

## THE SUBSTITUTE

Aging football fans might remember that way back in the 1970's when Liverpool were Europe's top team, they had on their books a red-haired youngster whose name was David Fairclough. The thing that was different about this player was that unless one of the star strikers was injured, he rarely got picked for the first team. He'd usually come onto the pitch with 15 minutes of the match to go, and would invariably score! He was referred to by grateful Liverpool fans as "Super-sub"!



Now the history of our world is built around two "substitutes", two men who have come onto the pitch to take somebody else's place. Our place. You see, the key figure in history is not Alexander the Great, Darwin, Napoleon, Einstein, or even David Beckham (yes – there are some who think he is!) These people have all influenced some people for a limited time – the two substitutes I want to remind you of, have influenced everyone for ever!

The name of the first substitute gives away the fact he acted as a substitute. The Hebrew name "Adam" means "mankind". In other words, though Adam was a real man who really lived, he wasn't living just for himself. He was acting on our behalf – by divine appointment! If he had obeyed God's directives, we would all have benefited. Because he didn't, we were all involved in his rebellion.

But thankfully, the story doesn't stop there. You see, there was a second or "last" Adam. A second "mankind"....The whole of history before he arrived on the pitch was looking forward to His coming. And when he came, everything he did he did as our replacement, for us, on our behalf and in our place. When he obeyed his parents, he did it for us; when he kept the last day of the week special as God' law required he did it for us; when he kept himself sexually pure it was we who benefited; when he refused to envy what others had and when he loved God perfectly his "righteousness" was put into our heavenly "bank account". Here was the ultimate "super-sub"!

But there was another side to this last Adam's work. Not only did he need to gain mankind "credit" with God by his perfect life; he also needed to settle the first Adam's debts by a punishing death. You see, the "wages" for disobeying God is not a slap on the wrist, a telling-off, a fine or even a prison sentence. It's death! And if those wages were going to be paid, then the last Adam needed to die. And he did. And when he did, he did it for us....when he was sentenced to die before a kangaroo court, it was you and I who were on trial and in the dock; when he was spat on and tortured, it was us who were being punished; and when the skies darkened and the rocks shook and all of Nature trembled, it was us who were being God-forsaken.

1 Cross  
+ 3 Nails  
4 Given

I want to ask you a critically important question this Easter – one that matters so much more than how you feel, how healthy your bank account is looking, or even how content you are. It's this – have you acknowledged yet before God, your need of a "substitute"? Have you yet agreed with God that what Jesus did as our "super-sub", is exactly what you lack but most need? And have you asked this substitute to take your place, to cover you, to be your representative before the judge of this universe?

Contact us: [info@word7.org](mailto:info@word7.org)