The background is a deep blue space filled with numerous white and yellow stars of varying sizes. A prominent, glowing green ring with a soft, ethereal glow surrounds a central black circle. The text is overlaid on this central area.

The Singularity of the Cross

**Brett Knowles,
Good Friday
Sermon 2014**

READINGS:

1 Corinthians 1:17-18

Romans 5:1-11

Colossians 1:12-14

Colossians 2:13-15

1 Cor.1:17-18 ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel – not with words of human wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. ¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

PERCEPTIONS OF THE CROSS

Why the difference? Depends on position

Foolishness (*moria*)

Power of God (*dunamis*)

Outside

Inside

Helplessness

Salvation

Packaging

Content

Singularity of the Cross

But there is more to it than this!

In astrophysics, a singularity = “a point at which a function takes an infinite value, especially in space–time when matter is infinitely dense, such as at the centre of a black hole”

What is a black hole? How does it form? (Fraser Cain, “How do Black Holes Form? *Universe Today*, 27 September 2013,

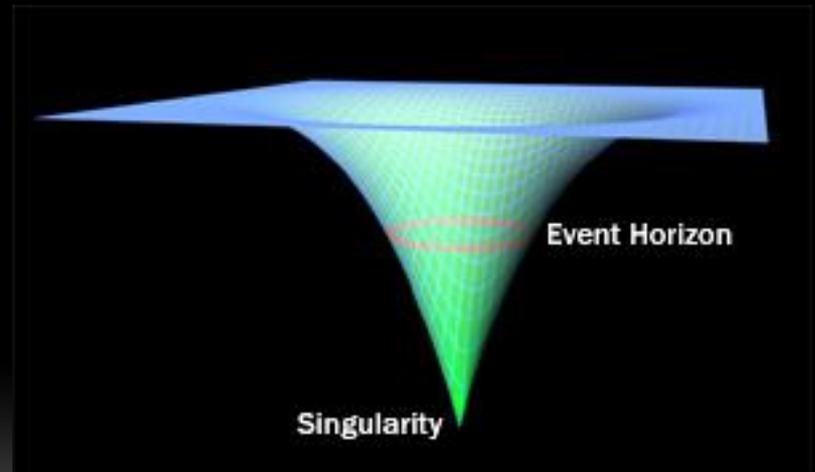
<http://www.universetoday.com/33454/how-do-black-holes-form/>

Different reality in black hole (can’t predict what happens beyond the singularity on basis of what happens outside it = event horizon)

Are black holes gateways into another universe?

(Brian Dodson, “Quantum black hole study opens bridge to another universe”, *Gizmag*, 6 October 2013,

<http://www.gizmag.com/quantum-black-holes-singularity/29242/>

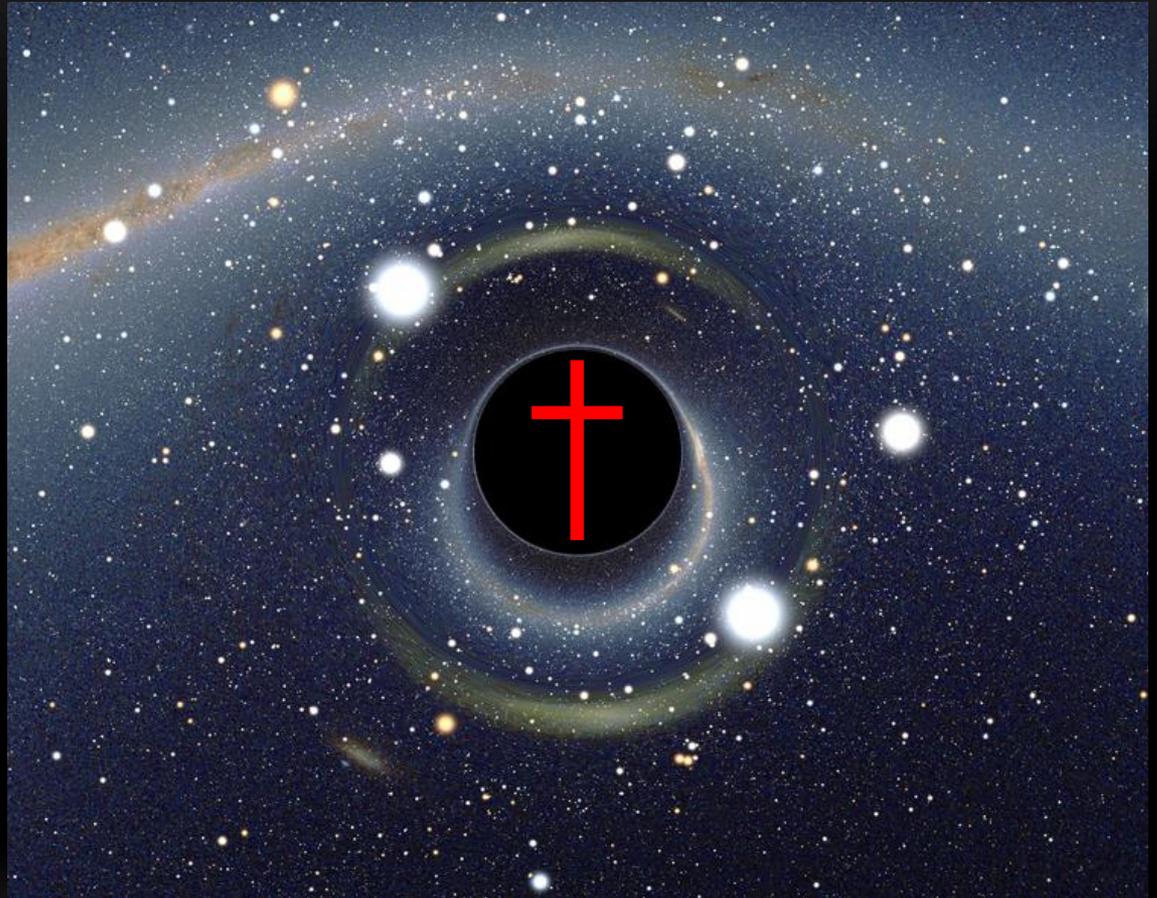


Singularity of the Cross

Cross = God's
Singularity

Place where
God's grace
becomes infinitely
dense = entry
point into new
universe

ie different reality
inside the Cross
from the world
outside of it



THREE EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT REALITIES BEYOND THE CROSS-SINGULARITY:

Colossians 1:12-14 - ¹²... giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Rescued from dominion of darkness // share in inheritance of saints in kingdom of light
Brought (removed) from dominion of darkness into kingdom of the Son he loves (= redemption, the forgiveness of sins): KJV renders this “translated” – emphasises element of removal from old and carrying across into a new kingdom – implications of this (example: BK problems leaving Indonesia: able to relax once in Australian airspace because “Indonesian law does not apply in Australian territory”)

Colossians 2:13-15 ¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Dead in Sins // **Made alive** with Christ. Cancelled the charge of our **legal indebtedness** – nailed to the cross
Crucifixion of Jesus **illegal** (Frank Morison, *Who Moved the Stone?*):

Sanhedrin could not judge a capital case **at night**

False witnesses (but testimony not accepted)

Jesus condemned on **leading question from Caiaphas** (Matt.22:64-66 “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God”) = “blasphemy” >>> death sentence)

Pilate attempts to set Jesus free (legal basis for doing so); gives up/washes hands = **injustice**)

Query from Jewish student: “Did the Jews kill Jesus?” – “No, I did!” All humanity complicit in death of Jesus =

BROKEN LAW!!!

THE CONTRAST AT THE CROSS IS NOT BETWEEN LAW AND GRACE, BUT BETWEEN **BROKEN LAW AND**

GRACE But Isa.53: 5-6 “He was pierced for **our** transgressions, he was crushed for **our** iniquities; the punishment that brought **us** peace was upon him, and by his wounds **we** are healed. **We all**, like sheep, have gone astray, **each one of us** has turned to his own way; and the Lord **has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**”

The Cross (which should be the place of our **ultimate guilt** = *deicide!*) now becomes the place of our **ultimate**

setting free . . .

Romans 5:1-2 - ¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

v.2 “Through whom (Jesus Christ) we have access by faith into **this grace in which we now stand**...
On the other side of the Cross, we stand in **(broken) law, guilt and despair**
On this side of the Cross, we stand in **grace, justification, and hope**

Grace (in which we now stand) = our *turangawaewae* (“domicile, place where one has **rights of residence and belonging** through kinship and *whakapapa*.”) = “place of standing”

We are *tangata whenua of grace* (placenta [*whenua*] planted in the marae: ancestry and descent not in the old order of things)

We **belong** in grace; we have a **right to stand there**; **our identity is a grace-identity**

This is the singularity of the Cross: point of entry from darkness/ condemnation/despair to a new universe of light/justification/hope (= “GOOD Friday”!)

Where do you stand? Which side of the Cross? (on the side of broken law/despair/inability, or on the side of grace/hope/enabling?) – Come to the Cross...