

JR Tolkien said: “The Gospel is the only fairy tale that is true.”

Author Anne Rice began extensive historical research as an atheist. She said she discovered a lot of scholarly work by liberal theologians who denied the Gospel accounts of Christ’s life.

“Their arguments lacked coherence and were full of conjecture. Some books were assumptions piled upon assumptions. Conclusions based upon little or no data.”

“The whole case for the non-divine Jesus who stumbled into Jerusalem and somehow got crucified had nothing to do with the later founding of Christianity. That whole picture floated in liberal circles I had frequented for thirty years, and that case was never made.”

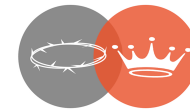
“More surprising was that these scholars disliked Jesus. Some showed outright contempt. I had never come across that in any other field I had studied.”

Anne asked herself, “Why would there be this one area of historical scholarship where the scholars were mocking and sneering and despising Jesus?”

The answer is- The claims of Jesus force us into an all or nothing decision.

Here’s the key takeaway: If you see Jesus taking your place of punishment, it will melt your heart and to some degree cause you to live for a different kingdom.

If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won’t he also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us. Romans 8:31-34



THE GREAT EXCHANGE
the day God took our place

Easter 2015

SCC Message by Dan Wilvers
April 4th and 5th, 2015

The Day God Took Our Place

An ancient prophecy-

“And I will put enmity (Hostility) between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15

Derek Kidner: *In the whole history of the world, there was only one human being that was only an offspring of a woman. “A virgin shall conceive without a man. His name shall be called Emmanuel.”* (God with us)

I. Jesus’ coming revealed His purpose to us.

“No one can kill Me without My consent. I lay down My life voluntarily for I have the right and the power to lay it down when I want to and also the right and the power to take it again. For the Father has given Me this right.” John 10:18

“Now My soul is troubled and distressed. And what shall I say? Father save Me from this hour of trial and agony? But it was for this very purpose that I have come to this hour.” John 12:27

What was Jesus purpose in coming? Why did he come to die?

“Jesus said, ‘I did not come to judge the world, but to save it.’” John 12:47

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it. John 3: 17

“Put your sword away,” Jesus said, ... 53 Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? 54 But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?” Matthew 26:52-54

The Old Testament weaves the story of God's plan through 4000 years of history and along the way we get glimpses of what was coming. In the most famous prophecy of Christ, the prophet Isaiah foretells of his death.

Isaiah 53:3-11 (written in 7 century B.C.)

He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised, and we did not care. ⁴Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins!

⁵But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! ⁶All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all.

¹⁰But it was the LORD's good plan to crush him and fill him with grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have a multitude of children, many heirs.

The New Testament makes several claims to Christ's Deity

Then the high priest said to him, "I demand in the name of the living God that you tell us whether you are the Messiah, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ Jesus replied, "Yes, it is as you say. And in the future you will see me, the Son of Man, sitting at God's right hand in the place of power and coming back on the clouds of heaven." Matthew 26:63,64

Jesus (*to Philip*): ⁹ I have lived with you all this time, and you still don't know who I am? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. John 14:9

Apostle Paul writes: "Christ was truly God. But He gave up everything and became a slave when He became like one of us. He even died on a cross. Then God gave Him the highest place and honored His name above all others so that at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down – those in heaven, on earth and under the earth." Philipians 2:6-11

II. The death of Jesus shows us His passion for us.

But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

"Christ sacrificed His life's blood to set us free which means that our sins are now forgiven. Christ did this because of God's amazing grace."

Ephesians 1:7

Grace must intervene on our behalf. What does that look like?

It means everything you've ever done wrong or ever will do wrong is forgiven in Christ on the Cross. That's good news.

How did that happen? The Bible explains it this way.

For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Romans 5:10

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8,9

III. The Resurrection of Jesus shows us His power can be in us.

Pilate replied, "Take guards and secure it the best you can." ⁶⁶ So they sealed the tomb and posted guards to protect it. Matthew 27:65

After his death, he presented himself alive to them in many different settings over a period of forty days. In face-to-face meetings, he talked to them about things concerning the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3

He was buried, and he was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said. ⁵ He was seen by Peter and then by the twelve apostles. ⁶ After that, he was seen by more than five hundred of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, ...⁷ Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, I saw him, too.

1 Corinthians 15:4-8