

HINGED ON THE CROSS (1)

By Keith Greer

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’)” {Galatians 3:13} “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” {Galatians 6:14} Looking back to the cross, one sees a monumental landmark between two marvelous covenants; and **hinged** on it are the Old Testament’s promises and the New Testament’s fulfillment. The cross stands as the place where two great Bible history periods met. Because of Christ’s death on the cross, we have been released from Moses’ law and its ordinances. To sinful mankind, the cross was a cruel reminder of a symbol of justice against an evil doer. To believers, it displayed Divine love, which resulted in our freedom from the burdens of sin. Let us examine some Divine truths that hinge on Christ’s cross.

God’s Promises. “Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.’” {Luke 24:46,47} Those things revealed of old all led to the events that occurred on Calvary. “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.” {John 5:39} “But those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled.” {Acts 3:18}

Types and Shadows. “For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect.” {Hebrews 10:1} “By this you know the Spirit of God. Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God.” {1 John 4:2} “For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, ‘See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.’” {Hebrews 8:4,5} Many of the Old Law’s various types and shadows hinged on Christ’s cross for their full meaning. The lambs offered on Israel’s altars carried little meaning until John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, saw Him approaching and cried, “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’” {John 1:29} As a result of the events at Calvary, the true meaning of the Passover lamb offered yearly under Moses’ Law came to light! “Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.” {1 Corinthians 5:7}

The End of the Law. “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. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.” {Colossians 2:14,15} The law that separated the Jews and Gentiles ended with the events at Calvary. Every demand, ritual, and ordinance contained in Moses’ Law ended when Christ died on the cross. Also

consider Ephesians 2:14-16 and Hebrews 9:15-17. Moses' Law had a limited time frame. "Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith." {Galatians 3:24}

Finally, remember Paul's word in Galatians 6:12: "As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ." All of God's eternal plans were centered on the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary – the centerpiece of the scheme of redemption. God designed this plan before He spoke one thing into existence on the earth. Only God, over the process of time, could fit the pieces together for the plan to come together perfectly! ***