

Theology of Song: Hallelujah, What a Savior

“Man of sorrows, what a name for the Son of God who came...”

John 1:1–4 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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (4) In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

From eternity’s past, Jesus was. He was in the beginning with God and He was God. He was the one and only eternal Son of God, coequal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, infinitely satisfied in the Trinitarian union absolutely independent from and not in need of creation. He was “before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light”¹. This eternal God, this eternal Son, who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light,

became human...

Not only did He become human but Isaiah 53:3 tells us that He became a “man of sorrows”, despised and forsaken of men, like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

“Stand unclean, no one else could, In my place condemned He stood...”

But His humiliation didn’t stop there. Because all of mankind sinned against God we could not stand in His presence without the condemnation of being crushed by Him. We committed the most heinous act of evil by exchanging the goodness of our Creator for created things. And so the only one who was able to stand before the Almighty without shame, without guilt, without fear,

became sin...

2Co 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

“Lifted up was He to die, “It is finished!” was His cry...”

And so Jesus lived the life that we couldn’t live and died the death that we should’ve died. Because God is just, He demanded a payment for our sin and that payment was

¹ Nicene Creed

death. But because God is gracious, He provided – at the cross – the payment that He Himself demanded. At a great cost to Himself, Jesus

became our ransom...

By becoming our ransom Jesus made another exchange. He credited us with his life which He lived to meet all the righteous requirements of the law and He received for Himself every drop of God's wrath that was directed at us as sinners.

Rom 8:1–4 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (2) For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. (3) For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (4) so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

“Hallelujah, what a Savior!”

And so having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us, by taking it out of the way, and having nailed it to the cross, He

became our Savior!

And so what should our response be to this eternal Son of God who humbled Himself to become sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him? The only proper response seems to be, “Hallelujah, what a Savior!” They say that the word “Hallelujah”, which means “praise be to God”, is the only word that is the same in all languages. Almost as though God is preparing us for the day when every language will be gathered up in one accord to sing, “Hallelujah!” to our precious Jesus who became man, who became sin, who became our ransom, who became our Savior!