

THE SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH OF JESUS

Request: Since we will have seen the movie, *Passion of the Christ*, I wanted us to understand the theological significance of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

In his book, *Synonyms of the NT*, Trench describes the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ this way, “Christ suffered not merely *on our behalf* and for our good, but also *in our stead*, bearing the penalty of our sins which we otherwise must ourselves have borne” (pg.311). Trench explains that the substitutionary death of Jesus is declared by the use of the Greek preposition (*huper*) in the NT.

We will begin by showing how *huper* (on our behalf; in our stead) was used to declare the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ (1 Cor.11:24/ for you; 15:3/ for our sins; 2 Cor.5:21/ for us; 1 Tim.2:6/ for all; Titus 2:14/ for us; 1 Pet.2:21/ for you).

In each of these cases, the Greek word *huper plus the ablative* is translated by the English word (for) to mean (on behalf of) or (in our stead). Now read these verses again and substitute the words (in our stead) in place of the English word (for) and substitute your name. Now we have the practical theology of the *substitutionary death of Jesus Christ*.

Sometimes it is referred to as *vicarious atonement* in Christian theology. Vicarious in the English dictionary means, “taking the place of another person or thing; acting or serving as a substitute.” (pg.1355)

“I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for (*huper/ on behalf of/ substitutionary*) the life of the world is My flesh.” (John 6:51)

“But He, having offered (*prosphero - a.a.ptc.nsm*) one sacrifice for (*huper*) on behalf of sins for all time (*eis to dienekes*) perpetually, sat down (*kathizo / a.a.ind / main verb*) at the right hand of God.” (Heb.10:12, 14)

This lesson will study four aspects of the Substitutionary Death of Jesus Christ.

1. The substitutionary death of Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the Suffering Servant OT messianic Scriptures (I Cor.15:3-4; Isa.52:13-53:12; Luke 24:25-27, 44-47; Acts 3:18 & 17:2-3).

“*Luke 24:44* – Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms – the three parts of Hebrew OT (Psalms was the first book of the third section, called the writings), indicating that Christ (the Messiah) was foretold in the whole OT.” (NIV, Luke 24:44)

“Suffer – rise from the dead...third day. The OT depicts the Messiah as one who would suffer (Ps.22; Isa.53) and rise from the dead on the third day (Ps.16:9-11; Isa.53:10-11; compare John 1:17 with Matt.12:40).” (NIV, Luke 24:46)

Read Isa.53:4-6 (Matt.8:14-17; Luke 4:17-19) messianic miracles signs prior to cross; (1 Pet.2:24-25).

2. Substitutionary death of Jesus was portrayed in shadow Christology of the sacrificial Levitical offerings. (Lev.1-6; Isa.53:7, 10-12; Heb.10:1-8; 13:11-13).

Lamb of God (John 1:29, 136; 1 Cor.5:7; 1 Pet.1:18-19; Heb.9:11-14; 10:5-7).

Vicarious sacrifice (Heb.2:9-10; 2 Cor.5:21; Rom.3:24-25; 1 Pet.2:24-25; 1 Pet.3:18 for unjust (huper)

God accepts the sinner on the basis of substitutionary death of Jesus (Acts 20:28; Rom.5:8-10; Eph.1:7; 5:2; Col.1:20; 1 John 2:2; 4:9-10).

3. The substitutionary death of Jesus Christ was necessary to redeem mankind from the imputation of Adam original sin (AOS/ 13 judicial charges) (Rom.5:12-21; 1 Cor.15:21-22).

There is no solution for the imputation of AOS apart from the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ (John 5:24; Eph.2:1, 5, 8-10; John 3:16, 18, 36; Rom.5:8-10).

4. The substitutionary death of Jesus was borne voluntarily to fulfil the will of God (Isa.53:12).

Jesus drank our cup of sins on the cross.
(Matt.20:22; 26:39-45; John 10:17; 18:11; Phil.2:8; Heb.2:9-10).

We drink His cup of salvation on the basis of faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist (Matt.26:27-28; 1 Cor.11:24-25; Eph.2:8-10).

The substitutionary death of Jesus Christ is illustrated by Him dying on the cross of Barabbas (Matt.27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; John 18:38-40).