



Empowering People to Change the World

Jesus's Crucifixion
The Day the Kingdom Revolution BEGAN

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N. T. Wright in his book on the crucifixion of Christ, writes, “As Jesus followers looked back on that day in light of what happened soon afterward, they came up with the shocking, scandalous, nonsensical claim that His death had launched a revolution. That something had happened that afternoon that had changed the world. That by six o'clock on that dark Friday evening the world was a different place.”

- A new and shocking window had been opened.
- The one true God had come down and entered our sin-soaked world.
- There was now a rescue operation under way.
- The most gruesome death known to man had become the most glorious day known to man.

The Kingdom of God had come!

- Without the cross, there is no ongoing Kingdom of God on earth.
- Without the cross, there is no power over Satan and demons!
- Without the cross, all the nations of the world are still in the sway of the evil one.
- Without the cross, forgiveness of sins and the freedom we have in the Spirit doesn't exist.

The Kingdom of God was established at the cross and inaugurated through the resurrection.

The power of the Kingdom of God over Satan and demons was established for all time through the obedience of Christ in going to the cross.

- In a real sense, it is the death of Christ on the cross, being accused of being a king, that the Father established the Son as King over all principalities and powers on the earth.
- Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom of God, but His royal mission led him to a gruesome death on a Roman cross.
- From an earthly perspective, it certainly appeared that the cross represented the failure of Christ's kingdom mission. The Scriptures, however, subtly yet

powerfully show that the cross is not a stumbling stone to the Kingdom of God; it is the cornerstone.

Turn to Matthew 27:35-50,

- Jesus reveals His kingship not by coming down from the cross to save Himself but by staying on the cross to save others.
- The cross is the greatest display of Christ's reign as power controlled by love.
- Jesus is king on the cross: forgiving sin, defeating evil, and establishing God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.
- The cross is neither the failure of Jesus's messianic ministry, nor is it a prelude to His royal glory. It is the apex of His kingdom mission. The splendor of God's royal power shines brightest through the sacrificial death of the Son of God.
- The cross is the crowning achievement of Christ's kingdom mission.

How did the Cross Start a Kingdom of God Revolution?

Turn to Colossians 2:13-15,

Verse 13: "And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh..."

- This is every person's predicament—full of shame, addictions, habits, and hang-ups.

"...He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,"

- 1) The Cross made us Alive in Christ through forgiveness of our sins.
 - We are made alive in our spirit.
 - You are completely forgiven, completely exonerated of all trespasses. Abundant life is now ours if we believe.

Verse 14: "having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

- 2) The Cross Wipes out Barriers to Faith.
 - All the requirements of the Jewish law and religion have been wiped away. It's no longer about what you do to earn God's favor through following a legal code of right and wrongs. In other words, because of the cross, everyone is welcome!
 - Paul said in Galatians 2:19, "For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God" (ESV).

Verse 15: "Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."

3) The Cross Triumphs over all Powers.

- Paul is speaking of the visible rulers of Rome (Pilate, Herod, Caiaphas), the priests of the Temple, and the invisible rulers in the fourth dimension.
- Through the cross the visible rulers and the invisible rulers had lost their power. Jesus even said to Pilate, "You would have no power over Me if it were not given to you from above."
- This is precisely why the Kingdom of God is greater than any earthly government.
- This is why Communist regimes ban Bibles and worship—they fear the power of Christ!
- This is the establishment of the Kingdom of God that binds Satan's power and plunders his house, prophesied earlier in Matthew's Gospel.

Matthew 12:28-29,

"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house."

Jesus is plundering the strong man at the Cross. The Cross delivers us from the powers of this evil age.

Paul explains in Galatians 1:4, "[He] gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father."

- Jesus who was stripped naked, beaten with rods, a crown of thorns jammed on His head, seemingly the one who was made a public spectacle of, actually in God's strategic plan, did that very thing to Satan.
- The Cross permanently disarms Satanic power and completely triumphs over the Devil's work.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, "A king who dies on the cross must be the king of a rather strange kingdom."

- A strange kingdom; indeed, for while the kingdoms of this world are built by force, the Kingdom of God is founded on grace.
- Since God's kingdom is established and forever shaped by the cross of Christ, we can say it truly is a cross-shaped kingdom. The cross creates a community of ransomed people living under the reign of God.
- The cross-shaped kingdom provides a framework for a life of devotion to the king. For through the cross, we are not only forgiven of our sins, but we are also made followers of our Savior. Jesus says, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23). To

follow the King, we have to take up our crosses. Followers of Jesus are bound for glory. But what is true for Christ is also true for those who are in Christ: glory comes through suffering.

- The cross-shaped kingdom has promoted each of us to be kings, co-heirs with Christ. We suffer with Him and we are glorified through Him. As Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Christianity has always insisted that the cross we bear always precedes the crown we wear.”

The Cross and the Crown is at the center of our message!

The Cross is the greatest revolutionary message known to humankind!

- Because of the cross, we are forgiven of all our sins.
- Because of the cross, we are no longer under the Law.
- Because of the cross, the powers are robbed of their power.
- Because of the cross, you are a royal priesthood—kings and priests of the coming kingdom on earth.

Revelation 5:9-10,

“...And have redeemed us to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
And have made us kings and priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.”

1 Peter 2:9,

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

We are a kingdom of kings and priests, and the book of Acts attests to what happens when the new covenant is enacted in an assembled people, who are filled with the Holy Spirit.

- It is as we discover the cross and the Kingdom of God that we begin to see our authority in Christ. The cross has disarmed the rulers and authorities in the fourth dimension. You and I have His authority to do just what the disciples did, just what Jesus did.

John 14:12-14, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

