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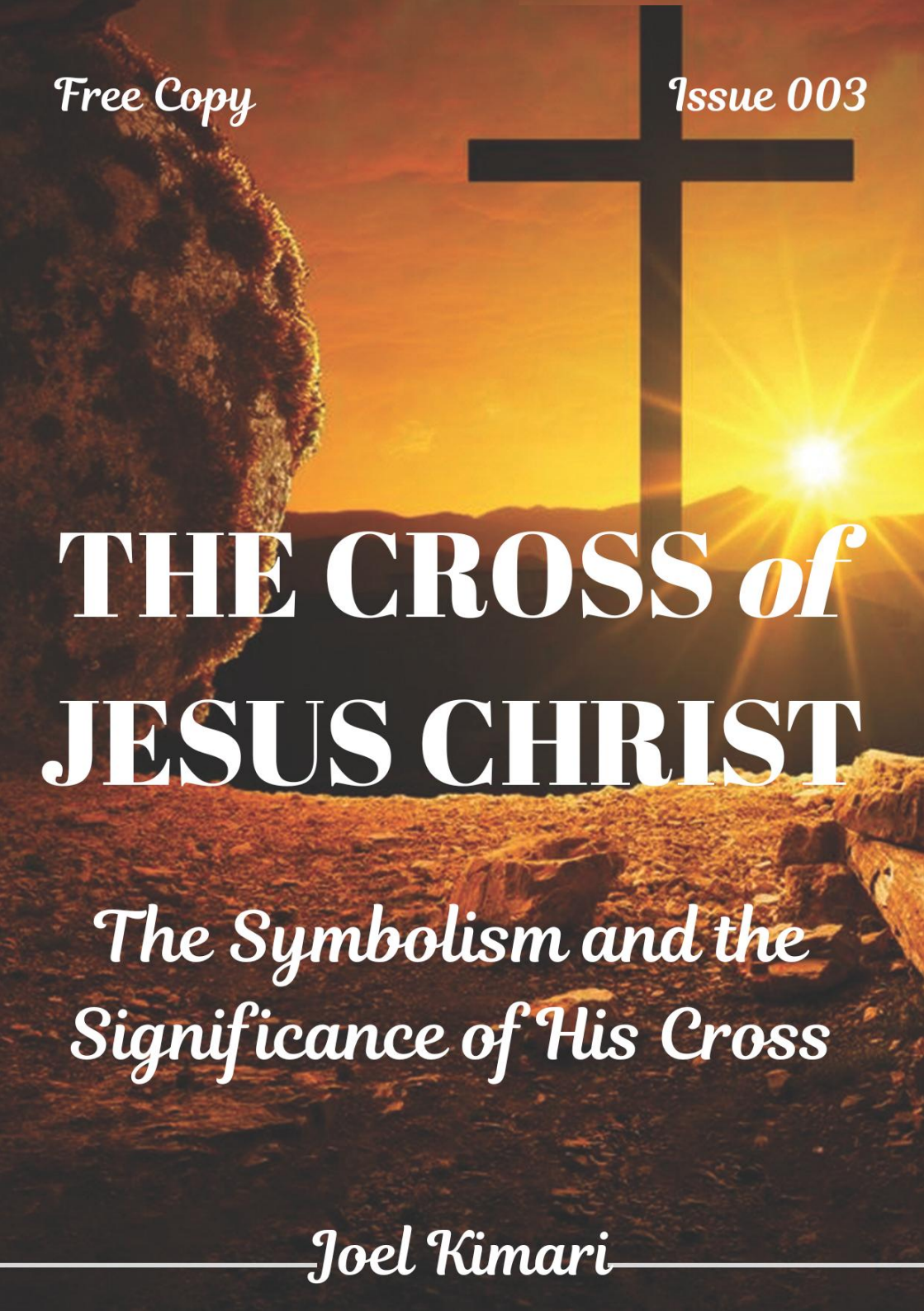

THE CROSS *of* JESUS CHRIST

The Symbolism and the Significance of His Cross

Joel Kimari

The Cross of Jesus Christ

The Symbolism and the Significance of His Cross

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Preface

Man was created to be a relational being, and the highest and most strategic relationship that he must pursue and cultivate is the relationship with his Maker.

The book is written to spark the consciousness of the believer in light of his identity in God, for the edification of the saint of God, and to deepen the knowledge of God among those who seek the Truth. As you read through the pages, may the spirit of understanding be upon you. Amen.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens [outsiders without rights of citizenship], but you are fellow citizens with the saints (God's people), and are [members] of God's household. [Eph. 2: 19 (AMP)]

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always. Shalom.

In the Lord's Service and by the Master's Grace,

Joel Kimari.

THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST

Introduction

The story of the Cross of Jesus Christ is told in so few words in the Bible, but it remains the cornerstone of His redemptive work in relation to mankind. The highlight of His earthly ministry is centered around the events on His Cross. If you take away the events that took place on His Cross, you will have wiped out Eternity's most profound record of the Exploits of Heaven on the earth.

It was a mystery that had been hidden for ages, unknown even to His persecutors. The Cross of Jesus Christ was a display of the infinite Wisdom of God. Had this mystery been revealed to the rulers of His time, they would not have crucified Him (1 Cor. 2: 8). The message of the Cross cannot be embraced by the world because it is a spiritual mystery that cannot be understood by the unregenerate mind.

The Cross of Jesus Christ was not a piece of wood carrying His Body but a school teaching Eternity's most timeless and most profound lessons. It was a place of demonstrating the

power of God. As often as we visit the Cross, we shall see that it was indeed a mystery beyond the comprehension of the human mind and a beauty that glows ever brighter with our every visit.

There were many crosses that had been made and used before the one that carried the Body of Jesus, and many more have been made thereafter, but His Cross was the most significant Cross to have ever been made and used. His Cross was significant, not because of the material it was made of or the carpenter who fashioned it, but because of the One it was carrying and what took place on it.

The teaching of the message of His Cross brings salvation to those who hear and embrace it, and it grants access to the Wisdom and the Power of God. To get an accurate interpretation of the transactions of the Cross will require one to view the activities of the Cross through the eyes of your inner man. The events in the spiritual realm overshadow what happened in the physical realm.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. [1 Cor. 1: 18 (NKJV)]

The message of the Cross is a mystery because it exemplifies two extreme thoughts: the death and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These two extreme thoughts are naturally irreconcilable because they defy all known laws of nature. Understanding this mystery can only come to us by the help of the Holy Spirit, through Whom we can access God's Mind and Wisdom.

The authority of His Cross carries so much power in the believer's life, and it still works. It was not a record of time but of eternity. His Cross symbolizes and signifies twelve things as explained hereunder: An Altar; A Battleground; A Trading Center: A Reconciliation Center; A Gate; A Birthing Place; A Threshing Floor; A Spectacle; A Podium of Substitution; A Throne; A Witness; and A Divine Pattern.

The Symbolism and Significance of His Cross

As we lift our eyes and behold Jesus Christ on His Cross, we must look keenly and listen attentively in order to establish the purpose for which He ascended on that Cross. We will learn eternal lessons that no school or education system on earth can teach. It will expose us to the greatness that we have in Christ Jesus, and it will open us to the eternal well of love, grace, mercy, and victorious living. Hallelujah.

1. An Altar: Eternity's Most Priceless and Inestimable Sacrifice

Sacrifices were instituted by God as a means of granting mankind access to Him. It was one of the avenues God made available for man to worship Him. Sacrifices need an altar where they can be offered. Every sacrifice speaks. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ was measured by the quality of the Blood that He shed on His Cross. Never has so little Blood shed spoken so much as His Blood did.

An altar is a platform of divine engagement. Every altar is strengthened by the level of the sacrifice offered on it. Every sacrifice is offered based on the value attached to that

sacrifice. In the case of Jesus Christ, the value of His sacrifice was His Blood, which was shed for the remission of our sins. The value of His Blood was His Life. The sacrifice of His Life had to be offered in the unlikeliest of places, His Cross.

So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. [Heb. 9: 28a]

He went to the Cross as a Lamb but now reigns supreme as King exalted on high. It was not just a man being slain but a Lamb without blemish and defect. On His Cross, He offered Himself once and for all to satisfy the claims of justice so that through Him, all who believe in Him can be justified before the Father through His precious blood and integrated as members of His Family.

Whereas Christ, having offered the one sacrifice [the all-sufficient sacrifice of Himself] for sins for all time, sat down [signifying the completion of atonement for sin] at the right Hand of God [the position of honor. [Heb. 10: 12 (AMP)]

On the Day of Atonement, under the priesthood of Aaron, the High Priest was appointed to appear once in the Most Holy Place to offer blood sacrifices for his sins and those of

Israel according to the pattern ordained by God. However, the high priest, the sacrifice, and the temple were only a prototype of the perfect example that God had ordained, which was in the Person of Jesus Christ.

On His Cross, He performed His most sacred duties on earth because He was the convergence of the tripartite elements of atonement. He took upon Himself the nature and form of these three elements in order to fulfill all claims made for the redemption of mankind:

I. Jesus Christ was the Temple (John 2: 19);
II. Jesus Christ was the Passover Lamb (1 Cor. 5: 7b); &
III. Jesus Christ was the High Priest (Heb. 9: 11-12).

The sacrifice of His Life was enough to secure our eternal redemption. At that altar, He placed an eternal seal on His triumph over death, the devil, and all the hordes of hell. In His simple cry, "*It is finished,*" the believer stands in victory and dominion over all forces of darkness. The altar of His Cross testifies that He satisfied the demands of eternal justice.

2. A Battleground: Eternity's Most Consequential Battle and Most Decisive Victory

The history of mankind will be incomplete if no mention of the vicious battles and wars that have rocked our world from the very beginning is not captured. In the fight and struggle for power, control, independence, and dominance, man has risen against fellow man. These battles have led to loss of lives, injuries to many, destruction of property, disruption of livelihoods, and irreparable damage to societies.

Every battle ends in the separation of a winning and a losing side. In conventional warfare, the battleground was a well-defined space where combatants from opposing forces confronted each other. There were instances where battles were fought without notice, through unannounced attacks on the opposing side. Wherever a battle takes place, that territory is converted into a battlefield.

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His

triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross. [Col. 2: 15 (AMP)]

Eternity's greatest battle was fought at the Cross of Jesus Christ. Without any physical artillery or weapons, Jesus Christ disarmed the enemy on His Cross. Natural battles are largely fought using all types of sophisticated and advanced weapons, but the battle for our salvation and redemption was fought and won with the weapons of His humility and love.

His death was not a loss but a victory because it is only through dying that He could overcome death. He was the greatest casualty of that battle because for a moment in time, He lost His Life. But it did not end there. The battle that made Him a casualty unveiled Him as a Conqueror and Saviour. By His conquest on His Cross, He demonstrated Superiority over sin, death, and the hordes of hell.

His persecutors believed that He was not able to save Himself from that Cross and even mocked Him, asking Him to save Himself by coming down from the Cross. In the natural, they only saw a man hanging on a cross, but in

the spirit, eternity's most vicious battle was taking place on His Cross. He fought the genesis of every sin and disease, and all powers of darkness, even death, and He won.

Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us]. [Rom. 8: 37 (AMP)]

The Cross of Jesus Christ is the place of our victory, our refuge in times of trouble. Our victory over sin, the devil, the agents of darkness, and even over death was secured with His victory on His Cross. We do not war as the world does– seeking for victory. We only wage warfare to affirm our victory in Christ Jesus against anything that stands in the way of the manifestation of that victory.

3. A Trading Center: Eternity's Priciest Divine Purchase

From ancient times, commerce has formed a critical part of human interactions. Trade has been at the center of human civilization. Before the introduction of money as a legal tender, people were known to exchange goods and services

for other goods and services that they wanted. As a result, trading centers were established in order to facilitate such exchanges.

Without exchange, a market ceases to have meaning. A market offers buyers and sellers the opportunity to exchange items at an agreed value for the goods subject to the transaction. A transaction that does not end in exchange cannot be said to be successful. The parties taking part in the transaction must come into agreement concerning the subject of the transaction before an exchange takes place.

In His Wisdom, the Father identified a cross as the most appropriate trading center to allow for the divine exchange that He had purposed to participate in. Since the fall of man in the garden in Eden, Justice has demanded an eternal separation of God from man. Sin broke man's fellowship with the Father. The Cross of Jesus Christ was the place where God would purchase people back to Himself.

And they sang a new song [of glorious redemption], saying, "Worthy and deserving are You to take the scroll and to break its seals; for You were slain (sacrificed), and with Your

Blood You purchased people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. [Rev. 5: 9 (AMP)]

As Jesus Christ hung on that Cross, He was completing a transaction. His Precious Blood was the only currency in eternity that was sufficient to satisfy the completion of that eternal transaction. It is not the amount of Blood that He shed that matters, but the quality of that Blood that speaks even today up to the highest heavens. His Blood sealed that transaction for eternity.

God performed His part of the transaction. The transaction is complete, but it is sealed with our accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, without which we cannot be partakers of the benefits of that transaction. His Blood was sufficient to purchase us from the ways and dominion of darkness and bring us into the Kingdom of His Beloved Son, to live in Him and for Him and to bring glory to His Holy Name.

You were bought with a price [you were actually purchased with the precious blood of Jesus and made His own]. So

then, honor and glorify God with your body. [1 Cor. 6: 20 (AMP)]

Through His victorious exploits at the Cross, we can become members of the Father's household. Through His Blood shed at the Cross, we are now listed as His special possession. By accepting His Lordship, our bodies are transformed into His habitation, and He can now live in us. We no longer live for ourselves because we live according to His wishes.

4. A Reconciliation Center: Eternity's Greatest Meeting Point and Restoration

Relationships thrive on love, openness, trust, and shared values. Every party in a relationship must commit to playing their part so that the relationship can grow and serve its purpose. For a relationship to reach the heights of its potential, the parties must stay connected and uphold the values and structure that connect and support their relationship.

When God created man, He established a relationship with him. The covenant of that relationship was based on obedience to the commands of God. The moment Adam and Eve violated those commands, the relationship between God and man was broken. Jesus had to come as the last Adam (1 Cor. 15: 45) to restore that relationship.

In His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ was both God and man. This interwovenness of Deity and humanity was part of the mystery of Christ. He operated in fullness as both God and man. He had to come as a man in order to pay the penalty of death that was pending upon man. He came to earth as a Deity because He was the perfect sacrifice the Father would give for the redemption of mankind.

When He was crucified on His Cross, that was the lowest point that the deity part of Him could descend to in His full dealings with man. It was also the highest point that the humanity part of Him could ascend in His full dealings with God. His Cross was the platform for the meeting between God and man. Jesus Christ at His Cross became the meeting point in which God reconciled Himself to man.

Yet Christ has now reconciled you [to God] in His physical body through death, in order to present you before the Father holy and blameless and beyond reproach. [Col. 1: 22 (AMP)]

God has made peace with us through His Cross. The Cross of Jesus Christ reminds the Father that the wedge that separated Him from man has been dealt with. We can now relate freely with God and enjoy every divine privilege that is in Christ Jesus. We are classified as God's heirs and joint heirs with His Son, Jesus Christ (Rom. 8: 17). Hallelujah.

But all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ [making us acceptable to Him] and gave us the ministry of reconciliation [so that by our example we might bring others to Him]. [2 Cor 5: 18 (AMP)]

Having reconciled us to Himself, every believer has now received a ministry: that of reconciliation. Through His victories on His Cross, Jesus Christ has recruited us as His representatives. We are now charged with drawing other men to God by the preaching of the good news. Our lives

must reflect His love, grace, and mercies. All believers are agents of reconciling the world to God.

5. A Gate: Entrance into Glory and Eternity's Highest Position

Gates are openings designed to govern access. As long as a gate is closed, one can neither exit nor enter into a defined space. Any other entry or exit by any other means would be classified as an illegality. A gate is a control mechanism and a system designed to grant approval from one space or level to another. Transitions require an understanding of the concept of gates.

The Cross of Jesus Christ was an eternal gate, through which He entered into realms and heights beyond what words can describe. There was a throne awaiting Him in the highest Heaven, and His Cross was the first gate to His enthronement. That Cross that carried His Body was the route to Glory, and He had to endure it. There is no Glory without the Cross.

Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [Heb. 12: 2]

The Cross brought Him to the grave, which was the second gate towards His coronation. He could not be allowed to ascend into eternity's most hallowed position without victory over death. The Cross precedes the grave, and the grave precedes the throne. His Blood was the key that gave Him victory over the gate of the Cross.

By His victory on the Cross, Jesus Christ claimed His eternal place of honor as the Firstborn from among the dead. His victories at the Cross gave Him the most exalted position in all eternity, earning Him accolades that no spiritual being can ever attain. Through the gate of His Cross, He now carries exceeding glory that is beyond description or comprehension.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the

flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. [Gal. 2: 20]

The Cross is the only way of accessing all the privileges available in Jesus Christ. Death comes before life. His Cross opens us up to access the inheritance that is in Christ Jesus. The door of His Cross leads us to a Person and a Place called Christ Jesus. Through His Cross we die to ourselves before we can begin to live in Him and reign with Him.

And raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. [Eph. 2: 6]

His Cross was an entrance and an opening to an eternal position and vocation. He claimed His position of glory and honor at the right hand of the throne of God. He obtained a vocation of salvation for the sinners, intercession for the saints, and eternal Lordship over all creation. He did not rise and ascend alone, but we also rose and ascended with Him. As He is, so are we (1 John 4: 17) and we are now co-workers with Him (1 Cor. 3: 9).

6. A Birthing Place: The Beginning of Walking in the Newness of Life in Christ Jesus

The usefulness of every tree is measured by the fruits it brings forth. A good tree bears good fruits (Mat. 7: 17). The Cross of Jesus Christ was a tree, figuratively speaking, because He and His Cross had become united the moment He was hung on it (Gal. 3: 13). He was the first fruit of that Cross, the firstborn from among the dead, the first to brave the assaults of the enemy and death, and He emerged victorious.

When a baby is being born in natural ways, the head comes out first, followed by the rest of the body. Jesus Christ stands as the Head of the Church. Every believer is a member of the Church and, therefore, a member of His Body. The Corporate Body of believers was born through the Cross, and so the Church is an extension of Jesus Christ.

He is also the head [the life-source and leader] of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will occupy the first place [He will

stand supreme and be preeminent] in everything. [Col. 1: 18 (AMP)]

Jesus Christ received legitimacy to be the exclusive Way to the Father on account of the demonstrations of His love, grace, and mercy at the Cross. He received a Name greater than any other name, honor beyond description, and glory beyond imagination when He rose from the dead. His victory at the Cross made Him the Head of the Government of His Church.

Through the Cross, the believer is born into the Nature of God. The risen Christ is Lord and the Divine Instrument by which man can access the Life of God. He became the Source of all Life, the Door to the Father, and the Eternal Gate to the Courts of our God. Without Him, new birth cannot take place, and outside Him there is no salvation.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. [2 Cor. *5*: 17]

The Cross inaugurated the era of the reign of the Spirit of God over His people. When God created Adam, He

breathed the breath of life into his nostrils so that he became a living being (Gen. 2: 7). The Spirit of God was the one who brought Jesus Christ back to life (Rom. 8: 11). The Holy Spirit transmits the Life of God to the believer.

Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. [Rom. 6: 4]

The fullness of God in man was made accessible through the victory of Jesus Christ at His Cross. It is a marvelous thing to know that anyone who believes in the Lordship of Jesus Christ can now possess the very Life of God. It is wonderful to know that what Jesus Christ defeated at His Cross, we can defeat if we are truly born after Him.

7. A Threshing Floor: Access to Redemption or Damnation

A threshing floor is a place of separation. It is a place where grain is separated from chaff after a harvest. The Cross of Jesus Christ was a threshing floor. Jesus Christ was hung

between two thieves, not by coincidence but by divine strategy. These three crosses are significant because they represent God's dealings with mankind. Each of the three crosses carries a message that we must decode.

To better grasp this, we have to follow His conversations with the two thieves in order to understand the hidden Wisdom of God that was at work. On His Cross, grace was made available to both men. However, they both responded differently. Grace is the first product of the Cross of Jesus Christ. We see that grace at work even before He died on His Cross.

For both thieves, salvation from eternal damnation was within reach through His grace. We establish that His Cross produces only two outcomes: life or death. His Cross produces these two extremes depending on whether one embraces it or rejects it. The Cross is a threshing floor: a separation point of sheep and goats (Mat. 25: 32).

a. **His Cross Represents Grace**

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. [Titus 2: 11]

Mankind has no escape route from the doom that awaits him unless he embraces Jesus Christ, through Whom an escape and deliverance from that wrath that is to come have been made available. To establish a path to access Him, the Father has availed grace as the path for salvation. That grace for salvation is revealed to all men. His Cross was a representation of the working of that grace in the life of men.

b. The Second Cross Was a Way to Eternal Damnation

For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. [Phil. 3: 18]

The first thief received judgement (damnation) when he questioned the Person of Jesus Christ and His ability to save and forgive. The second cross is representative of the judgments of God that lead to damnation. This is the outcome of those who refuse to embrace the grace He has extended to us. From the threshing floor of His Cross, the second cross was symbolic of chaff that is meant to be discarded.

c. The Third Cross was an Access to Divine Mercy

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. [Heb. 4: 16]

However, the second thief received mercy (acceptance) when he recognized the Person of Jesus Christ and His ability to save and forgive. This Cross is representative of the mercies of God because grace opens the wells of mercy. This has to do with exemption from damnation. From the threshing floor of His Cross, the second cross was symbolic of grain that is ready for good and profitable use.

8. A Spectacle: A Display of Human Failure and a Demonstration of Divine Triumph

This earth is full of places and things that are nothing short of a spectacle. God's creation is in itself a marvel. You only need to look at the rivers, the mountains, and the animals in the wild, and you get a glimpse of what a spectacle everything God created is. The human body is another striking sight,

with its parts and how they work in harmony to support our everyday activities.

What a marvelous spectacle the Cross of Jesus Christ was. Nowhere in eternity was human failure better and expressly demonstrated like on His Cross. As He hung on that Cross, Jesus Christ was exposed to the realities of human limitations, struggles, and failures–that the natural man has no capacity to overcome the authority of death and escape the eternal separation from God.

On the other hand, His Cross was a glorious display of divinity's victory; Jesus Christ was unveiled as the Eternal Ruler over death. Looking at His Physical Body on the Cross, one would have imagined that He had lost the battle of ages. In a display unseen in all eternity, behind what the natural eye was seeing, Jesus Christ made a public spectacle of principalities and powers on His Cross.

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His

triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross. [Col. 2: 15 (AMP)]

The gaze of the Cross brings into focus the thoughts of God for mankind. It is the basis of our encounter with His grace, an expression of His Love and a seal of His eternal victories over sin, death, and the devil. The things the Cross of Jesus Christ witnessed, the things His Cross saw and heard, are beyond explanation in human words. His Cross bears a record and testimony of His eternal divine exploits.

But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. [Gal. 6: 14]

His Cross is a wondrous spectacle, so simple yet carrying the King of kings, so insignificant yet witnessing the historic victory over sin, death, and the devil! The moment our sins were laid on Him, His Father forsook Him. He Who had dwelt with His Father since Eternity was for a moment abandoned to suffer the consequences of our sins. What a wondrous spectacle it was.

On His Cross, Light triumphed over darkness, Love overcame selfishness, and Life defeated death. We shall gaze for ages to come, entering into depths of the mysteries of the death of the Lamb of God and yet not coming to fullness of the amazing spectacle that was His death and resurrection. We shall marvel at the display of the infinite Wisdom of God in the pursuit to be reconciled to mankind.

9. A Podium of Substitution: Divine Exchange and the Unveiling of God in Man

Substitution is an act of replacement with the substitute taking the place of another. You will find many instances in the Bible where substitution took place, from the Garden in Eden to the Cross of Jesus Christ. God orchestrated substitution in numerous cases so as to secure His purposes.

At Eden, God stepped in and performed the substitutionary act of pronouncing the redemption of mankind. At Mt. Moriah, God sent a lamb to die in the place of Isaac, the only son born to Abraham through Sarah. In Egypt, on the

Passover night, He instructed the Israelites to apply the blood of a lamb to secure their lives.

On His Cross, the greatest substitution ever seen took place. The law, which had come through Moses and that had governed the relationship between God and man, had to be replaced with grace and truth through Jesus Christ (John 1: 17). The law was a witness against man, and so by the Cross, Jesus Christ had to die to its power and influence.

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"). [Gal. 3: 13]

Every man born after Adam, except for Jesus Christ, has the power of sin and death working in them. So the law stands in accusation against them. The operations of the law were weak in that the law did not bring man to the heights of fellowship that God had aspired to. In His great love, the Father sent His sinless Son to die in our stead.

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. [Rom. 5: 8]

When He went up on the Cross, He did not just ascend as one Man, but as a representative of all who would believe in Him. He was dying in our place. The condemnation of the law was laid upon Him. He put an end, by His death, to the sacrifices that the Jews had to offer for their sins.

So Christ, having been offered once and once for all to bear [as a burden] the sins of many, will appear a second time [when he returns to earth], not to deal with sin, but to bring salvation to those who are eagerly and confidently waiting for Him. [Heb. 9: 28 (AMP)]

Consequently, the believer can pattern his life around the Lord's Life. Whoever believes in Him belongs to His Father, is an heir of God, and will be glorified with Jesus Christ. Because Jesus Christ faced and defeated death, every believer has access to the same reality.

10. A Throne: The Coronation of the King of Kings and the Sovereign Ruler Over All Creation

A king is identified by the territory that he governs. A throne, which is symbolic of power, position, and function, gives the

king legitimacy to reign. A king and his throne are inseparable. You recall that Pharaoh gave Joseph jurisdiction over the entire government of Egypt save for the throne. Only with regard to the function of the throne was Pharaoh greater than Joseph (Gen. 41: 40).

When Jesus Christ was taken up on that Cross, He ascended as both God and man. The soldiers who oversaw His crucifixion placed a crown of thorns on His head, and they labeled Him as the "King of the Jews," which was only part of the truth. They only saw the physical part of His enthronement on that Cross. They did it in mockery, but under that ridicule, they were affirming His true identity.

In the Spirit, something more beautiful was happening; He was being coronated as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. No king is coronated in secret, but a public function is organized where the monarch is introduced to his subjects. On His Cross, all eternity was drawn to witness His coronation; even powers and principalities that were defeated on that Cross saw Him enthroned as King (Col. 2: 15).

And I, if and when I am lifted up from the earth [on the cross], will draw all people to Myself [Gentiles, as well as Jews]." [John 12: 32 (AMP)]

When He went up on the Cross, He received permission to draw men to Himself and the legal rights to save mankind from eternal damnation. He was enthroned as the King over the human race, Jews and non-Jews. On the Cross, He was displayed as the Saviour of mankind and the King over all creation because all things were created through Him and for Him (Col. 1: 16).

Now He is King, enthroned even at the Father's right hand, affirming that after His resurrection from the dead, He ascended into Heaven and took His place of dominion and authority [Phil. 2: 8-11] as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. To Him now belong all blessings, honor, glory, and adoration from all creation. His Kingdom shall not pass away, and He shall reign as King eternally.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." [Rev. 22: 13]

When He entered into the Father's Presence as a victor over sin, death, and the devil, He entered with everyone who would believe in His death and resurrection. The believer is seated in Christ Jesus in heavenly places because He died, rose from among the dead, and now lives with Him (Eph. 2: 6 & 2 Tim. 2: 11] and has been made a Kingdom of priests to reign on earth (Rev. 5: 10) to the glory of God.

11. A Witness: His Victory Over Sin, Death & the Devil and the Execution of His Divine Will

In every trial there are three parties: the judge, the accuser, and the accused, with either of the last two trying to convince the judge to rule in their favour. The prosecution or the accusing party must present sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the accused is guilty and that the legal penalty attached to their conduct should be applied to the accused. On the other hand, the accused must demonstrate to the court that they are innocent.

Since the fall of man, the devil had an undue advantage against mankind. Sin brought a wedge between God and

man. In His Justice, God could no longer relate with mankind under the same conditions as He did with Adam before the fall. The consequence of sin is death, that is, spiritual separation from God. That is why Jesus Christ had to die on His Cross to pay the penalty of sin, even death.

The Cross of Jesus Christ is one of the evidentiary instruments that He possesses to demonstrate that He paid, in full, the penalty of sin and death. His Cross is one of the witnesses of His victory over sin, death, and the devil. His Cross saw the cruel hand of death assault Him and overcome Him. It also heard eternity's most desperate cry, "My Father, why have you forsaken me?"

Looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the Cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. [Heb. 12: 2]

A will, as a legal document, is prepared by a testator indicating the distribution of his estate upon his death. It only becomes effective after the one who prepared it passes on. The will cannot be enforced as long as the one who

made it is still alive. The estate of the testator is distributed in accordance with the will that he created.

The believer now has a legal right to claim the inheritance that is due to him on account of the testator's death. The will of the new covenant came into force when He died, and all who believe in His rising from among the dead can now partake of the eternal inheritance that is in Christ Jesus.

That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant. [Heb. 9: 15 (NLT)]

The believer therefore has the legal ground to access every inheritance that is made available for him in Christ Jesus. Every promise that God has made to the believer can now be accessed through the agency of faith. The Cross of Jesus Christ stands as a legal instrument in eternity, affirming that He died and has given the believer legal rights in Himself.

12. A Pattern: Self-Denial, Taking Up Your Cross, and Following Him

The cross is a symbol of self-denial. Jesus Christ came from glory to die for the sins of mankind. He gave up His Life on His own will because nobody could take it from Him (John 10: 18). He gave up all His rights as the Son of God so that He could die in the place of mankind. His Cross represents the ultimate price of the power of sin, even death.

His Cross unveiled a pattern: self-denial and death precede the access and the enjoyment of His Life. We cannot follow Him effectively and achieve the greatness that He has ordained for us if we do not deny ourselves and carry our crosses and follow Him. This was His pattern, and every believer is to emulate it.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. [Mat. 16: 24-25]

We do not just take up the cross to follow Him. We take up the cross as a symbol of our acceptance of death so that we can live in Him and for Him. We cannot follow Him if we are still dominated by the sinful nature. The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus remains foreign until we die, on the cross, to the law of sin and death.

When we die to ourselves, we take up after Him. We become like Him. We die to our passions, our ambitions, our preferences, our desires, and our longings in exchange for His. All our living is attached to His Life. We become objects that seek to fulfill His purpose on earth. Jesus Christ now lives in us, and we live His Life by faith in Christ Jesus.

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me. [Gal. 2: 20]

We no longer live for ourselves. Just as Jesus Christ lived to please the Father, the believer also lives to please the Father. The cross shows that we ceased living for ourselves the moment we accepted following Jesus Christ. Our

assignment is to project His Character and Nature to all creation and do all that He has called us to do on earth.

Final Words

At The Cross of Jesus Christ...

He died so that we may live.

He was poor so that we may be rich.

He endured so that we may be victorious.

He was in sorrow so that we may be in joy.

He was in shame so that we may be in glory.

He was despised so that we may be honoured.

He carried our sickness so that we may be in good health.

He was abandoned by the Father so that we can be accepted.

Epilogue

The Cross is God's invention to open the gate of accessing Him. Until we embrace the reality of His Cross, the authority of His Cross, and what His Cross symbolizes for

us, everything mentioned above will remain theoretical. It can only become experiential when Jesus Christ is both Lord and Saviour. Until we accept to be under His Government, the Cross will not produce the positive outcome that He had determined it to produce in our lives. We must renounce our sins and embrace His Lordship and live in Him. Hallelujah.

Sinner's Confession

Father God, I thank You for loving me even when I was still in sin. I also thank You for Jesus Christ, for His death and resurrection from among the dead. I confess that I have not been living right with You. I ask for Your mercy, forgiveness, and deliverance from the power of sin. From this moment on, I ask that You come, together with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and make Your dwelling place in my heart. I renounce sin, and from this day forward, I confess that Jesus Christ is Lord in my life and that I am born of God. Amen.

By making this confession, you have allowed Jesus Christ into your heart, and you are now a believer, born after God.

The next thing is to seek water baptism to affirm this reality: that you are dead to sin and the world, and the life you are now living is the Life of Jesus Christ. Ask God to grant you the gift of His Holy Spirit, Who will help you in your walk with Him. Exercise yourself unto godliness by reading the Word, offering prayers to God, and uniting yourself with a fellowship that believes in Jesus Christ. May His grace be with you eternally. Shalom.

END

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The Cross of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ and His Cross were one. The highlight of His earthly ministry is centered around the events on His Cross.

If you take away the events that took place on His Cross, you will have wiped out Eternity's most profound record of the Exploits of Heaven on the earth.

This booklet examines the symbolism and significance of the timeless and most profound works of Jesus Christ on His Cross.

Joel Kimari is a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, His lifestyle and His teachings. Through writing, he takes honor in communicating the Wisdom and the Intelligence of God.