

**S9/2009 14/6/2009 “The Whole Bible in 9 Weeks – “Fulfillment and the Cross”  
from 2 Corinthians 1:18-22**

**Introduction**

1 When you hear the word “cross”, what comes to your mind?

**Eg a** Anger or **b** Casting your vote at an election, or **c** Marking things wrong in an exam

2 But the “cross” has become a symbol for Christianity right around the world for v. good reason

3 Interesting to go to the Middle East where Christianity started 2000 years .ago

4 Many Christian churches have been built over the centuries, but from the mid 600s were taken over by Islam and converted into Muslim mosques.

5 However in many mosques they have not removed crosses, which were carved into stone

6 The OT law “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree” (Deut 21:23), which makes it difficult for Jews to accept that God would allow His Messiah/Son to die on a cross Gal 3:1

7 Bible tells us the cross is a stumbling block for Jews and foolishness to Gentiles/non-Jews

8 Cross of Jesus changed course of human history-moves mankind from Creation to NewCreation

**I Cross has been central to God’s Plan for the world from all eternity**

**A Background to the entry of sin and how God allowed His plan for the world to unfold**

1 When God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit created the world perfect with man and woman the most important of His creation, He knew they would disobey His only rule and reject God’s control over their lives. – **Sin damages** our relationship with God, others **-selfish**

2 So it did not take God by surprise, when Adam/Eve rebelled against Him

3 This meant that sin came into the world, with it spiritual death and separation from God, and eventually physical death as God had warned would happen when He gave His 1 rule.

4 From that time in the Garden of Eden, man was guilty and under God’s judgement and could do nothing to remove guilt or have his sin forgiven permanently

5 However God had a plan, which began to unfold throughout the OT

**a** God chose a man called Abraham and made a Covenant with him and his descendants called Israel, to become His one special nation out of all the nations of the world

**b** God became their ruler and over time He gave Israel laws through Moses, as to how they should live in ways pleasing to God, incl. the 10 Commandments and 603 other laws

**c** He also gave them a number of sacrifices of lambs, goats, doves, bulls, etc., they should offer when they disobeyed God so they could have their guilt removed and sins forgiven

**d** The OT follows the history of the descendants of Israel over a number of centuries, including kings to rule over them and prophets sent to pass on God’s message to them

**e** Throughout the OT, regular references were made to the coming of a **special descendant** who would be responsible for reconciling rebellious mankind to a holy God.

**f** He would come from the line of Judah and King David, the greatest of all Israel’s kings

**g** He would have all the qualities of God Himself, but many in Israel would reject Him when He came as they were blinded by their self-interests, positions **eg** Priests, Pharisees

**B God’s plan was to send His one & only Son, born of a virgin to pay penalty/price for sin**

1 We are familiar with the birth of Jesus, born of a virgin, Mary, who hadn’t slept with a man

2 In some mysterious and miraculous way, she became pregnant and this was organized by God, the Holy Spirit. It meant **her son** wasn’t affected by man’s natural self-centred nature.

3 Jesus was 100% man, 100% God, so thru’out His life He fully obeyed His Heavenly Father

4 John the Baptist described Him as **the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world**

5 When God’s time was right, He allowed Jesus to be sacrificed on cross as that perfect lamb

6 He willingly went to the cross as a perfect sacrifice, knowing it was the only way the price for man’s rebellion against God could be to be paid - “Not my will but yours be done”

## C 2 Corinthians 1:20 God's Plan was always YES in Christ

- 1 Who is this ? Is Roger Federer the best tennis player of all time or ... Some Yes, some No
- 2 But with Jesus 2 Cor 1:20 says **“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are YES in Christ. And so thru’ Him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God**
- 3 The OT looks forward to the coming of Jesus in God's perfect timing, with the cross being the most **central point** in the Bible. The NT and all generations since then, look back to the **cross** as the **one most significant event that has changed human history for all time**
- 4 That is why the **cross fulfils God's plans** and **the world has never been the same since.**
- 5 We will look at how Jesus fulfils God's plans on the various main subjects we have looked at over the past 6 weeks

## II Jesus on the cross fulfils all God's plans for the world in reconciling man to Himself

### A Creation/Sin fulfilled when Jesus paid price for sin on the cross-1 Peter 3:18 Romans 5:8

- 1 Bible teaches that everyone born into this world is a sinner and **born spiritually dead**
- 2 There is **nothing** anyone can do in their own strength to remove God's judgement
- 3 A price had to be paid that would satisfy God's demands for justice on man's sin
- 4 1 Peter 3:18 says **God took the initiative**  
**“For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body, but made alive by the Spirit”**
  - a As Lord Jesus was born of a virgin, He was sinless, not affected by man's original sin
  - b Having obeyed His heavenly Father in every way & being fully 100% God, fully 100% man He was the only one that would satisfy a holy God's demands for justice on sin
  - d So Jesus died on the cross for sins of everyone **once for all time, never to be repeated.**
  - e He died the death each of us deserve as our substitute to give each an opportunity to be reconciled to God – **God is perfectly just – God's nature/character is also “Love”**
- 5 Jesus' willingness to die in the place of sinners showed His great compassion, love for us
- 6 Romans 5:8 **“But God demonstrates His love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”** eg Judge finds son guilty – pays price himself
- 7 The **cross** is a symbol of God's love for each and every one of us, millions over the years
- 8 **Cross** means Chns will be part of God's new Creation of new heaven and earth Rev. 21:1

### B Covenant/Redemption- Matthew 26:18,28 fulfilled with New Covenant and Lord's Supper

- 1 In previous sermons in this series we saw 2 things in God' dealings with Israel
  - a The Old Cov. with Abraham and his descendants depended on Israel obeying God's law
  - b The first Passover showed us how God saved Israel's 1<sup>st</sup> born from death by telling them to kill a perfect 1 year lamb and paint the blood on the doorposts of their homes.
- 2 By obeying God's word they were rescued from God's judgement on Egyptians 1<sup>st</sup> born
- 3 The blood of the perfect 1 yo lamb **saved** the 1<sup>st</sup> borns of Israel from death
- 4 Matthew 26:18,28 show us how the cross of Jesus fulfils the Old Covenant of **law and the Passover** and **replace** them with the New Covenant of grace, and the institution of the Lord's Supper  
**“I am going to celebrate the Passover ..... Drink ..... This is my blood of the (new) Covenant ...poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins”**
- 3 So through His death on the cross, Lord Jesus did 2 great things of many
  - a Became the perfect Passover Lamb who paid the price of death God demands for man's sin and rebellion against God as per Genesis 2:17, Romans 5:12
  - b He **brought into existence** the **New Covenant** which enable all who have repented of their sin and believed in Jesus to become children of God **and have their sins forgiven**
- 4 Every time we take part in the Lord's Supper we **remember** His death on the cross for us
- 5 Under the New Covenant we are saved from God's judgement by God's **free gift of grace**
- 6 Grace-when we do not deserve anything from God, but He gives it to us anyway if believe

C **Law** Jesus came to fulfil the OT Law, sacrificial system etc. not to abolish it - Matthew 5:17

1 God had chosen Israel as His special nation and gave them rules and laws through Moses so that they would know how to live in a way pleasing to God.

2 These included the 10 Commandments and the various sacrifices so that their sins could be forgiven. – But this was only temporary

3 Matthew 5:17 Jesus said “**Do not think I have come abolish the law or the prophets, I have come to fulfil them**”

4 Lord came to fulfil the ceremonial law, by becoming the great sacrifice for sin, to which all laws of Moses point – so **no need for any further** sacrifices – **He died once for all**

5 He came to fulfil the moral law by obeying His heavenly Father in every way paying the penalty and price for **our sins** against God, shedding His blood on cross in our place

6 In Matthew 5-7, Lord Jesus showed how the Jewish spiritual leaders had added many man-made laws to those of God in OT – **Didn’t** come from God – Sermon on the Mount

7 He showed under New Covenant of grace there was more to obedience than our actions - also extended to our thoughts and motivations of our hearts-lust, hatred in hearts, revenge

D **Kingship** Jesus testified He was the King who would rule forever John 18:37

1 Jesus told Pilate in John 18:37 “**My kingdom is not of this world .....You are right in saying I am a king .... this is the reason I was born ....**

2 He did not come to earth to set up His kingdom in competition with Caesar and Rome.

3 He was talking about a spiritual kingdom where God rules over His people, where He **a** Came to be ruler of the hearts of those who receive Him into their lives by faith

**b** Wants 1<sup>st</sup> place in their lives – **give up personal ambitions** – money, position, power

**c** Wants to change them from within to become more like Jesus, less like their sinful lives

4 Only weapons His followers will **use** to **serve, worship** God will be **spiritual weapons**, given by Holy Spirit-No threat to Rome, other powers - Jesus’ kingdom isn’t of this world

5 Unlike king David, Lord Jesus will rule forever in heaven- let Him start now here on earth

III 2 **Corinth. 1:21-22 God makes His followers stand firm in Christ, enabled by Holy Spirit**

1 For all those who are born again Chns, each can testify it was **God, not** them who organized certain things to happen in their lives so that they repented, believed and received Jesus

**a God made us firm** in Christ                      **b God set us aside** to **believe** in Jesus

**c God helped us become** His children              **d God sent** His Holy Spirit to **live** in our hearts

**e Giving** us the **assurance** that we will go to heaven when we die physically or when Jesus comes back again - all who haven’t yet repented/believed, **God has brought you** to listen

2 Without God no-one would become a Chn and inherit eternal life-must worship, serve Him

3 I can testify I only became a Chn when 27 because I wanted to travel- God might stop me

4 Chns will become part of the new heavens and new earth, which we look at in two weeks

5 To all who believe, cross leads them from the Creation to the New Creation, Heaven, Earth

6 God wants us to share what we believe with others, pray for them-**give** them Essential Jesus

7 Transformation in the life of Bill S as he has grown in the last 3 years thru’ Bible Study etc.