

Jesus Took Our Place!

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Jesus took *our* place on the cross—now it is our turn to take *His* place in this world. It is a huge responsibility on us, but He commissioned us and He is worthy of our commitment and our obedience to His instructions.

If we will accept that responsibility and conduct our life to always and faithfully represent Him—He gives us a living hope of seeing Him in Paradise. It is to know the mystery of the riches of glory awaiting us AV Colossians 1:27 “*Christ in you, the hope of glory.*”

It is difficult to comprehend *Jesus in our place* as our offering for sin **on** the Cross, but we must understand why He had to do that *for us* and what change must result *in us*. This sacrifice for us is a gift from God—it is far *beyond* anything we could value on earth. It includes a new attitude in us; a restored relationship with Him, and our place in His kingdom.

On judgment and justification—AV Romans 3:10 “*As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable [corrupt WEY]; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*” A blood sacrifice would have

to be offered—we need Someone who would be willing to take our place.

The disciples asked Jesus if Elijah came first—so He told them AV Mark 9:12 “*Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought [treated with contempt NKJV]. 13 But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.*”

Jesus has indeed suffered; died; and rose to life so that we, or anyone, would now have the *choice* and the *opportunity* to be *justified* with the Father; to be *renewed* in our thinking; to be *changed* in our attitude; and to be *ready* to stand before the Judge of all!

The apostle prayed that NKJV Ephesians 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, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power 20 which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead.*”

Jesus took everyone’s *place* on the Cross, to complete the Father’s plan to give everyone *eternal life*—if they will believe, trust, and endure in the faith. AV Matthew 18:11 “*For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.*” But those who are *lost* will have to *believe* God and be willing to trust in faith on the shed Blood of His Son.

Approaching the city Matthew 20:17-19 NIV Jesus took the twelve disciples aside and said, “*We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!*”

Any injustice or prejudice we have faced would *pale* in comparison to the ruthless beating our Savior endured—all that *suffering* would bring about *change* in us—if we *want* to change. Jesus was *mocked and flogged and crucified* so we could be *forgiven*, *healed*, and *free* from Satan’s grip on us.

The humiliation and suffering were not unexpected—Jesus *knew* what would happen before any evil plan was conceived. The Father had His own *reason* for allowing His own *Son* to take our place. He knew from the beginning that there would be AV Romans 3:18 “*No fear of God before their eyes,*” and that everyone will be NIV Romans 3:19 “*Held accountable to God.*”

Someone *had* to take our place since AV Romans 3:23 “*All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*” The substitution, suffering, and sacrifice *had* to happen, because our *heart* has to change—from rebellion to submission, and from unbelief to faithful trust.

Jesus *sacrificed* Himself since that is the only way our *sin* nature could be removed—we *must*, however, **want** it removed by letting God **have** our life. Only by faith and trust on the Blood of Christ will anyone enter God’s kingdom. Satan wants to *divert* us from a position of trust—so *serious* warnings are in order. NIV Matthew 7:15 “*Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing.*” They look *religious* but are really *dangerous!*

The disciples did not understand—they thought Jesus would *free them* from Roman rule, but it was to *free them* from Satan’s grip on their life. Jesus explained that the suffering He would endure, *would* free them from the evil nature that *would* eventually destroy them.

The people in Jerusalem knew about the plot but the disciples did not. They had left *everything* to follow Him, so when He was flogged and

crucified, the anguish and despair they felt all but ruined their faith. Jesus had to tell them again Luke 18:31 NIV “*We are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be [accomplished AV].*”

The plan *would* be completed, and Jesus *would* take *our* place on the cross. He not only *knew* of the plan He *predicted* it. Scripture says Exodus 12:46; He would be *pierced* Psalm 22:16; they would *cast lots* for His garments Psalm 22:18; He would *call out* to His Father 22:1; He would be *raised* to life 16:10; and He would *ascend* into heaven 110:1.

When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, animals were slain to cover their shame. Millions of sacrifices afterward only covered sin momentarily. God’s perfect *plan* of Atonement was to offer the perfect *sacrifice* of His Son. When Abraham was about to sacrifice his *son*, God provided a *substitute* to take Isaac’s place—just as He provided His Son to take *our* place. NKJV Hebrews 9:28 “*Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.*”

Sin is as offensive to God *now* as it was to Him *then!* God would be justified in destroying everyone in the world—that is why any attitude of rebellion in our heart must be revealed and removed. God will not tolerate sin and He took drastic measures to deal with it. He knows what sin would do *to us*, if there is no change of heart *in us!* Repentance and change are required.

This sacrifice for sin had to be a *perfect Lamb*, just as the blood on the doors in Egypt was a *perfect plan* of protection Exodus 12. No animal is flawless, so no offering would be suitable. Only *God* Himself could be a *perfect* sacrifice, so Jesus would die for the sins of the world—no one is *excluded*, so everyone *can* be *included*.

Many in Jerusalem at that time did not understand the prophecies on this, so Jesus had to say AV Luke 24:25-26, “*O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?*”

The sacrifice of the Son for the sins of the world was the initial plan. AV 1 Peter 1:10 “*Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:*

11 “*Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.*”

Before all this took place, and back at the temple, AV Luke 2:34-35, “*Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.*”

Jesus was severely beaten and unjustly crucified to forgive our sins—that should change our heart! Romans 6:2 NIV “*We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*” Resentful attitudes, unscriptural decisions, wrong choices, and rebellion against God must be repented of, confessed, forsaken forever, and our pleading with God to bring about a *change* in us.

Forgiveness and change are available to *anyone*—but they have to *want* change and then be willing to *believe* and *trust* God. NKJV John 1:29 “*Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*”

Jesus took *our* place—now we can take *His* place in this world. A **Changed Heart is a Changed Life**—and anyone *can* change—they

just have to *want* it! AV 1 Corinthians 5:7 “*Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.*”

Jesus took our place on the cross—so the question: Does that mean what it should to us? AV Isaiah 53:5 “*He was wounded for **our** transgressions, he was bruised for **our** iniquities: the chastisement of **our** peace was upon him; and with his stripes **we** are healed.*”

God approved of the sacrifice and on AV Matthew 20:19 “*The third day he shall rise again.*” By that *perfect* sacrifice, God provides all we need to deal with the issues of this life—needs supplied; heal by faith in His Blood; free from resentment by the power of His Spirit; and protected from harm by the covering of the Blood.

That should be enough reason for us to *take His place* in this world—since He *took our place* on the Cross. *That* should be enough incentive for us to really *want* change; to really be *free* from the sin nature that would eventually destroy us! AV John 1:12 “*As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*”

He *knew* that it would all happen as predicted—He *had* to take our place so we could *see change* in our heart! All too many times—AV Isaiah 53:6 “*We like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way!*” But God is loving and merciful and willing, so He “*laid on him the iniquity of us all.*” Now we *can* change—we just need to really *want* it!



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