

John 40 - Anguish of Jesus - The Paschal Lamb

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John 12:27-36

Christian Misperception

- Too oft Christians have mistaken belief Christ eagerly pushed toward the stauros as He knew He would be resurrected; thus, He viewed His death lightly
 - The issue is never about living through death
 - Once created the soul never dies, only the flesh
 - The sinful flesh fears and rails against death
 - This is the anguish or trouble common to man for sin

Christ is Troubled Due to Death

- This is still Sunday (probably), the beginning of His final temptation to refuse the death of a sinner for sin
 - This is second instance John describes Christ's anguish of soul over His coming death (**ταράσσω**) (Jn 11:33-38)
 - Ever been in a position facing death or authorities knowing you were guilty and deserving of punishment?
 - Ever felt there was no escape? Remember the anguish?

Save From Or Through Crisis?

- He asks rhetorical question, "And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?'"
 - This is what Christians usually do every prayer service
 - God does not usually save us from crisis as this is part of the Hagiazo Process of maturation (1J 22:31-34)
 - Instead, He strengthens us to face the reality of the weakness of our flesh so we cling to Him, as we should (2Co 11:22-32)

All History Strains Toward His Death

- Christ states that this was the purpose for His advent (Joh 2:4-5; 1Th 2:4-6)
 - Entire purpose of creation was for Him to die and create a people in God's, and His, image (Ro 3:23-26; 2Co 5:17)
 - His death for sin laid the foundation [cornerstone] for salvation
 - To not die as the Paschal Lamb would negate all creation: ultimate act of nihilism (1Co 15:12-19)

Christ Yields to the Father

- Christ tells the Father to glorify His name
 - Christ is our example in all life (1Jn 2:20-24)
 - Christ sent to do the Father's will (Jo 6:35-39)
 - Christ asks the Father to continue to fulfill His plan
- Father answers
 - I have glorified; i.e., Christ's sinless life of obedience
 - I will glorify; i.e., Christ's acceptable death for sin

Father Answers Audibly

- Of those with Christ who heard the Father
 - The lost heard only thunder (Judgment)
 - The disciples, believers, heard the voice but struggled to accept Trinitarianism: Father, Son and Spirit
 - They attributed the voice to an angel (Jo 5:25; 8:47)
 - They heard as through an enigma, partial understanding (1Co 13:12)
 - Christ said Father spoke for them, believers, not Him

Christ Defines “This Hour”

- Christ defines what “This Hour” actually means and its result in relation to sin and to the Accuser of sin
 - Upon His successful death for sin the world will be judged (Re 5:16-21)
 - Lucifer will be cast down to fulfill his judgment
 - The stauros which draw all believers to Him (Jo 6:35-40)

World Judged

- Charge against the Father: All He created sins; ergo, He is the author of sin, not the sinner (Unrighteous) (Jo 7:9-10)
 - Christ had a sinless nature - All man and all God
 - Christ had a sinless fleshly body - Given by Mary
 - If Christ lived a sinless life then died as Paschal Lamb the charge against the Father would be refuted (Jo 17:30-31; Re 3:34; 1Pe 12:3-4)
 - The world (each individual sinner) would bear or face judgment for their own sin (Re 20:11-15)

Lucifer Also Judged

- By His death and resurrection, Lucifer would be judged for his sin
 - Lucifer's fall is a process demonstrating the intractability of sinfulness and the righteousness of final judgment
 - "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven." (Lk 10:18)
 - Fall of Lucifer, Day Star, foretold by Isaiah (Is 14:12-17)
 - Satan, and fallen angels, thrown out of Heaven (Job 1:2; Re 12:9-12)

Lucifer Demonstrates His Sin

- Lucifer's defeat in Heaven does not lead to repentance but to further displays of intractable sinfulness
 - Restraining influence of the Spirit will be mitigated (2Th 2:14-17)
 - Lucifer and man allowed to enjoy their sin (Re 1:15-20)
 - Lucifer releases demons from Abyssos to torment lost (Re 9:1-6)
 - Lucifer and demons imprisoned in Abyssos at end of Tribulation (Re 20:1-3)

Man and Lucifer Continue in Sin

- With Lucifer imprisoned and Christ visibly on the throne, man lives in Utopia
 - All born during Millennial Kingdom are sinners, not unlike those who lived before the Cataclysm (Re 6:1-5)
 - Lucifer upon his release will again unify man against Christ: demonstrating both deserving of judgment
 - Lucifer and man will be cast into the Lake of Fire; this completes the judgment process (Dispensational) (Re 20:7-15)

Christ to be Lifted Up

- This refers to the type of death foretold in the Law
 - Cursed is anyone who hangs on a tree, especially overnight (De 21:22-23)
 - Thus, Christ became a curse in our stead (Ga 3:13-14)
 - The stauros is equated with a tree in Scripture (Ac 5:30-32)
 - This death clearly described before Jews knew of death on a stauros {Approximately 1,000 B.C.} (Ps 22:1-2, 6-18)

Comparison of Two Cursed Deaths

Christ

- Hanged on a Stauros (Mt 15:24-26)
- Taken down by sundown; demonstrated end of curse (Mt 27:57-61, Jo 19:38-42)
- Resurrected from the dead and glorified (Mt 28:1-6, 1Co 1:1-4)

Judas Iscariot

- Hanged himself on a tree (Mt 27:3-10)
- Was not removed from tree; demonstrated his cursedness
- Hung for several days until his neck broke and his body fell to the ground exploding (Ac 1:15-18)

Clash Between Truth and Tradition

- Majority of Jews remained lost, bounded by their worldview of Talmudic tradition rather than Scripture
 - They expected a triumphant Messiah who would live forever
 - They ignored the suffering Messiah scriptures (Ps 22, Is 53)
 - Thus, they had their *proof* that Jesus was not Messiah
 - His death and resurrection will judge them

Who is this Son of Man?

- The lost Pesach crowd asked this question
 - The lost will never have enough convincing signs
 - They cannot hear Christ due to their sinful worldview
 - Belief is not of the mind; it is from the heart, by God
 - Christ graces them with another warning: The Light
- Logic does not convert, it only demonstrates the error of one's current rationale

Back to the Opening Hymn

- Christ warns them to walk in the Light while they have light; i.e., Himself
 - He will only be present for a short while, then darkness
 - He implores them to walk while they have the Light
 - Once He *leaves*, the darkness will overtake them to trap them in their sinfulness; worthy of judgment
 - Believe in the Light while one has the Light to become "sons of Light" {Saved}

Jesus Removes Himself

- To punctuate His discourse of Light and Darkness
 - Christ removes Himself from their presence
 - With the Light {Truth} removed they are plunged back into the Darkness of their lost traditions and works
 - They comfort each other with *rightness* of their beliefs
 - This intensifies their darkness, hardening their hearts
 - He came to His own and His own rejected Him (J=1:11)

Summary

- Christ agonizes over His coming death
 - His flesh seeks to rebel against torture and dying
 - Christ tempted by the flesh to pray that He not die
 - Christ controls the flesh via the Spirit praying for the Father to glorify Himself
 - Father answers that He has been glorified through Christ and will continued to be glorified by Christ

The World Hates Christ (Jn 15:18-19)

- Lucifer, his world system, and lost mankind strained to neutralize Christ
 - Their goal was probably to force Jesus to sin negating His becoming the Paschal Lamb for sin
 - They would intensify their efforts to the very end
 - They did not believe Christ could refrain from sin as all had sinned (Ro 3:10-18, 23)

Christ Strengthens Us to Resist

- Bible teaches we are to rely on Jesus to help us through our difficulties; not around them (Ph 2:1; 2Co 12:1-10)
 - *Hagiazo* process reveals flesh's weakness and deceitfulness
 - *True* Christians repent and rely on Christ's strength
 - *False* Christians continue to rely on themselves
 - *Immature* Christians continue to be confused
 - **Which** are you? We are all in the process of growth (1Co 13:12)
 - Maturing Christians will grow in grace [Fruits of the Spirit including Peace]
 - Lost will grow in depravity [Works of Flesh yielding Violence]
 - (Ga 5:16-25; Jn 4:1-30)