

CHRIST OUR SUBSTITUTE



By Kenneth E. Hagin

Jesus Christ was God's substitute for the human race.

There could be no substitution unless Christ actually paid the spiritual penalty of man's transgression. Sin, basically, is a spiritual thing.

Adam's sin gave Satan dominion over him. Adam did not have God's nature—he had a perfect human nature. When he listened to Satan, Satan poured his own nature into Adam's spirit. Man instantly became a liar; a cringing, cowardly being. That nature has been reproduced in the human race through the ages.

John 8:44 gives a picture of what happened to the human race through Adam's transgressions:

JOHN 8:44

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the

lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

But, praise God, Isaiah 53 gives us a picture of the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ:

ISAIAH 53:3-6 (Leeser)

3 He was despised and shunned by men; a man of pains, and acquainted with disease; and as one who hid his face from us was he despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 But only our diseases did he bear himself, and our pains he carried: but we indeed esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 Yet he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement for our peace was upon him; and through his bruises

was healing granted to us.

6 We all like sheep went astray; every one to his own way did we turn; and the Lord let befall him the guilt of us all.

(Isaac Leeser's translation is published by the Hebrew Publishing Company, N.Y., N.Y.)

The 9th verse of that chapter reads in the King James version, "And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death . . ." The word "death" in the original Hebrew is plural. The margin of my King James renders it "deaths." Jesus died twice on the cross—spiritually and physically.

He died spiritually the moment God laid our sin upon Him. And the moment that He who knew no sin became sin, that precious body became mortal, and He could die physically.

It Is Finished

Many think that when Jesus uttered the sentence, "It is finished," He was saying the New Covenant was finished—complete. But it was not finished until . . . He was raised from the dead . . . ascended into the heavenly Holy of Holies with His own blood to obtain eternal redemption for us . . . and then, after walking 40 days on the earth, He again ascended on High and sat down at the right hand of the Father where He ever liveth to make intercession for us.

So He did not mean that He had finished His substitutionary work for humanity. What then did He mean?

MATTHEW 27:50,51 (ASV)

50 And Jesus cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit.

51 And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake; and the rocks were rent . . .

Jesus had predicted that He was able to destroy the temple of God and build it again in three days.

The temple was destroyed, you see, as the place where Jehovah dwelled when the veil was rent from top to bottom. Under the Old Covenant, the Shechinah glory of God dwelled in the Holy of Holies, which was curtained off by the veil of the

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Our Substitute/from page 2 temple. No one dared enter into that holy place except the high priest—and he only under great precaution, with the blood of innocent animals. If anyone else dared intrude, they fell dead instantly.

Josephus, the Jewish historian, tells us this curtain was 40 feet wide, 20 feet high, and 4 inches thick. Notice it was rent in two from top to bottom—not bottom to top. Evidently an angel from God, or someone from Heaven at least, got hold of it right at the top and ripped it apart.

Just before this happened, Jesus had uttered those three strange words, "It is finished."

The resurrection of Jesus was the greatest event which ever took place! Satan was defeated! The Head of the new creation is the victor!

The rending of the veil was the rending of the Abrahamic covenant. He meant, in other words, the Abrahamic covenant is finished.

He had finished what God the Father had sent Him to do upon the earth. He had come as the Incarnate One—the God-man.

He had done His Father's will, spoken His Father's Word, and done His Father's works. He had fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant—He had kept the Mosaic law.

When the veil of the temple was rent in two, the Holy of Holies was no longer home of Jehovah. He had moved out of the temple.

There was no need of a priesthood any longer. The high priest finished his ministry when he made the great sacrifice of the Lamb of God who was to take away the sin of the world.

Jesus said, "I will destroy this temple—and restore it in three days." And in First Corinthians 3:16 the Word declares, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

The new creation is God's temple today. When the Man of the Cross rose again from the dead, He became the Head of a New Creation—the Church. His death and substitution

made the former temple unnecessary. He is become the new High Priest.

Three Days and Nights

MATTHEW 27:50 (ASV)
50 And Jesus cried again with a loud voice, and yielded up his spirit . . .

Jesus died and gave up His spirit. What happened during those three days and nights while His body lay in the tomb?

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21
21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

When He was made sin—He was turned over by God to the adversary. When that heart-breaking phrase fell from His lips, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Satan became His master. And, when Jesus died, His spirit was taken by the adversary and carried into the place where the sinner's spirit goes when he dies.

He was delivered there for our offences that He might be raised for our justification (Romans 4:25).

One of the most dramatic and remarkable incidents in regard to Christ's substitutionary work takes place. Colossians 2:15 gives us a description of a battle which took place in hell before Jesus arose from the dead. In Luke it tells us He went into the strong man's house and bound him.

COLOSSIANS 2:15
15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

In the marginal rendering of my King James it says, ". . . having put off from Himself the principalities and the powers."

It would seem as though the whole hosts of hell were upon Him.

He was going through agonies beyond words when suddenly—He is justified, and made alive! He has satisfied the claims of Justice upon the human race—and He hurls back the hosts of darkness!

HEBREWS 2:14
14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil . . .

He put to naught the hosts of darkness! He paralyzed their death-dealing power. And when He met John He said, "I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death" (Rev. 1:18). He had conquered Satan! He had stripped him of his authority! (Keys represent authority.) Jesus was the master of all hell!

But He did not conquer Satan for Himself. Jesus conquered Satan for us! It was as though you and I personally had met Satan and conquered him—stripped him of his authority, and stood a master over him.

Now we can understand why Jesus gave us the power of attorney to use His name, "In my name, you shall cast out demons . . . you shall

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Our Substitute/from page 3
lay your hands on the sick and they shall recover”

MATTHEW 28:18,19

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations

Read what Peter preached by revelation concerning all this in the first sermon preached after the resurrection of our Lord in Acts 2:22-36.

And then notice, as you read Paul’s sermon in Acts 13 that it was at the resurrection of Jesus that God said, “*Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee*” (v. 33).

That day He was made alive in spirit—the firstborn from the dead. He’d thrown off from himself the forces of darkness which had held him in captivity. He’d stripped them of their authority and dominion over man. He was the master of death and the conqueror of the grave.

The resurrection of Jesus was the greatest event which ever took place!

Satan was defeated! The Head of the new creation is the victor!

Resurrection: What Does It Mean to Us Today?

“It means our physical body will be raised one day,” someone answers.

Well, thank God, it guarantees that. But, you see, there is a spiritual application, too, of something which belongs to us right now.

EPHESIANS 2:5,6

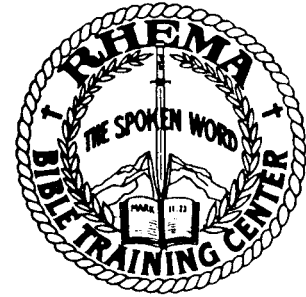
5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus

You see, when Christ was made alive in spirit down there in hell—that’s when we were made alive! He was our substitution. He didn’t have to do that for Himself—He did it for us.

God raised us up together! When He was raised in the mind of God the Father—we were raised! And He has made us to sit together in heavenly places in Christ.

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