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TH C OF HISTORY: CROSS

Text: Luke 22-24; Matthew 26-28; Mark 14-16; John 18-21

SUMMARY—Just as Adam and Eve tried to "cover up" their shame by sewing fig leaves together, many people today try to "cover up" their sin on their own. Some people think that giving to the poor, attending church, being baptized, or living a good life God will allow them entrance into heaven. But sin, any sin, separates us from the Holy Creator God. Nothing we do can earn us the right or privilege to live forever with God.

About 4,000 years after Adam disobeyed, God sent the perfect sacrifice, in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ, to take away the sin of the world, fulfilling the promise God made in Genesis 3:15. Jesus is called the "Last Adam" in 1 Corinthians 15:45, and He came to restore the fellowship with the Creator that was broken by Adam's sin.

Because God is perfectly holy, He must punish sin, either the sinner himself or a substitute to bear His wrath. God Himself made the first sacrifice for sin by killing an animal (this was the first death in God's creation) after Adam disobeyed (Genesis 3:21). But we don't have to offer animal sacrifices for sin anymore. This is because Jesus, the Lamb of God (John 1:29, Revelation 5:12), was sacrificed once for all (Hebrews 7:27). Jesus bore God's wrath for our sin by dying in our place on the Cross (Isaiah 53:6). This study is about the cross and what it means to you and me.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why did Jesus need to die on the Cross?
2. How do we know Christ rose from the dead?
3. Why don't we offer sacrifices today, like the Israelites did?
4. How does this event affect you and the world you live in?

RESOURCES ON THE WEB

answersingenesis.org/articles/ka/v8/n1/cross

answersingenesis.org/articles/2013/02/12/resurrection-jesus-christ-introduction

answersingenesis.org/articles/2009/05/11/contradictions-crossed-messages

answersingenesis.org/articles/2012/05/29/contradictions-blame-for-original-sin-adam-or-eve

answersingenesis.org/articles/2002/03/29/drawing-lesson-v-two-trees

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." I Corinthians 15:3-4