

# Colossians 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

## Analysis

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**And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.** The Christ hymn climaxes with cosmic reconciliation. "Having made peace" (eirēnopoīēsas, εἰρηνοποιήσας) through *dia tou haimatos tou staurou autou* (διὰ τοῦ αἵματος τοῦ σταυροῦ αὐτοῦ, "through the blood of his cross") specifies the peace treaty's cost. Reconciliation required blood sacrifice; peace came through substitutionary atonement, not negotiated compromise.

"To reconcile all things unto himself" (apokatallaxai ta panta eis auton, ἀποκαταλλάξαι τὰ πάντα εἰς αὐτόν) envisions universal restoration—not universal salvation of all individuals (Scripture clearly teaches eternal judgment) but restoration of cosmic order disrupted by sin. Creation groans under sin's curse (Romans 8:19-22); Christ's work will ultimately renew all things (Revelation 21:5).

The scope includes "things in earth, or things in heaven," suggesting even spiritual realms affected by Christ's reconciling work. Whether this means rebellious angels receive opportunity for reconciliation or that cosmic harmony is restored despite their exclusion remains debated. Clearly, Christ's cross has cosmic implications extending beyond individual salvation to universal renewal.

## Historical Context

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Ancient cosmology recognized cosmic disorder—natural disasters, disease, death—without clear explanation. Pagan religions offered various mythological accounts; Greek philosophy proposed impersonal solutions. Paul reveals that sin disrupted cosmic harmony, and Christ's cross provides comprehensive restoration. This elevates the gospel from mere personal therapy to cosmic rescue mission, engaging both individual hearts and universal renewal.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing the cross's cosmic significance prevent reducing the gospel to merely personal benefits?
2. What evidence of cosmic disorder (natural evil, suffering, death) reminds you of creation's need for Christ's reconciliation?
3. How should Christians relate to environmental stewardship in light of Christ's coming cosmic renewal?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ	δι'	αὐτοῦ	ἀποκαταλλάξαι	τὰ	πάντα	εἰς	αὐτοῦ
And	by	him	to reconcile	G3588	all things	unto	him
G2532	G1223	G846	G604		G3956	G1519	G846
εἰρηνοποιήσας	δι'	τοῦ	αἵματος	τοῦ	σταυροῦ	αὐτοῦ	δι'
having made peace	by	G3588	the blood	G3588	cross	him	by
G1517	G1223		G129		G4716	G846	G1223
αὐτοῦ	εἴτε	τὰ	ἐπὶ	τῆς	γῆς	εἴτε	τὰ
him	I say whether	G3588	they be things in	G3588	earth	I say whether	G3588
G846	G1535		G1909		G1093	G1535	
ἐν	τοῖς	οὐρανοῖς					
things in	G3588	heaven					
G1722		G3772					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 1:10** (Parallel theme): That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

**Hebrews 2:17** (Creation): Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

**Romans 5:1** (Peace): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**Philippians 2:10** (Parallel theme): That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;