

MIRACLES OF JESUS

CRADLE

A. Conclusion

1. The greatest miracle I call *The Great Exchange*, where Jesus exchanged His righteousness for our unrighteousness, 2 Corinthians 5:21, *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*
2. This exchange is accomplished by some of the most amazing miracles in the life of Jesus from His birth, through His death and to His resurrection: Cradle, Cross and Crown.

B. The Great Exchange required incarnation.

1. God became man for our benefit to accomplish the Great Exchange.
 - a. John 1:14, *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*
 - b. Concerning His deity
 - 1) Jesus defined His nature as divine.
 - a) He is co-eternal with the God the Father, John 8:58, *Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."*
 - b) He is co-equal in nature with God the Father, John 10:30, *I and the Father are one.*
 - c) He is co-equal in power with God the Father, Matthew 26:64, *Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."*
 - 2) He defined his function as divine.
 - a) John 11:25, *... I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.*
 - b) John 14:6, *...I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*
 - c. Concerning His humanity
 - 1) Jesus identifies with us through His humanity.
 - a) Hebrews 4:15, *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.*
 - b) John Eadie, *Jesus has not only the fulness of Divinity, but has it in a human shape-has a heart of a brother to love you, and the arm of God to protect and bless you.*
 - c) Council of Chalcedon (450 A.D.), *The birth of flesh reveals human nature; birth from a virgin is a proof of divine power...the divinity was concealed by the veil of flesh...For it is from us that he gets a humanity which is less than the Father; it is from the Father that he gets a divinity which is equal to the Father.*
 - 2) Jesus' incarnation was one of His greatest miracles.
 - a) He was born in a manger but He existed before Abraham.
 - b) He is God yet was the son of Mary.
 - c) He did not come to earth for His benefit but for ours.
 - 1] Jesus does not need us because of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit have love, relationship and fellowship.
 - 2] Jesus wants us which is made possible through the Great Exchange.
 - 3) Jesus in His humanity fulfilled the Law.
 - a) What we can not do because of sin, He accomplished because He is sinless.
 - b) The Great Exchange was made possible by His life of obedience.

2. The cradle was just the beginning of Jesus' journey to Calvary.

CROSS

A. The Great Exchange required a payment acceptable to God the Father.

1. Some believe Jesus was a religious fanatic confused by his zeal.
2. Some believe Jesus was a good man who is an example for how we should live.
3. Christians believe He is God the Son Who came to make the Great Exchange.
 - a. Galatians 4:4-5, *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.*
 - b. Anonymous, *He came to pay a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay.*

- B. The payment for the Great Exchange took place at Calvary.
1. A view of the cross paints a painful picture of what Jesus endured for the Great Exchange.
 2. Below the surface, there was pain much deeper than the physical torture Jesus endured.
 3. Listen to Jesus' words from the cross.
 - a. Hear His cry to the Father, Mark 15:34, *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"*
 - 1) The deepest pain was the spiritual break in fellowship between the Father and the Son.
 - 2) This was a cry at the level of Jesus' full humanity. Arthur Pink, *It was a cry of distress but not of distrust.*
 - 3) For the only time, past, present or future, the Father turned from the Son, eternal fellowship was broken because the Father will not allow sin in His presence.
 - 4) The Great Exchange was taking place as Jesus became the sin-bearer of the world. He took your sins and mine upon Himself.
 - b. Hear His request to the Father - Luke 23:34, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*
 - 1) Jesus' request was timeless. Those in need of forgiveness is a much larger group than those in Jerusalem.
 - 2) In His suffering, He thought of you and me in need of the Great Exchange.
 - 3) The ability to forgive is a miracle that can happen daily.
 - c. Hear Jesus' proclamation that the Great Exchange was complete, John 19:30, *...he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*
 - 1) The most wondrous thing took place a few moments later when fellowship was restored.
 - 2) Jesus' payment for sin was accepted by the Father and forgiveness of sins is available based on Jesus' work.
 - 3) This is the Great Exchange, Jesus took our sins upon Himself and places His righteousness on us who trust Him alone.
 - d. Sense that amazing moment, Matthew 27:51-54, *And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"*
 - 1) The temple veil was ripped in two from top to bottom. Now, man has direct access to God because of Jesus.
 - 2) The earth shook, tombs were opened and many who had died in faith were resurrected.
 - 3) The Roman soldier in charge of the crucifixion responded, *Truly this was the Son of God!*
 - 4) Miracle after miracle took place as God dealt with sin and accepted the Great Exchange.
- C. The Great Exchange demands a response.
1. It is a call to repentance, sorrow for sin and a desire not to sin, 2 Corinthians 7:10, *For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*
 2. It is a matter of belief, John 3:16, *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*
 3. It is saving faith
 - a. It is intellectually accepting the truth of the message, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.*
 - b) It is emotionally acknowledging personal need, Acts 16:29-30, *And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"*
 - c) It is choosing to receive Christ alone, John 1:12, *But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

CROWN

- A. The Father accepted the work of His Son.
 - 1. Romans 1:4, *and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,*
 - 2. Romans 6:5, *For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.*

- B. The Father declares that Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
 - 1. Philippians 2:9, *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name. . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
 - 2. 1 Peter 3:21-22, *Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.*

- C. Jesus is returning for those who accepted His Great Exchange.
 - 1. His second coming will not be as a servant but as Lord, Philippians 2:11, *so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*
 - 2. He will take believers to heaven, John 14:2, *In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?*
 - 3. His reign will be spectacular, Rev. 5:11-14, *Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.*

- D. The good news is that the Great Exchange happens daily.

CONCLUSION

- A. Athanasius (4th C. Bishop of Alexandra), *Death is destroyed. The cross has triumphed over it. It no longer has any power but is truly dead...Before the Savior came, death was terrible to the saints. Everyone wept for the dead as though they perished. But now that the Savior has risen, death isn't terrible anymore. For everyone who believes in Christ tramples over death...For they know that when they die they aren't destroyed, but actually begin to live. Through the resurrection they become incorruptible.*
- B. As he was dying D. L. Moody, said, *Earth recedes; Heaven opens for me...If this is death, it is sweet.*
- C. Fanny Crosby's hymn, *Near the Cross, Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain, Free to all, a healing stream, Flows from Calvary's mountain. In the cross, in the cross, Be my glory every, Till my raptured soul shall find, Rest, beyond the river.*
- D. The miracles performed by Jesus were wonderful but the miracles concerning the Great Exchange reverberate to this very moment.