

# † Cross Reference

*A series of studies that would examine  
the major doctrinal beliefs of Adventism  
in light of the cross.*



*By  
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# Cross Reference <sup>1</sup>

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# The Bible: The Word of God

## Introduction

Read the cross event recorded in **John 19:16-37**. Below, write down the reference (chapter and verse) and a brief description of what was being referred to each time you encounter the phrase, “that the scripture might be fulfilled,” or “the scripture saith.”

Reference	Description
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- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

In this record, the Gospel writer points out that **Jesus fulfilled four prophecies** or predictions made in the Old Testament Scriptures (which was the only Bible they had in the first century).

Where can we find these predictions? Who made them? When did they make them?

Where	Who	When
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- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

These are only four of the *many* predictions made about what would happen to Jesus on the cross. In fact, Zechariah alone made at least two other incredibly specific predictions: Jesus would enter Jerusalem before His death to save mankind riding on the colt of a donkey (See Zech. 9:9; John 12:12-16) and would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver which were used to buy a potter’s field (Zechariah 11:12, 13; Matthew 27:3-7).

**Q. How did David, Moses, and Zechariah know these specific details surrounding Christ’s death hundreds—and in some cases, over a thousand years beforehand? The following study will answer this question and many others about the Bible.**



## Lesson 1

1.1 How did the Bible originate and why do we need it?

- **2 Timothy 3:16**

1.2 How did God communicate these inspired messages to us?

- **2 Peter 1:21**

1.3 Did the Bible writers consider their messages to be from God?

- **Jeremiah 30:1, 2**
- **1 Thessalonians 2:13**

1.4 Has the Word of God remained the same through the centuries?

- **Isaiah 40:8**

1.5 What is our responsibility to the Bible?

- **2 Timothy 2:15**

1.6 How many different interpretations of the Bible did God intend?

- **2 Peter 1:20**

1.7 Why does God forbid private interpretations of His Word?

- **2 Timothy 4:3, 4**

1.8 Is it really necessary to find the true meaning of the Scriptures?

- **2 Thessalonians 2:9, 10**

1.9 How can we safeguard ourselves against error?

- **John 17:17**



**1.10** How can we find the true meaning of God's Word?

- **John 7:17**
- **John 16:13**

**1.11** Does the Bible interpret itself?

**Example A**

Text: **Daniel 7:1-3**

Explanation: **Daniel 7:17, 23**

**Example B**

Text: **Revelation 17:1**

Explanation: **Revelation 17:15**

**1.12** Why did God have the stories of the past written in the Bible, and why does He tell us about the future in Bible prophecies?

- **1 Corinthians 10:11**

**1.13** What can we be sure about as we think of the future?

- **Amos 3:7**

**1.14** What will be the result of studying and obeying the Scriptures?

- **John 8:31, 32**
- **1 Peter 1:22, 23**
- **Psalm 119:11**





## Conclusion

**We** began this study by showing how the events surrounding the cross were all a fulfillment of God’s Word uttered through His prophets in Old Testament times. Moreover, the Bible points out that Christ Himself, is The Word of God (see John 1:1). He was “God’s thought made audible” (DA, 19). In the space below, describe how Calvary was the ultimate expression of God’s thought.

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The greatest evidence that the Bible is the Word of God is the changed lives of millions of people resulting from studying and obeying it. God is waiting to reveal truth to you too if you will only come to Him with an earnest desire to know Him and His plan for your life. If this is what you want to do, then why not ask Him right now to guide you into all truth?





# Cross Reference 2

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*-- Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# *The Godhead: Father, Son and Holy Spirit*

## **Introduction**

Read about the trial and death of Christ as recorded in **Matthew 26:59-66; 27:35-54**. Each time you encounter the phrase, “Son of God,” write down the reference and a description of what was happening.

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

In this account of Christ’s trial and crucifixion, we find Jesus being asked the all-important question: Are you the Son of God? His answer is yes (See also Mark 14:62). For this claim—which was considered blasphemy—he was sentenced to death. On the cross, Christ was ridiculed for this bold assertion. Nevertheless, after the events surrounding His death, a Roman soldier concluded that Jesus’ claim was true.

**Q. So whom do we believe? Is there sufficient evidence in the Bible to show Christ’s true relationship to God? The following study builds a case for a Christ whose life (like God) is original, unborrowed, underived.**





## Lesson 2

2.1 In the following texts, note all the characteristics of God that you can find.

- **Deuteronomy 6:4**
- **Matthew 28:19**
- **2 Corinthians 13:14**
- **Ephesians 4:4-6**
- **1 Peter 1:2**
- **1 Timothy 1:17**
- **Revelation 14:7**

2.2 What do the following texts say about the qualities of God the Father?

- **Genesis 1:1**
- **Revelation 4:11**
- **1 Corinthians 15:28**
- **John 3:16**
- **1 John 4:8**
- **1 Timothy 1:17**
- **Exodus 34:6, 7**
- **John 14:9**

2.3 What can we learn about God the Son in these verses?

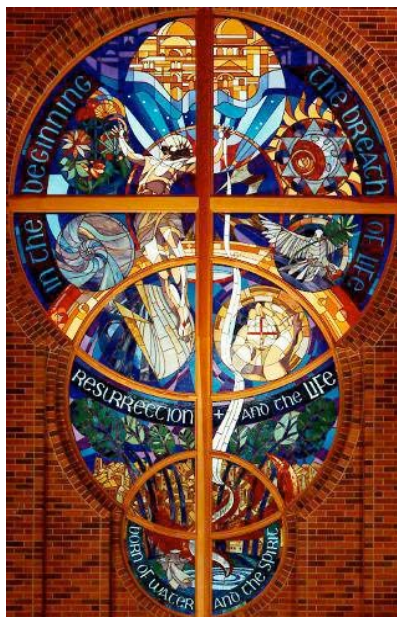
- **John 1:1-3, 14**
- **Colossians 1:15-19**
- **John 10:30; 14:9**
- **Romans 6:23**
- **2 Corinthians 5:17-19**
- **John 5:22**



- **Luke 1:35**
- **Philippians 2:5-11**
- **Hebrews 2:9-18**
- **1 Corinthians 15:3, 4**
- **Hebrews 8:1, 2**
- **John 14:1-3**

**2.4** Describe what the Bible reveals about the Holy Spirit in these verses:

- **Genesis 1:1, 2**
- **Luke 1:35; 4:18**
- **Acts 10:38**
- **2 Peter 1:21**
- **2 Corinthians 3:18**
- **Ephesians 4:11, 12**
- **Acts 1:8**
- **John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13**





## Conclusion

**We** began this study at the trial and crucifixion of Christ. One of the reasons the Jewish leaders wanted Him crucified was that He asserted His identity as God's Son. While most recoiled at such a claim, some believed. From what you have gleaned from this study, how does Calvary magnify the truth about who God is? Write your thoughts below from a first person point of view (e.g. "I believe that...").



# Cross Reference 3

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# The Creation

## Introduction

Look up the following series of references surrounding the cross event and chart your observations.

References	The Event	How does this event allude to Christ as Creator?
John 12:12-17		
Luke 19:37-40		
John 18:3-6		
Luke 22:47-51		
Mark 15:33		
Matthew 27:50-54		



**Q. Taken together, the foregoing verses suggest that the creation was negatively impacted by the death of Jesus. What claims does the Bible make regarding Christ's involvement in creation? This question and many others will be answered in the following lesson.**



## Lesson 3

3.1 In the first verse of the Bible, who does it say made the world?

- **Genesis 1:1**

3.2 Who else was directly involved in the creation process?

- **Hebrews 1:1, 2**

3.3 Who is the third Person who helped make this world?

- **Genesis 1:2**

3.4 How many Persons did Jesus say are in the Godhead?

- **Matthew 28:19**

3.5 What does the Bible call a man who says there is no God?

- **Psalms 53:1**

3.6 Who made the animals and trees in the beginning of the world?

- **Genesis 1:11, 25**

3.7 Did man come from the animal family?

- **Genesis 1:27**

3.8 Although the Word of God clearly tells us the origin of mankind, some people claim that he came from the animals. What does the Bible say about these people?

- **Romans 1:22-23, 25**

3.9 What other things did God make?

- **Genesis 1:16**

3.10 How did God make everything?

- **Psalms 33:6-9**



3.11 How can we understand that God made everything out of nothing?

- **Hebrews 11:3**

3.12 At the end of creation week, what did God do?

- **Genesis 2:1-3**

3.13 Is it important for us to recognize God as our Creator?

- **Ecclesiastes 12:1**

3.14 What does God ask us to do in commemoration of His creative work?

- **Exodus 20:8-11**







## Conclusion

Implicit within several events surrounding Calvary are powerful hints for a Creator God. In the space below, summarize what you have learned about Christ's involvement in the creation of this world. At the cross, who or what acknowledged this truth?

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**G**od the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit cooperate in the creative process. All things whether in heaven, in the galaxies of space, or here on earth were made by God. There need not be any guess-work when it comes to understanding origins, for God's Word is clear as to where we come from and whom we belong to. Knowing who we are gives us a wonderful sense of identity and self-worth. Remembering the Sabbath is God's way of helping us to never forget who He is, and who we are in relation to Him.

Is it your desire to show appreciation to your Creator for the privilege of life? If so, why not thank Him right now,—and every day—by choosing to honor Him.



# Cross Reference 4

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# *The Great Controversy Between Christ and Satan*

## Introduction

Read the account of the cross event as recorded in **John 19:14-22**. Now read it again—especially focusing on the controversy over the title that Pilate put on Christ’s cross. Only this time, read it interpretively as a mini-cosmic demonstration of a greater reality. Then note the parallels (see chart below) that we will verify from the Bible in the study that follows.

### Literal story

Pilate, representing the highest authority of Rome, identifies who Christ is in relationship to the Jews: king

The Jews respond by asking for His death

Pilate asks again if they really want to crucify their King, and the response reveals their rejection of Christ and acceptance of Caesar

Pilate then delivers Christ to be crucified to appease them

Two criminals with opposing dispositions toward Christ are crucified with Him

A title is written by Pilate and nailed to the cross to identify, once and for all, who Jesus is. It is written in three languages so that no one would misunderstand

The envious chief priests are offended by Christ’s title as their King, and ask that it be changed to state that it is not true, but only what He claims He is

Pilate responds: “What I have written, I have written.”

### The greater reality

God the Father, the highest authority in the universe, identifies who Christ is in relationship to the created universe: king

Lucifer (Satan) responds by plotting to usurp Christ’s position—murder is on his mind  
The same question of kingship is asked of the human race, and their response reveals their rejection of Christ and acceptance of Satan

God the Father then delivers Christ to be crucified to save them

The cross of Christ is the great dividing line for the human race—depending on each person’s response to it

More than any other demonstration, the cross is God’s greatest demonstration to the world of His identity

Satan, the chief angel who has coveted Christ’s position from the beginning, desperately tries to thwart God’s purposes at the cross by causing Christ to abort His mission—thus misrepresenting God’s claims.

In sending Jesus to die for fallen man, God the Father guarantees both His integrity and the efficacy of the mission

**Q. Where in the Bible can these parallel realities be verified? The following study answers this question.**



## Lesson 4

4.1 How many supernatural forces are operating in our world today?

- **Proverbs 15:3**

4.2 Did God create this world with both good and evil in it?

- **Genesis 1:31**

4.3 How did sin and evil first begin?

- **1 John 3:8**

4.4 Who is the Devil and where did he come from?

- **Ezekiel 28:14, 15**

4.5 What happened to this mighty angel when he sinned?

- **Revelation 12:7-9**

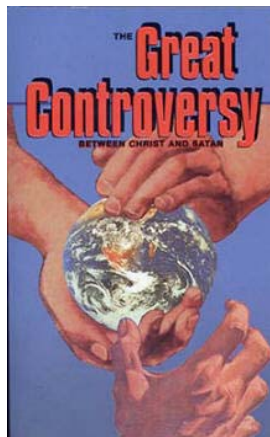
4.6 How did this rebellion against God get started in the first place?

- **Isaiah 14:12-14**

4.7 What effect has Satan's rebellion had on the human race?

- **Genesis 6:11, 12**

- **2 Timothy 3:13**





#### 4.8 Why didn't God just destroy Lucifer when he sinned?

- **Matthew 13:24-30; 36-39**

**Sower=**

**Field=**

**Good seed=**

**Weeds=**

**Enemy=**

**Harvest=**

**Reapers=**

**Note:** In its early stages of growth, it is often difficult to distinguish between the good and the bad. Only after it is fully developed can we clearly identify truth from error. If God had destroyed Satan at the beginning, the intelligent beings in the universe would have been unprepared to comprehend the nature and consequences of sin, and many confused individuals would have served God out of fear or hate rather than love.

#### 4.9 Will Satan and his followers ever be destroyed?

- **Matthew 13:40-42**

#### 4.10 How can we distinguish between the works of Satan and the works of God?

- **Matthew 7:15-20**

#### 4.11 Is God making provision for us while permitting sin and its results to continue until the harvest (the end of the world)?

- **Romans 8:28**
- **1 Corinthians 10:13**
- **John 16:33; 1 John 5:4, 5**

#### 4.12 How does the Bible describe the time when sin has ended?

- **2 Peter 3:13**





## Conclusion

From the events surrounding Calvary, a microcosm of the great controversy between Christ and Satan can be clearly seen. Below, write what you believe Calvary reveals about God's integrity in dealing with this universal problem.

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The Scriptures clearly reveal that the author of sin is Satan—once a powerful angel who was perfect and lived in harmony with God—but who rebelled and is now bent on destroying God's creation. However, God's plan for a happy, harmonious universe will be realized and the power of evil will come to an end.





# Cross Reference 5

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# *The Law of God*

## **Introduction**

Read **Luke 23:1-34**. Then answer the following questions:

### **Questions:**

1. For what was Jesus accused?
2. Were these charges true?
3. Did Pilate or Herod find any fault in Christ?
4. Had Pilate found any fault with Barabbas?
5. When Pilate gave into the crowd's demands, what had he and they too become?
6. What did Jesus pray while being crucified?

The above questions/answers center around the issue of justice—the administration of law. The reversal of innocence and guilt in this context results in the antithesis of justice: injustice. Knowing human nature, one would expect the reaction of the innocent party to be anger, bitterness, resentment, and contempt. Yet wonder of wonders, Christ prays for the forgiveness of his accusers and pleads their ignorance.

**Q. What principle is at work here, and what is being fulfilled? Study the lesson that follows to find the answers to these questions.**





## Lesson 5

5.1 What does God tell us to do?

- **Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14**

5.2 When were these commandments written by God?

- **Exodus 24:12**

5.3 Did God's law exist before he wrote it on tables of stone?

- **Romans 5:12**
- **1 John 3:4**

5.4 Will this covenant of Ten Commandments ever be altered?

- **Psalm 89:34**

5.5 How long will they remain in force?

- **Psalm 111:7, 8**

5.6 Why is God's moral law unchangeable?

- **Psalm 19:7, 8**
- **Romans 7:12**

5.7 Did God give his people any other laws besides the ten commandments?

- **Deuteronomy 31:24-26**
- **Leviticus 7:37, 38**

5.8 How long would these offerings, sacrifices, and **yearly** sabbaths of the law written in the book by Moses remain in effect?

- **Colossians 2:14-17**





**5.9** What law, then, is binding on Christians today?

- **James 2:10-12**

**5.10** Did Christ make any changes in God's moral law (the 10 commandments) when He came to earth?

- **Matthew 5:17, 18**

**5.11** How is the law fulfilled?

- **Romans 13:10**

**5.12** How does love fulfill the law?

- **Matthew 22:37-40**

**5.13** How do we show that we love God?

- **John 14:15**

**5.14** What is the purpose of the law?

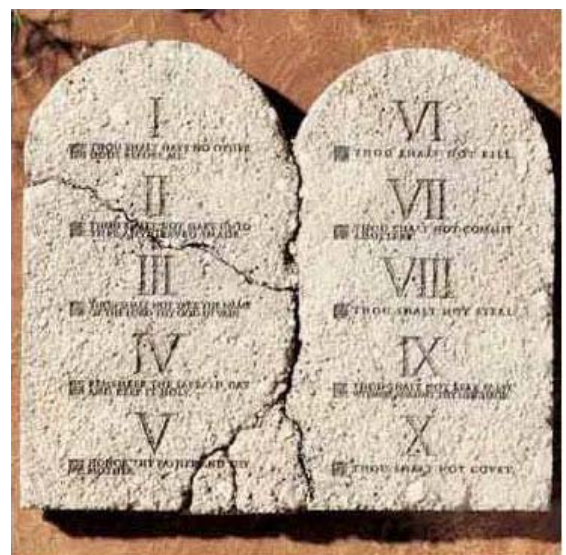
- **Galatians 3:24**

**5.15** Does God consider obedience to His moral law very important?

- **1 John 2:4**

**5.16** Is it possible to obey the commandments?

- **Ezekiel 36:26, 27**





## Conclusion

**A**t the cross, the greatest irony of all time was played out. Innocence and evil exchanged, and justice was satisfied in a most remarkable way. From what you have learned about God's law in this lesson, how does Calvary demonstrate its true spirit? Write your thoughts below.



# Cross Reference 6

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# *The Nature of Man*

## **Introduction**

Read the account of the two thieves who were crucified with Christ in **Luke 23:32-43**. Then answer the following questions:

### **Questions**

1. Where were the two Jewish criminals (malefactors) crucified in relationship to Jesus?
2. What superscription was written over Jesus in three languages?
3. What was similar about these two criminals?
4. What was different about them?
5. What did Jesus assure the repentant man?

In this account, the Word of God highlights a mini-cosmic demonstration of the nature of man in relationship to his Maker:

- Jesus is pictured as the King who is central to His creation
- Mankind (the two criminals) is guilty, deserving death
- Jesus, the merciful Savior, voluntarily shares their guilt, even though He is innocent
- Some will accept His sacrifice for them and experience personal salvation, and others won't

**Q. How does this event illustrate the truth about the nature of man? Study the following lesson to discover the answer.**



## Lesson 6

**6.1** In what ways were man and woman created in the image of God, and for what are they dependent on Him?

- **Genesis 1:26-28; 2:16, 17**
- **Psalm 8:4-8**
- **Acts 17:24-28**

**6.2** How did man become involved in sin? What effect did this have on their descendents?

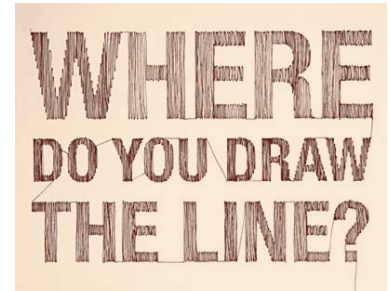
- **Genesis 3:6**
- **Psalm 51:5**
- **Romans 5:12**

**6.3** Why was the death sentence given man when he sinned?

- **James 1:14, 15**

**6.4** Why didn't man immediately die when he sinned?

- **1 Peter 1:18-20**
- **Revelation 13:8**
- **Romans 5:18**



**6.5** What effect has sin had on the character of man?

- **Jeremiah 17:9**
- **Romans 3:10-12**

**6.6** Does man have power to change his life?

- **Jeremiah 13:23**



**6.7** Is there any hope of rescue from the stronghold of sin?

- **Matthew 1:21**
- **2 Corinthians 5:19**

**6.8** How is this reconciliation demonstrated in the life?

- **1 John 4:7,8,11,20**
- **Genesis 2:15**





## Conclusion

**A**t the cross, we saw another microcosm of truth: a benevolent King with subjects both rebellious, yet one responding to grace. Taking into account what you have learned about the nature of man, do you believe that Calvary was sufficient to answer his need? Explain.





# Cross Reference 7

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# *The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ*

## Introduction

Read in **Luke 24:13-35** the account of Christ's' life, death and resurrection as explained by two of His followers to the resurrected Christ Himself—unbeknownst to them. As you read, please note that this was three days after the crucifixion, and as these two men were traveling from Jerusalem to Emmaus, Jesus joined them. When you have finished reading, answer the following questions:

### Questions:

1. How was the *life* of Jesus described by Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus?
2. How did they describe His *death*?
3. What did the two men in shining garments remind the women who had come to anoint His body?
4. What did Jesus use to support His position: "Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?"
5. Explain in your own words why you think it took so long for these two disciples to recognize Christ.

**Q. What significance does this one life, death, and resurrection have for me? Study lesson seven to find out.**



## Lesson 7

7.1 Who was Jesus and where did He originate?

- **Matthew 1:23**

7.2 Why was Jesus born into the human race?

- **Hebrews 2:9**

7.3 What was and will be accomplished by His life, death and resurrection?

- **Isaiah 53:5, 6 [substitutionary]**
- **1 Corinthians 15:3, 4, 20-22**
- **1 John 4:10 [expiatory]**
- **Romans 3:24, 25**
- **Romans 4:25**
- **1 John 2:2**
- **2 Corinthians 5:19-21 [reconciling]**
- **2 Corinthians 5:14, 15 [transforming]**
- **Romans 1:4, 5**
- **Hebrews 2:14 [demise of Satan and death]**
- **Romans 5:8, 9**

7.4 When was this plan first conceived of by God?

- **1 Peter 1:18-20**

7.5 Will many benefit from this plan of salvation?

- **Revelation 7:9, 10**

7.6 To how many people has God made His plan of salvation available?

- **John 3:16**





## Conclusion

In your own words, explain what the life, death, and resurrection mean to you personally.

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**G**od has made it possible for every human being to be saved from the terrible consequences of sin. He died for everyone in order to pay the penalty for our sins. Our only hope for freedom from sin and its deadly consequences is Jesus Christ.

Praise God that His love for us is greater than death itself! We truly have a God in heaven worth pledging our allegiance to, wouldn't you agree?



# Cross Reference 8

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# *The Experience of Salvation*

## **Introduction**

In this lesson we return to Luke's account of the two thieves who were crucified on either side of Christ. Read **Luke 23:32-43**. Then answer the following questions:

### **Questions:**

1. What did the thief who “railed” (using bitter, abusive language) on Christ, condemn Him for?
2. The other thief rebuked his partner and reminded him of what?
3. This same thief went further to define **justice**. What is it?
4. Yet he ventured one step further and asked for **mercy**. How?
5. What did this thief have that the other lacked?
6. What was Jesus' response?

**Q. How are salvation, condemnation, justice, mercy, faith, sin, and eternal life addressed by the gospel? These questions are addressed below.**



## Lesson 8

8.1 Why can't man in his sinful condition be allowed in God's kingdom?

- **Romans 8:5-8**

8.2 What changes are necessary to qualify a person for God's kingdom?

- **John 3:3-6**

8.3 How does a person experience this new birth from the Spirit?

- **John 1:12, 13**

8.4 What happens to a person who is born again?

- **2 Corinthians 5:17**
- **Ezekiel 36:26**

8.5 What difference does a new heart or mind make in a person's life?

- **Hebrews 10:16**
- **Psalms 40:8**

8.6 What happens to the record of sins?

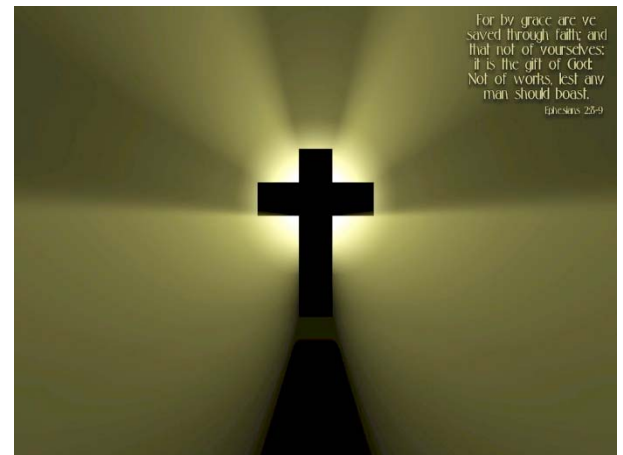
- **Isaiah 43:25**
- **Romans 4:7**

8.7 On what condition does God forgive our sins?

- **Acts 3:19**
- **1 John 1:9**

8.8 How can we know our sins are forgiven?

- **Romans 5:1**





**8.9** How is God just in forgiving our sins and not punishing us for them?

- **Isaiah 53:5, 6**

**8.10** Will Jesus save anyone who repents?

- **John 6:37**

**8.11** What is our relationship to God when we have been born again?

- **Romans 8:16**

**8.12** What does God want His children to do?

- **1 John 2:1, 3, 6**
- **Micah 6:8**

**8.13** Where may we learn what Jesus taught? How can we live without sinning?

- **John 6:63**
- **Psalms 119:11**

**8.14** What does God plan to accomplish through this new birth experience?

- **2 Corinthians 3:18**
- **Philippians 1:6**

**8.15** When is Christ willing to give us this new birth?

- **Revelation 3:20**

**8.16** Have you received Jesus and the new birth he has promised? Would you like to receive Him right now?







**We** have just studied about the greatest miracle in the universe—how God is able to take a sinner with an evil nature and transform him/her into a saint who loves and obeys God. This can happen to anyone who will now choose to receive Christ and be born again and empowered to live victoriously.

Living the born-again life, however, is not a once-for-all-time experience. The forces of evil are constantly battling to regain what they have lost. In part two of this study, we will examine Bible principles which will enable the believer to maintain a dynamic relationship with God.

## Part II

**8B.1** Is there any danger of the new-born Christian's falling back into his former ways?

- **2 Peter 3:17**

**8B.2** How can we avoid turning back into the path of sin?

- **2 Peter 3:18**

**8B.3** Why is growth necessary in the Christian life?

- **1 Peter 2:2**
- **Ephesians 4:14, 15**

**8B.4** When is this growth to be accomplished?

- **Titus 2:11, 12**

**8B.5** What happens if death occurs before our growth is completed?

- **Colossians 2:10**

**8B.6** How is growth in the Christian life accomplished?

- **1 John 2:6**

**8B.7** How do we walk with Jesus?

- **John 14:15**



**8B.8** How will Jesus help us to obey the commandments?

- **John 14:16, 17**

**8B.9** How do we receive the Holy Spirit?

- **Luke 11:13**

**8B.10** What evidence do we have that the Holy Spirit is dwelling in us?

- **John 15:5**

**8B.11** What is the “fruit” that is produced?

- **Galatians 5:22, 23**

**8B.12** Does this fruit-producing life earn us salvation?

- **Ephesians 2:8, 9**

**8B.13** What then is the relationship between faith and works?

- **James 2:21-23**

**8B.14** What are the results of our growth in Christ?

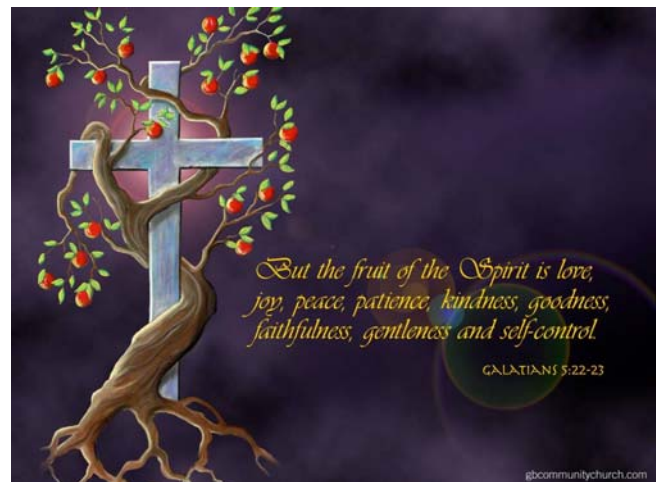
- **Romans 6:22**

**8B.15** When does eternal life begin?

- **1 John 5:11**

**8B.16** Can we have any assurance that we have eternal life now?

- **1 John 5:13**





## Conclusion

The salvation that Christ offers is full and complete. Both my standing and my living are complete in Him. In your own words, explain how the cross of Christ is the “power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16).

\*\*\*\*\*

**G**od wants us to have the assurance that we are secure in His love. As we give our lives to Jesus each day, behold Him through His Word and prayer, and share Him with others, we will grow to be more like Him. At each stage in growth we are complete in Christ because His perfect life covers our failures as we continue to surrender our lives to Him. Through the Holy Spirit God will guide our lives so that we will be ready when Jesus returns to take us home.





# † Cross Reference 9

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# Baptism

## Introduction

Read **Matthew 27:22-25** followed by **Luke 23:34** followed by **John 19:28-35**. Below, write down the references for “water, “forgive,” and “blood’ that you encounter, and a description of the event. Then answer the questions that follow.

Reference	Description
-----------	-------------

1.

2.

3.

4.

### Questions:

1. By washing his hands in water, what was Pilate saying?
2. Was he responsible?
3. When the people cried, “His blood be on us and our children,” what were they saying?
4. When Christ prayed, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,” what was He saying?
5. When Jesus died, and a spear wound caused both blood and water to flow out from His side, it indicated that Christ died of a broken heart. What broke His heart?

**Q. But what about those who *would* acknowledge their need of a Savior? What did Christ’s death, burial and resurrection represent for them? The study that follows addresses this question.**



## Lesson 9

9.1 How does the church work to enlist people for God?

- **Matthew 24:14**

9.2 What is to be the response of those who hear the gospel and believe?

- **Mark 16:16**

9.3 What happens to those who believe in Christ and accept Him as their Savior?

- **John 1:12, 13**

9.4 What new commitment results from baptism?

- **Matthew 28:19, 20**

9.5 Is baptism really necessary for salvation?

- **John 3:5**

9.6 Is re-baptism ever necessary?

- **Acts 19:1-5**

9.7 How is the rite of baptism to be performed?

- **Mark 1:9-11**

9.8 What is the significance of being totally immersed in water?

- **Galatians 3:27**

**Note:** To put on Christ means to be clothed in His righteousness.

- **Romans 6:3-6**

**Note:** When we are immersed by water, it symbolizes death to self. When we are raised up out of the water, it symbolizes our new life in Christ.



### 9.9 What benefits arise from being baptized?

- **1 Corinthians 12:13**

**Note:** When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into one body—or church—Christ being the head, and we being the body (See: Ephesians 4:15, 16).

- **Acts 2:38**

**Note:** Another benefit is that we receive, in a special way, the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus did at his baptism, to anoint us for service.

### 9.10 What is the Holy Spirit to accomplish in our lives?

- **2 Corinthians 3:18**

**Note:** The Holy Spirit will help us to focus our thoughts on Christ so that by beholding Him, we will become more and more like Him.

### 9.11 How soon should a person be baptized after he/she has come to a knowledge of Christ and committed his/her life fully to Him?

- **Acts 8:35-38**

### 9.12 Is it your decision to be baptized into the family of God?





## Conclusion

**We** introduced this study with events that transpired before and after Calvary. How does the gospel requirement of baptism highlight the truth of what happened at the cross? Write your thoughts below.

\*\*\*\*\*

**B**aptism is the public acknowledgement of what has already taken place in the heart. The new birth in Christ is beautifully symbolized by the death and burial of the old sinful nature and the resurrection to a new life in Christ. Your decision to be baptized is based on your acceptance of all that Christ has commanded. Christ is calling you to follow His example now by going forward in baptism and becoming a part of His remnant church.







# Cross Reference 10

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*-- Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# *The Church: The Body of Christ*

## **Introduction**

Read **Matthew 27:50-66** carefully. In this section of the cross narrative, list all those who were believers in Christ.

### **Believers:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Using the above list, what categories of people make up Christ's church?

Compare these categories with the Apostle Paul's list of those who are one in Christ Jesus—**Galatians 3:28**.

**Q. What does this suggest about Christ's church? Complete the study below for a deeper understanding of the church, its purpose and its characteristics.**





## Lesson 10

**10.1** What do the following texts reveal about the identity and purpose of the church?

- **Genesis 12:3**
- **Acts 7:38**
- **Ephesians 4:11-15; 3:8-11**
- **Matthew 28:19, 20; 16:13-20; 18:1-4**
- **Ephesians 2:19-22; 1:22, 23; 5:23-27**
- **Colossians 1:17, 18**

**10.2** Characterize God's church using the following texts.

- **Romans 12:4, 5**
- **1 Corinthians 12:12-14**
- **Psalms 133:1, 2**
- **2 Corinthians 5:16, 17**
- **Acts 17:26, 27**
- **Galatians 3:27, 29**
- **Colossians 3:10-15**
- **Ephesians 4:14-16; 4:1-6**
- **John 17:20-23**



**10.3** Specifically, how does God equip His church to accomplish His purposes?

- **Romans 12:4-8**
- **1 Corinthians 12:9-11, 27, 28**
- **Ephesians 4:8, 11-16**
- **Acts 6:1-7**
- **1 Timothy 3:1-13**
- **1 Peter 4:10, 11**



## Conclusion

Jesus said, “If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me” (John 12:32). How does Calvary shed light on the church as the body of Christ?





# † Cross Reference 11

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# *The Remnant and Its Mission*

## Introduction

In this study we turn to a Scripture passage that is not part of the cross narratives in the gospels, but reiterates what happened there. Read Paul's brief account in **1 Corinthians 15:1-8** and answer the following questions:

### Questions:

1. Estimate the number of people who could be considered Christians in this passage.
2. Compared to the Jewish population of the first century estimated at 4.5 million, which made up an estimated 2% of the world population, what conclusion would you draw about the number of Christ's true followers in the aftermath of the cross?
3. Was this always characteristic of Jesus' followers?
  - Before the cross: See Matthew 4:25; 8:1; 12:15; 13:2; Mark 8:19,20; Luke 5:15
  - After the cross: Acts 2:41, 4:4; 5:14; 13:44
4. Why do you think the number of true believers was so small during the cross event?

**Q. With the relative popularity of Christianity today, do you think that this scenario could possibly repeat itself? What does the Bible say about Christ's followers in the time of the end, and what characterizes them?**





## Lesson 11: Part I

### 11.1 How does God identify His true church in Scripture?

- **Revelation 12:1**

**Note:** In Scripture, God's people or church is represented as a pure woman (2 Corinthians 11:2). The sun that clothes her represents the righteousness of Christ (Malachi 4:2) and the moon which reflects the sun is a fitting symbol for God's Word (John 5:39). The crown represents royalty (1 Peter 2:9), and the twelve stars represent God's kingdom (In the Old Testament there were 12 tribes, in the New Testament 12 apostles, and in the New Jerusalem there are 12 foundations and 12 gates).

### 11.2 What does the first part of this amazing prophecy describe?

- **Revelation 12:2-5**

**Note:** Satan—represented by the dragon (see vs. 9)—is attempting to destroy Christ, who is represented as the man child, but He is caught up to God—out of Satan's reach. This clearly refers to the years of Christ's life from His birth to His ascension.

- **Revelation 12: 6, 14**

**Note:** Because of the intense persecution of early Christians, they eventually had to flee to remote areas and propagate the gospel underground in order to survive.

### 11.3 Does God have a loyal group of people constituting His true church in these last days?

- **Revelation 12:17 (first part)**

**Note:** A remnant isn't any different from the larger part that it came from, it's just what's left over.

### 11.4 Can this remnant be identified among the many divisions of Christendom?

- **Revelation 12:17 (last part)**

### 11.5 What is meant by "the testimony of Jesus?"

- **Revelation 19:10**

**Note:** Obedience to God's commandments and the guidance of the spirit of prophecy have always identified God's loyal people.



**11.6** Where did the people come from who make up the remnant church?

- **Revelation 18:1, 2, 4**

**11.7** What responsibility does the remnant church have to the world?

- **Revelation 14:6-10**
- **John 10:16**

**Note:** God's remnant has been given the solemn responsibility of proclaiming the three angel's messages and calling God's people to join this last movement of destiny.

**11.8** What is the outcome of the battle between Satan and God's remnant church?

- **Revelation 15:2**

**11.9** Do you want to belong to God's remnant church?

From the beginning to the end God has clearly outlined the history of His true people. In every age he has been able to find men, women, and children who were obedient to Him, and the last generation is no exception. God's loyal people are easily identified as commandment keepers and have the gift of prophecy to guide them. God has given these Bible-believing Christians the privilege of restoring those fundamental truths which have been replaced by the traditions of men. It is through this divine movement that earth's final opportunity for salvation will be given. Part two of this study highlights this last message of warning.



## Part II

**11B.1** How far will God's last-day message of warning go?

- **Revelation 14:6**

**11B.2** How does the mission of the first angel fulfill the words of Jesus?

- **Matthew 24:14**

**11B.3** What is the first part of His three-point message to the world?

- **Revelation 14:7**





**11B.4** How does the first angel's message apply to earth's last crisis?

- **1 Peter 4:17**
- **Exodus 20:8-11**

**Note:** We are now living in a time of judgment that calls us to full obedience to God's commandments, including the fourth commandment, which is a special sign of allegiance to our Creator by honoring the memorial of His creation—the Sabbath.

**11B.5** What is the second part of God's great message for today?

- **Revelation 14:8**

**Note:** Babylon had a history of false worship, and in Scripture, symbolizes rebellion against God.

**11B.6** What is the application of the second angel's message to the last days?

- **Revelation 18:1-4**

**Note:** God has a people who have been ignorantly disobedient to His commandments, and He calls them out of false worship before it is too late.

**11B.7** What warning does the third part of God's message give?

- **Revelation 14:9, 10**

**11B.8** How is the third angel's message a warning of the final crisis?

- **Revelation 13:11, 12**
- **Revelation 13:16, 17**

**Note:** This message warns against participation in false worship which is mandated by a coalition of civil and religious power (church and state), and also of false allegiance—evidenced by cooperating with this coalition to worship on their man-made Sabbath (Sunday).

**11B.9** What happens when these messages reach every person on earth?

- **Revelation 14:14**



**11B.10** How will the world react to this crisis-hour message?

- **Matthew 7:13, 14**

**11B.11** Why will many be lost when Jesus returns?

- **Hosea 4:6**

**11B.12** What will distinguish the few from the many?

- **Revelation 14:12**

**11B.13** How can I gain the final victory?

- **1 Corinthians 15:57**

God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. However, each individual must decide for himself. In God's mercy He warns the world of what is coming. He will not bring the end of the world without providing all with a way of escape. Just as in Noah's day God gave opportunity to all to hear His message of warning and get on board, so today He is calling to you and me to show our loyalty and commitment to Him by keeping His commandments and remaining faithful to Jesus.

### **Part III**

The identifying characteristics of the remnant church are timeless: obedience to God's commandments and having the gift of prophecy. In this study we will discover why the gift of prophecy has been so important to God's people in all ages and how it is especially important today.

**11C.1** To whom will God reveal His future plans?

- **Amos 3:7**

**11C.2** Where do true prophets get their information?

- **2 Peter 1:21**

**11C.3** Must a prophet write a book of the Bible to be a true prophet?

**Answer:** No. At least 12 true prophets who did not write a book of the Bible are mentioned by name in the Scriptures (e.g., John the Baptist).

**11C.4** Does God ever prophesy through women?



**Answer:** Yes. Several women are mentioned as prophetesses in Scripture: Anna (Luke 2:36-38), Miriam (Exodus 15:20), Deborah (Judges 4:4), Huldah (2 Kings 22:14), and the four daughters of Philip (Acts 21:8, 9).

**11C.5** Does God speak through prophets in the last days?

- **Joel 2:28-31**

**11C.6** When Jesus ascended, He left gifts for the church. Was prophecy included?

- **Ephesians 4:7, 8, 11**

**11C.7** Why were these gifts given?

- **Ephesians 4:12**

**11C.8** How long were these gifts to remain in the church?

- **Ephesians 4:13**

**11C.9** What were these gifts designed to prevent?

- **Ephesians 4:14**

**11C.10** How does God reveal His plans and purposes to the prophets?

- **Numbers 12:6**

**11C.11** Can we trust everyone who claims to have visions and dreams?

- **1 John 4:1**

**11C.12** How does one test a prophet to see if he/she is telling the truth?

- **Isaiah 8:20**
- **Deuteronomy 18:22**
- **Deuteronomy 13:1-4**

**11C.13** How can I recognize a false prophet?

- **Matthew 7:15-20**
- **Deuteronomy 18:9-12**



### 11C.14 What happens to a prophet in vision?

- **Daniel 10:5-8, 16, 17**

**11C.15** In the Seventh-day Adventist church, has anyone met all of the tests of the true prophetic gift?

**Answer:** Yes! God gave this special gift to Ellen G. White. She was called of God to be His messenger to the remnant church (See the special appendix to this lesson entitled: *Ellen Gould White—Messenger of the Lord*)

**11C.16** What happens to those who believe God’s prophets?

- **2 Chronicles 20:20**

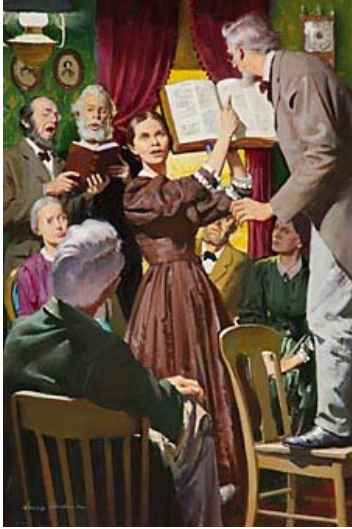
It is thrilling to note that God has not forgotten His people down here in our day. He has lovingly placed, at their disposal, the same prophetic gift issued to His people of old. Through this wonderful gift, great blessings and guidance have come to the remnant church. The evidence of this gift in the writings and life of Ellen G. White is conclusive, for all that she ever recorded is consistent with the Bible, and she lived what she taught. One of her many books, *The Desire of Ages*, is still considered today by the Library of Congress—among the thousands that have been published—as the best biography ever written on the life of Christ. It is not surprising—considering the depth of relationship she had with Jesus, her Savior and Lord.

## Appendix

Ellen and her twin sister Elizabeth were born on November 26, 1827, at a farm near Gorham, Maine. They were the youngest of eight children born to Robert and Eunice Harmon. When Ellen was nine, a classmate threw a rock that hit her in the face, knocking her unconscious. Complications from this accident prevented her from continuing her schoolwork. As an earliteen, Ellen accepted Jesus, was baptized in Casco Bay and joined the Methodist Church.

During the 1840’s, Ellen attended meetings conducted by William Miller and others who were part of a worldwide movement that taught that Jesus’ coming was imminent. “Adventists,” as they were called, were people from all denominations who were convinced from Scripture that Jesus was returning in about the year 1844 because of their understanding of the 2300-day time prophecy in the book of Daniel. Ellen, along with fifty thousand other Adventists, experienced bitter disappointment when that time passed and Jesus did not come.

About two months after this great disappointment, when Ellen was 17 years old, she received her first vision while kneeling in prayer with four other women. In vision, she saw a company of Advent Christians climbing higher and higher on a narrow path toward heaven as long as they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus. Subsequently, Ellen had nearly two thousand visions during her lifetime, ranging in length from a half a minute to nearly four hours—a fulfillment of God’s prescription in Numbers 12:6, “If there be a prophet among you, I, the Lord will make myself known to him in a vision, and will speak to him in a dream.” Like Daniel and other Bible prophets, Ellen’s eyes remained open during the visions, and she did not breathe



for the duration of the visions, but was sustained supernaturally by God.

In August 1846, Ellen married James White, an Adventist minister. They had four sons: Henry, who died at sixteen; Edson and William, who both became Adventist ministers; and Herbert, who died as an infant.

James and Ellen helped to establish the Seventh-day Adventist church. Even though she was shy and reluctant at first, Ellen became a popular public speaker in the United States, Europe, and Australia. She was a much-sought-after speaker for both Adventist and non-Adventist audiences. Her largest audience numbered twenty thousand. Incredibly, she spoke to them without the aid of a microphone and was heard clearly by all in attendance.

Ellen published her first book, *A Sketch of the Christian Experience and Views of Ellen G. White*, in 1851. She wrote numerous books, articles, pamphlets, and personal letters of counsel. During her seventy years of public ministry, she wrote approximately twenty-five million words. This is about one hundred thousand pages of handwritten material! Many of her books (nearly 60) were translated into over 100 languages. She became one of the most translated writers in the entire history of literature, the most translated woman writer of her time, the most translated American writer, and, to present, the fourth most prolific writer in literature (the first in American literature).

She never claimed infallibility and maintained that her writings were a “lesser light” pointing to the “greater light,” which was Scripture. At the same time she firmly believed that her visions were of God and that her writings were produced under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Ellen wrote, “I am instructed that I am the Lord’s messenger, that He called me in my youth to be His messenger, to receive His word, and to give a clear and decided message in the name of the Lord Jesus. Early in my youth I was asked several times, ‘Are you a prophet?’ I have ever responded, ‘I am the Lord’s messenger.’ I know that many have called me a prophet, but I have made no claim to this title. My Savior declared to me to be His messenger” (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 32).

For seventy years Ellen White faithfully delivered the Lord’s messages. At times this was very hard for her to do. She wrote, “It was a great cross for me to relate to the erring what had been shown me concerning them. It caused me great distress to see others troubled or grieved.... It was hard to relate the plain, cutting testimonies given me of God” (*Life Sketches*, p. 90).

Even though Ellen White was an American, her mission was to the world. She traveled to Europe in 1885 and worked there for two years. In 1891 she traveled to Australia and pioneered the work there until 1900.

On July 16, 1915, she died at the age of eighty-seven. She was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Battle Creek, Michigan, beside her husband.

She was never elected to a church office, yet denominational leaders constantly asked her for counsel. She was not ordained into the gospel ministry, yet her life and writings have impacted the spiritual lives of millions. She had little formal education, yet she helped found the



second-largest parochial school system in the world. She had no medical training, yet her health messages were 50 years before their time, and led to the establishment of a worldwide network of hospitals, clinics, and medical schools. Concerning her health books, Dr. Clive McCay, Ph. D., Professor of Nutrition at Cornell University said, “In spite of the fact that the works of Mrs. White were written long before the advent of scientific nutrition, no better guide is available today.”

Ellen Gould White—a messenger of the Lord—modeled what it means to follow in the Savior’s footsteps. She truly set herself aside in service to others.

## Conclusion

Calvary is the great crossroads that bring people from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people together to unify on a mission of salvation to the world. In Old Testament times, the law and the prophets pointed forward to the cross. In post-ascension New Testament times as well as today, God’s law and the gift of prophecy point back to it. Explain why the cross of Christ is so central to salvation history.



# **† Cross Reference** 12

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*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# Lifestyle of God's Remnant Church

## Introduction

Read the following two accounts of the great exchange that took place between Barabbas and Christ in **Luke 23:13-43** and **John 18:28-40**. Then note the following contrasts:

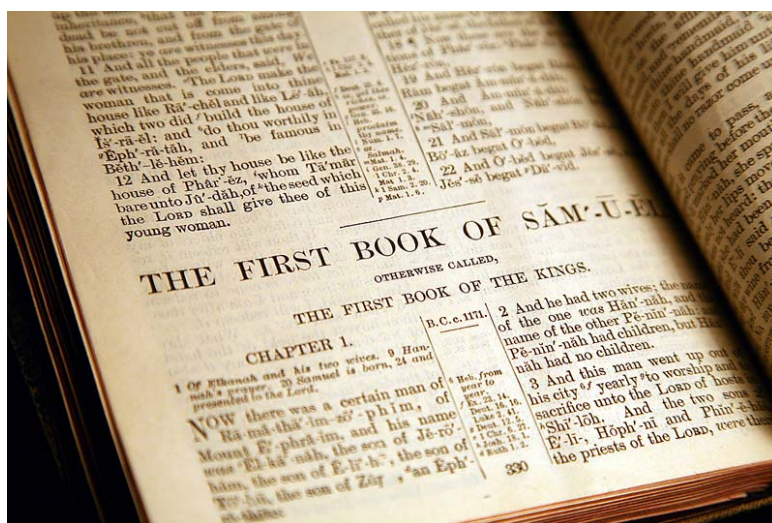
### Barabbas

- The robber (John 18:40)
- The murderer (Luke 23:19)
- The seditious (Luke 23:19)

### Christ

- The For-Giver (Luke 23:34)
- The Life-Giver (Luke 23:43)
- The Peace-Giver (John 18:36)

**Q. Contrary to the world's concept of *taking* what does not belong to oneself (i.e. things, lives, and authority of others), what does Christ's example teach us about the importance of *giving*? The following three-part lesson deals with practical principles for Christian living.**







## Lesson 12: Part I—Stewardship

12.1 Does God place any claim upon our possessions?

- **Leviticus 27:30, 32**

12.2 What are these funds used for?

- **Numbers 18:21**
- **1 Corinthians 9:13, 14**

12.3 What does God call a person who claims to be His follower yet doesn't return a tithe?

- **Malachi 3:8**

12.4 What commandment does one violate by ignoring God's tithe?

- **Exodus 20:15**

12.5 Won't the tithing plan cause hardship on some families?

- **Malachi 3:10, 11**

12.6 Where does our ability to produce wealth really come from?

- **Deuteronomy 8:18**

12.7 What other gifts will the follower of Jesus want to give to further His work?

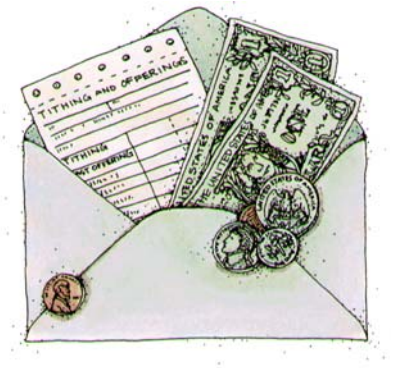
- **Psalms 96:8**

12.8 How much is to be given for offerings?

- **Deuteronomy 16:17**

12.9 Is God dependent upon our tithes and offerings to support His work?

- **Haggai 2:8**





**12.10** What then is the purpose of giving tithes and offerings?

- **Luke 2:15**
- **Matthew 6:19, 20**

**12.11** Won't we have to go without many important things if we give so much to God?

- **Matthew 6:33**

**12.12** Upon what basis does God make these claims upon our lives?

- **Psalms 100:3**

All that we have—our lives, our talents, our body, mind, and possessions—have been entrusted to us by a wise and merciful Creator. It is our responsibility to use these gifts as those who must give account.

God's call for tithe and offerings is a test of our loyalty and trust as well as a method of destroying the selfishness in our lives. By dedicating all our resources to Him, we acknowledge His ownership of our lives. Our response to His claims indicates whether or not we are safe to save in His soon-coming kingdom.

Is it your resolve to be faithful to God by returning a faithful tithe and being generous in offerings according to how He blesses you?

## **Part II—Health**

**12B.1** How are the habits of life related to salvation?

- **Luke 21:34**

**12B.2** How do drunkenness and stress affect the mind?

- **Proverbs 23:29-35; 20:1**
- **Proverbs 17:22**

**12B.3** Why does God want us to be especially careful about the way we treat our bodies?

- **1 Corinthians 6:19, 20**

**12B.4** What warning does God give to those who do not take care of the temple of God?

- **1 Corinthians 3:17**



**12B.5** How important is diet to Christian living according to the prophetic insights given to us through Ellen White?

“Under the influence of unhealthful food, the conscience becomes stupefied, the mind becomes darkened, and its susceptibility to impression is blunted.” **Testimonies, vol. 3, p. 569**

“Eating has much to do with religion. The spiritual experience is greatly affected by the way in which the stomach is treated. Eating and drinking in accordance with the laws of health promote virtuous actions.” **Counsels on Health, p. 578**

“The controlling power of appetite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, if they had conquered on this point, they would have had the moral power to gain the victory over every other temptation of Satan. But those who are slaves to appetite will fail in perfecting Christian character. The continual transgression of man for six thousand years has brought sickness, pain, and death as its fruits. And as we near the close of time, Satan’s temptations to indulge the appetite will be more powerful and more difficult to overcome.” **Testimonies, vol. 3, pp. 491, 492**

**12B.6** What kind of diet did God plan for man in the beginning?

- **Genesis 1:29**

**12B.7** Was this original diet ever modified?

- **Genesis 9:1-4**

**12B.8** Did God place any restrictions on the use of flesh foods?

- **Deuteronomy 14:4-20**

**12B.9** Was this distinction between clean and unclean foods only for Israel?

- **Genesis 7:1, 2**

**Note:** Long before there was ever an Israelite, God made a clear distinction between clean and unclean.

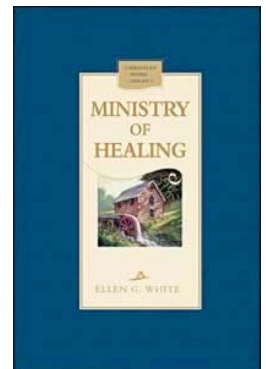
**12B.10** Through the gift of prophecy today, does God give any further counsel about eating flesh foods?

“Flesh food was never the best food; but its use now is doubly objectionable, since disease in animals is so rapidly increasing.” **Ministry of Healing, p. 313 (1905)**

“Animals are becoming more and more diseased, and it will not be long until animal food will be discarded by many besides Seventh-day Adventists. Foods that are healthful and life sustaining are to be prepared, so that men and women will not need to eat meat.”

**Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 124 (1902)**

“Many times when meat is eaten, it decays in the stomach, and creates disease. Cancers, tumors, and pulmonary diseases are largely caused by meat eating.” **Pacific Union Recorder, October 9, 1902**





**12B.11** Is there any counsel as to when and how much we are to eat?

- **Ecclesiastes 10:17**

**Note:** Temperance is a total abstinence from all that is harmful and a moderate use of that which is good.

“All the food that is put into the stomach, from which the system cannot derive benefit, is a burden to nature in her work.” **Counsels on Health, p. 157**

**12B.12** Does God give us any information on the use of tobacco?

“Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison. In whatever form it is used, it tells upon the constitution...It excites and paralyzes the nerves. It weakens and clouds the brain.”

**Ministry of Healing, p. 327**

**Note:** This was written at a time when tobacco was generally considered harmless, and even used by some physicians to treat illness.

**12B.13** According to the counsels given to Ellen White over 100 years ago through the gift of prophecy, what other habits are also harmful?

“By the use of tea and coffee, an appetite is formed for tobacco, and this encourages the appetite for liquors. The use of tea and coffee is also injurious to the system.” **Counsels on Health, pp. 607, 87**

**12B.14** What should be the aim of all our habits of living?

- **1 Corinthians 10:31**

In God’s love and mercy, He has revealed to us the principles of a healthy, happy lifestyle. This information was given far ahead of medical science through the gift of prophecy as a blessing to the remnant church so that they could in turn give it to the world. By following these principles, Seventh-day Adventists have emerged as a people who have fewer diseases and live longer than the average population—seven to ten years longer! They are the most studied group of people on the planet in showing the relationship between a healthy lifestyle and longevity. The revelations given to Ellen White on this subject are continually being affirmed by medical science today.

More importantly, by applying these principles, we can benefit from healthy bodies and clear minds that can both discern the will of God and carry it out.



## Part III—Christian Conduct

**12C.1** Just what does God expect of the Christian trying to live for Him in this sinful world?

- **Titus 2:11-14**
- **1 Timothy 4:12; 5:22**

**12C.2** What is to be our relationship with the world in which we live?

- **1 John 2:15**

**12C.3** What are the “things of the world” that the Lord warns us against?

- **1 John 2:16**

**12C.4** What is meant by “the lusts of the flesh?”

- **Matthew 5:27, 28**
- **Philippians 3:19**

**12C.5** What is included in “the lust of the eyes?”

- **1 Timothy 6:9, 10**
- **Philippians 4:8**

**12C.6** What is one of the ways “the pride of life” is shown?

- **1 Peter 3:3**

**12C.7** What kind of “adornment” should we put on?

- **1 Peter 3:4**
- **1 Timothy 2:9, 10**





**12C.8** Why is God so opposed to the use of jewelry and outward display?

- **Genesis 35:1-4**

**Note:** Outward display is not in harmony with a life that is humble before God. It often leads to self-absorption, pride, and idolatry.

- **Revelation 17: 3-5**

**12C.9** How does God picture pure religion in His Word?

- **Revelation 12:1**

**Note:** Whereas the pure woman (God's true church) in Revelation 12 has God-given or natural adornments (sun, moon and stars)—representing her godlikeness, the immoral woman in Revelation 17 (false religion) is decked out with jewelry and artificial adornments—and is characterized as filthy, adulterous, and abominable to God.

**12C.10** Why does God ask Christians to be so different than the rest of the world?

- **1 John 2:17**

**12C.11** How can we get rid of the lusts for the things of this world?

- **Galatians 5:16**

**12C.12** How will walking in the Spirit affect a person's attitude toward God's standards of Christian conduct?

- **Psalms 40:8**





## Conclusion

In your own words, describe what Jesus willingly did at the cross in order that the human race might experience life more abundantly. How does His example give perspective to the Christian?

\*\*\*\*\*

**When** Jesus came to this world to save us, He laid aside His heavenly throne and crown. He surrendered His earthly garments when He died on the cross for our sins. Is He asking too much of us to lay aside those things that don't reflect His simple purity in this world that places *self* on the throne?

Whenever Jesus is invited into the heart, a cleansing process begins immediately. Jesus will remove those things that keep us from walking on the straight and narrow path—those destructive habits and secret sins, as well as those things that distract from the Christian's inner beauty.

His appeal to us is expressed well in Romans 12:1, 2: "I beseech ye therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may do what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."



# Cross Reference **13**

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*-- Gospel Workers, p. 315.*





# *The Sanctuary: The Experience of Salvation Illustrated*

## **Introduction**

Read the following accounts of Christ's last moments in **Matthew 27:33-51** and **John 19:14-37**. Note below any references to the sanctuary (tabernacle, temple) or its services. Then answer the questions that follow:

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Description</b>
------------------	--------------------

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

### **Questions:**

1. In John 2:19-22, Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body.

When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said." What two temples are being referred to in this dialogue?

2. How did the tearing of the veil at Christ's death illustrate the relationship between these two temples?

3. How was the Passover, its services and regulations, an illustration of what Jesus accomplished on the cross?



**Q. In what other ways do the sanctuary and its services teach us about the plan of salvation? Study the following lesson to discover the answers.**

## Lesson 13

**13.1** How were sins taken care of before Jesus died on the cross?

- **Genesis 4:3-5**

**13.2** Why was Cain's fruit offering not acceptable to God?

- **Hebrews 9:22**

**13.3** What did the animal represent?

- **John 1:29**

**13.4** Where was this practice of sacrificing animals done when Israel became a nation?

- **Exodus 25:8**

**13.5** What was the sanctuary like inside?

- **Hebrews 9:1-5**

**13.6** What types of services were held in the sanctuary?

- **Exodus 29:38, 39**
- **Hebrews 9:7**

**Note:** Each part of the sanctuary represented Jesus and His plan to save us. Take a moment to consider the seven main pieces of furniture and what they mean.

**Altar of burnt offerings:** Jesus is the Sacrifice—offering Himself for us on the cross so that we might be saved.

**Laver (Wash basin):** Jesus is the Water of Life—washing us clean from sin.

**Altar of incense:** Jesus is our Mediator, interceding to the Father for us.

**Table of Shewbread:** Jesus is the Bread of Life—sustaining us spiritually through the study of His Word.



**Candlesticks:** Jesus is the Light of the World—revealing the truth about God’s character.

**Veil:** Jesus is the Door and the Way into the presence of His Father.

**Ark of the Covenant:** Jesus is the Mercy Seat—His righteousness covers the repentant sinner who has broken His law.

**13.7** What happened to these services when Jesus died on the cross?

- **Matthew 27:50, 51**

**13.8** Who is our high priest now?

- **Hebrews 9:11, 12**

**13.9** Where is this “greater and more perfect tabernacle” located?

- **Hebrews 9:24**

**13.10** Who built this tabernacle (sanctuary) in heaven?

- **Hebrews 8:1, 2**

**13.11** What parallel meanings do the daily and yearly services of the earthly sanctuary have in the heavenly?

- **Daily: Hebrews 7:25-27**

**Note:** As our High Priest., Jesus daily forgives our sins as we confess and repent of them.

- **Yearly: Acts 17:30, 31**

**Note:** As in the yearly cleansing of the sanctuary, which represented God’s judgment on His people, so He has a special day when His judgment begins prior to His return.





## Conclusion

**A** study of the sanctuary and its services is a comprehensive overview of the plan of salvation. Explain why the cross of Christ is the means through which this plan has efficacy.





# † Cross Reference 14

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# The Sabbath

## Introduction

Read **Mark 15:22-16:6**. Below, write down all the references to **time** and a brief description of what happened at those times. Then answer the questions that follow:

References	Description
------------	-------------

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

### Questions:

1. On what day of the week was Jesus crucified?
2. On what day did Christ rest in the tomb?
3. On what day did He rise from the dead?
4. Reckoning with inclusive time—as did the Jews—how many days was this?
5. How long was it from Christ's crucifixion to His question, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"
6. During what hour did Christ die, and how long had He hung on the cross?

**Q. What is the relationship between the day and hour that Christ died and the Sabbath? Study the following lesson to discover the answer to this question and many more regarding the Sabbath.**





## Lesson 14: Part I

In Old Testament times, God positioned Israel at the crossroads of the then-known civilized world. Central to Israel was the capital city, Jerusalem. Central to this city was the Temple or sanctuary. Central to this worship place was the Most Holy Place. Central to the Most Holy Place was the Ark of the Covenant. Central to the contents in the ark was the Ten Commandments. Central to the Ten Commandments is the Sabbath.

The seventh-day Sabbath has profound significance. A study of the Sabbath reveals that it is the rest day, the blest day, the best day, and the test day. While it was God's seventh day in the creation week of this world, it was man's first complete day. Resting in God's completed and perfect work for them, the Sabbath unlocked for our first parents the door to life as God intended it to be. It was the orientation from which all other life activities proceeded and found their meaning. And God was honored by the demonstration of their loving obedience.

**14.1** Why is God to be so honored with man's obedience and loyalty to Him?

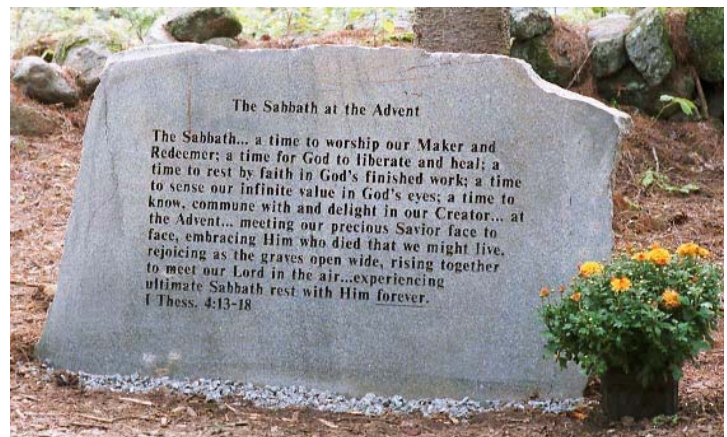
- **Revelation 4:11**

**14.2** Who is the Creator that made us and is worthy of our worship?

- **John 1:1-3, 14**
- **Hebrews 1:1, 2**

**14.3** What did Jesus do to help us to remember that He created the world?

- **Genesis 2:1-3**





**14.4** What two aspects about God are memorialized when we observe the Sabbath God sanctified?

- **Exodus 20:8-11**
- **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

**Note:** The Sabbath is a memorial of God’s creatorship. When God finished creating on the sixth day, He rested on the Sabbath—blessed and sanctified it. It has ever been a memorial of His completed, perfect work. Since the fall of man, however, the Sabbath also points us to the deliverance from the bondage of sin—or rest from our guilt—that we can only find in Christ. When Jesus cried out, “It is finished,” on the cross, He bowed His head in death and rested from His redemptive work on the Sabbath. His was a complete and perfect work. Jesus died on Passover (the very event that initiated the liberation of the Hebrew people in the Exodus) at the very moment that the Passover lamb was to be sacrificed. Jesus was the fulfillment of that type.

**14.5** How is the Sabbath to be kept holy?

- **Isaiah 58:13**

**14.6** For whom did God create the Sabbath?

- **Mark 2:27**

**14.7** Is “The Lord’s Day” a different day than the seventh-day Sabbath?

- **Revelation 1:10**

**Q.** According to the above verse, does the Lord have a day?

- **Matthew 12:8**

**Q.** According to the above verse, what day is He Lord of?

**14.8** Which day did Jesus and Paul keep?

- **Luke 4:16; Acts 17:2**

**14.9** Did Jesus plan for His disciples to keep the Sabbath after His resurrection?

- **Matthew 24:20**

**Note:** The destruction of Jerusalem, to which this text refers, took place about 40 years later, and yet Jesus makes no mention of any change.







**14.10** If a change was to be made, where would we find a record of it?

- **Amos 3:7**

**14.11** Does the Bible indicate a change anywhere in its teachings?

***“You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday.”*** *The Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 111—**James Cardinal Gibbons**

**14.12** Which day will the saints keep in the new earth?

- **Isaiah 66:22, 23**

**14.13** Why is a specific day of worship so important for us to keep holy?

- **Ezekiel 20:12, 20**

**14.14** What about all the people who have unknowingly been breaking God’s Sabbath commandment?

- **James 4:17**
- **Acts 17:30**

**14.15** How can people survive financially who refuse to work on the holy Sabbath?

- **Matthew 6:31-33**

Millions are unaware of their disloyalty to the Creator when they fail to keep His Sabbath holy. As we read in Acts 17:30, “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.” While it is true that God overlooks sins of ignorance, it is equally true that the Word of God provides the opportunity for all to understand the significance of this important truth and embrace it. Jesus said: “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15) Is it your desire to show your love and commitment to God by keeping the seventh-day Sabbath?

You may be wondering: How long has this serious mistake been going on? In Part II of this study, the Bible will unveil a masterful deception that has led multitudes in the wrong direction.



## Part II

**14B.1** What did Daniel see in his prophetic vision?

- **Daniel 7:1-3**

**14B.2** What is represented by winds, sea, and beasts?

- Winds: **Jeremiah 49:36, 37**
- Sea: **Revelation 17:15**
- Beasts: **Daniel 7:17, 24**

**14B.3** What kinds of beasts did Daniel see and what nations did they represent?

- **Daniel 7:4-8**

	Beasts	Nations
1.	Lion	Babylon
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____



**Note:** In Jeremiah 50:17, a lion represents Babylon. The succeeding nations follow in historical sequence.

**14B.4** What was the meaning of the ten horns?

- **Daniel 7:24 (first part)**

**The Ten Original Divisions of Europe** Lombards, Visigoths, Franks, Suevi, Burgundians, Alemanni, Anglo-Saxons, Ostrogoths, Vandals, Heruli

**14B.5** What did the little horn do which was different than the others?

- **Daniel 7:8, 24**

**14B.6** What power arose on the scene at this period of history, different in nature, and destroyed three of the ten kings?

**A religious and political power called *the Papacy* assumed great power by a decree of Emperor Justinian after it had destroyed the Vandals, Heruli, and finally the Ostrogoths in A.D. 538.**



### 14B.7 Can the little horn be positively identified as the Papacy?

- **Daniel 7:25**

**“Speaks against the Most High”** (blasphemy: Claiming to be and do only those things that rightfully belong to God)

By their own admission, the official statements of the Roman Catholic Church claim that the pope is “another God on earth,” (*Fifth Lateran Council*, 1512), and that “The priest holds the place of the Savior Himself...when he absolves from sin.” (*Dignity and Duty of the Priests*, 1917)

**“Wear Out the Saints:”** (persecute God’s people)

The oath taken by every Roman Catholic Bishop included: “With all my power I shall persecute and make war upon all heretics, schismatics and those who rebel against our Lord (the pope) and all his successors...so help me God...” (*Pontificale Romanum Summorum Pontificum*, p. 133)

**“Think to change times and laws:”**

“The Pope is so great authority and power that he can modify, explain, or interpret even divine law...since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth.” (*Prompta Bibliotheca*)

“The Catholic Church...by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day (of worship) from Saturday to Sunday.” (*Catholic Mirror*, September 1893)

**“Shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.”**

This phrase is also described as 42 months or 1,260 days (See Revelation 12:14, 6 and 13:5) Whichever phrase you use, when the *day=a year* principle is applied, it adds up to 1, 260 years. **Note:** In prophecy, each day is equal to one year. See **Ezekiel 4:6** and **Numbers 14:34**.

### 14B.8 What were the beginning and ending dates of Papal rule?

**The Papacy assumed great power from the decree of Justinian in A.D. 538 until it was overthrown by the French under Napoleon by General Berthier in 1798—a total of 1,260 years!**

### 14B.9 What will be the end of this power which claims authority to change God’s laws?

- **Daniel 7:26**

### 14B.10 What does God say about those who observe the traditions of men over the commandments of God?

- **Mark 7:7, 9**



### 14B.11 How important is it that we obey God's commandments?

- **John 14:15**

We can thank God for revealing to us this master deception so that we may know and keep God's true Sabbath holy. Certainly, the attempts of man and earthly institutions have made bold claims that have impacted untold millions. But God is the same yesterday, today, and forever—and by its very nature, His eternal law has never changed. What a privilege we have to serve One whose Word is always sure. Surely He is a God we can trust and obey!

But why has Satan focused his attack on the fourth commandment, and why is God so concerned about us keeping His true Sabbath? In Part III we will discover important events to take place that will place all mankind under one of two banners.

## Part III

### 14C.1 What are the two groups that will exist at the end of the world?

- **Matthew 13:49**

### 14C.2 How will God's people be distinguished from the wicked?

- **Revelation 7:1-3**

### 14C.3 What is a seal and what is its purpose?

**Answer:** A seal is a stamp or mark of authority on a legal document containing the person's name, title, and territory.

### 14C.4 What is God's legal document?

- **Exodus 20:3-17**

### 14C.5 Where in the law of God can we find His seal?

- **Exodus 20:8-11**

### 14C.6 Why is the Sabbath command used by God as a distinguishing sign or seal of His true followers?

- **Exodus 20:11**
- **Ezekiel 20:12**

**Note:** Sabbath keepers acknowledge that God is their Creator and Savior from sin.





**14C.7** How does this seal symbolically portray this relationship between God and His people?

- **Revelation 14:1; Hebrews 8:10**

**Note:** The Father's name in their foreheads and His law written in their minds are expressions used to convey the loyalty and obedience of God's people.

**14C.8** How are the wicked distinguished from the people of God?

- **Revelation 14:9, 10**

**14C.9** Who or what is this beast that has a false seal or mark and wants us to worship it?

- **Revelation 13:1-8, 18**
  - **It becomes a worldwide power**
  - **It rules for 42 prophetic months or 1,260 years**
  - **It is guilty of blasphemy**
  - **It receives a deadly wound which heals**
  - **It receives worship (it is a religious power)**
  - **It persecutes God's people**
  - **It has a mystic number: 666**

**Note:** Revelation uses the ancient custom of giving numerical value to official names or titles to help identify this power. A chief title of the bishop of Rome is the *Vicar of the Son of God*—in Latin, VICARIUS FILII DEI. Using the Roman numeral system of adding, this title adds up to 666! (I=1, V or U=5, L=50, D=500)

**14C.10** What is the Papacy's mark of authority?

- **Daniel 7:25**

**Note:** In all fairness, we will allow the papal system to tell us what its mark of authority is. The following quotation comes from *The Catholic Record* of London, Ontario, Canada, Sept. 1, 1923: **“Sunday is our mark of authority...The church is above the Bible, and this transference of Sabbath observance is proof of the fact.”**

**14C.11** How are people caused to worship the beast and receive its mark?

- **Revelation 13:11-17**





**14C.12** What does the beast coming up out of the earth represent?

**Answer:** The only nation that came into existence at this time in history (near the time the first beast suffered its deadly wound—1798) was the United States, which did not carve its boundaries out of the previous great empires. Also note that it was described as having the horns of a lamb but spoke like a dragon. The United States was founded upon Christian principles, but will eventually be used by Satan to enforce false worship and loyalty to him.

**14C.13** Do people who now observe Sunday have the mark?

- **Revelation 13:16, 17**

**14C.14** How does God decide whom we serve?

- **Romans 6:16**

**14C.15** How does God count me if I'm neutral?

- **Matthew 12:30**

**14C.16** What did Christ's disciples say when facing a test?

- **Acts 5:29**

**14C.17** Whom do you want to obey?

The world is rapidly being arrayed under one of two banners bearing the authority of God or Satan. To decide to be loyal to God is to invite opposition, but the end result is eternal life. Satan is working feverishly to gather people under his banner. Thank God we need not be deceived if we will determine to follow the truth at all costs. Now is the time to decide whom we will follow.

Is it your decision to pledge allegiance to the One who created you, redeemed you, and loves you supremely? By doing so, you are affirming your membership on the winning team in the battle that rages against good and evil, and the rewards are priceless! If this is your desire, why not recommit your life to Christ right now?





## Appendix

In order to be absolutely sure about this matter of Sunday worship and its relationship to Scripture, let's examine the eight texts in the New Testament that mention the first day of the week to see if any contain a command to keep it holy.

**14D.1** Do the following three resurrection texts say Sunday is holy?

- **Mark 16:9; Matthew 28:1; John 20:1**

**14D.2** Does this fourth text say Sunday is holy?

- **Mark 16:1, 2**

**Note:** This New Testament text clearly reveals that Sunday is not the Sabbath because Sabbath is passed when Sunday comes.

**14D.3** Does this fifth passage say Sunday is holy?

- **Luke 24:1**

**Note:** The book of Luke was written by a Gentile Christian thirty years after Christ's ascension, but no change in the day of worship is mentioned.

**14D.4** Does this sixth text reveal a regular Sunday meeting?

- **John 20:19**

**Note:** This could not have been a meeting to honor the resurrection, because until Jesus appeared in their midst they refused to believe He was raised from the dead.

**14D.5** The seventh text will answer two questions:

- **1 Corinthians 16:1, 2**
  - Does it say the first day is holy?
  - Does it say to give money when the collection plate is passed in church on the first day?

**Note:** To the contrary, it says to set aside some money and save it. Paul was requesting money for the Jerusalem Christians who had need (See: Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:26), so he wrote ahead to the churches he would visit, asking each believer to save money at home weekly so it could be ready when he arrived. These Christians kept Sabbath holy and usually reviewed their weekly financial accounts on Sunday, so it was an ideal time to plan their giving.



#### 14D.6 The eighth and final text is

- **Acts 20:7-11.**
  - Does it say to observe Sunday as a holy day?
  - Does it say Sabbath was changed to Sunday?
  - Does it say they met every Sunday for worship?

**Note:** Paul was on a farewell trip to the churches. Acts chapters 20 and 21 mention at least five other churches Paul visited on the same farewell trip. This meeting in Troas was a special farewell meeting on Saturday night (the beginning of the first day) and lasted until midnight (It couldn't have been Sunday night or it would have actually been the second day, or Monday according to Biblical reckoning).

#### 14D.7 Would Paul have told us if the Sabbath had been changed?

- **Acts 20:27**

#### 14D.8 Could the disciples have changed the day if they wanted to?

- **Matthew 5:18**

#### 14D.9 Satan's strategy is to get us to break just one of God's commandments. Why?

- **James 2:10-12**

**Note:** God's law is like a ten-sided fortress. Only one side needs to be broken down to let the enemy in.

#### 14D.10 John speaks of the Lord's Day (See: Revelation 1:10). Which day is it?

- **Exodus 20:10; Isaiah 58:13; Mark 2:28**

#### 14D.11 How does the Bible refer to Sunday through Friday?

- **Ezekiel 46:1**

#### 14D.12 Where did Sunday sacredness come from?

- **Matthew 15:3-9**

#### 14D.13 What did Jesus give us to honor His death, burial, and resurrection?

- **Romans 6:3-6; Colossians 2:12**

#### 14D.14 Have calendar changes made it impossible to find the Sabbath?

**Answer:** No. The seventh day on our calendar is the same seventh day that was on the calendar when Jesus was here. The Romans who ruled in Jesus' day gave us our modern calendar. Only one change has been made, and it did not affect the weekly cycle. In October of 1582, ten days were removed. Thursday the 4th was followed by Friday the 15th. Therefore the seventh-day Sabbath on our calendar today is the very same Sabbath that Jesus kept.





### 14D.15 Which sabbaths are no longer binding since the cross?

- **Colossians 2:14-17**

**Note:** The annual or yearly feast days were also called sabbaths, and were a part of the ceremonial laws which foreshadowed some aspect of the plan of salvation. They came on different days of the week each year and symbolized the sacrificial death and priestly ministry of Jesus that He would accomplish as its result (See: Hebrews 10:1). By this means He taught the gospel to Israel (See: Hebrews 4:1, 2). For example, the annual sabbath of the Passover foreshadowed Christ's suffering and death (See: 1 Corinthians 5:7). All of these yearly sabbaths came to an end at the cross—finding their fulfillment in Christ. They were not a part of God's ten commandment law which stands forever and tells us to observe the seventh-day Sabbath (See: Psalm 111:7, 8).

### 14D.16 What do Sunday churches say about the Sabbath?

**Baptist:** "There is no Scriptural evidence of the change of the Sabbath institution from the seventh to the first day of the week." —*Baptist Manual*

**Catholic:** "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday." —James Cardinal Gibbons, *The Faith of Our Fathers*

**Episcopal:** "Is there any command in the New Testament to change the day of weekly rest from Saturday to Sunday? None!" *Manual of Christian Doctrine*

**Methodist:** "Take the matter of Sunday...there is no passage telling Christians to keep the day." —*Christian Advocate*, July 2 1942

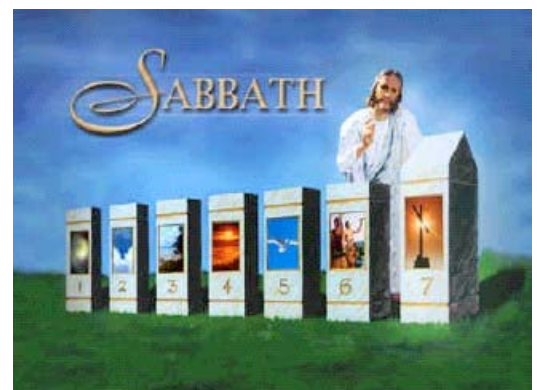
**Lutheran:** "The observance of the Lord's Day (Sunday) is not founded on any command of God." —*Augsburg Confession of Faith*

**Presbyterian:** "The Christian Sabbath (Sunday) is not in the Scriptures." —*Dwight's Theology*, Vol. 4

### 14D.17 What does Jesus say about this problem?

- **Matthew 15:3; John 14:15**

### 14D.18 Do you want to be on the side of tradition or truth?





## Conclusion

**E**xplain how the truth of the Sabbath and the atonement that Christ accomplished for us on the cross are inextricably connected.





# † Cross Reference 15

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# The Second Coming

## Introduction

Read concerning Jesus' trial before Caiaphas in **Matthew 26:59-66**, followed by a description of the events surrounding His death in **27: 50-52**. Below, itemize the events in...

- Jesus' description of His second coming
- The resurrection

Second Coming	Resurrection
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
	4.
	5.

**Q. How do these events represent what the Bible teaches about the second coming of Christ, and how can we know that His coming is near?**





## Lesson 15: Part I

**15.1** In what manner will Christ return?

**Acts 1:9-11**

**15.2** How many of earth's inhabitants will witness the second coming of Christ?

- **Revelation 1:7**

**15.3** What will happen to those who have rejected God when Jesus returns to planet earth?

- **Revelation 6:14-17**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:8**

**15.4** What will happen to the faithful followers of Jesus?

- **1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17**

**15.5** Where will Jesus take His people?

- **John 14:1-3**

The only hope for planet earth lies in the soon return of Jesus to put an end to sin and suffering. But does the Bible give us any clues as to the time when He will return? In Part II of this study, we will look at a prophecy regarding Christ's second coming that was given over 500 years before Christ's first coming, as well as a prophecy that Christ Himself gave concerning His return to planet earth.

## Part II

**15B.1** How important is it that we understand Bible prophecy?

- **2 Peter 1:19**

**15B.2** What is God's purpose in telling us the future?

- **John 14:29**



**15B.3** Does Bible prophecy deal only with Bible times, or does it include the age in which we are living?

- **Daniel 2:28**

**15B.4** By what means did God reveal the future to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon?

- **Daniel 2:1**

**15B.5** Whom did the king summon to interpret the dream?

- **Daniel 2:2-4**

**15B.6** What success did the wise men have in interpreting the dream?

- **Daniel 2:5-11**

**15B.7** What was the king's reaction to the failure of the wise men to come up with the answer?

- **Daniel 2:12, 13**

**15B.8** How did Daniel meet the crisis?

- **Daniel 2:14-16**

**15B.9** How did Daniel hope to solve the problem of discovering what the king had dreamed?

- **Daniel 2:17-19**

**15B.10** What was the dream all about?

- **Daniel 2:26-28**

**15B.11** What had the king seen in his dream?

- **Daniel 2:31-36**

**15B.12** What did the head of gold symbolize?

- **Daniel 2:37, 38**





**15B.13** What did the rest of the body symbolize?

- **Daniel 2:39, 40**

**15B.14** According to history, what kingdoms followed Babylon successively?

**Babylon 605-539 B.C.**

**Medo-Persia 539-331 B.C.**

**Greece 331-168 B.C.**

**Rome 168 B.C.**

**15B.15** Why is not a fifth world empire mentioned?

- **Daniel 2:42**

**15B.16** Would the divisions of the Roman Empire ever be united again under one government?

- **Daniel 2:43**

**The Ten Divisions:** Alemanni—*Germany*, Franks—*France*, Burgundians—*Switzerland*, Suevi—*Portugal*, Vandals—*destroyed*, Anglo-Saxons—*England*, Visigoths—*Spain*, Ostrogoths—*destroyed*, Heruli—*destroyed*, Lombards—*Italy*.

**15B.17** What will happen in the days of the many nations of Europe?

- **Daniel 2:44**

**15B.18** With this in mind, what does Jesus tell us to do?

- **Matthew 24:44**

**15B.19** Will there be any signs to indicate when Christ will come back to earth?

- **Matthew 24:3-14**
- **Luke 21:25-27**



**15B.20** What will take place in the sun, moon, and stars?

- **Acts 2:20**
- **Revelation 6:13**

**15B.21** Have these startling events happened yet?

**Sun darkened and moon as blood: May 19, 1780**

“On the 19th of May, 1780, an uncommon darkness took place all over New England, and extended to Canada. It continued about 14 hours, or from ten o’clock in the morning until midnight. The darkness was so great, that the people were unable to read common print, or tell the time of day by their watches, or to dine, or to transact their ordinary business without the light of candles. They became dull and gloomy, and some were excessively frightened. The causes of the phenomena are unknown.” *The Guide to Knowledge, p. 428*

“My father and mother, who were pious, thought the day of judgment was near. They sat up all night, during the latter part of which they said the darkness disappeared, and then the sky seemed as usual; but the moon, which was at the full, had the appearance of blood.” *Milo Bostwick*

**Stars fall from heaven: November 13, 1833**

“On the night of November 13, 1833, a tempest of falling stars broke over the earth. North America bore the brunt of its pelting. From the Gulf of Mexico to Halifax, until daylight with some difficulty put an end to the display, the sky was scored in every direction with shining tracks and illuminated with majestic fireballs.” *History of Astronomy In the 19th Century, Agnes M. Clerke, p. 328.*

**15B.22** What are some other signs that the Bible points out as end time indicators?

- **Daniel 12:4**
- **2 Timothy 3:1-5**
- **2 Peter 3:3, 4**

**15B.23** How close do these signs indicate Jesus’ return is to our time?

- **Matthew 24:32, 33**

**15B.24** What should we do to get ready for this momentous event?

- **2 Peter 3:10-14**







## Conclusion

**Describe how the events that transpired at the trial and crucifixion of Christ foreshadow the global events to take place at the second coming.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**We** are living in the toes of the great image of prophecy seen by a heathen king so many centuries ago. No power in this world can succeed in cementing the broken pieces of the world powers today. God's Word will stand! The most important fact is that the coming of God's kingdom is the very next event to happen in the broad sweep of time. Is it your desire to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes again? If so, why not rededicate your life to Him right now.



# Cross Reference 16

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*-- Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# *The Three Phases of Judgment*

## **Introduction**

Read **John 18:19-21; 37-38; 19: 7-11**. Then answer the following questions:

### **Questions:**

#### **(John 18:19-21)**

1. In the high priest's questioning of Jesus, who and what were under investigation?
2. How did Jesus respond?
3. Whom did Jesus summon to be His witnesses in this investigative judgment?

**Note:** In this phase of judgment, both Christ and His followers are being investigated.

#### **(John 18:37, 38)**

1. In answer to Pilate's question about His identity, what did Jesus affirm?
2. According to Christ the King, what was His purpose in coming to this world, and who are His subjects?
3. After posing the question: "What is truth?" did Pilate wait to "hear His voice"?
4. What was Pilate's judgment about Christ's integrity?

**Note:** In this phase of judgment, Pilate distinguished himself from Christ's subjects by refusing to "hear" what truth is. Christ in no way is implicated in this rejection. On the contrary, He is pronounced "innocent"—even by the one rejecting Him.

#### **(John 19:7-11)**

1. In this final phase of the judgment, what made Pilate more afraid?
2. Consequently, what did Pilate ask Jesus?



3. What was Jesus' initial response? Why?
4. When pressed further, what truth did Christ express, and what judgment did He make?

**Note:** Three truths are highlighted in this final judgment: Jesus' true identity—as stated by His enemies, the finality of their decision to remain in rebellion as evidenced by Christ's silence, and Christ's attestation to degrees of sin.

**Q. What further information does the Bible give concerning judgment? The following three studies will provide answers.**





## Lesson 16: Part I

16.1 How does the Bible describe the scene of judgment?

- **Daniel 7:9, 10**

16.2 What books are used when God judges us?

- **Revelation 20:12**

16.3 In what book are the names of God's people written?

- **Philippians 4:3**

16.4 What is the end result of those whose names are not found written in the book of life?

- **Revelation 20:15**

16.5 How detailed are the records found in these books concerning our personal lives?

- **Matthew 12:36**
- **Ecclesiastes 12:14**

16.6 What is the standard by which we will be judged?

- **Ecclesiastes 12:13**
- **James 2:12**

16.7 Who will act as judge during the proceedings?

- **John 5:22**

16.8 Who is the lawyer defending our cases before the supreme court of heaven?

- **1 John 2:1**

16.9 Can we have assurance that judgment will be made in our favor?

- **John 6:37**
- **Romans 8:1, 31**





**16.10** When will the judgment be completed?

- **Revelation 22:12**

**16.11** Will anyone have another chance to be saved after the judgment is over?

- **Revelation 22:11**

**16.12** Who is being judged in the court session now in progress?

- **1 Peter 4:17**

**16.13** Why is not everyone being judged at this time?

- **John 3:17, 18**

**16.14** Will the cases of those already condemned ever come up for review?

- **2 Corinthians 5:10**

**16.15** When will the condemned be judged?

- **Revelation 20:4**
- **1 Corinthians 6:2, 3**

**16.16** How can we be sure to have Christ defend our cases?

- **Matthew 10:32, 33**

God is certainly merciful in letting us know the time and details of judgment. As we consider these important events, we are made aware of the tremendous hour in which we are living. Each day that passes brings increasing urgency into our work of preparation for that great day when our lives are reviewed for the final time. Now is the time to place our lives fully on the side of Christ. With Jesus as both our lawyer and judge, we cannot lose.

Do you desire to rededicate your life today to cooperate with God's will for your life, so that His purposes may be lived out in you during this judgment hour?



## Part II

In part two of this study we will examine what the Bible says concerning the time of the investigative, pre-advent judgment.

**16B.1** What do New Testament writers have to say about the time of investigative judgment on behalf of *God's people*?

- **Acts 17:31**
- **Acts 24:25**
- **Romans 2:16**
- **Romans 14:10-12**
- **Hebrews 10:30**

**Note:** They place the judgment in the future.

**16B.2** Read Daniel 7:1-8 and note the parallels to the prophecy of Daniel 2.

Daniel 2	Daniel 7
Gold/ Babylon	Lion/ Babylon →(539 B.C.)
Silver/ Media-Persia	Bear/ Media-Persia →(331 B.C.)
Brass/ Greece	Leopard/ Greece →(168 B.C.)
Iron/ Rome (first phase)	Terrible Beast/ Political Rome →(A.D. 538)
Iron & Clay/ Rome (second phase)	Little Horn/ Papal Rome →(A.D. 1798)
	Judgment
God's Kingdom set up	God's Kingdom set up

**Q.** What immediately comes after the little horn (Papal Rome) power in verses 9 and 10?

**Note:** This sequence (Little horn, judgment in heaven, God sets up His kingdom) is so important that it is repeated again in verses 21-22, and a third time in verses 25-27!





**16B.3** Now read the parallel prophecy in Daniel 8, and note the counterparts to the two foregoing prophecies of chapter 2 and 7. (Next page)

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8
Gold/ Babylon	Lion/ Babylon →(539 B.C.)	
Silver/ Media-Persia	Bear/ Media-Persia →(331 B.C.)	Ram/ Media-Persia
Brass/ Greece	Leopard/ Greece →(168 B.C.)	He-goat/ Greece
Iron/ Rome (first phase)	Terrible Beast/ Political Rome →(A.D. 538)	Little Horn's earthly moves
Iron & Clay/ Rome (second phase)	Little Horn/ Papal Rome →(A.D. 1798)	Little Horn's religious moves
	Judgment	Sanctuary Cleansed
God's Kingdom set up	God's Kingdom set up	

**16B.4** What prophecy unveils the time of judgment to us?

- **Daniel 8:14**

**16B.5** Did the vision of the 2300 days have to do with an event that would take place in Daniel's day?

- **Daniel 8:26**

**16B.6** Could this prophecy, then, represent 2300 literal days (about 6.5 years)?

**Note:** In prophecy, each day is equal to one year. See **Ezekiel 4:6** and **Numbers 14:34**.

**16B.7** Daniel prayed to God for an explanation of the vision. How was Daniel's prayer answered?

- **Daniel 9:21-23**

**16B.8** What part of the 2300-day prophecy concerned the Jewish people?

- **Daniel 9:24 (first part)**





**16B.9** When does the 70-week or 490-year period begin and how is the first part divided up?

- **Daniel 9:25**

**Note:** The decree to rebuild Jerusalem is an established date in history—457 B.C.

The first part of the period is divided up into:

7 weeks or **49 years** (7x7)

+

62 weeks or **434 years** (62x7)

**Total =483 years**

**16B.10** When was Jesus anointed as the Messiah?

**Luke 3:21, 22**

**Note:** Verse one of this same chapter gives the exact year that Jesus was baptized. The fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar is A.D. 27. 483 years after 457 B.C. is A.D. 27 (you have to add 1 since there is no such thing as year zero between B.C. and A.D.).

**Acts 10:38**

**16B.11** What was to take place in the middle of the final week (7 years) of the 490-year prophecy?

- **Daniel 9:26, 27**

**16B.12** When was Jesus “cut off?”

- **Matthew 27:31**

**Note:** The term “cut off” was the strongest word for death in the Old Testament. It suggested eternal ruin, the ultimate punishment for sin. Jesus died in the spring of A.D. 31—3.5 years, or half way through the last 7-year period.

**16B.13** With 1810 years of the 2300 remaining, when would the prophecy end, thus beginning the judgment?

- **A.D. 34 + 1810=1844**



**16B.14** What solemn warning does God want us to bring to the world at this time?

- **Revelation 14:6, 7**

**16B.15** Of what special significance is this warning to us?

- **1 Peter 4:17, 18**

God is truly merciful to reveal to us the warning that we are living in the great judgment day of mankind, thus giving us the opportunity to prepare to meet Him. Is it your desire today to renew your commitment to Jesus Christ, your Savior, and be faithful to Him during this most solemn hour of earth's history?

The investigative judgment constitutes the first phase of three phases of judgment, and makes possible the cleansing of the sanctuary in heaven and the return of Christ to take His faithful followers with Him to heaven. In Part III of this study we will examine the last two phases of judgment prerequisite to the final eradication of sin from the universe.

### Part III

**16C.1** Will the wicked dead ever be raised from their graves?

- **John 5:28, 29**

**16C.2** Which of these two resurrections (in the above text) will take place first?

- **Revelation 20:6**

**16C.3** How much later does the second resurrection occur?

- **Revelation 20:5 (first part)**
- **Note:** The 1,000 year period mentioned here is often called the millennium, taken from two Latin words meaning 1,000 years. The millennium starts with a resurrection and ends with a resurrection.

**16C.4** When does the first resurrection take place, thus beginning the 1,000 years?

- **1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17**



**16C.5** What happens to those who have rejected Jesus at His coming?

- **2 Thessalonians 2:8**
- **Jeremiah 25:33**

**16C.6** In what condition will this earth be during the 1,000 years?

- **Jeremiah 4:23-27**

**16C.7** Where will Satan be during the 1,000 years?

- **Revelation 20:1-3**

**Note:** The “great chain” and “bottomless pit” are expressions used to show that Satan is imprisoned on this ruined, desolate earth with no one to tempt, surrounded by the results of his rebellion.

**16C.8** What will the saints be doing during the 1,000 years?

- **Revelation 20:4**
- **1 Corinthians 6:2, 3**

**16C.9** What event marks the close of the 1,000 years?

- **Revelation 20:13**

**16C.10** What is Christ’s purpose in coming back to resurrect the wicked?

- **Jude 14, 15**

**16C.11** How does the resurrection of the lost affect Satan?

- **Revelation 20:7, 8**

**16C.12** What is Satan’s purpose in deceiving the wicked and preparing for battle?

- **Revelation 20:9 (first part)**

**16C.13** Where did the “beloved city” come from?

- **Revelation 21:2**



**16C:14** How will God prevent Satan's assault on the Holy City?

- **Revelation 20:9 (last part)**

**16C:15** What happens after the destruction of the wicked?

- **2 Peter 3:13**





## Conclusion

**H**ow is the cross of Christ central to the judgments outlined in Scripture? Below, explain how Calvary and the three phases of judgment are related.

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**W**ith one mighty sweep of time, the Bible gives a graphic description of the greatest events this world will ever see. These events are worthy of our most solemn consideration. Is it your desire today to be on the inside of the city? Why not ask right now that God, through Christ, will enable you to be found faithful to Him and grant you the assurance of His salvation?



# † Cross Reference 17

*The Sacrifice of Christ as an atonement for sin is the great truth around which all other truths cluster. In order to be rightly understood and appreciated, every truth in the Word of God, from Genesis to Revelation, must be studied in the light that streams from the cross of Calvary.*

*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# *The First and Second Death*

## Introduction

Read the description of Christ's death as recorded in **Luke 23:32-46** followed by the account of His resurrection in **John 20:1-18**. Then answer the following questions:

### Questions:

1. What did Jesus promise the penitent thief?
2. When Christ died shortly after making this promise, what did He commend (commit) and give up?
3. When Mary recognized Jesus after the resurrection, what did He instruct her not to do? Why?

This raises some serious questions regarding what happens when a person dies. Jesus promised the thief that he would be with Him in paradise "today." The assumption would be that when Jesus and the thief died on Friday, they would be together in paradise that day. Yet when Jesus spoke to Mary on Sunday morning, He assured her that He had not gone there. We are left with two options: Either Christ is a liar, or His promise to the thief is misinterpreted. Since the Scripture clearly says in Titus 1:2 that "God ... cannot lie," we must reexamine the promise made to His dying companion.

**Q. Since punctuation was not included in the original languages of Scripture, what alternate interpretation of Christ's promise to the thief is possible—the only one that harmonizes with the Biblical narrative? And what does this suggest about what really happens in death? The following studies explore what God's Word teaches on this subject.**



## Lesson 17: Part I

17.1 How was man brought into existence?

- **Genesis 2:7**

17.2 Is the soul mortal (can die) or immortal?

- **Ezekiel 18:4**
- **Romans 2:7**

17.3 Who alone possesses immortality?

- **1 Timothy 6:15, 16**

17.4 Where did death come from?

- **Genesis 2:16, 17**
- **Genesis 3:6**

17.5 What happens when death comes to man?

- **Ecclesiastes 12:7**

17.6 What is the spirit that returns to God?

- **Job 27:3**

17.7 What happens to the thoughts at death?

- **Psalms 146:4**

17.8 Is there any function of intelligence at death?

- **Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6**

17.9 Can the dead worship God?

- **Psalms 115:17**





**17.10** How long do the dead remain in their graves?

- **Job 14:12**

**17.11** What did Jesus call death?

- **John 11:1, 11-14**

**17.12** Why is death called a sleep?

- **John 5:28, 29**



**17.13** When will the righteous receive immortality?

- **1 Corinthians 15:51-54**

**17.14** How can we make sure that we will receive immortality?

- **1 John 5:11, 12**

Only the Bible unravels the mystery of death. All who have died are reserved in their graves, some awaiting punishment, some—eternal life. The choice has been fully made while life lasts. Is it your desire to choose again today to be among those who will live for eternity with their Creator and Savior?

God above will soon call forth the faithful to a life that never ends. But what about the wicked who are not resurrected at the second coming? What does the Bible teach about their fate? Part II of this lesson addresses this question.

## Part II

**17B.1** Where will the wicked receive their just punishment?

- **Revelation 21:8**

**17B.2** What effect does the Lake of Fire have on those who reject salvation?

- **Malachi 4:1**



**17B.3** How effective will this punishment be in the final eradication of sin?

- **Malachi 4:3**

**17B.4** Many talk of an eternally burning hell. Is this correct according to what the Bible teaches?

- **Matthew 25:46 (eternal punishment)**

**Note:** The duration signified by the words “eternal” and “everlasting” is determined by the nature of the thing it describes. The reward of the righteous is life to which there is no end; the reward of the wicked is death to which there is no end (i.e. they won’t live again). It does not describe a process that goes on without end. It does describe an act whose results are permanent (see Romans 6:23 and John 3:16 to contrast these two experiences).

- **Revelation 20:10 (forever)**

**Note:** It is important to understand the Hebrew concept of “forever” (See 1 Samuel 1:22, 28).

**“Forever” in this context means** \_\_\_\_\_

- **Jude 7 (eternal fire)**

- What is eternal in this verse?
- Are Sodom and Gomorrah still burning today?

**“Eternal” in this context means** \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** The text points out clearly that what happened to Sodom and Gomorrah serves as an example of what hell fire will be like.

**17B.5** Will there be any kind of existence for sinners after the fires of hell are finished?

- **Psalm 37:10**

**17B.6** How many people will be destroyed compared to those who have chosen eternal life?

- **Matthew 7:13, 14**



**17B.7** How does God feel about destroying all these people?

- **Ezekiel 18:32**
- **2 Peter 3:9**

**17B.8** Is hell in existence at the present time?

- **2 Peter 3:7**

**17B.9** Where, then, are the wicked who have already died?

- **John 5:28, 29**





## Conclusion

Calvary speaks volumes about the Biblical teaching on the first and second death. In your own words, summarize these doctrines in light of the cross.

\*\*\*\*\*

Although God will not torment sinners throughout eternity, hell fire is no less a punishment. The real punishment, however, will be separation from God, and eternal death in place of the joy of eternal life which He offered them over and over again.

Because love knows no force, God does not insist His will “that all should come to repentance.” Instead, He honors the choice that each individual has made concerning his/her destiny—even if that choice is to reject the sacrifice He made for them at infinite cost and to die eternally.

Therefore, even this—the saddest of all events ever to transpire for the human race—is proof that God is love!





# † Cross Reference 18

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*--Gospel Workers, p. 315.*



# The New Earth

## Introduction

Read **Matthew 27:27-31** and **John 19:17-19**. Notice that couched in Christ’s humiliation is a subtle foreshadowing of the redemption of all things created—as shown in the contrast chart below:

Reference	Foreshadow	Redemption
Matt. 27:28	Stripped and clothed with a scarlet robe	For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Cor. 5:21)
Matt. 27:29	Placed a man-made crown of thorns on His head	Jesus bears the curse upon creation (Gen. 3:18) in order to redeem it.
Matt. 27:29	Placed a reed in His right hand as a mock scepter (a symbol of authority)	Jesus will ultimately accomplish the redemption of His creation that His humiliation has purchased (Psalm 98:1)
Matt. 27:29,30	Mocked Him, spit on Him and hit Him on the head with the reed that was in His hand	He was despised and rejected...wounded for our transgressions...bruised for our iniquities.... (Isa. 53:3-5)
Matt. 27:31	Exchanged the scarlet robe for His own , and led Him away to be crucified	Though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...(Isa. 1:18)
John 19:17	Jesus bore the cross to Golgotha (the place of the skull)	Jesus bears the greatest symbol of death to the place of death so that we might have life(1 Cor. 15:54-57)
John 19:18,19	Crucified with the title: Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews	When redemption is completed, Jesus will be King over all the earth (Zech.14:1, 9)

**Q. What does the Bible teach about the New Earth?**



**18.1** What will God do to make the earth an inhabitable place again?

- **Isaiah 65:17**
- **Revelation 21:5**

**18.2** How will life be different in the new world?

- **Revelation 21:4**
- **Isaiah 35:10**

**18.3** What about my identity and family ties?

- **Isaiah 66:22**
- **1 Corinthians 13:12**
- **Luke 20:34-36**



**18.4** Will there be any animals in the new world?

- **Isaiah 65:25**

**18.5** What are some of the things the saints will do for activity?

- **Isaiah 65:21, 22**

**18.6** How will we worship God in the new earth?

- **Isaiah 66:23**
- **Revelation 22:4**

**18.7** Where will the dwelling place of God be located?

- **Revelation 21:2, 3**

**18.8** What will the holy city—New Jerusalem—be like?

- **Revelation 21:10, 11, 18**



**18.9** How large will the city be?

- **Revelation 21:16, 17**

**18.10** How will the city be lighted?

- **Revelation 21:23**

**18.11** How can we inherit this city and the glories of the new world?

- **Revelation 21:7**

**18.12** How can we overcome sin in our lives?

- **John 1:12**
- **1 John 3:6**







## Conclusion

**Describe** how the cross of Christ guarantees eternity in a world made new for all those who believe and accept the gift of salvation.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Human** words can never describe fully the wonders that God has prepared for those who love and obey Him. The question that remains in many minds is: Will I be there? The good news is that God has made provision for everyone to inherit this good land, and now it is up to us to accept or reject His invitation.

What is your decision?

