

## Title: God-Man On The Cross

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 04/09/23

This is the account of what they did to Jesus. It is good to hear it from the word.

John 19:17-42, 20:1-29

Amen. Today many of you here believe that Jesus is not a ghost. Jesus is not a spirit, but a man. Jesus is in the flesh today, in Heaven. He is the only Man in the flesh in Heaven. All others of those that are Christians that have believed in His name and have gone to Heaven before Him, are in the spirit. They are in the spirit, but Jesus is in the flesh. This Man is the King. He was at the beginning, and He will be at the end. He is the Alpha and the Omega. He started at all and He will end it all.

This Man has overcome hell and He has overcome Hades, and He has overcome death. Scripture says, "oh, death where is your sting?" I do not fear death anymore, because I am going to go see Jesus. I do not fear death anymore, because I am going to see the Man, the Son of David, the Son of God, the God-Man *who is* fully God and fully man. I will feel His hands, and I will feel His side. He said, "blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." You can know the hands and the side of Jesus, before you actually see them. You can know His voice, before you actually hear it with *physical* ears. You can know His Spirit. You can know His countenance. You can know who He is, before you are physically face to face with Him.

There are some that long for that day, and there are others that fear it. I want you to be on the side that long for the day of Jesus, rather than fear the day of Jesus. I want you to long for the day of Jesus's appearing, versus fearing the day of Jesus. He came as a Servant, as a Bondservant, as Christ. He will come again as *the* Warrior King to annihilate God's enemies.

You can be offended at that, or you can understand who He is. He is the Son of God, who was first loving, kind, and merciful. The Son of God came to bring the Kingdom of Heaven first. He portrayed it in perfection. So much so that God told Him, you are doing great. I am all for you. God said, "I am well pleased." In John's account of Jesus's transfiguration is seen by Peter, James and John on the mountain before He was crucified. Only three men saw who Jesus was going to be in the future. Then, along with others, saw Him hanging on a cross. *They were* wondering, have we missed something here? Where is the Kingdom of Israel?

He did not come to bring the Kingdom of Israel and the Kingdom of David, but the Kingdom of Heaven first for all. Then when He comes back, He comes as the Son of David. He will bring the Kingdom of Israel on the Earth, with the capital city, Jerusalem, because it is the City of the King. The Jews are longing for the Messiah to sit in the City of the King. But, they are so focused on the Son of David, that they missed the Son of God.

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We read last week, Jesus said, "I have many that are not of this flock," who were the Jews. "I have many that are from another flock," which is us, the Gentiles. But, "I am the Shepherd" of the whole flock. I have to make a way for one flock to be mine and hear my voice. "I will lay my life down, and I have the power to take it back up again." The amazing thing is that we have seen the resurrection of the dead in the Bible.

I Kings 17:17-20

II Kings 13:20-21

Elijah and Elisha were prophets who prayed and saw the dead come back to life. The power of God has always been a resurrecting power. But, they have never seen someone raise themselves from the dead. They have never seen someone bring themselves back to life. Jesus came and He just called out, "Lazarus, come forth." "Who is this guy? *Is he greater than Elijah or Elisha?*" Yes, something greater is here. The Jews asked for a sign, and they get the sign of Jonah. If you are not a Jew, you are a Gentile. That is us. We mock all these stories. Is Jonah a real story? Is Noah a real story?

We even read it here with Pilate, when he wrote the name of "Jesus," to mock the Jews, *who think they are so profound and think they are so great*. They brought me their "King." He is mocking the Jewish faith. He knows it. He did it on purpose, and the Gentiles do it *to this day*. There are scenes upon scenes of the crucifixion *displayed*. The Gentiles do not understand the profoundness of the depth of the Jewish faith and they mock it. There are Christians that say they have "found the One, the Messiah." That is foolishness. Why would you kill the best Man that has ever come to the Earth? Why would you crucify Him. They mock it just like Pilate did that day.

But, the power of the gospel of the cross is when you realize that Jesus died for you. That your sins put Him on the cross. That is when this story becomes real. That is when the story becomes powerful. That is when the emblem of the cross becomes true and not just another image, not just another sign. Not just a sign of Christianity, but of what Jesus did for me.

It is very strange when you think about it. We do not go around putting symbols of a hangman noose on our necks. We do not put an image of an execution chair on our flags. We do not go around putting tormenting images in front of us. Yet, as Christians, it is the norm to put the symbol of the cross on us or *objects*. There is a glory in the cross. It is a gospel of the cross, but it is more profound when you realize that the cross represents what I have done to the very best Man that ever walked the Earth.

"I put Him on the cross." Yes, you did. We can desensitize ourselves from what we are actually looking at which is one of the worst ways that men have found to kill other men. *Death by hanging on the cross* was a process that was slow, and it was to send a message in order for an empire to maintain peace. They put the King of Peace on the cross. It was to send a harsh message, that "if you steal or rob someone, you can end up here. Do not steal or rob." Jesus was *crucified with robbers*. One of them knew that Jesus had done nothing wrong, but was on the cross for him. Jesus tells him you will

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be with me today in Paradise. The robber recognizes that the payment for his sin is *hanging* next to him.

You must have that same reality. I believe in that moment that robber could feel peace and no more pain, because the Man next to him was taking away the pain of his sin. That is the “these signs will follow you.” That is what *true peace is*. That is what the King of Peace brings when you recognize the power of the cross for you.

#### Acts 2:36

This is Peter preaching after the baptism of the Holy Spirit has inflamed and encompassed his spirit man. He has been empowered. He has been plugged in to the Holy Ghost. Peter is now the dwelling place of God. God has made him the temple of Holy Spirit, in order to bring in all of the flock of the Jews, along with all the flock of the world as well. Even to us who have never seen Jesus, yet we believe He is alive in the flesh today.

#### Acts 2:37

The power of the simplicity of this gospel is when you see that you crucified Jesus, and you are cut to the heart, and ask, “What do I do?”

#### Acts 2:38

Then the good news of Easter comes in. Because your sins separated yourself from God forever. The debt had to be paid, for you are separated. This was what Jesus, the Son of God, had to do. He had to pay with His own blood, the price of death. It was the purest blood. He took it not only to the Earth, but He took His blood and put it on the altar in Heaven. That altar is cleansed of death. There is no death that can seep in to Heaven anymore, or even in the Earth. Death has lost its keys.

Death is puffed up. Hades is puffed up. There is still fear for those who are perishing. But, when you pull back the veil, you realize death has no keys. Christ is in Heaven and He is the Man who is holding the key. When you understand this, then you realize what He died for.

On Sunday, today, there is power for you to overcome your iniquity, to overcome your bondage, to overcome your infirmities, to overcome your fears, to overcome your violence, to overcome your haughtiness, to overcome your pride. Those things are what killed Him, but that is not where you have to stay. How do I do this? He says, “Go with Me into the grave, and I will raise you up.”

#### John 2:19

He says, “I will tear down this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.” The Jews mocked Him saying, “How can you raise a temple in three days?”

#### Matthew 16:4

They said, “Show us a sign.” He said, “You will get no sign, but the sign of Jonah.”

Jonah 1:17

The Lord had also prepared a giant power to swallow His Son. A giant power to swallow Him. Death itself was something that no one had ever been able to defeat. Death itself swallowed the Son of God. The devil was rejoicing and saying, "We did it. We have swallowed Him. We have put Him in bondage. We have put Him behind bars. We put Him in the jail cell that no one has ever gotten out of."

Jonah 2:1

He is speaking this in his spirit man. When you die, you can still speak in your spirit. This is what's happening here with Jonah.

Luke 16:19-31

The spirit man of Lazarus, in Abraham's bosom, and the rich man, in Hades, are talking with each other and the Lord.

Jonah 2:1-6

He is dying. He is drowning. He is dead. "The earth with its bars close behind me forever."

Jonah 2:6-10

"Salvation is of the Lord." Salvation is when He rose from the dead. Salvation is Mine, and He has given this gift to men. "Salvation is of the Lord," because He has been raised from the dead. He is the sign of Jonah. Three days after He was in the grave, then the Earth, "spit him out," just like it did a prophet once after God raised him from the dead, called him out, spit him out. He is the sign of Jonah in the flesh, a Prophet that will run to a city to save it.

He is the Prophet that has run to this city to save us. "This is the day of our salvation." This is what we are speaking forth, that Jesus has come to give us a better covenant. He has given us a testimony. He has given us a testament, that is His will. You cannot get a will unless someone has died. Jesus has died, but because He rose from the dead, He can actually hand out His gifts, our inheritance, to all of us. He can give our inheritance to us, instead of through someone else. He is the One that is the testator of His own will.

He says you are not only going to be forgiven of sin, I am going to heal your actual body. He says you are not only going to be healed in your body, you are going to be set free in the bondage of your mind. You are going to be healed of wounds and trauma from your childhood to adulthood. He says I am going to give you peace. I am going to deliver you. I am going to give you life and life abundantly. I am going to give you mothers and fathers and children and daughters. That is what He says. You won't just have a physical family, you will have a spiritual family.

You will be given gifts, gifts, and gifts. You will have your eyes enlightened. You will see the glorious riches of the inheritance that I have for my saints who believe in me. Like

these apostles that ran to the tomb, and they said, I believe. “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”

Acts 2:36-37

That is when you make Jesus Lord. You have to be cut to the heart. You have to realize that I did this because I sinned. I hurt God because I lied. Because I am so prideful, because I hurt my wife, because I lied to my parents, because I stole, because I murdered, or because I committed adultery, He died. He did this for me. I am the reason that Jesus did this, and you are cut to the heart.

Acts 2:38

Repent. Change the way you are thinking. Renounce it. Receive forgiveness of your sins and “be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins.” Jesus says, “Go to the grave with me when you are baptized.” He says, “Go in the tomb with me. Go in there with me. Trust me, and go in there with me.” When you are baptized. You are saying, “I am going in. I am going in and when I come out, I am never going back. I am never willingly going to choose to do something to crucify Jesus. I might, and I know He will forgive me, but it is my goal, my destiny, and my call to walk righteously and purely before Him. Not because I have earned it, but by His blood. I am choosing to say, “no more.” I am going in the grave, and I will come out in Him.” You have seen your burial ground when you have been baptized. You have seen your tomb. You have already seen it. Glory be to God!

Acts 2:39

As a western society of Christianity as our roots, we can often become desensitized to the brutality of the cross. When you see it all the time, and you have grown up seeing it all the time, others do not understand that you have committed the reason why that God Man, Jesus, was tortured. You understand what He did for you. The emblem of the Cross has a very deep and rich meaning that it always should have had. Even if we do not understand the brutality of the cross, sometimes we do not fully understand the magnitude and the power of Jesus's resurrection.

We can fall short in knowing the brutality of the cross. We can also fall short in knowing the magnitude of what it means for Him to be raised from the dead. He is “Christ in you, the hope of glory,” whose resurrection power is filling your mortal body. Do you know what that means? He has to give you Holy Spirit to show you, because it is amazing. Your eyes and your heart must be enlightened to know the riches of the glory of the inheritance in the saints and for those who believe in Christ Jesus as the Lord and Master. That is what He is here for.

The magnitude of this day you cannot explain. You cannot explain the magnitude of what Jesus did this day. We try, but it is such a powerful thing. It will be unveiled for ages and ages to come. If you understand what I just said, that means we are just in one age now. It was revealed in an age and *will continue to be revealed in ages* to come of what He did on a Sunday like this 2000 years ago. The power and the

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magnitude of what Jesus did on Easter Sunday, we have yet to unveil. Yet, we are going to walk in it.

Romans 6:11-14

Ephesians 2:4-10

God has a destiny for you that you should walk in. You do not have to walk the way that you have been walking. If you do not know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Master, He has a whole other plan for you. Another plan for you that is not because of anything you have done. It is just because He loves you. He loves you. That is it. That is the only reason. That is the only reason He went to the cross. That is the only reason He *resurrected* Himself from the dead, amen.

Let's stand and we will thank God for it. Holy Spirit, you have raised Christ. You are all powerful Holy Spirit. You have been unleashed through the blood of Jesus, on sons and daughters, on menservants and maidservants, to be empowered to know for ages to come, the glory and richness of the grace of Jesus. We honor that today. We say, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are in Heaven in the flesh today, and I will be like you." He who has this hope purifies himself, that when he sees you, he will be like you in the flesh. This flesh won't be a hindrance anymore, because you will purify us and you will cleanse us. You have already done it by the blood of Jesus, and we receive the new testament. We receive the new testimony, and the covenant of what your blood has done. We give you glory. We give you honor. We give you praise. We exalt you, Jesus. Be lifted up here in this place, and we will be running to you. In Jesus's name we pray, amen.