

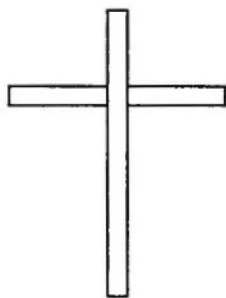
The Redeemer, Born of Woman

A sermon



By
Dean C.N. Mtetwa

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When the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So through God you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son then an heir. Gal 4:4-7.

When the time had fully come ... Gal 4:4

The time when He was born

When reading this fourth chapter of the letter to the Galatians and seeing this sentence in verse four: "When the time had fully come, God sent forth His Son....", one may ask oneself: What was this time? Was it the time of the fulfilment of the promise of a Deliverer in Genesis 3:15, the Seed of the Woman, who was to come and revenge for the human race? When we see the phrase

"born of a woman" we soon conclude that this was God's time, in which the Redeemer of mankind was to be born. It was the time which was to bring joy to God's faithful people, those who were looking forward to the coming of the Saviour. Look for example at the old Simeon in Jerusalem, about whom it is said that he was looking for THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL; it had been revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And when he saw the child Jesus he said: "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel." Surely, one must conclude that the birth of Jesus fulfilled the promise of God to the world that Jesus was to come as a Redeemer and Deliverer of His Father's people from their bondage under sin.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son.. Isa 7:14

By whom He was to be born

He was to be born of a woman, our text tells us. If Jesus had come in all His glory and splendour to this world of

sinful men, as sinners we would have run away from Him in fear of His glorious presence. We would have hidden our faces from Him who is the Judge of all nations, kingdoms and principalities. We would even have died from fear of Him who is the One, Holy God. But God, who is all Wisdom and Love, chose to remain our Father. Therefore He sent One, who was to be our relative by taking on our flesh, and to be like us, and to experience our troubles, feelings and desires, One who would know our weaknesses and also know to help at the right time. Jesus, our brother, knew our sorrows and pains and our spiritual needs. "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows ... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; ... With His stripes we are healed." When Jesus came to us, He did not speak with the tongue of angels, for if He had done so we would not have understood Him, and the will of God would not have reached our hearts. The Father's will of saving men would not have reached its goal of reconciling men to Himself. But because of His omniscience our heavenly Father sent His Son speaking to us in our human tongue, so that we may be able to understand everything He told us from His Father. Thus, in a human language and in simple words our Brother Jesus Christ tells us: "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."



Brother! Sister! Do you realize what Christ has done for you? Have you found Him? Have you received Him as your personal Saviour? Does He rule your life? Do you enjoy going to church to be together with the other Christians to glorify God because of His saving work in Jesus Christ for our sake?

Friends, let this be clear to us that a person is given **ONLY ONE LIFE**. Once this life is handed over to the world, misused and lost, it may be lost for ever. There are no spare lives to be obtained for those who ruin their lives in this world by living in the wrong way.

Friends, let the Spirit of God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead, dwell in you, so that He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead may give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit that dwells in you. Amen.

**A Sermon by Dean C. N. Mtetwa,
HLABISA, Republic of South Africa**