "Ethne" is rendered *nations* in this passage
* Ethne: people groups; based on cultural, physical, and geographical ties
  + Not individuals, but *groups* of people
* In the Matthew 25 passage the nations of the world are separated into “sheep and goats” and are judged by their *works*
  + This is a theologically difficult passage—implying salvation by works, not grace

* It is clearly *nations* being spoken of here, not individuals; nations that will be judged by their works
* The key: Jesus will judge the nations according to how the treated "His brothers" – his followers—us believers

* Matt. 25:40
* “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of *these brothers and sisters of mine*, you did for me.'"
* Matt. 12: 48-50
* He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?”Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”
* This is consistent with God judging the nations for how they treat *Israel*
* Nations who have supported and shown kindness to Jews and believers (e.g.: the U.S.A) will be judged differently at the end of the age than those who persecuted them (Nazi Germany; Russia; Hindu and Islamic nations)
* Joel 3:1-2
* For behold, in those days and at that time, when I restore the fortunes of Judah and Jerusalem, I *will gather all the nations* and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat. Then *I will enter into judgment with them* there on behalf of My people and My inheritance, Israel.

After judging the nations (now and at the end of the age), Jesus will *redeem and bless the nations* in the Millennial Kingdom and the new heaven and earth

* Isaiah 19:21-24
* The LORD will make Himself known to Egypt, and on that day, Egypt will acknowledge the LORD. ..They will turn to the LORD, and He will hear their prayers and heal them. In that day *there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria*. The Assyrians will go to Egypt, and the Egyptians to Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together. In that day Israel will join a three-party alliance with Egypt and Assyria—a blessing upon the earth.
* Zech. 14:16-17
* Then *everyone who survives of all the nations* that have come against Jerusalem shall go up year after year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the Feast of Booths. And if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, there will be no rain on them.
* Rev. 21:23-26
* By (the city's) light the nations will walk, and into it the kings of the earth will bring their glory. Its gates will never be shut at the end of the day, because there will be no night there. And into the city will be brought the *glory and honor of the nations*
* Rev. 22:2
* On either side of the river stood a tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit and yielding a fresh crop for each month. And the leaves of the tree are for *the healing of the nations* (Gr: ethnon)
* The first Passover occurred during the last plague on Egypt at the end of the Jewish nation’s captivity
  + Featuring the death of the first born in Egypt
* The Jewish people obeyed Moses and sacrificed a lamb, put its blood on their door posts
  + So that the angel of death would “pass over” them
  + They were then freed from their captivity to Egypt and given the opportunity to go to their Promised Land
* The "first Passover” was not about *Israel’s* sins (although all have sinned)
  + It was a *judgment* against Pharaoh, Egypt, and their pagan, fallen gods
  + Each plague targeted a worshipped god of Egypt
  + The subsequent Passover feasts celebrated by the Jews honored God’s deliverance from Egyptian slavery
* The first Passover event pre-figured the lamb and bull sacrifices required under the Law of Moses
  + Whose blood *covered* the sins of the Jewish people
  + Until the coming of Christ who offered the actual *taking away* of the sins
* Heb. 9:19-22
* For when Moses had spoken every  precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This is the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you..” And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and *without shedding of blood* there is no remission of sin…
* Jesus in the Chosen to Nicodemus: “I did not come to deliver you from the Romans; but from *your sin*.”
* Jesus was the second Passover; the true Passover
* I Cor. 5:7-8
* For Christ, our *Passover lamb*, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival...with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
* The first Passover delivered Israel from slavery to *Egypt*
  + A slavery to *human* masters
* The second Passover delivered the world’s people from slavery to *sin*
  + A slavery to *demonic* masters
* John 8:34
* Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”
* The first Passover judged and punished Egyptian leaders and their gods
* Who did the second, the true Passover, Jesus dying on the cross, judge and condemn?
  + Non-believers?
  + Atheists?
  + Gays
  + Muslims?
  + Democrats?
* No, no, no!
* The second Passover judged the satan and all of the *principalities and powers* Paul wrote about
  + Who are the very same pagan “gods” of mythology first worshipped as fallen angels after the Tower of Babel
  + The first Passover locally judged the gods over Egypt
    - Ra, Isis, Osiris, Anubis, etc.
  + The second Passover judged *all* the principalities and power over all nations—the demon gods of every culture's mythology
    - Zeus, Aphrodite, Athena in Greece
    - Thor, Odin, Freyr in Norse lands
    - Baal, Molech, Chemosh and Marduk in Mesopotamia
* John 12:31
* Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.
* Colossians 2:15
* He (God) disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him (Christ).
* John 3:17
* For God did not send His Son into the world to *condemn the world,* but that the world through Him might be saved.
* The point: the Passover lamb, Christ does not judge and condemn *human beings*
  + The Passover event judges and condemning the satan, fallen angels, evil spirits, Watchers, Nephilim, and pagan gods
* There are consequences, *to be sure*, for humans who worship and follow created gods--and not the Creator God
  + In this life (despair, gloom, fear, a bad conscience, anticipation of judgment, loss)
  + And in the next (like, joining the satan and his angels in the lake of fire prepared for them!!)
* But God loves humans…both those who believe in Him
  + And those who do not yet
  + Christ's judgment of evil entities at the cross "passed over" humanity (like the "passing over" of Israel in Egypt)
* I Tim. 2:3-4
* God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
* The cross offers all mankind the opportunity to be free from sin, evil spirit oppression, and a miserable existence without hope
  + Some will take the opportunity
  + Sadly, some will not (just like the Israelites in the Old Testament)
* The practical ramifications of this:
* If we see God as wrathful toward humans
  + We will reason that we have permission to judge, exact justice and revenge, and dislike humans who disagree with us, our religion, our political party, our race, our nation
  + We will call for long prison terms and death penalties for our perceived enemies, and promoting wars against evil nations
* The Bible, in contrast, encourages us to have the “mind of Christ” and the love of God in our reasoning when we think about the sinners around us
  + Considering them pre-Christians
  + And not as enemies to be judged, criticized and reviled
* Matt. 5: 43-45
* “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, *love your enemies* and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven...
* Rom. 12:17 -21
* *Repay no one evil for evil*. Haveregard for good things in the sight of all men…Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord. Therefore, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil; but *overcome evil with good*.
* **Next: Part III: The Cross Redeems Israel and the Jewish People**