

The Triumph of Calvary (pt 1)

Jn. 19:16-18

Intro

- Why was it necessary for Jesus to die? What does the cross tell us about God? What did Jesus accomplish on the cross and what does that have to do with me?

▶ Ravi Zacharias at Cape Point

- The New Testament writers saw, in the cross of Christ, the most glorious display of the character of God.

"God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world." (**Gal 6:14**)

- Does a view of the cross leave its mark on you?
- What was happening in the darkness, while Jesus suffered on the cross?
Jesus Christ was suffering under the just wrath of God for the sins of the world. He was suffering in my place in order to purchase my forgiveness and my salvation.

Jn. 1:29

Lambs and Sacrifices in the Old Testament

- The Old Testament sacrificial system was instituted in order to remind the people of three vital truths.
 - God is holy.
 - We are sinful. Our sins separate us from God.
 - God devised a plan by which sinful people could be reconciled to Him. That plan involved blood, death, a high Priest, and an atoning Lamb.
- Did the Old Testament sacrifices atone for sin?
 - Enter the New Testament book of Hebrews.

Heb. 10:1-7, 11

- Those sacrifices served as constant reminders that you *need* your sins to be put away, and one day a Messiah, the perfect Lamb, *will come* and deal with them. And He will put them away once and for all.
- Why so much death?

The Character of God & the Riddle of the Old Testament

- God is infinitely valuable, infinitely worthy of worship and reverence and obedience as our Creator.
- God is committed to uphold the honor of His Name.
- Sin seeks to rob God of His due honor.

"You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness." (**Hab. 1:13**)

- But holiness is not the full picture of who God is.

"The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." (**Exod. 34:6-8**)

"He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous are both alike an abomination to the LORD." (**Prov. 17:15**)

"And to the one who does not work but trusts Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness." (**Rom. 4:5**)

- How does a holy God forgive sinners who have neglected, ignored, dishonored, and belittled His glory, and have done so not once but thousands of times?
- The record of history (see Old Testament) and the promise of the future (see Revelation) is that God has not hung of His Judge's hat. He still exercises justice and He will return as the Judge of the world.

New Testament Scenes: The Courtroom and Cape Point

Rom. 1:18-3:26

- When Paul begins to unfold the glories of the gospel for the believers in Rome, he begins by bringing everyone into the courtroom of God's justice.

3:19-20 – the verdict

Rom. 3:21-26

- Another way for sinners to be right with God was found. We had broken the law so that road was closed.

"When we look at Calvary and behold the Savior dying for us, we should see in his death not first our salvation but our damnation being borne and carried away by Him!"

–**Robert L. Reymond**, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*, p.639

"Divine love triumphed over divine wrath by divine self-sacrifice."

–**John Stott**

What was happening in those dark hours?

Is 53 He was being pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. The Lord was laying on Him in that darkness the iniquity of us all

John 1 He was the Lamb of God taking away the sins of the world.

Mk 10 He was the Son of Man giving his life as a ransom for many.

1 Peter He was himself bearing our sins in His body on the tree, the righteous for he unrighteous, that He might bring us to God

2 Cor God was making him who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

Gal He was redeeming us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us.

- In an eternal pact, the Father and the Son solved the riddle of Exodus 34 and made a way for sinners to stand and see the ocean of divine wrath and the torrents of God's mercy meet together in the cross of Christ.