

FROM THE CROSS TO THE THRONE

The Bible opens up when we begin to study it in the light of the truth of Redemption. From the scriptures we see that the apex of God's creation was man. When Satan proposed to Adam to object the authority of God over him and to seek to be his own boss, Adam accepted the proposal but instead of becoming free from God's authority rather became a slave to Satan. We have to remember that Adam was not made independently of God and therefore his best is in his obedience to God and to carry out his purpose given by God to rule and keep the world. The fall of Adam from the life of God to the spiritual death (life of Satan) threw the whole creation and future children of Adam into great pain and spiritual death. God set out to redeem the precious man He created.

Bible says in **1 Peter 1:10-11** that this redemption plan was set out by God through the prophets of old. These prophets told of the coming of the Son of God to be a Substitute of mankind, to suffer in the place and punishment of man's high treason and through His death and resurrection to restore the righteousness of man and therefore his place of authority in the creation of God. Jesus came to fit the bill promised by God from the time of the fall of Adam. As a Man not tainted with sin, born of the Virgin Mary, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, Jesus walked in full obedience to God but yet died the death of a criminal on the cross. It was clear that He did not die for His own sin, for no sin was found in Him, but He died for mankind paying for their iniquity. Jesus died twice just like Adam did when he first died spiritually and later physically. As Jesus hanged on the cross He became sin because God imputed all our sins to Him and He went to hell to pay the price for our high treason. Jesus stayed in hell until mankind was justified and made righteous (**Romans 4:25**) and only then did the Father declared Him righteous again and brought Him out of hell in power and victorious over Satan, sin, death and hell. Jesus did all that for mankind so that we can be restored to God. **Ephesians 2:10-22** described that we became recreated in Jesus Christ to take up, once again, our position of good works in God. The enmity between God and man was broken and man once again became the dwelling place of God having constant access to God and enjoying victory over Satan, sin, death and hell.

For all that will accept Jesus' payment for their sins will be made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus and therefore return to the original mandate of God. Our mandate to multiply the righteousness in us and to keep God's creation from the deception and destruction of Satan was restored to us. **2 Corinthians 5:18-20** says God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation and He is pleading with the world through us make a turn back to Him instead of heading for the hell prepared for Satan and his cohorts. We are to share this reconciliation message with all mankind so that they also receive the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus and to be restored to the position that all mankind was created for. It should be our love for God and our appreciation that puts us in the Office of Reconciliation that Adam in his selfishness abandoned.

Paul said in **2 Corinthians 5:13-14** that he was constantly referred to as mad for the gospel of reconciliation he preached. The message was a disgrace to the Jews that their King died a helpless criminal death; the message was foolishness to the Greeks because as humans they just couldn't understand the great Spiritual plan of God for saving the world; and the message made the Romans made fun of the Christians thinking how in the world could they believe such an absurd information. But Paul's reply to the critics was that the love of God constraints him to preach. We have come to understand what the message of Reconciliation has done for us and we are encouraged to preach the message to God's creation even if they consider us crazy. Like a candle, Paul was prepare to spend himself and to be spent for the cause of mankind and he threw away all consideration for his own safety and preservation as he went about preaching the gospel of the cross to all and even to people who loved him less (**2 Corinthians 12:15**). The New Creation was born out of love and we have been given the one commandment of love. We have been restored to caring, ruling and keeping God's creation. The love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit that has been given to us (**Romans 5:5**) and therefore we have accepted the original responsibility of being there for the weak and ignorant and preaching the gospel of Reconciliation to all those who are heading for the very destruction Christ came to shed His life to deliver us from (**Romans 15:1-3**).

Church, it takes free men to free others. Bible says we have been freed by the obedient life of Christ on earth; His death on the cross paid for our sin of high treason; and He spent those horrible days in hell so that all they that call on Him may receive God's eternal life. But how can they call on Him that they have not believed? And how can they believe unless someone tells them of this gospel of Reconciliation? We have the message of reconciliation that takes mankind through the cross of Jesus Christ to the throne and authority of our God.