

THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF REDEMPTION AND SATAN

Why, if God is all powerful and good is Satan still around? Why hasn't God already destroyed him or banished him permanently to hell?

Since these have not yet happened to him, Satan constantly seeks to convince the church, and the world system that he is (or almost) as powerful as God or even that he doesn't exist. He has blinded even the church as to what actually happened to him at the Cross and Resurrection.

The major points for our understanding of the "big picture" are:

[1] The Scriptures reveal that man was created for God and for His pleasure:

ISA 43:7 EVEN EVERY ONE THAT IS CALLED BY MY NAME: FOR I HAVE CREATED HIM FOR MY GLORY, ...

ISA 43:21 THIS PEOPLE HAVE I FORMED FOR MYSELF; ...

REV 4:11 THOU ART WORTHY, O LORD, TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOUR AND POWER: FOR THOU HAST CREATED ALL THINGS, AND FOR THY PLEASURE THEY ARE AND WERE CREATED.

but also, among other things – to RULE. Adam was given DOMINION over the earth by the LORD. (we do not subscribe to the erroneous tenets of "Dominion" theology)

GEN 1:26 AND GOD SAID, LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS: AND LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER ... ALL THE EARTH ...

PSA 8:4 WHAT IS MAN, THAT THOU ART MINDFUL OF HIM? AND THE SON OF MAN, THAT THOU VISITEST HIM?

PSA 8:5 FOR THOU HAST MADE HIM A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS, AND HAST CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOUR.

PSA 8:6 THOU MADEST HIM TO HAVE DOMINION OVER THE WORKS OF THY HANDS; THOU HAST PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET:

This amounted to nothing less than a legal commission from the JUDGE of the universe giving Adam "power of attorney" to rule the earth under God's authority. That is, Adam was given the "TITLE DEED" (see addenda pgs.1-7) to planet earth – he answered to no one other than God, who had granted this authority to him in the first place. To God alone, he had to give an account for this stewardship.

As God is JUDGE over all His creation, we learn from Scripture that the entire universe is governed by LAW. Redemption itself is based upon a system of divine jurisprudence. Hence when Satan defeated God's appointed governor, His champion and ruler, he became the god-ruler of this world. The result was that he wrested all of Adam's possessions (the earth) from him, he took away Adam's title deed to the earth and Adam and Eve became Satan's conquered subjects – his slaves.

Since slaves beget slaves and do not give birth to free men, all of their offspring would be born into this bondage. Adam and Eve had brought this about by their free will choice to submit to

obey Satan and to break God's law rather than to continue to submit to the ONE who had given them life and dominion.

ROM 6:16 KNOW YE NOT, THAT TO WHOM YE YIELD YOURSELVES SERVANTS TO OBEY, HIS SERVANTS YE ARE TO WHOM YE OBEY...

As slaves, they lost all legal rights to their PERSON and their DOMAIN. Slaves do not possess the right or the authority to rule – they have No legal rights.

In breaking God's law, Man also incurred upon himself the death penalty – both physical death and spiritual death, as God had warned:

GEN 2:16 AND THE LORD GOD COMMANDED THE MAN, SAYING, OF EVERY TREE OF THE GARDEN THOU MAYEST FREELY EAT:
GEN 2:17 BUT OF THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF IT: FOR IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE.

So by the principle of "consent of a responsible agent", Satan obtained *legal authority* to RULE over man and the earth.

Man thus had incurred:

1. slavery to Satan prior to physical death, and
2. the death penalty.

[2] **A SEARCH MUST BE MADE THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSE FOR A "LEGAL CHALLENGER" TO REVOKE SATAN'S DOMINION.**

EPH 2:2 WHEREIN IN TIME PAST YE WALKED ACCORDING TO THE COURSE OF THIS WORLD, ACCORDING TO **THE PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR**, THE SPIRIT (Satan) THAT NOW WORKETH IN THE CHILDREN OF DISOBEDIENCE:

JOH 14:30 ... THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD COMETH ... (Satan)

A CHALLENGE WORTHY OF GOD

The problem for God was then, **how to redeem fallen man** – set him free and recover his lost authority and domain – *without violating God's own universal principles of justice*.

Satan WAS the LEGITIMATE possessor of Adam and his offspring, and he was the legal ruler of planet earth by virtue of his conquest over Adam's and Eve's wills.

God had no moral right under His own code of justice to ARBITRARILY ANNUL Satan's rule. God could not LAWFULLY step in and repossess the earth and man. He had the **POWER** to do so, but this would violate God's OWN MORAL PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNMENT.

For God to go over man's head and FORCIBLY repossess the "title deed" would have been "WITHOUT DUE PROCESS OF LAW". This would be unjust and unfair; God cannot be unfair or unjust to anyone – not even Satan!

TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE

Furthermore, no angels could enter the contest because the legal right to govern and rule the earth had never been theirs.

HEB 2:5 FOR UNTO THE ANGELS HATH HE NOT PUT IN SUBJECTION THE WORLD TO COME, ...

The government of earth had been given to man, was lost by man, hence it could legally be recovered only by a man.

Thus a member of Adam's race had to be found who could qualify to enter suit in universal court.

[A suit is an appeal to a superior or a court for justice or for the recovery of a lost right.]

THE "UNSOLVABLE" DILEMMA

Since Adam was Satan's slave, ALL his offspring were also Satan's slaves. A slave has **no legal standing** and cannot enter court or lawfully participate in litigation.

A member of the human race had to be found upon whom Satan had no claim, one who could qualify to bring suit to cancel Satan's legal jurisdiction over mankind and earth. But who and how, as all mankind has come from Adam's loins.

GOD'S SOLUTION – THE ONLY JUST RECOURSE

[3] The problem is solved through THE INCARNATION! The human mind sees the problem as hopeless – but GOD FORESAW the solution.

The life is in the blood:

LEV 17:11 FOR THE LIFE OF THE FLESH IS IN THE BLOOD: AND I HAVE GIVEN IT TO YOU UPON THE ALTAR TO MAKE AN ATONEMENT FOR YOUR SOULS: FOR IT IS THE BLOOD THAT MAKETH AN ATONEMENT FOR THE SOUL.

LUK 1:31 AND, BEHOLD, THOU SHALT CONCEIVE IN THY WOMB, AND BRING FORTH A SON, AND SHALT CALL HIS NAME JESUS.

LUK 1:35 AND THE ANGEL ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HER, THE HOLY SPIRIT SHALL COME UPON THEE, AND THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST SHALL OVERSHADOW THEE: THEREFORE ALSO THAT HOLY THING WHICH SHALL BE BORN OF THEE SHALL BE CALLED THE SON OF GOD.

GEN 3:15 AND I WILL PUT ENMITY BETWEEN THEE (Satan) AND THE WOMAN, AND BETWEEN THY SEED AND HER SEED; IT (her seed) SHALL BRUISE THY HEAD, AND THOU SHALT BRUISE HIS HEEL.

Since Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and not by Joseph, Jesus is not the "fallen" Son of Adam but the un-fallen Son of God. In the Scriptures, one's life and the sin nature which we have inherited from Adam – is transmitted through the father. Jesus does not therefore inherit Adam's nature or his sin polluted blood line (if the life of the flesh is in the blood, the curse of death is also in the blood).

Yet Jesus was "made of a woman":

GAL 4:4 BUT WHEN THE FULNESS OF THE TIME WAS COME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, MADE OF A WOMAN, MADE UNDER THE LAW,

hence Jesus is **an authentic human**. As such He is qualified to enter the legal contest to reclaim all that Adam lost.

Scripture tells us that there was a genuine **conception** (Isa.7:14, Mat.1:20, Luk.1:31, 2:21). The egg came from Mary hence she becomes the mother of Jesus' humanity. Thus Mary has to be of David's lineage within the tribe of Judah. This egg made Him **"the Son of MAN"**.

ROM 1:3 CONCERNING HIS SON JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHICH WAS MADE OF THE SEED OF DAVID ACCORDING TO THE FLESH; ROM 1:4 AND DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD ... BY THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD:

However the sperm which fertilized that egg, delivered miraculously without intercourse, came from God. This made Jesus "the only begotten Son" of the Father – **"the Son of GOD"**.

The term SONSHIP, in connection with Jesus, ALWAYS refers to His HUMANITY – NEVER to His deity. As a man, He was begotten, had a beginning, BECAME a son; but as to His deity – He had neither beginning nor was He a son in everlasting ages past. He is the Creator.

MIC 5:2 BUT THOU, BETHLEHEM EPHRATAH, THOUGH THOU BE LITTLE AMONG THE THOUSANDS OF JUDAH, YET OUT OF THEE SHALL HE COME FORTH UNTO ME THAT IS TO BE RULER IN ISRAEL; WHOSE GOINGS FORTH HAVE BEEN FROM OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING.

JOH 5:18 THEREFORE THE JEWS SOUGHT THE MORE TO KILL HIM, BECAUSE HE NOT ONLY HAD BROKEN THE SABBATH, BUT SAID ALSO THAT GOD WAS HIS FATHER, MAKING HIMSELF EQUAL WITH GOD. JOH 5:22 FOR THE FATHER JUDGETH NO MAN, BUT HATH COMMITTED ALL JUDGMENT UNTO THE SON: JOH 5:23 THAT ALL MEN SHOULD HONOUR THE SON, EVEN AS THEY HONOUR THE FATHER ...

... CHRIST JESUS:

PHI 2:6 WHO, BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, THOUGHT IT NOT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD:

PHI 2:7 BUT MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION, AND TOOK UPON HIM THE FORM OF A SERVANT, AND WAS MADE IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN:

PHI 2:8 AND BEING FOUND IN FASHION AS A MAN, HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF, AND BECAME OBEDIENT UNTO DEATH, EVEN THE DEATH OF THE CROSS.

Verses that tell us Jesus was EQUAL to God are referring to Him BEFORE the incarnation – then He was not a son, He was GOD in His own right.

The title "Son" is a SUBMITTED position of less rank than that of "Father". Hence the word "Son" when used of Jesus speaks ONLY to His HUMANITY.

[4] Now we clearly can understand **the importance and necessity of the virgin birth.**

ISA 7:14 THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN; BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL. (Meaning GOD is WITH us, see Matthew 1:18-23)

If Jesus were the son of Joseph, or any other man, He is Adam's descendant and hence Satan's slave – like everyone else. This would DISQUALIFY Him from entering the universal court as a legally recognized plaintiff (A plaintiff is one who commences a personal action or a suit to obtain a remedy for an injury).

BUT THE PROBLEM IS NOT YET SOLVED

[5] One more requirement was necessary in order for Jesus to file suit on man's behalf. He, as a MAN, must be of MORAL PERFECTION – that is – WITHOUT SIN.

HEB 4:15 ... BUT (Jesus) WAS IN ALL POINTS TEMPTED LIKE AS WE ARE, YET WITHOUT SIN.

HEB 5:8 THOUGH HE WERE A SON, YET LEARNED HE OBEDIENCE BY THE THINGS WHICH HE SUFFERED;
HEB 5:9 AND BEING MADE PERFECT, HE BECAME THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION UNTO ALL THEM THAT OBEY HIM;

Jesus, in order to enter Universal court and redeem all creation, must not only be a bona fide human but He had to – under testing – PROVE Himself to be morally and spiritually PERFECT.

In order to furnish Satan with no claim upon him, Jesus had to live a sinless life. One sin, by thought or deed, and He comes under Satan's control as his slave. Furthermore, Jesus would then have to die for His OWN sins:

ROM 6:23 FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH ...

and therefore He could not die for the sin and sins of mankind.

To qualify **LEGALLY** the redeemer-plaintiff must be **human** – kin.

To qualify **MORALLY** he must be sinless – hence **divine**.

[6] Jesus, however, confronts Satan **only as an un-fallen MAN** – although He never ceased to be God. (Phil. 2:6-11)

LEGAL TRIUMPH

Since Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and virgin born, Satan had no legal claim on Him. The Bible principle is very clear, one's life comes from one's father (Heb. 7:9-10).

In order to establish a LEGAL BASIS FOR AUTHORITY over Jesus, it remained for Satan to induce some moral flaw in either Jesus' character or His conduct. Satan's scheme was to try to persuade, seduce or compel Jesus to act INDEPENDENT of The Father's will – to REBEL against Father's will. This was Satan's strategy and master plan. The destiny of the human race lay in the balance as the struggle ensued.

Although Jesus was "the God of the Old Testament" come in the flesh to redeem His creatures and creation, He had to engage in this battle as "very man of very man". It would have been contrary to the principles of UNIVERSAL JUSTICE for the LAST ADAM (I Cor 15:45) to employ weapons or to use resources in this conflict which were not available to the first Adam in the Garden of Eden. Hence, He did not use the POWER of His divinity, but relied solely upon that of His Father's – as Adam could have done.

JOH 14:10 BELIEVEST THOU NOT THAT I AM IN THE FATHER, AND THE FATHER IN ME? THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU I SPEAK NOT OF MYSELF: BUT THE FATHER THAT DWELLETH IN ME, HE DOETH THE WORKS.

OH 8:28 THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THEM, WHEN YE HAVE LIFTED UP THE SON OF MAN, THEN SHALL YE KNOW THAT I AM HE, AND THAT I DO NOTHING OF MYSELF; BUT AS MY FATHER HATH TAUGHT ME, I SPEAK THESE THINGS.

LUK 5:17 AND IT CAME TO PASS ON A CERTAIN DAY, AS HE WAS TEACHING, THAT THERE WERE PHARISEES AND DOCTORS OF THE LAW SITTING BY, WHICH WERE COME OUT OF EVERY TOWN OF GALILEE, AND JUDAEA, AND JERUSALEM: AND THE POWER OF THE LORD WAS PRESENT TO HEAL THEM.

MAT 12:28 BUT IF I CAST OUT DEVILS BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THEN THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS COME UNTO YOU.

The book of Hebrews further confirms this as chapter 2 verse 4, which refers back to all that was said of Jesus in the first chapter, reveals to us that all the miracles that Jesus did were not done by His own God-power, but by the gifts of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 12).

Although Jesus had all the power and resources of Deity at His command, He enters into this decisive contest purely as an UN-FALLEN MAN. This demonstrates that an un-fallen man, created a little lower than the angels, can defeat Satan and all his temptations – hence Adam COULD have won the contest in Eden. He and Eve did not have to fail.

From Bethlehem to the Cross, the conflict raged – thirty three and one half years of **undiminished fury**.

One thought or act of rebellion or self-will and all of Jesus' efforts to legally REPOSSESS the world and its enslaved race from the usurper would have been lost.

[7] When Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit for a forty day fast, Satan came to tempt Him **to use His God power**, to tempt Him to act other than His Father wished. During that confrontation, Satan claimed that all the earth and its kingdoms were his to do with as he pleased.

LEGAL TRIUMPH

LUK 4:5 AND THE DEVIL, TAKING HIM (Jesus) UP INTO AN HIGH MOUNTAIN, SHEWED UNTO HIM ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE WORLD IN A MOMENT OF TIME.

LUK 4:6 AND THE DEVIL SAID UNTO HIM, ALL THIS POWER WILL I GIVE THEE, AND THE GLORY OF THEM: FOR THAT IS DELIVERED UNTO ME; AND TO WHOMSOEVER I WILL I GIVE IT.

LUK 4:7 IF THOU THEREFORE WILT WORSHIP ME, ALL SHALL BE THINE.

Jesus did not challenge Satan's claim for He KNEW and understood the LEGAL BASIS for that claim.

Three times Jesus used the WORD OF GOD to overcome Satan and his temptations. These same weapons were available to Adam and all his offspring. Adam did not have the written Word of God, but he had the SPOKEN WORD given to him by God in the Garden. Had he stood on those words and quoted them back to the Devil, he would have won the contest and maintained his kingdom and his freedom.

2 CO 10:4 (FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONG HOLDS;)
2 CO 10:5 CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTETH ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST;

[8] At the Garden of Gethsemane, the battle reached incredible intensity, such that Jesus confessed:

MAT 26:38 ... MY SOUL IS EXCEEDING SORROWFUL, EVEN UNTO DEATH ...

Just minutes before, Jesus had testified that in all that had transpired until then, He had not weakened nor failed even once.

JOH 14:30 HEREAFTER I WILL NOT TALK MUCH WITH YOU: FOR THE PRINCE OF THIS WORLD COMETH (Satan), AND HATH NOTHING IN ME.

Yet the agony of soul intensified:

MAT 26:39 AND HE WENT A LITTLE FARTHER, AND FELL ON HIS FACE, AND PRAYED, SAYING, O MY FATHER, IF IT BE POSSIBLE, LET THIS CUP PASS FROM ME: NEVERTHELESS NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS THOU WILT.

The agony of Gethsemane reveals Christ's HUMAN anguish, the anguish of a pure soul who knew no sin about to be made sin. His holy nature was revolted and repulsed at facing "the cup" of being "made sin" for man, though He Himself had never sinned:

2 CO 5:21 FOR HE (Father) HATH MADE HIM (Jesus) TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN; THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM.

[9] The test was further heightened in that Jesus knew that in His being so completely IDENTIFIED (to become one with) with sin and the sinner on the Cross, He would actually

LEGAL TRIUMPH

experience something He had never known – SEPARATION from the Father. There, as the Passover lamb, He would be "roasted" (Exo. 12:8-9) with the fire of God's Holy wrath against sin – even to the extent of suffering in Hell for 3 days and nights.

He knew that He would become the very essence of sin by dying as the sin offering.

ISA 53:10 YET IT PLEASSED THE LORD TO BRUISE HIM; HE HATH PUT HIM TO GRIEF: WHEN THOU SHALT MAKE HIS SOUL AN OFFERING FOR SIN, HE SHALL SEE HIS SEED, HE SHALL PROLONG HIS DAYS, AND THE PLEASURE OF THE LORD SHALL PROSPER IN HIS HAND.

Although He Himself remained at all times Holy (as did the sin offering in Leviticus 6:25 and 6:29), HE WAS MADE SIN.

He suffered the pollution of sin as if He had actually broken every law of God. He was adjudged GUILTY of the CUMULATIVE SINS OF ALL MANKIND for all time. Hence, He would die as the first goat on the DAY OF ATONEMENT and also be banished away from God and His people while bearing their sins as the second goat – the scapegoat, on that same day (Lev. 16).

1 JO 2:2 AND HE IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS: AND NOT FOR OURS ONLY, BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

The cup, represented by the bitter herbs in Exodus 12:8, was a bitter decision for Him, as He understood all these things. Man's destiny hung in the balance until He majestically brought the battle to a great crescendo in the Garden of Gethsemane with that word – "NEVERTHELESS". All that followed was the result of that commitment. When He added "not as I will, but as Thou wilt", Satan's hopes of overcoming Jesus were shattered. Nonetheless, his efforts intensified with the mock trials, the beatings, whipping, beard pulling, spitting, mocking, reviling, treachery, shame and finally – even death.

The following day when The Lord Jesus cried out from the Cross;

MAT 27:46 AND ABOUT THE NINTH HOUR JESUS CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, SAYING, ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI? THAT IS TO SAY, MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?

(which is quoting Psalm 22:1) He was not merely asking a question. He knew the answer, the question was rhetorical. Jesus wanted us to ask why and to wonder why in order to provoke us to search until we found what He knew, so that we would know how precious we were to Him. The answer as to why the forsaking has already been given, in part, beginning at [8] (p.7), and it is further amplified in Psalms:

PSA 22:3 BUT THOU ART HOLY, O THOU THAT INHABITEST THE PRAISES OF ISRAEL.

and:

HAB 1:13 THOU (God) ART OF PURER EYES THAN TO BEHOLD EVIL, AND CANST NOT LOOK ON INIQUITY ...

LEGAL TRIUMPH

When Jesus became sin, The Father who is Holy and as such cannot behold evil, had to withdraw Jesus' awareness of His presence, that is, to forsake Him. Jesus foreknew that this would happen as it was recorded in Psalm 22.

Such was almost more than He could bear. It was not the physical suffering and death facing Him that caused Him to cringe, but this – this was a challenge worthy of a Redeemer, a King, a Messiah, of an un-fallen man – even of God in the flesh.

The error, as is taught in many circles, that Jesus nearly died in Gethsemane and that He had to pray that the Father would intervene and let Him live through the night (the agony being so great that He was sweating drops of blood) so that He could go to the Cross, can now be clearly seen. **Jesus COULD NOT DIE in the garden.** He had no sin nature, neither had He sinned nor had sin yet been imputed unto Him. It would not have been just or righteous of God to allow a man to die who had neither a sin nature nor had ever sinned.

Then, on the Cross, He of His own free will **VOLUNTARILY** laid Himself on the altar (as Isaac had done foreshadowing this moment in obedience to his father many years before):

JOH 10:17 THEREFORE DOETH MY FATHER LOVE ME, BECAUSE I LAY DOWN MY LIFE, THAT I MIGHT TAKE IT AGAIN.

JOH 10:18 NO MAN TAKETH IT FROM ME, BUT I LAY IT DOWN OF MYSELF. I HAVE POWER TO LAY IT DOWN, AND I HAVE POWER TO TAKE IT AGAIN. THIS COMMANDMENT HAVE I RECEIVED OF MY FATHER.

He then dismissed His spirit into the Father's hands, entrusting by that commitment for the preservation of His life, as the Scriptures had foretold:

PSA 16:10 FOR THOU WILT NOT LEAVE MY SOUL IN HELL; NEITHER WILT THOU SUFFER THINE HOLY ONE TO SEE CORRUPTION.

Here was the great act of faith and love. Love – first to the Father and at all cost, and secondly, His love for all Adam's offspring.

By this act of commitment of His spirit into the Father's hands, He GIVES HIS PERMISSION for what follows immediately.

This voluntary surrender also relieves The Father from the possible accusation that He is unjust in FORCING another to do what He Himself would not do.

[10] Satan is thus **DEFEATED by JESUS DEATH!!!** HOW SO??? Satan's one great purpose in all that he did was to compel Jesus, by thought or act, to rebel against His Father's plan for His life.

When Jesus died never having yielded to that pressure in thought or deed, He conquered where Adam had failed. Satan was defeated in that he had completely failed to obtain a legal claim upon Jesus. Jesus *overcame* – *conquered*, though He died in so doing so.

His obedience, which carried Him to His death, resulted in defeating Satan's efforts to obtain a LEGAL CLAIM over Him. **In death, Christ is victorious!**

LEGAL TRIUMPH

When Jesus took all of the sin and sins of mankind upon Himself (as if it were a mantle), He then voluntarily allowed Himself to die such that at the precise moment Jesus yielded up His spirit – Satan, who had "the power of death", struck home the death blow.

Jesus, knowing all of this, could not restrain Himself and gave forth His final *victory cry* from the Cross – in N.T. Koiné Greek, *tetelistai!* – **IT IS FINISHED!**

1 JO 2:2 AND HE IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS: AND NOT FOR OURS ONLY, BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD.

JOH 1:29 THE NEXT DAY JOHN SEETH JESUS COMING UNTO HIM, AND SAITH, BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY **THE SIN OF THE WORLD.**

This was Satan's great colossal blunder. In his desperate attempt to have Jesus break His oneness with His Father, he slew an innocent man, a man over whom he had no legal authority.

The result of that action had far reaching implications.

Among these were that all of Satan's legal claims upon the earth and the whole human race were cancelled! Murderers have no legal right to their person, to property or to possess slaves. Under universal jurisprudence, a murderer becomes subject to the death penalty. A murderer forfeits his own life.

When Satan secured the death of Jesus, he became a murderer. He who had "the power of death" had slain millions with impunity since he had the legal right to do so. As a slave owner, Satan had legal title to Adam and all his offspring. As they were transgressors of God's laws, the death penalty was upon them all. Of course God was and is still **sovereign** over all His creation, even that small portion of His realm which is in rebellion. The actual carrying out of this death penalty was all in God's timing. Satan's dominion and power, though legally recognized by God as valid, are limited, as were Adam's – whom Lucifer conquered.

DEU 32:39 SEE NOW THAT I, EVEN I, AM HE, AND THERE IS NO GOD WITH ME: I KILL, AND I MAKE ALIVE; I WOUND, AND I HEAL: NEITHER IS THERE ANY THAT CAN DELIVER OUT OF MY HAND.

Now Satan has slain an innocent man over whom he had no legal claim. He is for that reason brought into universal court and is placed on trial for his life on the grounds of murder. He brought upon himself the death penalty.

This illuminates and authenticates the meaning of:

HEB 2:14 FORASMUCH THEN AS THE CHILDREN ARE PARTAKERS OF FLESH AND BLOOD, HE (Jesus) ALSO HIMSELF LIKEWISE TOOK PART OF THE SAME; THAT THROUGH (His own) DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY (not annihilate) HIM THAT HAD THE POWER OF DEATH, THAT IS, THE DEVIL;

This does not conflict with:

JOH 8:44 YE ARE OF YOUR FATHER THE DEVIL, AND THE LUSTS OF YOUR FATHER YE WILL DO. HE WAS A MURDERER FROM THE BEGINNING ...

Inasmuch as God had proclaimed "EVERYTHING GOOD" at the close of creation week (Gen. 1:31), Satan could not yet have been cast down to the earth.

Moreover, the Scriptures know nothing of a pre-Adamic rule of Satan on the earth in the supposed "gap" between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2. How did he obtain this dominion? Who defeated him then? How was this accomplished? What were the legal grounds for redemption etc., in order that the earth could have been given to Adam to rule? If he were defeated, then why was he not brought to justice at that time? How were those supposed pre-Adamic people redeemed as:

HEB 9:26 FOR THEN MUST HE OFTEN HAVE SUFFERED SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD: BUT NOW ONCE IN THE END OF THE WORLD HATH HE APPEARED TO PUT AWAY SIN BY THE SACRIFICE OF HIMSELF.

Jesus could not have come and redeemed them then – He dies only ONCE.

The Scriptures are quite clear. They teach us that Satan BECAME the "god of this age", "the prince of the power of the air" and "the prince of this world" by defeating its ruler, Adam. They say NOTHING of his having been ruler previous to this conflict.

We understand then, that the "beginning" of John 8:44, refers to the time concerning Satan's rebellion in heaven, his being cast to earth and bringing about man's fall at the beginning of the creation with the result that all who follow him incur the penalty of death.

As Satan is responsible for bringing Adam and Eve under the penalty of death – as are they for choosing to rebel – he is guilty of murder in that he hated God and them. He blinded their minds and led them astray to their doom.

1 JO 3:15 WHOSOEVER HATETH HIS BROTHER IS A MURDERER ...

Also:

1 JO 3:8 ... FOR THE DEVIL SINNETH FROM THE BEGINNING ...

and:

**2 CO 4:3 BUT IF OUR GOSPEL BE HID, IT IS HID TO THEM THAT ARE LOST:
2 CO 4:4 IN WHOM THE GOD OF THIS WORLD (Satan) HATH BLINDED THE MINDS OF THEM WHICH BELIEVE NOT, LEST THE LIGHT OF THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF CHRIST, WHO IS THE IMAGE OF GOD, SHOULD SHINE UNTO THEM.**

The "beginning" is then, the same beginning found in Genesis 1:1 as well as John 1:1, and this is the sense in which Satan was a murderer from the beginning. However, in the full legal sense, he became a murderer only when he slew Jesus.

We see now another reason why the CHALLENGER had to be a man:

HEB 2:9 ... WE SEE JESUS, WHO WAS MADE A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS FOR THE SUFFERING OF DEATH, CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOUR; THAT HE BY THE GRACE OF GOD SHOULD TASTE DEATH FOR EVERY MAN.

As God, he could not experience physical death, nor could an angel. Adam's failure and Satan's conquest did not catch God unawares. **The whole Plan**, based upon God's OMNISCIENCE and FOREKNOWLEDGE from BEFORE the FOUNDATION of the WORLD – was total **VICTORY THROUGH DEATH** (Rev. 13:8; Eph. 1:4). Truly, God's ways are not ours!

But this victory was not only a LEGAL one. It was also a victory by CONQUEST resulting from the application of an irresistible force – **the love of God's Son for His Father, The Father for The Son and Their love for man.**

HEB 10:4 FOR IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THAT THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND OF GOATS SHOULD TAKE AWAY SINS.

HEB 10:5 WHEREFORE WHEN HE (Messiah) COMETH INTO THE WORLD, HE SAITH, SACRIFICE AND OFFERING THOU WoulDEST NOT, BUT A BODY HAST THOU PREPARED ME:

HEB 10:6 IN BURNT OFFERINGS AND SACRIFICES FOR SIN THOU HAST HAD NO PLEASURE.

HEB 10:7 THEN SAID I (Jesus), LO, I COME (IN THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME,) TO DO THY WILL, O GOD.

1 PE 3:18 FOR CHRIST ALSO HATH ONCE SUFFERED FOR SINS, THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST, THAT HE MIGHT BRING US TO GOD, BEING PUT TO DEATH IN THE FLESH, BUT QUICKENED BY THE SPIRIT:

EPH 4:9 (NOW THAT HE ASCENDED, WHAT IS IT BUT THAT HE ALSO DESCENDED FIRST INTO THE LOWER PARTS OF THE EARTH? (Psa. 88)

1 TI 3:16 AND WITHOUT CONTROVERSY GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS: GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH, JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT, SEEN OF ANGELS, PREACHED UNTO THE GENTILES, BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD, RECEIVED UP INTO GLORY.

ISA 53:11 HE SHALL SEE OF THE TRAVAIL OF HIS SOUL, AND SHALL BE SATISFIED: BY HIS KNOWLEDGE SHALL MY RIGHTEOUS SERVANT JUSTIFY MANY; FOR HE SHALL BEAR THEIR INIQUITIES.

ROM 8:32 HE THAT SPARED NOT HIS OWN SON, BUT DELIVERED HIM UP FOR US ALL, HOW SHALL HE NOT WITH HIM ALSO FREELY GIVE US ALL THINGS?

HEB 12:2 LOOKING UNTO JESUS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH; WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND IS SET DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD.

1 TI 4:10 FOR THEREFORE WE BOTH LABOUR AND SUFFER REPROACH, BECAUSE WE TRUST IN THE LIVING GOD, WHO IS THE SAVIOUR OF ALL MEN, SPECIALLY OF THOSE THAT BELIEVE.

[11] However Satan is not only defeated by Jesus' death. The greater victory, in that it proved that all the above claims concerning Jesus' person were true, was in Jesus' RESURRECTION. The emphasis in Jesus' victory through death was in that of His HUMANITY – He had to be human in order to die. However, Jesus' victory through the Resurrection spoke of His DEITY.

LEGAL TRIUMPH

In Matthew 12:38, the Jewish leaders asked for a sign from Jesus. They were not merely asking for a sign to prove that He was SENT from God. They had already seen Him do many miracles such as multiplying food, healing the sick and even raising the dead. These signs had only served to prove that Jesus was FROM God – but they did not prove that He was indeed the Messiah, that He **WAS** God come in the flesh.

Both Elijah and his pupil Elisha had performed similar miracles. These signs authenticated their words and demonstrated that they were men of God, but they did not indicate that they were themselves deity.

The leaders therefore, were asking for a sign to prove that Jesus was in fact unique: that He was the Messiah, the son of David, very God in the flesh as the prophecies had foretold.

ISA 7:14 THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF SHALL GIVE YOU A SIGN; BEHOLD, A VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE, AND BEAR A SON, AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL. (God is with us)

ISA 9:6 FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN: AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER: AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

Jesus replied that the only sign that He would offer to that end was the sign of the prophet Jonah; that as Jonah was 3 days and 3 nights in the fish, so He would be in the heart of the earth; and that as Jonah came out from the jaws of death on the 3rd day, He would also.

The reason that this would prove His deity lies in the following logic:

If Jesus died and were resurrected, who could have accomplished such a feat? The answer from Deuteronomy 32:39 as to who held such power was God Himself, not Satan with whom they had just accused Jesus of being in league.

The logic would continue; would God raise from the dead a false prophet, a false Messiah, a blasphemer who claimed to be God when he was not God? The answer is obvious, no – never would God resurrect so a vile man.

The climax to the logic is inescapable. If I (Jesus) am resurrected by God the Father on the 3rd day, then Father must have placed His stamp of approval on Me, My person, My ministry, all I did, and all that I have claimed.

The Resurrection is then the **ONLY** sign that Jesus offered as to His deity. He hung His entire ministry and proof of His person on this one act, an act over which He had no control whatsoever.

Jesus' victory in the Resurrection, where neither death nor all at Satan's disposal could hold Him, is proclaimed by the Scripture:

COL 2:15 AND HAVING SPOILED PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, HE (Jesus) MADE A SHEW OF THEM OPENLY, TRIUMPHING OVER THEM IN IT.

On Resurrection morn, Jesus ripped forth from Hell's gate – much as Samson had done in type hundreds of years previously (Judges 16:2-3). He crossed the chasm separating the side of the lost from that of the saved (Luke 16), and proclaimed His victory to those souls in Paradise (I Pet. 3:18-20 cp. Luke 23:43), especially to those who had repented during the rising of the waters of The Flood. Even though they had refused to get on the ark, and had perished in that deluge, their souls had been saved (I Pet. 4:6, cp. I Cor. 5:5).

All of the souls of the redeemed from Abel to the thief on the Cross had gone to Paradise when they died. The blood of the sacrificial animals had not been sufficient except to "COVER" their sins temporarily. Being amoral creatures, the blood of bulls, sheep, and goats could not actually PAY for human sin and sins. Only the blood of the Messiah, God come in the flesh, in whom these had all placed their faith, could actually remove the curse from them for their being fallen creatures and having broken God's laws.

Then, by virtue of His blood having been poured out for mankind's sin and sins, Jesus emptied that compartment of "Abraham's Bosom" and ascended into the 3rd Heaven – the presence of the throne of The Father – with all of its occupants [the concept of 7 heavens is occultic, the Holy Writ speaks of only 3 – namely, (1) the atmosphere about the earth (2) the abode of the stars and other celestial bodies, and (3) the abode of the throne of God and the heavenly beings]. Carrying His own blood into the true Temple in Heaven (as the High Priests of Israel had done for nearly 1500 years on the Day of Atonement, see Leviticus 14:1-7 for the O.T. ritual which foreshadowed this) as proof that man's sin debt had forever been paid, He concluded the last rite of Atonement. Never again would the shedding of the blood of bulls, sheep or goats be efficacious for sins in God's eyes.

The wages of Man's sin was death, the life of the flesh was in the blood, human blood had been shed from one who had *not* sinned (nor was His nature that of a sinner) as evidence that a life had been forfeited on man's behalf. The debt had been paid in full. Adam's race was **legally free** – at long last.

Jesus had led the captives, who had not been able to come into the presence of God on the merits of the blood of animals, captive – bringing their souls and spirits into Father's presence as they await their own Resurrections whereupon they will receive, like Jesus, their new glorified bodies (Eph. 4:8-10; Phil. 3:20-21; Psa. 88; I Thes. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:35-56).

Jesus' victory is further attested to by these verses from the Revelation as seen by the apostle John:

REV 1:5 ...JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS THE FAITHFUL WITNESS, AND AND THE FIRST BEGOTTEN OF THE DEAD, AND THE PRINCE OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH. UNTO HIM THAT LOVED US, AND WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD,

REV 1:18 I (Jesus) AM HE THAT LIVETH, AND WAS DEAD; AND, BEHOLD, I AM ALIVE FOR EVERMORE, AMEN; AND HAVE THE KEYS OF HELL AND OF DEATH.

We see that by virtue of His Resurrection, Jesus now has the KEYS or power over Hell and death whereas prior to that moment, they were in the hands of Satan (Heb. 2:14-15).

LEGAL TRIUMPH

So all of the first Adam's offspring, all of mankind, was IDENTIFIED with Christ Jesus in His DEATH, and therefore have the LEGAL RIGHT to eternal life (the debt has been forever paid).

However, only those who believe in Christ Jesus unto receiving Him as their Lord and Savior are IDENTIFIED with Him in His RESURRECTION. Only those who receive Him will actually participate with Him in His new resurrection life and receive their new glorified bodies and eternal life.

Moreover, Biblical "believing in Christ Jesus" is not merely mental assent to His person and the Gospel – it is the *commitment* of one's life to God through Christ. Indeed, the amplified meaning of the Hebrew word which we translate "believe" in Genesis 15:6 (where Abraham "believed" God and it was counted to him for righteousness; this truth and principle is confirmed in the New Testament *after the Cross, after the Resurrection and after Pentecost* in Rom.4:3) has a four-fold shade of meaning which taken together embodies the total essence of a marriage. It means (1) loving trust, (2) to give oneself wholly away to another, (3) an unqualified committal, and (4) to go into someone (i.e., divine spiritual intercourse - Christ in us and us in Him). Satan and the demons "believe" in one God but not like this.

Jesus has secured for ALL the legal right to eternal life, but this right does not become theirs in experience until they lay claim to their pardon and inheritance by their accepting **GOD'S ONLY PROVISION for sin and sins** – Jesus the Conqueror! (see I Tim. 4:10)

TO SUMMARIZE: the shedding of Jesus' blood to the point of His physical death on the Cross proved that He was a genuine HUMAN BEING – His resurrection proved that He was also, at the very same time, DEITY.

JESUS CHRIST...WAS
ROM 1:4 ... DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD ... BY THE RESURRECTION FROM
THE DEAD:

Floyd Nolen Jones, Th.D., Ph.D.