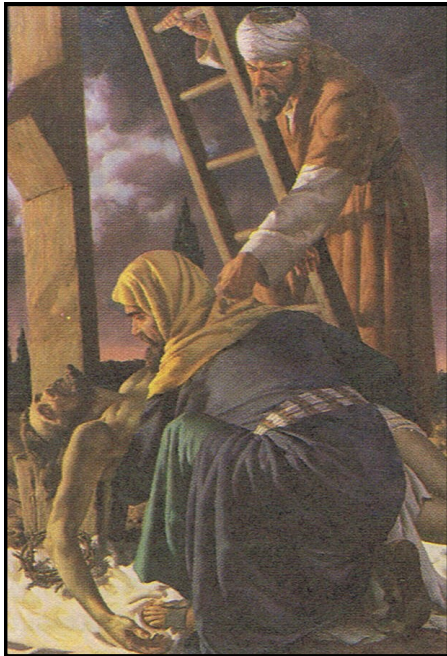


19. What despairing cry did Jesus utter on the cross? Mark 15:34

"My God, My God, why have You _____ Me."

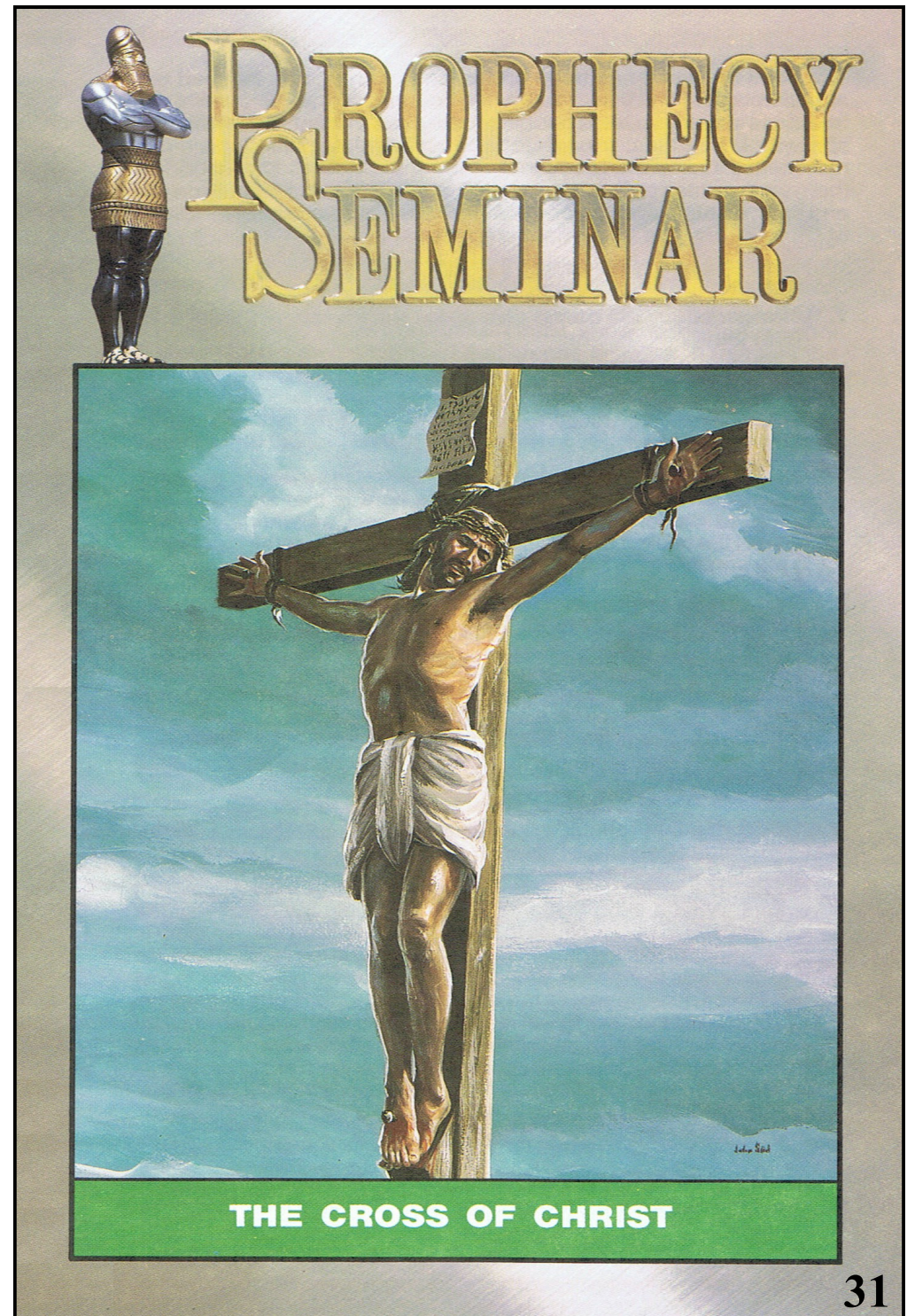
NOTE: Forsaken of God? Yes. Jesus on the cross had become sin for the human race. Therefore, the Father separated Himself from the Son as Jesus bore the curse of God upon sin. It was this that broke the heart of the Son of God. It was not the physical suffering, but the mental anguish that He went through as He died the death of sinners.

20. As you look at Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross, do you feel the need of accepting and even re-accepting Him and all that the cross means?



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The book of Daniel has been an exciting study. It has focused our attention on the end time. We have seen that, in order to survive the troublous last days, God's people must have a vibrant, living relationship with Jesus Christ. In order to have such a relationship, individuals must sense their total dependence upon what Christ accomplished for them on the cross of Calvary. While Daniel focuses so intently on the end time, he also gives us one of the clearest predictions of the cross of Christ of any Old Testament prophet.

THE CENTRALITY OF THE CROSS

1. What prophecy did Daniel give about the Messiah? Daniel 9:25

"From the going forth of the command ... until _____
_____ there shall be seven
weeks and sixty-two weeks."

NOTE: This prophecy has been studied extensively in previous lessons. The point we need to notice here is that Daniel clearly predicted the coming of Christ. This prophecy appears in the very heart of the book of Daniel, indicating the centrality of the cross even in the predictive part of the book of Daniel.

2. What was to happen in the midst of the seventieth week of this prophecy Daniel 9:27

"He shall bring an end to _____ and offering."

NOTE: Amazing! Daniel predicted the end of the sacrificial system by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. We must never forget, that underlying all the prophecies of Daniel, is the centrality of the cross of Christ.

3. How central was the cross to the writers of the New Testament? Galatians 6:14

"God forbid that I should boast except in the _____ of
our Lord Jesus Christ."

NOTE: The cross was central in the thinking of New Testament writers. What a thing to glory in! In Bible times, the cross was the means used to put criminals to death. It's like saying that we glory in the electric chair or the gas chamber. Why glory in the cross? Because the cross was the means chosen by God to bring redemption to lost mankind. Today, the cross is a venerated object in many parts of the world. Many times, we forget its ugly side, but the cross still must be central in our thinking, for it is only by the cross that redemption comes to lost mankind.

majority.

14. What was Pilate's response to the call to crucify Jesus? Matthew 27:24-26

Pilate _____ his hands.

NOTE: Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent. He knew that Jesus was falsely accused and condemned. But he feared the crowd. He saw what was right, but he washed his hands. Many of us are like Pilate. We examine the truth from all angles. We admit that it's right; it's in the Bible. But do we follow it? Are you a Pilate?

15. After washing his hands, what did Pilate do? Matthew 27:26

"He delivered Him to be _____."

NOTE: To not take a stand to follow Christ is to take a stand to crucify Christ. Pilate washed his hands, but in the next moment he delivered Jesus to be crucified. If an individual does not make a decision to follow Jesus, it is a decision to crucify Him.

16. Before crucifying Jesus, what did Pilate order? Matthew 27:26-31

They _____ Jesus.

NOTE: The pure, innocent Son of God is stripped, scourged, a crown of thorns is placed upon His brow, they spit in His face. And, remember, He went through all of that for you!

17. What did Pilate say to the multitude when he brought Jesus forth again? John 19:5

"Behold the _____."

NOTE: Behold the Man as He carries that heavy wooden cross weighing over a hundred pounds up Golgotha's hill. Behold the Man as they lay Him out on the cross and nail His hands and feet to the wooden tree. Behold the Man as they lift up the cross and drop it into place, jarring the wounds in those hands and feet. The cross was so constructed that when a person hung upon it, every joint in the body would be out of shape, causing the most excruciating pain ever known to man. Many people on the cross became raving maniacs and the soldiers would have to get up on the cross and cut out their tongues to stop their terrible cursing.

18. What did Jesus cry while on the cross? Luke 23:34

"Father, _____, for they do not know what they do."

NOTE: It was in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus prayed the prayer of submission. As He agonized with God, the Bible says that He sweat great drops of blood (Luke 22:44). Here Jesus was tempted to leave the world to itself and go back to the Father. But to secure people's redemption, He prayed, "Not My will, but Yours, be done". As Jesus prayed this prayer of submission, the sins of the entire world were rolled upon His shoulders. He became sin for the human race. As the weight of sin fell upon Him, He fell prostrate upon the ground.

9. How then did Judas betray the Son of God? Matthew 26:48, 49

With a _____.

NOTE: As Jesus came forth from the garden, the soldiers and multitude were coming up the hillside. Judas came forward and betrayed the Son of God with a kiss. Jesus was then arrested, taken to Caiaphas' Judgment Hall, and there went through the mockery of a trial. Witnesses were hired to lie and testify against Him. And finally, they condemned the innocent Son of God. However, the Jewish rulers were not able to execute, so they took Him to Pilate to secure His condemnation.

PS-31

10. How did Jesus respond when standing before Pilate? Matthew 27:12-14

"He answered _____."

NOTE: Amazing! Here was Jesus, falsely accused, falsely condemned, yet in perfect control. Remember, Jesus had been through the ordeal of Gethsemane, the agony of the trial, a night without sleep. His nerves must have been rubbing raw, and yet He stood there in perfect composure and calm.

11. How did Pilate react to Christ in perfect control? Matthew 27:14

"The governor _____ greatly."

NOTE: This is no namby-pamby Jesus! He is a real man!

12. What choice did Pilate offer the multitude? Matthew 27:15-18

Christ or _____.

13. Whom did the people ask to have released? Matthew 27:20-22

NOTE: Remember, this was the majority of church-going people who asked that Barabbas be released and Jesus be crucified. Many people make religious decisions based on what the majority do. Please note that the majority of church-going, religious people in the time of Christ asked for Barabbas and called on the authorities to crucify Jesus. We cannot base our religion on the

GOD'S SYSTEM THAT UPLIFTS THE CROSS

The devil is never happy when God's people uplift the cross. He knows how important and central the cross is to the Christian faith; therefore, he would never dare to attack the cross openly. Christians would rise up against any overt attack on the cross. Instead, the devil works insidiously by introducing theories and teachings that, if accepted, would nullify or destroy the all-sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The devil would like us to think that we can get to heaven by some other means apart from Jesus Christ.

While Satan has tried to introduce a counterfeit system that either destroys or nullifies the cross of Jesus Christ, God's last-day message is going to all the world today. That message restores truths that Satan has tried to weaken, hide or destroy. In restoring these truths, God's last-day message uplifts the cross of Christ, showing that man cannot be saved by his own efforts but that he needs Jesus. It restores the centrality of the cross to the Christian faith. We notice that, in Satan's system, the focus is self-centred and the foundation is salvation by works or man's own effort. In God's system, the focus is Christ-centered and the foundation is salvation by grace as a gift from God.

4. Which of these teachings uplifts the cross of Christ?

Please check one: ☐ Creation ☐ Evolution

NOTE: The doctrine of evolution teaches that the human race began as a one-celled organism, split into two cells, four cells, etc., and gradually evolved through millions of years until eventually humans came into existence. Its basic tenet is the natural progression of mankind apart from God. However, if people are progressing naturally, ever advancing and getting better all the time, then they would have no need of Jesus Christ and the cross. The doctrine of evolution destroys the need for the cross, for it says that people can lift themselves up by their own bootstraps and solve their own problems. Thus, they do not need Jesus or the cross.

While evolution teaches that people are getting better and better and can solve their own problems, creation teaches that people started out from the hand of their Creator perfect, fell from their high estate and desperately need the cross and the relationship with Jesus to lift them up from the mire of sin and restore them to that lost estate. Evolution is salvation by man's own works and progress. Creation says that, in order to be saved, people need Jesus Christ. This is salvation by grace. Evolution is a single cell crawling out of a "cold mud puddle". Creation teaches that we were created with a noble heritage in the image of God. Evolution teaches that our lives are controlled by the impersonal forces of accident and chance. Creation teaches us that our future is in the hand of a loving Saviour. Evolution teaches that change takes millions of years. Creation teaches that we can have new life right now.

5. Which of these teachings uplifts the cross of Christ?

- ☐ Life sustained independent of God.
- ☐ Life only through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

NOTE: Man, in sinful rebellion, has sought to deny God's existence, sovereignty and life-sustaining power. If we deny that He exists, that He created us, and that there is no higher authority than our own wishes, we then become a law unto ourselves. We do not recognize our true condition for there is no standard by which to judge, and everyone else is in a similar condition. In this way, we become our own standard, our own judge, our own "god". The devil is perfectly happy to have us ignore God, His claims and especially His life-changing power that is ready to be freely and lavishly given. Thus blinded and kept in ignorance, we become enslaved to the passions of the world with its resulting destruction (1 John 2:15-17). If we can be kept, either through ignorance, fear, pride or any number of means, from turning to God, experiencing His love and entering into His plan for our ultimate best happiness, then the devil has retained our allegiance even without us knowing it (Romans 6:16).

The belief in life sustained apart from God tends to turn our focus on ourselves and on our own desires. History records countless instances of individuals with no higher ideals than to please themselves. The unhappiness and disastrous consequences of such abandonment to self is also recorded. Children left to their own whims become selfish, delinquent and totally unhappy.

Recognizing God as our Creator, Sustainer, Law-giver and Saviour results in a purposeful life focused outside our immediate selves and uplifts the cross of Christ. Recognizing our life only in Christ brings true meaning, purpose and ultimate happiness to life here and in Heaven throughout eternity.

6. Which of these teachings uplifts the cross of Christ?

- ☐ The Law done away with.
- ☐ The Law eternal, a reflection of God's character.

NOTE: The devil would have us believe that the Ten Commandments have been abolished, that Christians no longer need to keep them. The Bible says, "sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3:4). If there was no law, then there would be no sin, and if there was no sin, there would be no reason for Jesus to die to save me from sin. The teaching that wants to do away with the law of God also virtually destroys the need for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The purpose of the law is to show a person that he is a sinner in need of the cleansing power of Christ. If there is no law, there is no sin and thus also no sinners. All this is apart from and independent of Jesus Christ. Whenever the law is upheld, not as a means of salvation but to point out sin, it clearly uplifts the cross and shows a person his need of Jesus. When one looks at the law, he realizes that he cannot save himself because he is powerless to keep the law perfectly. He

needs the cleansing power of Christ. Thus, the teaching that uplifts the law of God really emphasizes salvation by grace, whereas the teaching

that eliminates the law makes every person accountable unto himself and does away with the need for God, grace or the cross.

7. Which of these doctrines uplifts the cross?

- ☐ God's seventh-day Bible
- ☐ Sabbath Substituting another day for the Sabbath

NOTE: The seventh-day Sabbath is God's chosen memorial of His creation, redemption, and great gift to mankind: the gift of time to be with Him in a special relationship. Billions of dollars are spent to gain precious time, yet God gives it freely. Those things that are important to us we take time for, those things that are not important to us we say we are too busy for, "don't have the time". We are so important to God that He sets a particular appointment each week in His schedule just to enter into and strengthen that special relationship that He has with us. Is He important enough to us for us to do the same?

By keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, we recognize Jesus as the Creator. By keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, we recognize Him as our Authority and Law-giver. By keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, we recognize Him as our Redeemer.

In six days God created the heaven and the earth and then rested the seventh day. Four thousand years later, Jesus Christ came in the flesh and went to the cross. On the same sixth day of the week, He hung upon the cross and cried, "It is finished". Then He went to the tomb and rested on the same seventh-day Sabbath, now a sign of His finished work of redemption. To introduce the Sabbath on another day of the week, we would be denying His work as Creator, we would be denying His authority as our Law-giver and we would be denying His finished work on the cross as our Redeemer.

Every time God's system of truth is emphasized, we uplift, uphold and exalt the cross of Christ. The cross is the central point of the Christian faith. Let each of us make certain that we are continually uplifting Jesus and the cross by emphasizing and accepting those great truths that center in the cross of Christ.

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Notice now the events of Calvary as our Saviour went through with His great sacrifice to secure our redemption on the cross of Calvary.

**8. What prayer did Jesus pray in the Garden of Gethsemane?
Matthew 26:39, 42**

"But as You _____."