



JESUS

OUR LORD & SAVIOR PART II

Elder Michelle Smith

Jesse Curney III, Senior Pastor

New Mercies Christian Church

PUNISHMENT FOR SIN

God created earth and man perfect, but when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's commands, He had to punish them. A judge who pardons law-breakers isn't a righteous judge. Likewise, overlooking sin would make the holy God unjust. Death is God's just consequence for sin.

ROMANS 6:23 (NKJV)

“For the wages of sin is death”.

PUNISHMENT FOR SIN

Ever since **Adam's sin**, every person has been guilty of disobeying God's righteous laws. Because of sin, **everyone has deserved death – eternal separation from God in hell.**

ROMANS 3:23 (NKJV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,



OUR GOOD WORKS

Even our **good works** cannot make up for wrongs against the holy God. Compared to His goodness, “All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags”.

ISAIAH 64:6 (NKJV)

**⁶ But we are all like an unclean *thing*,
And all our righteousnesses *are* like filthy rags;
We all fade as a leaf,
And our iniquities, like the wind,
Have taken us away.**



GOD'S REMEDY FOR SIN

God's remedy for sin in the Old Testament involved a system of **atonement** ("to cover") through **animal sacrifices**, emphasizing atonement and priestly mediation that pointed forward to the ultimate solution: Jesus Christ's sacrifice.

THE OLD TESTAMENT SYSTEM

SACRIFICE & BLOOD ATONEMENT

Leviticus 17:11 states the life of the flesh is in the blood, and God gave it for atonement on the altar, covering sins (life for a life).

SIN OFFERINGS (Leviticus 4–5):

For unintentional sins, requiring confession and an animal sacrifice (bull, goat, lamb, birds, or even flour) depending on financial means, showing God's provision for all.

DAY OF ATONEMENT (Leviticus 16):

A yearly ritual where the High Priest cleansed the nation's sins, symbolically placing them on a goat (scapegoat) sent into the wilderness.

THE OLD TESTAMENT SYSTEM

REPENTANCE & CONFESSION:

God consistently called people to turn from evil ways. Confession of guilt was required, acknowledging the sin before God.

PRIESTHOOD & MEDIATION:

Priests performed rituals and made atonement for individuals and the nation, acting as mediators between God and people.

PROPHETIC CALL TO OBEDIENCE:

Prophets like Isaiah and Micah emphasized that God desired obedience and a changed heart more than mere rituals, warning of judgment for disobedience.



GOD'S REMEDY FOR SIN

THE PERFECT SACRIFICE

The system of blood sacrifices was a **temporary covering**, pointing to the ultimate, perfect sacrifice of Jesus, who would **fully take away sin**, not just cover it. In essence, the Old Testament system was a shadow, revealing God's justice and mercy, but requiring a future, complete remedy found in the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ, for true, lasting forgiveness and righteousness.

ANIMAL SACRIFICES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Animal sacrifices were an important theme found throughout the Bible. When Adam and Eve sinned, animals were killed by God to provide clothing for them. After the flood receded, Noah sacrificed animals to God.

They were commanded by God so that the individual could experience forgiveness of sin. The animal served as a substitute and died in place of the sinner, but only as a temporary substitute, which is why the sacrifices needed to be offered over and over.

ATONING - ATONEMENT

Atonement means “to cover”, and is associated with appeasement, ransom, forgiveness, reconciliation, and the purging of sin. As a theological word, *atonement* is an all-inclusive term for all that Christ’s death accomplished. It includes the acts of forgiveness, justification, adoption, and much more.

The place of atonement was the altar, where the blood of an animal substitute was shed to cover people’s sins. Every atonement made under the Old Testament law required a substitute for the sinner. The blood of an innocent was shed to cover the guilty. The animal sacrifices of the Old Testament provided a temporary covering for sin and highlighted the just penalty of death.

ATONING - ATONEMENT

Under the Old Covenant, sins were not taken away. They were only covered, but under the New Covenant, ratified by Christ's death on the cross, sins are truly removed.

HEBREWS 10:3 – 4

³ But in those *sacrifices there is* a reminder of sins every year. ⁴ For *it is not possible* that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.

JOHN 1:29

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

1 JOHN 2:2 (AMP)

² And He [that same Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins [the atoning sacrifice that holds back the wrath of God that would otherwise be directed at us because of our sinful nature—our worldliness, our lifestyle]; and not for ours alone, but also for [the sins of all believers throughout] the whole world.

PROPITIATION - “to propitiate” means “to satisfy the wrath of God against sin,” “to turn away God's wrath,” or “to offer a sacrifice that appeases God's just judgment and righteous anger against us and our sin.” Jesus is not simply “the propitiator” but the “propitiation.” He is what satisfies the justice of God.



THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

LEVITICUS 23:27 – 28 (NKJV)

²⁷ “Also the tenth *day* of this seventh month *shall be* the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD. ²⁸ And you shall do no work on that same day, for it *is* the Day of Atonement, to make atonement for you before the LORD your God.

The Day of Atonement was the most solemn holy day of all the Israelite feasts and festivals. It occurred once a year.

On that day, the high priest performed elaborate rituals to atone for the sins of the people. The atonement ritual began with the high priest of Israel coming into the holy of holies. He couldn't come into the Most Holy Place whenever he felt like it; he could only come on this special day once a year, lest he die. This was not a ceremony to be taken lightly, and the people were to understand that atonement for sin was to be done God's way. Before entering the tabernacle, Aaron was to bathe and put on special garments (v. 4), then sacrifice a bull for a sin offering for himself and his family (v. 6, 11).

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

The blood of the bull was to be sprinkled on the ark of the covenant. Then Aaron was to bring two goats, one to be sacrificed “because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been” (v. 16), and its blood was sprinkled on the ark of the covenant.

The other goat was used as a scapegoat. Aaron placed his hands on its head, confessed over it the rebellion and wickedness of the Israelites, and sent the goat out with an appointed man who released it into the wilderness. The goat carried on itself all the sins of the people, which were forgiven for another year. The blood of bulls and goats only atoned for sins if the ritual was continually done each year.

CHRIST'S SUFFICIENT SACRIFICE

Christ's sacrifice was sufficient once and for all for all the sins of all who would ever believe in Him. When His sacrifice was made, He declared, "It is finished". He then sat down at the right hand of God, and no further sacrifice was ever needed (Hebrews 10:1-12).

His sufficient and complete sacrifice is also seen in the **two goats**. The blood of the first goat was sprinkled on the ark, ritually appeasing the wrath of God for another year. The second goat removed the sins of the people into the wilderness where they were forgotten and no longer clung to the people. The removal of sin by the second goat was a living parable of the promise that God would remove our transgressions from us as far as the east is from the west and that He would remember them no more (Hebrews 8:12; 10:17).¹⁶

Sin is both propitiated and expiated God's way—only by the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. **Expiation is the cleansing of sin and removal of sin's guilt.**

ROMANS 5:8 – 9 (NKJV)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.



HEBREWS 9:22 (AMP)

22 In fact under the Law almost everything is cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness [neither release from sin and its guilt, nor cancellation of the merited punishment].

HEBREWS 9:22 (NKJV)

22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.



THE REASON FOR HIS DEATH

The promise required an innocent death.

Although God banished Adam and Eve from the garden, He didn't leave them without hope of reconciliation. He promised He would send a Savior to defeat the serpent.

GENESIS 3:15 (NKJV)

**¹⁵ And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”**

Until then, men would sacrifice innocent lambs, showing their repentance from sin and faith in the future Sacrifice from God who would bear their penalty. God reaffirmed His promise of the Sacrifice with men such as Abraham and Moses.

Herein lies the beauty of God's perfect plan: God Himself provided the only sacrifice (Jesus) who could atone for the sins of His people. God's perfect Son fulfilled God's perfect requirement of God's perfect law.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21 (NKJV)

“²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.



THE REASON FOR HIS DEATH

The prophets foretold of Jesus' death.

From Adam to Jesus, God sent prophets to mankind, warning them of sin's punishment and foretelling the coming Messiah. One prophet, **Isaiah**, described Him in Isaiah 53:1–12. Hundreds of years later, Isaiah's prophecy was fulfilled in the perfect Lord Jesus. When the prophet **John the Baptist** saw Him, he cried, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). As Isaiah foretold, Jesus was crucified in between two criminals but was buried in a rich man's tomb. But He didn't remain in the grave. Because God accepted His Lamb's sacrifice, He fulfilled another prophecy by raising Jesus from the dead.

WHY DID JESUS HAVE TO DIE?

Remember, the holy God cannot let sin go unpunished. To bear our own sins would be to suffer God's judgment in the flames of hell.

God kept His promise to send and sacrifice the perfect Lamb to bear the sins of those who trust in Him.

Jesus had to die because He was the only one who could pay the penalty for our sins.



HIS DEATH

Jesus died on the cross to **atone** for humanity's sins, **reconciling** people to God and providing a path to **eternal life**. His death was a **necessary sacrifice**, a fulfillment of God's plan to offer salvation, where Jesus, being without sin, became the **perfect sacrifice** to **pay the penalty** for the sins of the world.

ATONED FOR SINS: Jesus' death paid the price for **all human sin**, resolving the **spiritual separation** between God and humanity caused by sin.

RECONCILES US TO GOD: His sacrifice bridged the gap between God and sinful people, making it possible for us to have a relationship with God.

SATISFIES JUSTICE: His death was a necessary fulfillment of the "debt" of sin that we owed, providing a just and complete payment that we could not make on their own.

OFFERS ETERNAL LIFE: By believing in His sacrifice, we receive forgiveness of all past, present, and future sins and the promise of eternal life.

DEMONSTRATES GOD'S LOVE: Jesus' willingness to die on the cross is the ultimate expression of God's love for humanity.

Jesus' virgin birth, by the Holy Spirit, meant that He **did not inherit a sinful human nature like we did. Neither did Jesus **commit any sin during His lifetime.** Jesus became the **only perfect Man,** and as such, He was **uniquely qualified** to put into action God's plan of salvation for mankind.**

On the cross, Jesus **took the punishment of our sin. He was **our Substitute.** He suffered the judgment and condemnation of death that our sinful nature and deeds deserve.**



CRUCIFIXION

According to Roman rule, crucifixion was a **heinous form of capital punishment**. Many people were crucified for their crimes and for insulting Caesar. So Jesus' crucifixion and burial were not necessarily outstanding because many were crucified. However, **the bodies of those other people are still in their graves.**

Jesus' tomb is empty! If Jesus never rose from the dead, there would be no compelling reason to believe that He is who He said He is, but the fact is that He did, confirming His claim to be God.



CRUCIFIXION

MATTHEW 27:63 (NKJV)

saying, “Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, ‘After three days I will rise.’

MATTHEW 28:6 (NKJV)

‘He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

HIS RESURRECTION

The fact that Jesus rose from the dead matters because it **fulfilled prophecy**. Jesus prophesied of His resurrection, and so did the Old Testament.

PSALM 16:10 – 11 (NKJV)

**For You will not leave my soul in Sheol,
Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.**

**¹¹ You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence *is* fullness of joy;
At Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.**

HIS RESURRECTION

MARK 8:31 (NKJV)

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

ISAIAH 53:12 (NKJV)

**Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.**



The fact that Jesus rose from the dead also matters because **our justification hinges on it**. A dead Savior cannot save, but we have a living Savior who justifies us and makes intercession for us.

Justification has to do with **God's declaration about the sinner, not any change within the sinner**. Justification does not make anyone holy; it simply declares him to be **not guilty before God** and therefore treated as holy.



HIS RESURRECTION

ROMANS 4:25 (NKJV)

²⁵ who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

HEBREWS 7:25 (NKJV)

Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

The fact that Jesus rose from the dead is **fundamental to our faith.**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:14, 16 – 18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching *is* empty and your faith *is* also empty.

¹⁶ For if *the* dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. ¹⁷ And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins! ¹⁸ Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.



HIS RESURRECTION

Jesus rose from the dead, and the Apostle Paul presents that event as the only thing that gives us hope in this life. Christ was the first to permanently rise from the dead, clearing and leading the way for a future resurrection for all who believe. His claim that He has the power to grant eternal life can be trusted because He Himself conquered death.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:20 (NKJV)

But now Christ is risen from the dead, *and* has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

THE RESURRECTION'S IMPORTANCE

It witnesses to the immense power of God. To believe in the resurrection is to believe in God. If God exists, and if He created the universe and has power over it, then He has power to raise the dead.

If He does not have such power, He is not worthy of our faith and worship. Only He who created life can resurrect it after death, only He can reverse the hideousness that is death itself, and only He can remove the sting of death and gain the victory over the grave. In resurrecting Jesus from the grave, God reminds us of His absolute sovereignty over life and death.



THE RESURRECTION'S IMPORTANCE

It validates who Jesus claimed to be, namely, the Son of God and Messiah. According to Jesus, **His resurrection was the “sign from heaven” that authenticated His ministry (Matthew 16:1–4).** The resurrection of Jesus Christ, **attested to by hundreds of eyewitnesses and provides irrefutable proof that He is the Savior of the world.**

It proves His sinless character and divine nature. The Scriptures said God’s “Holy One” would never see corruption (Psalm 16:10), and Jesus never saw corruption, even after He died (see Acts 13:32–37).

The resurrection **validates the Old Testament prophecies** that foretold of Jesus' suffering and resurrection. Christ's resurrection also **authenticated His own claims** that He would be raised on the third day. If Jesus Christ is not resurrected, then we have no hope that we will be, either. In fact, apart from Christ's resurrection, we have no Savior, no salvation, and no hope of eternal life. As Paul said, our faith would be "useless," the gospel would be altogether powerless, and our sins would remain unforgiven (1 Corinthians 15:14–19).



THE RESURRECTION'S IMPORTANCE

Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25), and in that statement claimed to be the source of both. There is no resurrection apart from Christ, no eternal life. Jesus does more than *give* life; He *is* life, and that’s why death has no power over Him. Jesus confers His life on those who trust in Him, so that we can share His triumph over death (1 John 5:11–12). We who believe in Jesus Christ will personally experience resurrection because, having the life Jesus gives, we have overcome death. It is impossible for death to win (1 Corinthians 15:53–57).

Because we know we will be resurrected to new life, we can therefore endure persecution and danger for Christ's sake, just as our Lord did. Because of His resurrection thousands of Christian martyrs throughout history have willingly traded their earthly lives for everlasting life and the promise of resurrection.

The resurrection is the triumphant and glorious victory for every believer!

THE RAPTURE

The word *rapture* does not occur in English translations of the Bible, but is clearly taught in Scripture. The term comes from a Latin word meaning “a carrying off, a transport, or a snatching away.”

It is when Jesus Christ returns to “snatch away or remove” the church (all believers in Christ) from the earth to make way for God’s righteous judgment to be poured out on the earth. . The rapture is described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 1 Corinthians 15:50-54. Believers who have died will have their bodies resurrected and, along with believers who are still living, will meet the Lord in the air. This will all occur in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye. God will give them glorified bodies, and take them from the earth, and give them glorified bodies at that time.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16 –17

“For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever”.

The rapture will involve an instantaneous transformation of our bodies to fit us for eternity. The doctrine of the rapture was not taught in the Old Testament, which is why Paul calls it a “mystery” now revealed.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51 – 52 (AMP)

⁵¹ Listen very carefully, I tell you a mystery [a secret truth decreed by God and previously hidden, but now revealed]; **we will not all sleep [in death], but we will all be [completely] changed [wondrously transformed],** ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at [the sound of] the last trumpet call.** For a trumpet will sound, and **the dead [who believed in Christ] will be raised imperishable, and we will be [completely] changed [wondrously transformed].**

A COMPARISON OF THE RAPTURE & SECOND COMING

1. At the second coming, the Lord descends to the earth to stand on the Mount of Olives, resulting in a great earthquake followed by a defeat of God's enemies (Zechariah 14:3–4). The second coming is when Jesus returns to defeat the Antichrist, destroy evil, and establish His millennial kingdom. It is described in Revelation 19:11-16.

THE RAPTURE & SECOND COMING

- 1. At the rapture, believers meet the Lord in the air. At the second coming, believers return with the Lord to the earth**
- 2. The second coming occurs after the great and terrible tribulation (Revelation chapters 6–19). The rapture occurs before the tribulation (1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 3:10).**
- 3. The rapture is the removal of believers from the earth as an act of deliverance (1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, 5:9). The second coming includes the removal of unbelievers as an act of judgment (Matthew 24:40-41)**

THE RAPTURE & SECOND COMING

- 4. The rapture will be secret and instant. The second coming will be visible to all (Revelation 1:7; Matthew 24:29-30).**
- 5. The second coming of Christ will not occur until after certain other end-times events take place (2 Thessalonians 2:4; Matthew 24:15-30; Revelation chapters 6–18). The rapture is imminent; it could take place at any moment (Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-54).**

HIS RETURN

The rapture and second coming are similar but **separate events**. Both involve Jesus returning. Both are end-times events.

In summary, **the rapture** is the return of Christ in the clouds to remove all believers from the earth before the time of God's wrath.

The **second coming** is the return of Christ to the earth to bring the tribulation to an end and to defeat the Antichrist and his evil world empire.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The second coming is spoken of in **REVELATION 19:11-16**,

“I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. ‘He will rule them with an iron scepter.’ He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”



HIS LOVE

JOHN 3:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

ROMANS 5:8 (NKJV)

⁸ But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.