

#8 Christ—the One Cursed and Hanged on a Tree

(Crystallization-Study of Deuteronomy) 2020/4/13-19

Overview: In Deuteronomy 21:22-23 there is a prophecy that Christ would be the cursed One hanging on a tree. Lord Jesus was killed by being crucified (I). After Adam sinned, the earth brought forth thorns because of the curse, so thorns are a sign of being cursed (II). The curse was not altogether official until the law was given; the law now declares that all the descendants of Adam are under the curse. If we try to keep the law, we will be in the flesh and automatically come under the curse. “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all the things written in the book of the law to do them” (III). Christ having become a curse on our behalf, has redeemed us out of the curse of the law. When Christ was on the cross, God took all our sins and put them on the Lamb of God. Christ died once to bear our sins (IV). As the seed of Abraham, Christ was made a curse for us, in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (V).

I. In Deuteronomy 21:22-23 there is a prophecy that Christ would be the cursed One hanging on a tree; here we have a type of the crucified Christ as the One who was hanged on a tree: Deut. 21:22-23 And if in a man there is a sin, a cause worthy of death, and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree; His corpse shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you must bury him on that day. For he who is hanged is accursed of God...

A. A criminal could be executed by being hanged on a tree; he who was hanged was accursed of God.

B. If in a man there was a sin, a cause worthy of death, and he was put to death and was hanged on a tree, his corpse was not to remain overnight on the tree but had to be buried that day, for he who was hanged on a tree was accursed of God.

C. The Lord Jesus was killed by being crucified, that is, by being hanged on a tree, the cross, and He was buried on the day of His crucifixion. **Acts 5:30** The God of our fathers has raised Jesus, whom you slew by hanging Him on a tree.

II. The origin of the curse is man's sin:

A. God brought in the curse after Adam's sin, saying, “Cursed is the ground because of you”: **1.** As descendants of Adam, all sinners are under the curse; Adam brought us all under the curse. **Rom. 5:17** For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. **(Tue)** **2.** Ultimately, the curse is death; death, including all other sufferings, is the consummation of the curse. **6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. **(Tue)**

B. After Adam sinned, the earth brought forth thorns because of the curse, so thorns are a sign of being cursed.

III. The curse is carried out through the law, for the law administers the curse:

A. The curse was not altogether official until the law was given; the law now declares that all the descendants of Adam are under the curse.

B. The curse, therefore, is related to the law of God, and it is the demand of the righteousness of God upon sinners.

C. If we try to keep the law, we will be in the flesh and automatically come under the curse: “As many as are of the works of law are under a curse; for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all the things written in the book of the law to do them’ (Gal. 3:10)”.

IV. “Christ has redeemed us out of the curse of the law, having become a curse on our behalf; because it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone hanging on a tree’ (Gal. 3:13)”:

A. On the cross Christ accomplished the great work of bringing us out from the curse of the law, working to bear our sins and to remove the curse. **1 Pet. 2:24** Who Himself bore up our sins in His body on the tree, in order that we, having died to sins, might live to righteousness; by whose bruise you were healed. **Mon/Tue**

B. Christ Himself “bore up our sins in His body on the tree (1 Pet. 2:24)”: **1.** The word tree in 1 Peter 2:24 is the cross made of wood, a Roman instrument of capital punishment used for the execution of malefactors, as prophesied in Deuteronomy 21:23; elsewhere in the New Testament the cross is called a tree. **2.** When Christ was on the cross, God took all our sins and put them on the Lamb of God. **3.** Christ died once to bear our sins, and He suffered the judgment for us on the cross. **4.** In the death of Christ we have died to sins so that we might live to righteousness.

C. When Christ bore our sins, He also took our curse: **1.** The crown of thorns indicates this; since thorns are a sign of the curse, Christ's wearing a crown of thorns indicates that He took our curse on the cross. **2.** Because Christ was cursed in our place, the demand of the law was fulfilled, and He could redeem us out of the curse of the law. **3.** Whereas the law condemns us and makes the curse official, Christ through His crucifixion has redeemed us out of the curse of the law. **4.** The curse that came in through Adam's fall has been dealt with by Christ's redemption.

D. Not only did Christ redeem us out of the curse; He even became a curse on our behalf; this indicates that He was absolutely abandoned by God: **1.** The Lord Jesus was judged by God for the accomplishment of redemption, and God counted Him as our suffering Substitute for sin. **2.** Our sin and sins and all negative things were dealt with on the cross, and God forsook the Slave-Savior because of our sin: **Mark 15:34** And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? Which is interpreted, My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? **a.** God forsook Christ on the cross because He took the place of sinners, bearing our sins and being made sin for us. **b.** In the sight of God, Christ became a great sinner, and God judged Him as our Substitute for our sins. **c.** Christ was our Substitute and was even sin in the sight of God; therefore, God judged Him and even forsook Him. **3.** Because Christ bore our sins and was made sin for us, God, in judging Him as our Substitute, forsook Him economically: **a.** The Lord Jesus was born of the begetting Spirit as the divine essence, who never left Him essentially. **b.** When the Lord Jesus, the God-man, died on the cross under God's judgment, He and God

within Him essentially as His divine being; nevertheless, He was forsaken by the righteous and judging God economically: **1** Because the Lord Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit and was born of God and with God, He and the Holy Spirit as the intrinsic essence of His divine being; thus, it was not possible for God to forsake Him essentially. **2** Christ was forsaken by God economically when the Spirit, who had descended upon Him as the economical power for the carrying out of His ministry, left Him; however, the essence of God remained in His being, and He therefore died on the cross as the God-man. **Wed**

E. In His humanity as the seed of Abraham, Christ was crucified and became a curse on our behalf to redeem us out of the curse of the law: **Gal. 3:29** An if you are of Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to promise. **1.** Genesis 22:17-18a and 28:14 are a prophecy that Abraham's seed would be a great blessing to all mankind, for all nations would be blessed through his seed. **2.** Christ, the seed of Abraham, has brought God to us and us to God for our enjoyment of God's blessing. **3.** The promise given to Abraham was that God Himself would come to be the seed of Abraham, and this seed would be a blessing to all the nations by becoming the all-inclusive Spirit for mankind to receive. **Thu**

V. As the seed of Abraham, Christ was made a curse for us "in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith (Gal. 3:14)":

A. The blessing of Abraham is the blessing promised by God to him for all the nations of the earth. **Gen. 12:3** And I will bless those who bless you... And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

B. This promise was fulfilled and this blessing has come to the nations in Christ through His redemption by the cross. **Gal. 3:13** Christ has redeemed us out of the curse of the law, having become a curse on our behalf; because it is written, "Cursed is every one hanging on a tree";

C. The context of Galatians 3:14 indicates that the Spirit is the blessing that God promised to Abraham for all the nations and that has been received by the believers through faith in Christ: **Gal. 3:2** This only I wish to learn from you, Did you receive the Spirit out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith? **5** He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith? **(Sat)**

1. The physical aspect of the blessing that God promised to Abraham was the good land, which was a type of the all-inclusive Christ. **Col. 1:12** Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you for a share of the allotted portion of the saints in the light; **2.** The Spirit is the compound Spirit, who is God Himself processed in His Trinity through incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and descension for us to receive as our life and our everything. **3.** Since Christ is realized as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit, the blessing of the promised Spirit equals the blessing of the good land; actually, the Spirit as the realization of Christ in our experience is the good land. **2 Cor. 3:17** And the Lord is the

Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

4. Our spiritual blessing for eternity will be to inherit the Spirit, the consummation of the processed Triune God as our inheritance. **5.** In the new heaven and the new earth in the New Jerusalem, we will enjoy the processed Triune God, who is the all-inclusive, consummated, life-giving Spirit. **6.** Today our Christian life is a life of receiving the Spirit through faith. **Fri/Sat**
Crucial Point(1): Christ has already redeemed you out of the curse of the law judicially. As a believer, by confessing your failures and sins and applying the blood of redemption, you can be released from the curse organically to participate in the blessing

OL1: God brought in the curse after Adam's sin, saying, "Cursed is the ground because of you".

OL2: Ultimately, the curse is death; death, including all other sufferings, is the consummation of the curse.

OL3: If we try to keep the law, we will be in the flesh and automatically come under the curse: "As many as are of the works of law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all the things written in the book of the law to do them' (Gal. 3:10.)".

As the seed of Abraham, Christ in His humanity was crucified and became a curse on our behalf to redeem us out of the curse of the law. Galatians 3:1 mentions that Jesus Christ was crucified. Verse 13 goes on to say, "Christ has redeemed us out of the curse of the law, having become a curse on our behalf; because it is written, 'Cursed is everyone hanging on a tree.'" Christ as our Substitute on the cross not only bore the curse for us but also became a curse for us. The curse of the law issued from the sin of man. When Christ took away our sin on the cross, He redeemed us out of the curse of the law.

Through his fall, Adam brought us all under the curse; as fallen descendants of Adam, we the sinners were under the curse. The origin of the curse is man's sin. God brought in the curse after Adam's sin, saying, "Cursed is the ground because of you". The sign of the curse is thorns. For this reason, after Adam's sin, the earth brought forth thorns.

However, the curse was not altogether official until the law was given. The law now declares that all the fallen descendants of Adam are under the curse. In other words, the curse is carried out through the law. This means that the law administers the curse. Therefore, the curse is related to the law of God; it is the demand of the righteous God upon sinners.

Application to young working saints/graduate students

Due to the fall of Adam, every man was in the curse of the law. But thank the Lord. Although you could not fulfill the requirements of the law, the sinless One has become a curse on our behalf and bore the curse. It was for you to receive the all-inclusive Spirit as the blessing of Abraham. The redemption of Christ has released you from the curse and it enables you to receive the blessing. So you

need to have the full realization on the redemption of Christ and appreciate it.

You should know who saved you out of the curse and how the blessing was brought to you. To put the JIS mark (Japanese Industrial Standard) on the products, the product needs to fulfill all the requirements of JIS mark. If the product fulfills 95% of the requirements, it cannot get JIS mark. It has to fulfill 100% of the requirements. In the same way, without fulfilling 100% of the requirements of the righteous God, you cannot be released from the curse of the law. Lord Jesus bore the curse on your behalf on the cross and became a curse. Thank and praise the Lord for His redemptive work. Based on the redemption, you have a position to be released from the curse and receive the blessing.

You may experience many mistakes in your business life. Every time you make mistakes, confess your sins and apply the blood of redemption. Since you were already redeemed and become the children of God, you can always apply the blood of redemption. For example, you can pray like this, "Lord Jesus, I am rebelling against my boss. I am living according to the sin in the flesh, not according to the spirit. Lord forgive me of my sin of rebellion", "Lord Jesus, I watched a young lady with lust. Forgive me of my sin of lust", "Lord, I am jealous over my colleague's promotion. I know he did good performance. But his promotion makes a big gap between us and the fire of jealousy has flared up. Please forgive me of my sin of jealousy.", "Lord Jesus, I am about to lose my temper by seeing the rebellious attitude of my subordinate. Please forgive my sin of wrath". If you apply the redemptive blood of Jesus like this, all of your sins, big or small, will be forgiven, you can be cleansed from all unrighteousness, released from the curse and able to come back to the blessed fellowship of the divine life.

Crucial Point(2): Entering into Christ, an unique heir of God, by faith to participate in the blessings to Abraham

OL1: Christ was forsaken by God economically when the Spirit, who had descended upon Him as the economical power for the carrying out of His ministry, left Him; however, the essence of God remained in His being, and He therefore died on the cross as the God-man.

OL2: The promise given to Abraham was that God Himself would come to be the seed of Abraham, and this seed would be a blessing to all the nations by becoming the all-inclusive Spirit for mankind to receive.

When the Lord was suffering the persecution of man, God was with Him, and He enjoyed the presence of God. But at the end of the first three hours, God forsook Him, and darkness came. Unable to tolerate this, the Lord shouted loudly, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Matt. 27:46)" As we have pointed out, God forsook Him because He was our Substitute bearing our sins. Isaiah 53 reveals that this was the time God put our sins on Him. ... the righteous God put all our sins upon this Substitute and judged Him righteously for our sins.

God forsook Him because during these hours He was a sinner there on the cross; He was even made sin.

As the seed of Abraham, Christ in His humanity blesses all the nations with the gospel of Christ. He has brought God to us and us to God for our enjoyment of God's blessing. He brings blessings to the nations. Whether Jews or Gentiles, all will be blessed in Him.

According to Galatians 3:16, Christ is the seed of Abraham, the Heir who inherits the promises. Here Christ is the unique seed who inherits the promises. Hence, in order to inherit the promised blessing, we must be one with Christ. Outside of Him we cannot inherit the promises given by God to Abraham. In God's eyes Abraham has only one seed, Christ.

Application for the serving ones

Christ has died on the cross as a God-man. **1 John 1:7** says "...the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin." FN "the blood of Jesus": The name "Jesus" denotes the Lord's humanity, which is needed for the shedding of the redeeming blood, and the title "His Son" denotes the Lord's divinity, which is needed for the eternal efficacy of the redeeming blood. Thus, "the blood of Jesus His Son" indicates that this blood is the proper blood of a genuine man shed for the redeeming of God's fallen creatures, with the divine surety as its eternal efficacy, an efficacy that is all-prevailing in space and everlasting in time.

Because you have already been redeemed and saved in position, you also can be released from the curse and be entered into the blessing in the daily experience. **Rom. 5:10** For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled.

The root cause of the failure when Adam fell was that Eve has listened to words of the serpent, Satan, and had discussion with Satan in response to it. In your daily life, ① you must not listen to the words of Satan, ② you must not discuss with Satan in response to his words, ③ you must stand against and fight against Satan (not responding to him), and ④ you must rebuke Satan in faith, then you can experientially be released from the curse and can participate in the blessing.

Gal. 3:5 He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit and does works of power among you, does He do it out of the works of law or out of the hearing of faith?

As an example, Satan may speak to you saying, "You are a poor and ugly person! Look at your failure more closely. There is no way you can serve the church!" You must not respond to the speaking of Satan. Instead, you must stand against Satan with the words of God and rebuke Satan, "Satan the devil, you are a liar. I am blessed by God but you are cursed. My failure is under the blood. Don't you see the blood of Jesus the Son?!"

Moreover, as a serving one, please read the books such as the recovery version Bible, the Holy Word for Morning Revival for Deuteronomy, the Introduction to Deuteronomy, the Economy of God (God's eternal

plan), and the All-inclusive Christ, and listen to the faithful words more.

Prayer: "I should listen more to the faithful words. In order to reject the words of Satan, the words of unbelieving, and to listen to the words of faith, I read the recovery version Bible, the Morning Revival and the Introduction to Deuteronomy little by little every day. Supply the Spirit bountifully, so that I can serve people with the Spirit and bless them. Amen!"

Crucial Point(3): The Spirit is the blessing to all the nations which God promised Abraham.

OL1: As the seed of Abraham, Christ was made a curse for us "in order that the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Gal. 3:14:)

OL2: The Spirit is the compound Spirit, who is God Himself processed in His Trinity through incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and descension for us to receive as our life and our everything.

OL3: Since Christ is realized as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit, the blessing of the promised Spirit equals the blessing of the good land; actually, the Spirit as the realization of Christ in our experience is the good land.

OL4: Today our Christian life is a life of receiving the Spirit through faith.

Our blessing is God Himself, who is embodied in Christ and realized as the Spirit to be dispensed into us for our enjoyment. In the universe only God Himself is a blessing; all else is vanity of vanities (Eccl. 1:2). Even the entire universe cannot compare with our Triune God. If we have God, we have the blessing. However, God becoming our blessing involved a process. Just as food must be cooked to become our blessing, God had to be "cooked" in order to be our blessing. Before passing through a process, God was a "raw" God. By passing through a process, God became the "cooked" God to be our life and life supply. This God in His totality is the processed, consummated, all-inclusive, life-giving, indwelling Spirit. He as the wonderful Spirit is the blessing from God to us. The blessing of the gospel is the Spirit, the sum total and the aggregate of the processed Triune God.

In the full gospel of God, in Christ we have received not only the blessing of forgiveness, washing, and cleansing; even more, we have received the greatest blessing, the Triune God—the Father, Son, and Spirit—as the processed, all-inclusive life-giving Spirit dwelling in us in a most subjective way for our enjoyment. Oh, what a blessing that we can enjoy such an all-inclusive One as our daily portion!

Application for the new ones & young people & college students

Eccl. 1:2 Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher; Vanity of vanities; all is vanity. FN "Vanity of vanities": The word can also be translated vapor, breath. So throughout the book, the contents of Ecclesiastes are a description by Solomon, after his falling away from God and returning back to God, of the human life of fallen mankind under the sun, a life in the corrupted

world. According to this book human history, from its beginning to the present, is vanity.

The blessing of the gospel is the Spirits, the sum of the processed Triune God. Material blessings, such as good occupations, big houses, and nice cars, are not God's eternal blessings. God's eternal blessing is the life-giving and all-inclusive spirit, the sum of the processed Triune God. This spirit will enter you, spread from the spirit to the soul, renew your mind and transform the soul.

A good company uses a lot of people, money, and time to fulfill people since it's people who do the jobs. Church life can transform you from glory to glory. That way, you can be useful at school and at work. God pays more attention to you than the company and spends a lot of time transforming you. This transforming comes from its spirit, the blessing of the gospel.

2 Cor. 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **17** And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. **18** But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Young students should not think of working part-time as much as possible to make some money. You should do the part-time job you need, but the most important thing in your student days is to train your logical thinking circuit through learning. This needs to be trained at a young age. Young businesspeople should also learn professional qualifications and languages such as English and Chinese. When you are young, it is time to learn, not to earn. Call on the name of the Lord when you are young and focus on being equipped yourself with the wisdom and power of the Lord. That way, when you are 30-35 years old, you will be a useful person as a trained person.

May such a vision and understanding can dominate your daily life. You must never seek material blessings and be a man without a vision who does not seek the spirit, the gospel blessing. People without vision will be selfish, unable to walk straight and waste time.

May you be a wise man who is dominated by vision when you are young and new. **Eccl. 12:1** Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, I have no pleasure in them; **Prayer:** "O Lord Jesus, the glorious King Solomon said, 'Vanity of vanities; all is vanity.' I want to live a vision-dominated life from a young age. I do not pursue the 'Vanity of vanities,' but pursue a life that enjoys "the spirit." The Spirit is the all-inclusive, life-giving, indwelling, sevenfold spirit, the sum of the blessings of God's promise to me. I open my heart wide to you. Remove the cover of my natural idea. By the Spirit, gradually transform my soul from glory to glory. Amen!"