

## What did Jesus do for the Human race at the cross?

*Author: Mike Forfar*

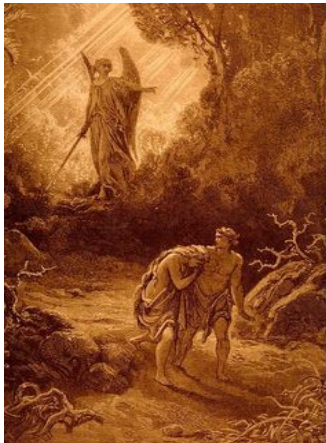
**Genesis 2:15** “Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. **16** The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **17** but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.” NASB

Adam was commanded by God not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He is told that on the day that he transgresses that command he will die. The sad fact is that Adam chose to eat the forbidden fruit after his wife Eve had been deceived by Satan and eaten of it. Both Adam and his wife Eve would have died physically that day but for the fact that the Son of God chose to become man's saviour and die in his place.

**Revelation 13:8** “All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.” NIV

Here we read an interesting fact that Jesus was slain from the creation of the world. Even though he was actually slain on the cross in AD 31, from a salvation perspective he was slain when he decided to become man's saviour.

**Genesis 3:21** “The Lord God made garments from skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. **22** And the Lord God said, “Now that the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil, he must not be allowed to stretch out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” **23** So the Lord God expelled him from the orchard in Eden to cultivate the ground from which he had been taken. **24** When he drove the man out, he placed on the eastern side of the orchard in Eden angelic sentries who used the flame of a whirling sword to guard the way to the tree of life.” NET



After a sentence was pronounced on them God clothed them with garments made of skin. It seems as if the skins were provided from the institution of the sacrificial system whereby an innocent lamb was slain instead of the guilty sinner. The penalty of death was placed on the lamb who typified Jesus who was to die in the place of the guilty pair.

If Jesus had not chosen to be man's saviour that day the human race would have been destroyed. None of us would have been born. We all owe this life to Jesus. The human race was given a second chance, time of probation to demonstrate loyalty to God and eventually be given access to the tree of life again.

In this life we all die. This was never God's original plan for the human race. Death is a consequence of sin. It would be torture for man in his sinful condition to live forever so God in his mercy prohibited man from eating from the tree of life until man becomes sinless again.

The death of Jesus on the cross bought a resurrection from the grave for all humanity. There are two general resurrections from the grave and we have been given a choice as to which resurrection that we want to be in. A lifestyle of faith and repentance towards God will ensure that we are in the first resurrection. A life of unrepentance will ensure that we rise in the second resurrection.

### **Two Resurrections**

**John 5:25** “I tell you the solemn truth, a time is coming—and is now here—when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. **26** For just as the Father has life in himself, thus he has granted the Son to have life in himself, **27** and he has granted the Son authority to execute judgment because he is the Son of Man. **28** “Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice **29** and will come out—the ones who have done what is good to the resurrection resulting in life, and the ones who have done what is evil to the resurrection resulting in condemnation.” NET

The first resurrection is a resurrection to eternal life given to the people of God who are saved from destruction. They will be raised immortal at the return of Christ to this earth. Those who are lost will also be raised

## What did Jesus do for the Human race at the cross?

---

to life to face the Judgement of God and then suffer the punishment of eternal death. According to the book of Revelation ch 20:5-6 this second resurrection takes place 1000 years after the first resurrection. So the death and resurrection of Jesus has given all humanity a choice. Our choice is this-which resurrection do you want to be in? The first resurrection to eternal life or the second resurrection to judgement and eternal death.

### We were NOT saved at the cross

The writers of the New Testament were clear on this. If we were saved before we were born that means that we do not have to have faith nor do we have to live a life of repentance. Meaning that we do not have to be born again nor live a life through the Holy Spirit. All of which are necessary for salvation.

The idea that we were saved at the cross, ie before we were born, is a heresy that the Apostle Paul calls 'doctrines of devils'. Its purpose is to deceive christians into believing that faith, repentance, being born again and living by the Holy Spirit are unnecessary for Salvation and to live a life without them. The death burial and resurrection of Christ from the dead provided the opportunity to be saved for all who would accept Christ as their High priest and King. But a person is only saved when they believe, exercise faith, repent, and live by the Spirit of God.

**1 Corinthians 15:16-18** “For if the dead are not raised, then not even Christ has been raised. 17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is useless; you are still in your sins. 18 Furthermore, those who have fallen asleep in Christ have also perished.”  
NET

Christianity is founded on the resurrection of Christ from his grave. Paul is clear that if Jesus has not been raised from the grave then we will not be raised from our graves. Then those who have already died have no hope. Without the resurrection of Christ we are still in our sins. This means that we were not saved at the cross. If Jesus died for our sins but remained in his grave then we are still lost. The resurrection of Jesus is the proof and hope of our resurrection.



**Luke 24:46-47** “Thus it stands written that the Christ would suffer and would rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.” NET

We are not saved until we repent of our sins. If we repent then the death of Jesus takes the place of our death. His death becomes our death. The penalty for sin is paid and we are given a place in the first resurrection to eternal life.

**Colossians 2:12-14** “Having been buried with him in baptism, you also have been raised with him through your faith in the power of God who raised him from the dead. 13 And even though you were dead in your transgressions and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he nevertheless made you alive with him, having forgiven all your transgressions. 14 He has destroyed what was against us, a certificate of indebtedness expressed in decrees opposed to us. He has taken it away by nauling it to the cross. NET

**Certificate of debt:** The Greek word that is translated “certificate of debt” is word 5498 '*Cheirographon*'. Literally translated it means 'hand writing'. It was a legal term that applied to a document that contained the hand written record of our debts which we are obligated to pay. It is like an IOU. In our case the certificate of debt is the record of all the sins that we have ever committed. The decrees that are against us are the penalties for those sins prescribed by the law of God. This record and the punishment for sin are hostile to us because they demand the death of the accused. The good news is that Jesus has taken this record of our sins out of the courtroom and nailed it to the cross. This means that the penalty for our sins was paid for by himself when he was crucified. This legal declaration of innocence given to us when Christ pays our debt is only given to those people who as Paul describes them as “*having been buried with him in baptism.*”



**Romans 6:3-7** “Or do you not know that as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we have been buried with him through baptism into death, in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may live a new life. 5 For if we have become united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united in the likeness of his resurrection. 6 We know that our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin would no longer dominate us, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 (For someone who has died has been freed from sin.)” NET

## ***What did Jesus do for the Human race at the cross?***

---

---

People who have been buried with Christ in baptism are those people who have buried the old life of sin and have been resurrected through the glory of the Father to a new way of life. This newness of life consists of being freed from sin and becoming a servant of righteousness. It is only these people who have their record of sin cancelled by God.

**Colossians 3:1-3** “Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, 3 for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ (who is your life) appears, then you too will be revealed in glory with him.” NET

### **Conclusion**

1. If Jesus didn't become man's saviour Adam would have died on the day he sinned and the human race would not have existed.
2. Jesus bought two resurrections for the human race. One to no condemnation and eternal life the other to judgement and eternal death. God in his mercy has given us all a choice as to which resurrection we want to be in.
3. We were NOT saved at the cross. The human race was given a second chance at the cross and we have been given a period of probationary time to test our loyalty to God.
4. If Christ was not raised from his grave we have no salvation.
5. Only those who have been resurrected from being slaves to sin and live in newness of life through the Holy Spirit will have their record of sins destroyed and will be in the resurrection to eternal life.

\*\*\*\*\*

The NET Bible® Scripture text. Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996, 2019 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved

The NASB "Scripture quotations taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973,1975, 1977, 1995, 2020 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. [www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org)"

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. [www.zondervan.com](http://www.zondervan.com) The “NIV” and “New International Version” are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc.™