

Cosmic Crisis Your Crisis and the Cross

Cosmic Controversy Series: Part 14

Study Guide

– Pastor Michael Oxentenکو

I. COSMIC CRISIS

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Isaiah 14:13-15

¹³ You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' ¹⁵ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.

John 1:1-5, 14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God; ³ all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

Luke 4:18

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”

Colossians 1:19-20

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

A. The War With Evil

1. There is evidence all around us of a cosmic conflict. We are all caught up in a great spiritual controversy that is the source of every crisis in life (Ephesians 6:10-12).
2. The war with evil inside your mind started in Heaven in the mind of Lucifer. It was an invasion of evil attitudes and ideas. Every sin we struggle against and every weakness we strive to overcome is part of the overall struggle that started in Heaven (Isaiah 14: 13-15).
3. Jesus came to this earth to defeat the Devil on his turf and end the war with the evil one by removing his death grip on this planet (John 1:1-5, 14).
4. Jesus was born for a journey that would lead him to the Cross of Calvary. The Cross of Christ is the place where Jesus overcame evil for us all (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18; Colossians 1:19-20).

Luke 4:1-2, 5-8

¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit ²for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil. ⁵ And the devil took him up, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory; for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it shall all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’”

Mark 8:31-33

³¹ And he began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² And he said this plainly. And Peter took him, and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter, and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men.”

John 12:27, 31-32

²⁷ “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world, now

shall the ruler of this world be cast out;³² and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.”

Ephesians 1:9-10

⁹For he has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Colossians 1:19-20

¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

B. The Power of the Cross

1. As soon as Jesus was baptized, He was tempted by the Devil in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-2). The Devil offered Jesus the kingdoms of the world if He would just bow down to worship him (Luke 4:5-7).
2. The Greek text indicates that Satan offered Jesus the entire inhabited Roman Empire (Luke 4:5). [The Greek word *hē oikouménē* ‘denotes the “inhabited world” and then comes into use for the Roman empire... The NT never contests the Roman claim that equates the *oikouménē* with the empire.’ *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume*, Page 679.] Tiberius Caesar sat on the throne of Rome so Satan offered to pull Caesar off and put Jesus on the throne. Satan promised to make Jesus a Messiah who would conquer the Roman Empire (Luke 4:6-7). Jesus was not interested in the kingdoms of this world. He was unwilling to build His Kingdom on the foundation of the Devil’s conquest (Luke 4:8).
3. The Devil did everything he could to keep Jesus from going to the Cross including using Peter to talk Him out of it. The same Devil who offered Jesus a way out in the wilderness is the same Devil who used Peter to make the offer again (Mark 8:31-33). Jesus would not be talked out of the Cross.
4. In John 12, Jesus declared that the Cross is the place where His Glory shines the brightest and it is the reason He came to this world (John. 12:27, 31-32).
5. In John 12:32, Jesus said He would draw “all men” unto Himself. The Greek word can mean “all things” indicating “the universe.” Jesus would draw the entire created order unto Himself (Ephesians 1:9, 10; Colossians 1:19-20).
6. When Jesus died on the Cross, Satan was unmasked as a liar:
 - **The Cross** is the place where evil is cosmically defeated.
 - **The Cross** is the place where Satan’s kingdom falls and fails to spread evil to unfallen worlds.

- **The Cross** is the place where the entire universe says, “IT IS ENOUGH! GOD IS TRUE!”
-

Zechariah 3:1-3

¹ Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him. ² And the LORD said to Satan, “The LORD rebuke you, O Satan! The LORD who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is not this a brand plucked from the fire?” ³ Now Joshua was standing before the angel, clothed with filthy garments.

Romans 3:24-25

²⁴ They are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as an expiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Psalms 85:10

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Hebrews 9:22

Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Psalms 119:77

Let thy mercy come to me, that I may live; for thy law is my delight.

Luke 23:31

“For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

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.

C. The Justice and Mercy of God

1. In Zechariah 3:1-3, Satan accuses Joshua in the presence of the LORD implying that the Law of God makes forgiveness impossible.
2. How can God forgive the sinner and ignore the fact that the Law requires death for the sinner? (Romans 3:24-25) How can mercy be given without justice set aside? [See also: Psalm 119:156; Isaiah 30:18.]

3. God had no legal right to resurrect anyone and give eternal life unless justice and mercy kissed somehow and made it possible for the sinner to be saved (Romans 6:23; Psalm 85:10).
4. The Bible teaches that the Law of God requires death of the sinner, but there is a deeper truth inside of God's Law than justice alone.
5. The Law of God requires something more profound than justice. The Law of God also requires forgiveness and mercy (Hebrews 9:22).
6. The same Law that requires justice also requires that there be mercy (Psalm 119:77).
7. Satan argued that the justice of God is incompatible with a principle of mercy. How can you let the sinner go free and be just? (Luke 23:31)
8. At the Cross of Christ, God made Jesus to be sin, and in Jesus the sinner was set free and forgiven (2 Corinthians 5:21). [See also: Colossians 2:13-14; Ephesians 4:32.]

II. YOUR CRISIS

Psalm 24:3-4

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴ He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false, and does not swear deceitfully.

Isaiah 64:6

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Romans 3:10, 23

¹⁰ As it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;" ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Mark 16:5-6

⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him."

1 Corinthians 15:55

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Romans 4:23-25

²³ But the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him that raised from

the dead Jesus our Lord,²⁵ who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

A. Every Human Disqualified

1. In Psalm 24:3, the question is asked in the Old Testament, “Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD, and who shall stand in His holy place?” And the answer to the question implied the requirement of a perfect life (Psalm 23:4).
2. For thousands of years, no human being was good enough. No human being had ever met the test of perfection required to ascend and stand in the Holy Place (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10, 23).
3. Only one man in the history of the human race deserved to live forever. Only one man born after the sin of Adam was perfect enough to withstand the death equation so that it had no legal claim for death on His life. And that man was Jesus (Mark 16: 5-6; 1 Corinthians 15:55).
4. We all have sinned and continue to fall short of the Glory of God. We deserved to die. Yet, Jesus died for us. He did not deserve to die. Yet, we live instead of Him because of the Cross (Romans 4:23-25).

Philippians 2:5-6

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped.

Luke 18:39

And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Luke 3:23, 38

²³ Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of Joseph, the son of Heli... ³⁸ the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Romans 5:14

Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

John 5:22

The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son.

John 15:10

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

1 Peter 1:3

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

Psalm 89:14

Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.

Psalm 85:10

Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

B. Justice and Mercy Kiss

1. Jesus is the person in whom all the truths of the Old Testament meet in human form in its final manifestation of truth:
 - **Jesus is** God in human form (Philippians 2:6).
 - **Jesus is** the Son of David and the Son of Adam too (Luke 18:39; 3:23, 38).
 - **Jesus is** the Second Adam who did not sin like the first one. (Romans 5:14).
 - **Jesus is** God's Justice and Judge who will judge all the earth (John 5:22).
 - **Jesus is** the Law of God. The Ten-Commandment Law of God beats inside His heart in human form (John 15:10). [See also: Hebrews 10:7.]
 - **Jesus is** the mercy of God, which is the first principle of God's Law and the bond that holds justice together (1 Peter 1:3).
2. In Jesus, **Justice and Mercy kiss**, and God is one (Psalm 89:14). Jesus is the fulfillment of Psalm 85:10.

III. THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Isaiah 53:4-5

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed.

Galatians 2:19-20

¹⁹ For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. ²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the

life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

John 10:18

“No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father.”

Romans 8:33

Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

1 Corinthians 15:56-57

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:29

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born among many brethren.

1 John 5:5, 20

*⁵ Who is it that overcomes the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?
²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, to know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

Romans 4:24-25

*²⁴ It will be reckoned to us who believe in him that raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,
²⁵ who was put to death for our trespasses and raised for our justification.*

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Mark 8:34

And he called to him the multitude with his disciples, and said to them, “If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Ephesians 2:16

And might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end.

Colossians 1:19-20

¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the vinegar, he said, "It is finished"; and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

A. The Great Exchange

1. The Cross of Christ is the great exchange where justice and mercy meet and kiss in perfect agreement (Isaiah 53:4-5; Galatians 2:19-20).
2. Some have argued that Cross of Christ is the ultimate injustice. That would be true if Jesus was forced to endure the Cross. He was not forced to do anything at the Cross. Jesus willingly gave His life for the world (John 10:18).
3. The Cross of Christ is a revelation of the love of God that won the war in the great controversy with evil. There is no argument that Satan can bring against God that the Cross of Christ has not answered eloquently (Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:33).
4. The Cross of Christ is the victory of God over evil (1 Corinthians 15:56-57). In Romans 8:29, Jesus is the "firstborn" among many brethren. He is the key to all good things. [See also: Philippians 4:19; 2 Corinthians 1:20.]
5. The Christian overcomes because he or she receives Jesus Christ (1 John 5:5):
 - ***His life*** takes the place of your failed life. His life becomes your life because of the Cross and the resurrection. The favor of God on Him has become God's favor on you. (1 John 5:20). [See also: Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Timothy 1:1.]
 - ***His death*** is the death you deserved to die, but you live a new life because of Him (Romans 4:25). [See also: John 20:31; 1 John 2:12.]
 - ***His future*** that will never end is yours today and tomorrow with Him (John 5:24). [See also: Ephesians 1:13, 14; Matthew 28:20.]
6. If you are trying to study your way to God, you cannot. If you are trying to manipulate your way to God, He will NOT be manipulated. If you are trying get around the Cross of Christ to come to God, you cannot (Mark 8:34).
7. There is no access to God without the Cross of Christ (Ephesians 2:16). [See also: 1 Corinthians 1:18.] In Jesus, God has come to you. In Jesus, the God you need has ended the war against you (Colossians 1:19-20). In Jesus, justice and mercy have met and they have kissed. The justice you deserve and the mercy you need are at the Cross which is the Crossroad of justice and mercy for you.

8. When Jesus said, "It is finished," He saw the fruit of His sacrifice. Just before He died, Jesus held us all in His arms of love stretched out on the Cross of Calvary (John 19:30). [See also: Isaiah 53:11.]
-

1 Corinthians 15:3

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures.

Galatians 6:14

But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

Revelation 12:10

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God."

John 12:31

Now is the judgment of this world, now shall the ruler of this world be cast out.

Matthew 28:18

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Colossians 2:13-14

¹³ *And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*

Acts 10:43

To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Revelation 1:5-6

⁵ *And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God-- ⁹ not because of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰ For we are his*

workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Matthew 24:24

For false Christs and false prophets will arise and show great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Ephesians 3:9-10

⁹ and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

Romans 14:11

For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God."

Isaiah 54:1

"Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in travail! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her that is married, says the LORD."

B. The Victory of the Cross

1. The most important truth of the Gospel is the truth that Jesus died for our sins. As Christians, there are many things we can glory in but the most important truth is the Cross. (1 Corinthians 15:3; Galatians 6:14).
2. What did the Cross of Christ accomplish that would make it the central and all important teaching of the Christian era? There are five primary accomplishments:
 - **Cross Accomplishment #1:** The Cross removed the prince of this world as the leader of this planet. When Satan deceived Adam, Satan became the prince of this world. Jesus calls him the prince of this world and he does not challenge that claim until the Cross. At the Cross, he was thrown down (Revelation 12:10; John 12:31).
 - **Cross Accomplishment #2:** Jesus has been appointed Ruler of the kings of the earth as the Second Adam (Matthew 28:18). [See also: 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 5:14).
 - **Cross Accomplishment #3:** In Jesus, God has forgiven all our sins which means Jesus is the only access you have to God to receive forgiveness (Colossians 2:13-14; Acts 10:43). [See also: Ephesians 4:32; 2 Corinthians 5:19).
 - **Cross Accomplishment #4:** Jesus has freed us from our sins by His blood. (Revelation 1:5-6).

- **Cross Accomplishment #5:** Jesus has overcome the evil that you must overcome. Your victory is really His victory, worked out by Him in your life (Ephesians 2:8-10).
3. The same Gospel that was preached in the Apostolic Age is the same Gospel that will overcome evil at the end of the age (Matthew 24:24). There is no victory in life apart from Jesus' victory, secured by kneeling at the foot of the Cross (Romans 14:11).
 4. Jesus died for every person in the whole world. He died to save us from sin. And He died to keep the angels from sinning again. Jesus sacrificed every ounce of His life so that every man, woman and child could be born again (Ephesians 3:10).
 5. Jesus is **the Way, the Truth, and the Life**. Just before He died, Jesus held the human race close to heart, and saw the fruit of His travail:
 - *Jesus was satisfied.*
 - *The Atonement was complete.*
 - *His life was enough to give life to others.*
 - *The voice of The Mighty Conqueror broke through the dark cloud that settled on Calvary's Cross.*
 - *"IT IS FINISHED!"*
 6. The lost have been found. The price has been paid. The future is alive in Christ Jesus (Isaiah 54:1). Amen!