



# **What is the Cross?**

**Adrian Ebens**



Adrian Ebens, 2024

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The Spirit of God was quite evident in the giving of this presentation. The thoughts contained in it have large ramifications to the understanding of the gospel. May the Spirit of Christ bless you as you contemplate the principles of the true Cross of Christ.

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# WHAT IS THE CROSS?

## **Opening Prayer:**

**Pr. Adrian:** Father, we give You thanks for this blessed Sabbath. Thank You for the double portion of Your Spirit. Thank You for the brothers and sisters that have come to be with us and those that are watching around the world. Lord, the Apostle Paul said that he determined to know nothing among us, save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. I pray that we would understand truly what this means, because the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him. And Your thoughts are not our thoughts. So help us to really understand what the Cross is and what impact this has in understanding Your character. And we thank You, Father, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## **What is the Cross?**

I saw someone make this sign [sign of a cross]. Do we think of a piece of wood, as the Cross? Or as Lorriane said, a torture stake. Is that what we think of? Do we know what the Cross is?

Now concerning things offered to idols: We know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies. **And if anyone**

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**thinks that he knows anything, he knows nothing yet as he ought to know.** (1 Corinthians 8:1-2)

That's a bit of a paradox. If you think you know something, you know nothing yet as you ought to know. Do we know something?

**Narelle:** We think we do.

**Pr. Adrian:** We think we do. Those of us who understand the seven churches – Laodicea – what does Laodicea think?

**Audience:** Knows everything.

**Pr. Adrian:** Knows everything: “rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;” does not know that it's wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked (the best one of all). (Rev. 3:17).

“**For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,**” says the LORD. (Isaiah 55:8)

Well, that's everybody else, but God's ways are like mine, aren't they? God thinks like me.

“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:9)

### **Human Definitions of the Cross**

So let's now have a look at the Cross. We'll look at some human definitions of the Cross. This is from *gotquestions.org*. I thought I'd just go and look it up and see what other people think the Cross is.

In Christianity, **the cross is the intersection of God's love and His justice.** Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

That's one definition. And it goes on and says this:

God the Father sent His one and only Son into the world to take on human flesh and to be the Savior of His people. Born of a virgin, Jesus avoided the curse of the fall that infects all other human

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beings. [Did He? Did Jesus avoid the curse of the fall?]. As the sinless Son of God, He could provide the unblemished sacrifice [That who requires?] that God requires.

God required death for sin.

**God's justice demanded judgment and punishment for sin; God's love moved Him to send His one and only Son to be the propitiation for sin.** (<https://www.gotquestions.org/meaning-of-the-cross.html>)

So who was it that needed the Cross, according to this statement?

**Audience:** God.

**Pr. Adrian:** God needed the Cross because His justice demanded death; demanded justice be satisfied. So the Cross is the satisfaction of God's justice. It is the appeasement of His wrath. That's what Christianity teaches the Cross is.

Another statement. This is from *Christianity.com*. Where else would you go?

It is hard to overestimate the importance of what happened at the cross. **On the cross, Jesus dealt with my sin, cancelling my indebtedness and freeing me to live.**

(<https://www.christianity.com/wiki/jesus-christ/what-is-the-significance-of-the-cross.html>)

Indebtedness to who? To God. Are you familiar with this song?

In Christ alone, who took on flesh.  
Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to say.  
**Till on that cross as Jesus died.**  
**The wrath of God was satisfied.**

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Really? Is that what happened on the Cross? The wrath of God was satisfied?

**For every sin on Him was laid.  
Here in the death of Christ I live.**

The wrath of God was satisfied. You know, the Presbyterian church wrote to the author of this song, and they asked if they could change that line to “The love of God was magnified,” and he said, “No, no, no.”

Classic Calvinist theology about what the death of the Cross is about. The wrath of God was satisfied in the death of the Cross. Isn't this sung everywhere around the world in Christian circles? And this is what we're taught. This is the human understanding of the Cross.

So the human definition of the Cross:

1. The Cross is a one-off event.

The purity of the divinity of Christ was required in order to satisfy God's wrath and to be a perfect sacrifice. It was a one-off event that occurred at one point in human history.

2. The Cross satisfied God's justice for sin.

God was the one that was angry; because of our sin, He needed satisfaction. Jesus met that satisfaction.

It took place in one 24-hour period. So, the Cross is a 24-hour or just under 24 hours, if we take it from when He went into the garden of Gethsemane, maybe 21 hours until 3:00 the next afternoon. The Cross is a 21-hour event in which God's wrath is poured out upon His Son, and He is tortured and butchered in order for us to have forgiveness of sins.

3. And the Cross reveals God's love in giving His Son up to death for us, in taking our place of death.

So, God's anger at sin is matched by His love. To give His Son to die in our place, so rather than butchering us, He butchers Him.

## Human Definition of the Cross

1. The Cross is a one off event
2. The Cross satisfied God's justice for sin
3. The Cross reveals God's love in giving His Son up to death for us in taking our place of death.

Time Length of this Cross



**Mercy, tenderness, and parental love are seen to blend with holiness, justice, and power. GC652**

**Tony:** Paganism.

**Pr. Adrian:** Is that Paganism? Isn't that what the pagans do? But this is "Christian" teaching. This is Christianity's definition of the Cross everywhere: God's justice needs to be satisfied. We see in *The Great Controversy*, p. 652, (and we'll come back to this),

Mercy, tenderness, and parental love **are seen...**

What does that mean? Seen by who?

**Tony:** Perceived.

**Pr. Adrian:** Perceived, understood by us.

...to blend with holiness, justice and power. (*The Great Controversy*, 652)

God's wrath and God's love are blended on the Cross, and they are seen by us to satisfy God's justice and to give us mercy. This is what the whole world believes that the Cross is.



## Jesus' Definition of the Cross

So now, let's have a look at Jesus' definition of the Cross. Would that be a good idea?

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.**" (Matthew 16:24-25)

"And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." (Luke 14:27)

Jesus defines the Cross as self-denial and self-sacrifice for the Lord's sake.

So let's follow this track that Jesus is offering. Christianity says the Cross is a 24-hour one-off event; the satisfaction of justice; God's wrath satisfied. And in order for His justice to be satisfied, His love gives up His Son to satisfy His justice. Whereas Jesus is saying the Cross, the definition of the Cross is self-denial and self-sacrifice for the Lord's sake. Denying yourself, denying what is even rightfully yours in order to be a blessing to other people. A very different definition of the Cross. Look in the Bible. Look through all the words "Cross" where Jesus speaks and or the apostles speak, and it's very different from what Christianity teaches. How could we get this so wrong? Well, as many of us are learning, there's a lot of things we've been taught in this life that are dead wrong.

## Paul's Definition of the Cross

**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me:** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. (Galatians 2:20, KJV)

What is that definition of the Cross? What does it mean to be crucified with Christ?

**Audience:** Self-denial.

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**Pr. Adrian:** Self-denial. When you hear a rumour coming back to you about somebody saying something about you that's untrue and unfair, what does self do at that moment?

**Audience:** Defend, retaliate.

**Pr. Adrian:** How do they dare to say that? Is that self-denial? No, it's self-defence. We all know it. We're all familiar with it.

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, **by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.** (Galatians 6:14, KJV)

Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world... For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."  
(1 John 2:15-16, KJV)

Refusing to participate...Do you remember as young people 'Saturday night fever'? Do you remember having 'Saturday night fever'? "The world's leaving me behind! I don't want to be left behind." As a follower of Christ: I turn my back on the world. I do not participate in the laughter and mirth and sensual indulgence of the world. I follow Christ. I keep my body under, through the grace of Jesus Christ. This is the Cross. The Cross is a daily event.

I protest by your rejoicing... I die daily. (1 Corinthians 15:31, KJV)

This is the Cross. The Cross has very little to do with a piece of wood. The piece of wood on which Christ died is simply the supreme manifestation of what Christ had been doing His whole life. It was the exclamation mark on a whole life that was a Cross; and there's a big difference.

And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross.  
(Philippians 2:8, KJV)

The humbling of Himself and becoming obedient unto death is the Cross. The actual death on the Cross is only an exclamation mark of a

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whole life that was lived this way. We need to differentiate between these two. Again, the Cross, according to Christ and Paul, is self-denial and self-sacrifice for the Lord's sake at all times.

And what about this? Paul again, speaking in Colossians,

**And, having made peace through the blood of his cross...**

Doesn't that sound like the traditional understanding of the Cross? How did He make peace through the blood of His Cross? Notice carefully what Paul says

...by him **to reconcile all things unto himself**; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. (Colossians 1:20, KJV)

How did Christ reconcile things unto Himself; both things in earth and in heaven? Were there things in heaven that needed to be reconciled? Were there questions in the angels' minds? Yes, there was.

And what does it say next?

**And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.**  
(Colossians 1:21, KJV)

Who is alienated from who? Are we alienated from God, or is God alienated from us?

**Audience:** We are from God.

**Pr. Adrian:** We are alienated from God. So the blood of the Cross reconciles us and allows us to be un-alienated to God. The Cross did not satisfy God and reconcile Him to us because of our sin. The Cross spoke to us in a language that we understood and reconciled us to Him; and gave us the belief that God's love was for us and that He would freely forgive us. We were the ones that needed to be convinced, not God. God has never been alienated from us.

So the way He made peace is peace in the heart of the one that had no peace. God had peace. We didn't. There's no rest for the wicked (Isa. 57:20). So He made peace for us. The Cross event was required to

reconcile us to God, not God to us. He was not alienated from us. We were alienated from Him and needed the blood of the Cross to reconcile us to Him. We needed to see the blood; we needed to put our hands in the side of Jesus Christ and prove that it was done.

### **God Needs No Appeasement**

This is a beautiful quote by E. J. Waggoner. This is such an illuminating statement, how blessed we are by the writings of E. J. Waggoner. He wrote this in 1893 at the height of the 1888 message.

“But,” some will say, “You have made the reconciliation all on the part of men, **I have always been taught that the death of Christ reconciled God to man; that Christ died to satisfy God’s justice, and to appease Him.**” Well, we have left the matter of reconciliation just where the Scriptures have put it; and **while they have much to say on the necessity for man to be reconciled to God, they never once hint of such a thing as the necessity for God to be reconciled to man.** To intimate the necessity for such a thing is to bring a grave charge against the character of God.

And this is why the subject of the Cross is at the heart of the subject of the character of God; and our whole understanding of justice, our whole understanding of reconciliation and atonement is all bound up in the Cross. The Cross is the great centre-piece of understanding the entire gospel story. And, of course, everyone would agree with this, but let us look a bit more deeply.

Now, notice what Waggoner goes on to say.

To intimate the necessity for such a thing is to bring a grave charge against the character of God. **The idea...**

Which idea? The idea that God needed to be satisfied; that God needed blood in order for His justice to be satisfied. This idea...

**...has come into the Christian Church from the Papacy, which in turn brought it from Paganism [what Tony said], in which the only idea of God was of a being whose wrath must be appeased**

by sacrifice. (E.J. Waggoner, *Present Truth UK*, September 21, 1893, p. 386.7)

This is absolute Paganism, and therefore, is it a little bit too quick of me to consider the entire Christian religion as a pagan religion? Is that unfair?

**Audience:** No, it's a big step though.

**Pr. Adrian:** Who can hear these things? This is a hard saying! Who can hear it?

**Audience:** Including the Seventh-day Adventist domination?

**Pr. Adrian:** It includes all of the denominations, because they all hold to this idea, that God's justice needed to be satisfied and appeased by the blood of Christ. Projecting our human lust for blood onto God Himself. We project onto God that which we desired and we needed. And so, we need to unpack this a little bit more. The implications of this could not be more dramatic, and they affect every other aspect of the gospel.

### **The Cross a Revelation of God's Pain**

Hopefully, many of you will be familiar with this statement. This statement only makes sense when you take the biblical definition of the Cross, as self-denial and self-sacrifice through an entire life.

Those who think of the result of hastening or hindering the gospel think of it in relation to themselves and to the world. Few think of its relation to God. Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator.

So within Jesus' definition of the Cross, who is it that hangs upon a Cross every day?

**Audience:** Jesus.

**Pr. Adrian:** Not only Jesus but who else? His Father is on a Cross every day, in His self-denial and His self-sacrifice, in continuing this human experiment, this human situation. He could have ended it a long time ago if He were like us, but thank God He's not like us.

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All heaven suffered in Christ's agony; but that suffering did not begin or end with His manifestation in humanity. **The Cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. Every departure from the right, every deed of cruelty, every failure of humanity to reach his ideal brings grief to Him.** (*Education*, 263.1)

It doesn't say, *brought* grief to Him. Our Father and His Son are not like men who work in the abattoir. What happens to men that work in abattoirs? They become hardened. To the hardened soldier on the battle field, who, after killing thousands of other men, thinks nothing of killing and destroying. He has no feeling. Or the poor paramedic having scraped up people's bodies. To keep his own sense of stability, he has to harden himself to what he is doing, in order to function.

God does not harden Himself at any time. Every day His agony is fresh. Every day His agony is new through each trauma that He experiences on this world.

A little bit further, in the next paragraph in *Education*,

Our world is a vast lazar [or sick] house [hospital], a scene of misery that we dare not allow even our thoughts to dwell upon. Did we realize it as it is, the burden would be too terrible. **Yet God feels it all.** (*Education*, 263.2)

All of it!

I watched a documentary of some young women in Ukraine being trafficked as prostitutes, and the slavery that they were under. It just brought me to tears. These poor women. The abuse that they're living under – God feels it all. All of it. All their agony; their heart cry; this sorrow. And if we would allow ourselves to think upon this, what does it say? "The burden would be too terrible." It would crush us.

And therefore, we need a Cross of 24 hours to blot out the true Cross. Hidden in plain sight. Hidden in the very spot where we think the Cross is, is a narrative of the Cross that blots out the true Cross because the true Cross is too bright for us to deal with. The true Cross requires of us

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a complete transformation of life. The true Cross causes all of our dreams and aspirations to be laid at the feet of Christ. And if we have any aspiration or dream for ourselves outside of that, we must give up the true Cross, and we must take hold of the Cross of Catholicism and Protestantism. That's the only way you can maintain living a life in this world, untroubled by what Jesus and the Father are suffering.

Jesus assures His disciples of God's sympathy for them in their needs and weaknesses. Not a sigh is breathed...

Is that true? How many times have you gone, "Oh, this is so hard." God feels it every time you say that. Every tear you shed, He feels it; it's coming down His own face.

**Not a sigh is breathed, not a pain is felt, not a grief pierces the soul, but the throb vibrates to the Father's heart.** (*The Desire of Ages*, 356.2)

Not just His mind, not just a cognitive awareness. It touches Him in His heart; all of human creation! With that much agony, going up and hitting on the Father's heart; wouldn't you cut the umbilical cord? Wouldn't you cut it off and let it go? Wouldn't you abort this whole process? It's not worth it. Is it?

### **How Vast is the Cross?**

The Cross covers more than 7000 years. I have a cross [on the screen] before the beginning [of the world] because of sin in heaven; and at the end of the 1000 years. Throughout the 1000 years Christ is still giving Satan and his angels life; He still has to endure their wicked and evil thoughts. And the dying gasp of the wicked at the end of the 1000 years – I tell you the truth, the greatest suffering that Christ will ever suffer is at the end of the 1000 years. Is that true? All of His children who rejected Him. His greatest suffering is yet to come. His Cross, the greatest Cross, because He is denied the joy of having His wayward children coming and living with Him forever. He has to live with the thought of never seeing them again. And that is the greatest trial of all, for Christ! But as He says, "Not as I will, but as You will." Who is He saying that to? To

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the Father, or is He representing the Father? Anyway, that's another whole story.

**How Vast is the Cross?**

Covers more than 7000 years

End of 1000 years

The cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. Ed 263

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life **of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.** Rev 13:8

But the Cross covers more than 7000 years. Not 24 hours. Not a satisfaction of Divine justice. But 7000 years of utter agony and hell. And why would He do this? Because He loves us. Because He loves us. He cannot let go. How easily do we let go of relationships and people that are close to us? Our Father never lets go, never, unto the very end when the other party lets Him go and wants no more of Him.

The Cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God. (Education, 263)

A 7000-year Cross, with implications for eternal consequences. Can you think 500 million years into the future, a time when God goes into a corner and He remembers His children? The Cross is there forever. The scars are never removed from the hands and side of Christ. They're always there, forever and ever, of what might have been, of what might have come of all of His children.

All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book **of Life of the Lamb slain...**

From when?



**...from the foundation of the world.** (Revelation 13:8)

This is, of course, a reference to the world. The Cross existed before this in heaven, but from the foundation of the world, Christ was slain because the Cross is self-denial and self-sacrifice. That's what it is.

I meditated upon this quote [*Education*, 263], I praised God, and I started to think about Him. And as you start to think about Him, your heart goes out to Christ. You start to think about His suffering; you start to think about His agony, and your thoughts shift from yourself and the agony that you're experiencing, and you start to think about His suffering and His agony. And in that moment, life comes into the soul, and you stop thinking about yourself, and you start thinking about Him.

### **The Extent of the Cross**

And as I was thinking about this, I remember thinking, "Lord, I'm overwhelmed. I'm overwhelmed by this thought. Are you suffering the agonies of crucifixion every day? Surely not!" And then I read this statement:

"And they also which pierced Him." These words apply not only to the men who pierced Christ when He hung on the cross of Calvary, but to those who by evil-speaking and wrong-doing are piercing Him today. **Daily He suffers the agonies of crucifixion...** (*Signs of the Times*, January 28, 1903 par. 8)

And you think the smacking in the head, the ripping out of the beard, the spitting in the face, the back bled raw, carrying that horrendous cross – every day He's going through this. It's too much to take in. And we have a song that says, "You'll never wear the crown of thorns again." The idea of Jesus sitting by the pool with his Ray-Bans on, sipping an orange juice, waiting for His Father to give Him the command to come down and pick up His wayward children. Sorry, that's not what's happening. Calvary is happening every day; every day without fail.

The Via Dolorosa is 7000 years long. 7000 years long. It's a long way.

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...Daily men and women are piercing Him by dishonouring Him, by refusing to do His will. (ST, January 28, 1903 par. 8)

And what is His will? His will is His commandments and His statutes, and His judgements. That's what His will is. And when we refuse to do His will, it pierces Him. When He looks at where we are, where we might have been, it pierces Him. We know this with our own children. We look at our children; we see where they might be, and we see where they are, and it hurts because we want the best for our children. We're no different from our Father in this respect. This is how He feels.

But surely, isn't there some Paracetamol that God can take, some wine that He could drink, some gall of vinegar that He can take, in order to stop this agony of His soul? There is none. Nothing.

And this is where I found myself to be like the men that stood at the foot of the Cross, but not with the same motivation. My motivation is, "Jesus save yourself! Come down from this Cross! Deliver yourself!" My self-defensive mechanism within me projects itself onto Him. "Come off this Cross! This is an offence to You and to me!" And I've said to the Lord many times, "Just let us all go into oblivion. We are scum, and You are pure and holy. Just give up on us. We're not worth it." Are we? Are we worth it?

**Tony:** He said so.

**Pr. Adrian:** He said so. It's the only reason. And if He says so, I choose to believe it. Because, in my heart, I'm tempted not to believe it. According to my own mechanism and my own judgment system, I can't believe this. We are a complete waste of space. And that's what Satan tells me every day. "You, Adrian, are a complete waste of space. You're an utter hypocrite. You are a liar and a deceiver." That's what he tells me all the time. "You preach all these wonderful things about the character of God, and you don't live up to it. You're an absolute hypocrite!" Well, my Father still loves me. My Father still treasures me, even though I don't understand how He could. Except that I still love my children, even though they do things that I don't like, and I know will hurt them. So I hang on, and I believe.

You know, it's funny because I remember hearing this song, and it's in the strangest place. I find the strangest things in the brass of this world. And it's the song of a young man whose saying, "Tell me how to be in this world. Tell me how to breathe in and feel no hurt." Every breath is agony. What of Christ? How does He breathe in this world? Every breath he breathes is utter and complete agony. Why wouldn't He just cut it off? And that's where my heart is captured by Him. The love of Christ compels me. When I begin to look at this Cross, it's so bright.

It's so bright. And that is why when the whole world looks at this Cross at the end of the 1000 years, and the whole panorama of this world's history has played out, we all see the Cross and the absolute self-sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The weight of condemnation upon the wicked will destroy them. They will never be able to endure it. Their selfish soul will be utterly crushed by a character that is so pure, so non-violent, so harmless and undefiled. There is no stopping it. The simple frequency and vibration that emits from Christ will be such an earthquake in the soul of the wicked that it will destroy them.

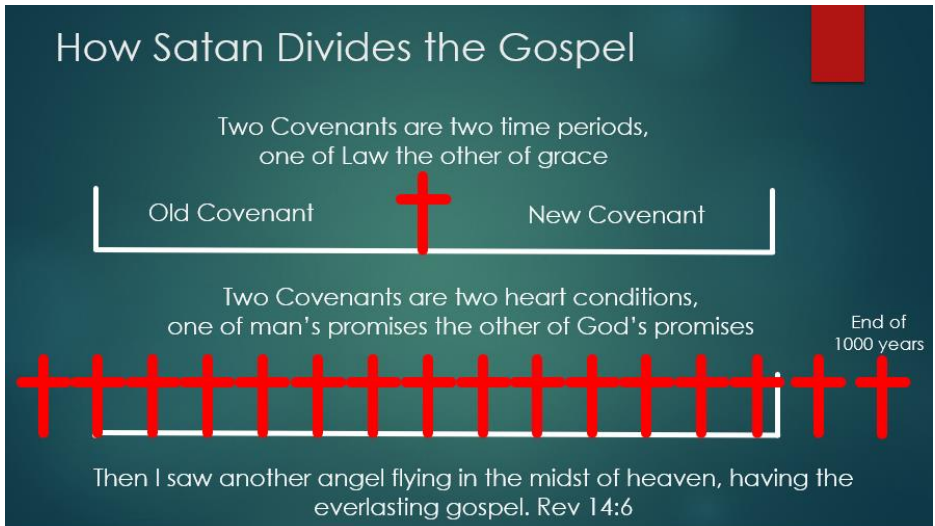
### **How Satan Hides the Cross**

This is how Satan hides the Cross. An event of 24 hours covers this all up and hides it. The doctrine of penal substitution is a masterpiece of deception, but God met us in our deception for us to have peace with God. He had to meet us where we were for us to be reconciled.

But now He invites us into the Most Holy Place, to begin to comprehend the true magnitude of the Cross of Christ. And when you understand that this is how much God was willing to pay for a human soul, you cannot seriously entertain the belief that God kills people. It's impossible. It's utterly impossible! This much agony for one human soul. He would do this for one person? If you invest such multi-trillion dollars' worth of money into one person and then say, "I'm tired of you; you can burn." That's insane! It's completely mental! Because Christianity clings to this barbarous cross, this Roman splintered piece of junk, to hide the true Cross of Jesus Christ.

## How Satan Divides the Gospel

And this is now where we see how Satan divides the gospel. Because you have to understand that once you believe this truth of the 7000-year Cross, then you no longer can simply believe in the 24-hour Cross. It doesn't make sense anymore. If the Cross is one 24-hour event then you have the Old Covenant before the Cross and the New Covenant after the Cross. This 24-hour Cross doesn't allow this 7000-year Cross. It makes it completely useless, and it destroys it completely. The two covenants are two time periods, one of law, the other of grace. This is all part of Satan's deception. Thank you Augustine, for manifesting this deception on the earth for us! This is a complete deception! Because this 7000-years Cross makes the 24-hour Cross look utterly ridiculous. There can be no division, because the Cross is consistent all the way through; it has never changed. It's been the same from before the foundation of the world.



In this 7000-years Cross, the two covenants are two heart conditions; one of man's promises, the other of God's promises. This is completely different. This is what started to come to us in 1888. And as a people,

we slammed the door in the face of Christ and said, “Get out! We’re clinging to this lie of a 24-hour Cross. We’re hanging on to this. We are not going to surrender to You. ‘We will not have this *man* to reign over us.’ (Luke 19:14)” But this is what Jones and Waggoner tried to teach us.

**Tony:** She (Ellen White) said 30 times we treated this message just like the Jews did of Christ. 30 times!

**Pr. Adrian:** 30 times. Thank you. The spirit of Minneapolis was the spirit that was manifest at the Cross, she says. And we, in holding on to this, false covenant system, prove that we are the sons and daughters of those who rejected the message of 1888. Aren’t we? We whiten up the sepulchres, but we are sons and daughters of these people, and we continue to perpetuate the lie to hide the 7000-year Cross. This truth grasped and held onto cannot allow you to live the way you have before. You will change. You must change if you behold this 7000-year Cross because the love of Christ constrains us.

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel. (Revelation 14:6)

Having what? Not this gospel (24-hour Cross); this gospel (7000-years Cross)! And when did it come? It came after 1844. After the Jews went into Babylon, they rejected God, and He knew it would take 2300 revolutions of the sun and moon for it to come back to the same position. Did you know that for the sun and the moon to be in the same place in the sky? (Amazing! This is in F. L. Sharp’s, *Antiochus or Rome.*) It takes 2300 years for the sun and the moon to get exactly back to the same place as it was in the sky. That blows my mind. Not as much as this 7000-year Cross, but it still blows my mind. God knew it would take us 2300 years to return to the same place and then choose a different direction.

### **The Origin of the Cross**

So let’s come to the origin of the Cross. This will set us up for the second presentation.

## WHAT IS THE CROSS?

Satan in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son.

Oh look here! "Next in honor to God's dear Son." Who was the third in heaven? We know!

His countenance, like those of other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. His forehead was high and broad, showing a powerful intellect. His form was perfect; his bearing was noble and majestic. A special light beamed in his countenance, and shone around him brighter and more beautiful than around the other angels; ...

Why? This is evidence that he knew more of the character of God than they did. Not that God put this special light on him, and flicked it on, "Oh, look at Lucifer. He's like a Christmas tree."

...yet Jesus, God's dear Son, had the pre-eminence over all the angelic host. He was one with the Father before the angels were created. **Satan was envious of Christ, and gradually assumed command which devolved on Christ alone.** (*The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol.1, 17.1*)

This is the beginning of the Cross. This is where the Cross started.

The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that he might in presence of all the angels confer a special honor upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels were gathered around them. **The Father...**

What does it say?

**...then made known that it was ordained by...**

A committee of three? One individual. The Father alone. The Ancient of Days.

**...Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself;...**

Did they know that before? Was it true before? Yes, of course, it was true before, but did they know it? No, they didn't. Until God told them.

## WHAT IS THE CROSS?

...so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. **The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father.**

Was that true before? Yes, it was. Did they know it? No, they didn't. Made known.

**His Son He had invested with authority to command the heavenly host.**

What is it that allows Christ to command the heavenly host? Is it His omnipotence, His omniscience? No. It's the Father's command. The Father invested Him with these things.

Especially was His Son to work in union with Himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon the earth. His Son would carry out His will and His purposes, but would do nothing of Himself alone. [Beautiful!] The Father's will would be fulfilled in Him. (*The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol.1, 17.2*)

**Satan was envious and jealous of Jesus Christ.** Yet when all the angels bowed to Jesus to acknowledge His supremacy and high authority and rightful rule, Satan bowed with them; but **his heart was filled with envy and hatred.**

And what? So now envy is turning to hate. And what does hatred turn to? Murder. "You are of *your* father the devil" (John 8:44). We will get to that one.

Christ had been taken into the special counsel of God in regard to His plans, while Satan was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he permitted to know, the purposes of God. (*The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol.1, 18.1*)

Why was he not permitted to know? He was not permitted to know because he did not know the Father's character as Christ knew His Father. That's the only reason. He did not know, and he could not comprehend it in the same way. And that's why He couldn't give it to

him. It's not an arbitrary decision: "No, we don't want him." It's not arbitrary at all. It's simply the truth that the Father, as we point out in the book *Divine Risk*, the Father, as it says, He dandled His Son upon His knees. He raised His Son. He taught His Son everything He knew. He cradled Him in His breast, and His Son was the perfect expression of Himself.

That's why Christ was the only Being in the universe to whom He could express Himself because He was His second self. And He had the capacity, through His divinity, to comprehend. Just like Eve was the only one in the garden who could comprehend Adam, because just as much as Adam might want to unburden all of his soul to the zebra, it just wouldn't get it. That's what we're talking about.

But Christ was acknowledged sovereign of heaven, His power and authority to be the same as that of God Himself. **Satan thought that he himself was a favorite in heaven among the angels. He had been highly exalted; but this did not call forth from him gratitude and praise to his Creator.** He aspired to the height of God Himself. He gloried in his loftiness. He knew that he was honored by the angels. He had a special mission to execute. He had been near the great Creator, and the ceaseless beams of glorious light enshrouding the eternal God, had shone especially upon him. Satan thought how angels had obeyed his command with pleasurable alacrity. Were not his garments light and beautiful? **Why should Christ thus be honored before himself?** (*The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol.1, 18.1*)

This is the Cross. Satan was affronted by God. It was unjust that Christ should be honoured above himself, and therefore, God's injustice towards Lucifer needed atonement.

He [Satan] left the immediate presence of the Father, **dissatisfied, and filled with envy against Jesus Christ.** Concealing his real purposes, he assembled the angelic host. He introduced his subject, which was himself. **As one aggrieved, he related the preference God had given Jesus to the neglect of himself.** He told them that



henceforth, all sweet liberty the angels had enjoyed was at an end. For had not a ruler been appointed over them, to whom they from henceforth must yield servile honor? He stated to them that he had called them together to assure them that he no longer would submit to this invasion of his rights and theirs; that never would he again bow down to Christ; that **he would take the honor upon himself which should have been conferred upon him, and would be the commander [or god] of all who would submit to follow him in and obey his voice.** (*The Spirit of Prophecy, Vol.1, 18.2*)

So, what was it? According to Satan, God elevating His Son and making Him equal with Himself, and not doing this for Lucifer, was a sin that demanded punishment. God sinned, according to Lucifer, and the only way this sin could be atoned was through the death of the Son of God. As we will see.

### **Hatred leads to violence and murder.**

Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:15)

By the abundance of your trading... (Ezekiel 28:16)

What do we mean by trading? The doctrines that he trafficked, the lies that he told the angels.

**...you became filled with violence from within, and you sinned.**  
(Ezekiel 28:16)

He wanted to murder Christ. He needed an atonement, and Christ was the problem. Christ needed to die for Satan's wrath to be satisfied. Who is the God that we worship in Christianity? God or Satan?

You are of *your* father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. **He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth,** because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *resources*, for he is a liar and the father of it. (John 8:44)

## WHAT IS THE CROSS?

And here we see Satan and now he commences, just like Absalom did. What did Absalom introduce? What was a subject on the lips of Absalom in the courts of David? Himself. "Oh, that I were made judge in the land... then I would give him justice." (2 Sam 15:4). Justice was the subject, and so, justice is the subject that began in heaven.

And now quoting from *The Desire of Ages*:

In the opening of the great controversy, **Satan had declared that the law of God could not be obeyed, that justice was inconsistent with mercy,...**

Because of his ideas of justice. His ideas of justice demanded death. God's Son must die because of God's transgression in elevating Jesus to be equal with Himself. The only way for this to be atoned, according to Lucifer, was for Jesus to die.

**...and that, should the law be broken, it would be impossible for the sinner to be pardoned. Every sin must meet its punishment, urged Satan:**

Justice that demands death comes from Satan, not God.

...and if God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice.

Why is it that the Muslim world can understand this, but Christianity cannot? I've watched a Muslim man speak to a Christian, saying, "So I come into your shop, and I steal something, and then your God says, 'Because you've stolen this, you've sinned, I'm going to kill my Son to forgive you for stealing from this man's shop.'" And the Muslim says, "my God would simply forgive you out of the goodness of His heart! Your God has to kill someone." Do you detect a problem? There are other problems in Islam concerning God and His mercy; He does kill people, so there are many problems there. But at least they can comprehend this principle which seems so difficult for Christianity to understand.

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“If God should remit the punishment of sin, He would not be a God of truth and justice.” And this is what Christianity is wrestling with today. Those that oppose us on the subject of the character of God echo the words of Satan. “What do you think, Satan is going to jump into the fire himself? Do you think he’s going to kill himself? Justice must be done. Justice needs to be done. Somebody has to die for justice to be satisfied.” This is what we hear everywhere.

When men broke the law of God, and defied His will, Satan exulted.

**It was proved, he declared, that the law could not be obeyed; man could not be forgiven.**

Satan introduced the idea of the unforgiveness of sin. Why? Because he could not forgive God for elevating His Son to be equal with Himself. It was a sin, unpardonable, that demanded death, and only death would satisfy Satan. This is where all this comes from. **The god of Christianity is Satan himself!**

**Tony:** This is the prophecy of “the daily” then.

**Pr. Adrian:** The prophecy of “the daily,” the little horn, that would, in Hebrew “rúm rúm,” that is, it would exalt itself, would come up. “I came, I saw, I conquered,” and inserted itself into the heart of Christianity and began to do its own sacrifices. Anyway, that’s another whole story.

Coming back to *The Desire of Ages*,

Because he, after his rebellion, had been banished from heaven, Satan claimed that the human race must be forever shut out from God’s favor. God could not be just, he urged, and yet show mercy to the sinner. (*The Desire of Ages*, 761.4)

Because he said of himself, in order for me to be just, I cannot forgive Jesus Christ. I cannot forgive the Father unless He kills His Son. This is the only way I can forgive God for what He did to me. Do we comprehend where the Cross comes from? What it’s really about?

## **Satan's Throne of Counterfeit Justice.**

Quoting from the book *Christ Triumphant*:

The condemning power of Satan would lead him to institute a theory of justice inconsistent with mercy.

Because he did not want any mercy for Jesus Christ, he wanted Him dead, and therefore, he came up with an idea that made justice inconsistent; that they could never meet each other so that he could kill Jesus.

He claims to be officiating as the voice and power of God,...

Who then is the God now?

...claims that his decisions are justice, are pure and without fault.

"...sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God." (2 Thess. 2:4, NLT)

...Thus he takes his position on the judgment seat... (CTr 11:4)

Where? Where is the judgment seat? Isn't it a throne? Isn't he sitting on the throne? Who sits on the throne? Who sits on the throne of Christianity? Is it God or Satan?

**Audience:** Satan.

**Pr. Adrian:** Satan! Because this justice theory; this justice idea.

**Lorelle:** So Satan thinks God can't be forgiven for what He did in not exalting him, until He kills His Son. But God will never kill His Son. So he kills Him through humans, and makes it look as if God did it.

**Pr. Adrian:** And projects it on to God, therefore causing Christianity and the world to worship Satan through this projected idea.

**Audience:** And they don't even acknowledge it. They don't know it. Father, forgive them; they know not what they do.

**Pr. Adrian:** They don't know what they're doing. And we didn't know it. We didn't know this. We've all been worshipping stocks and idols,

foolish notions. But now, in these last days, God is revealing to us the truth.

**...Thus, he takes his position on the judgement seat [the throne] and declares that his counsels are infallible.**

Just like the man that sits in that lovely big room with all the demons coming out of it and looks like a big serpent's head.

Here his merciless justice comes in, a counterfeit of justice, abhorrent to God. (*Christ Triumphant*, 11:4)

And one of the words for abhorrent in Webster's Dictionary is to abominate. This is the abomination that makes desolate. (Dan 11:31, 12:11). This destroys the human heart. It strips it of all its affection for God because it is barbaric and violent.

### **Satan's Descent:**

1. Satan became jealous of Christ and hated him.
2. Satan felt angry at God for making His Son equal with Himself.
3. The Son of God was an offence to Satan, and the only way for God to satisfy Satan's justice was to kill His Son. Thus Satan would be appeased and his wrath satisfied.
4. In believing that God required the death of the Son of God to be satisfied, we unwittingly echo the mind of Satan and project Satan's thoughts onto God and worship them.

And this is the quote. Notice carefully the words of Ellen White:

Justice moved from its exalted throne.

Who is Justice? This is the personification of justice. She doesn't say the Father. She says Justice as a personification. Who was she talking about?

Justice moved from its exalted throne, and with all the armies of heaven...

All the armies of heaven? We have quotes that show that all the angels of God were made to see God through the lens which Satan caused them to see Him. All the angels were infected with Satan's justice system.

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...all the armies of heaven approached the cross. There **it** saw One equal with God bearing the penalty for all injustice and sin. With perfect satisfaction Justice bowed in reverence at the cross, saying, It is enough. [I'm satisfied now.] (*Manuscript 94*, 1899) (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 7, 936.1)

**Lorelle:** So is that Satan, as Justice, bowing saying "I'm satisfied?"

**Pr. Adrian:** Yes! How do you read? In Christianity, this is the Father. In the 1888 message, this is Satan. How do you read? Where does the Father ever bow in reverence to anyone? He doesn't. It cannot be the Father. It must be Satan and all the angels. We will get to a quote a little later that says, at the death of Christ, the angels lost all sympathy for Satan – Satan was uprooted from the sympathies of the angels – because justice had been satisfied; but at the same time, Satan was exposed for the murderer that he was, and they saw that his false justice system was exposed now.

**Lorelle:** But why would he be satisfied? Did he think Christ would never be raised again; "He's dead now. Good – I'm satisfied."

**Pr. Adrian:** Well, it's interesting, the Spirit of Prophecy says that Satan was unaware of the power of the resurrection until Moses was raised from the dead. He was shocked. He thought everyone who died, that he held them forever.

**Tony:** Yes. That's why he disputed over Moses' body.

**Pr. Adrian:** Yes he disputed over the body, but when Moses was raised from the dead, suddenly, the whole paradigm shifted. And Satan was dealing with a whole new paradigm that he didn't know existed.

**Lorelle:** So why would, at this point, he be satisfied, as it all went bad for him after that?

**Pr. Adrian:** Well, when would he ever be satisfied?

**Audience:** He's never satisfied.

**Pr. Adrian:** He's never satisfied. Sin is never satisfied.

**Lorelle:** But he thought at least he got Him (Christ).

**Pr. Adrian:** As he sang in that song, that many of us know, “Can’t get no satisfaction.”

**Audience:** What does it mean at the end there “It is enough”?

**Pr. Adrian:** I’m satisfied now.

**Audience:** Who?

**Pr. Adrian:** Satan. “I’m satisfied. We’ve got rid of Christ. You’ve paid the debt that you owe me. Let’s call it quits. I’m willing to negotiate with You about how we control the rest of this universe now that Your Son is gone.”

**Audience:** Do you think that would make him happy?

**Pr. Adrian:** Of course not. It never would be. Sin is never happy. We always know that the sinner, when he speaks, he speaks empty words.

### **The Sequence Towards Satan’s Cross**

So in the book *Key to Empowering the Third Angel’s Message*, we’ve laid out this the sequence. I’m just outlining this here now, I’m not going to explain all this – you can read this in the book more clearly.

1. A rejection of the begotten Son who inherited all things.
2. Which led to a rejection of life as a gift.
3. Which led to the theory of inherent immortality.
4. Which led to the theory that angels do not need laws to govern them.
5. Which made God’s law appear arbitrary.
6. Which caused Satan to declare that mercy was inconsistent with justice because beings of inherent wisdom do not need mercy – they have sufficient wisdom to guide them.
7. Which made God appear that He could not be just and forgiving.
8. Which led Satan to tell the angels that God would not forgive.
9. Which led Satan to state that every sin must be punished.

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10. Which led to the idea that justice demands death.
11. Which means God's government is founded on force, not love.
12. Which opened the door for the principle of sacrificial atonement or penal substitution for transgression.

This is from the book *Key to Empowering the Third Angel's Message*. Deyan Delchev in Bulgaria wrote most of this, and I helped him put it together. This is the sequence toward Satan's cross. Satan's cross! This is what he wanted.

### **The Contrast:**

1. Man says the Cross is God's justice satisfied, but it is Satan's justice that is satisfied.
2. The Bible says the Cross is God's suffering magnified.
3. Man says the Cross appeases God's wrath, but it's Satan's wrath.
4. The Bible says man is reconciled to God by the Cross. This means man's justice is satisfied or appeased.

### **Lifting Up the Serpent/Seraph**

And we will finish off on this point. This is really interesting. What did Jesus say?

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, **even so** must the Son of Man be lifted up. (John 3:14)

We cover this in the book *At-One-Ment*. There is a chapter called "The Uplifted Serpent." And isn't it interesting:

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery *serpent*, [H8314 burning]"

The word serpent is supplied. The word is fiery or burning. That same word in Isaiah 6:6 is an angel – the Seraphim. The same Hebrew word. How is it that this fiery being can also mean a serpent? Is God trying to tell us something?

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a **fiery serpent** [H8314 burning ]and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is



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bitten, when he looks at it, shall live." So Moses made a **bronze** [H5178] **serpent** [H5175], and put it on a pole: and so it was, if a werpent had bitten anyone, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived. (Numbers 21:8-9)

God says, make a [H8314], and Moses makes a [H5178]. What happened there? Was there a mirror? Was God potentially saying, "There's a being, a shining being, a burning being, a being that burns with venom inside of him. He's the one that's doing this to you, and this is the one you worship. And if you look to him, if you look to his justice system, if you look up to that, then you will believe that you can be forgiven and then I can heal you." God had to do that.

"Even so, must the Son of man must be lifted up." (John 3:14). Christ must be offered to Satan's justice system in order for man to believe that he could be forgiven and cured of the poison that was in his veins. It's deep! But it's there [in the Scriptures]. What are the odds of the Bible comparing a fiery serpent to a Seraphim? Very interesting.

Then one of the **seraphim** [H8314] flew to me, having in his hand a **live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar**. And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said "Behold, this has touched your lips; **Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is purged.**" (Isaiah 6:6-7)

The Seraphim brings a burning object, places it on the lips, and the sin is purged away. And that's the principle that we see operating here. Looking to the fiery serpent on the pole, and you are forgiven. This proves that we are all children of the devil. The only way we could escape from Satan was for our justice system, which is his justice system, to be satisfied. This is the only way we could come out of the prison. The only way we could escape.

And so we need to be careful in our attacks on penal substitution, because this is the language of our heart. This is the language of our natural soul. This is what we all believe by nature. So God had to meet us where we are. Thank God for penal substitution, as it was the only

way to satisfy us, to let us out of the prison. The book *At-One-Ment* goes into that in much more detail.

## **Satan Exposed**

Quoting from *The Desire of Ages*:

**Satan [the fiery, burning one – Seraph] saw that his disguise was torn away. His administration was laid open before the unfallen angels...**

See, Christ was lifted up, and Satan was exposed in the lifting up of Christ. The serpent was revealed in Christ being lifted up.

**...and before the heavenly universe. He had revealed himself as a murderer.** By shedding the blood of the Son of God, he had uprooted himself from the sympathies of heavenly beings. Henceforth his work was restricted. What attitude he might assume, he could no longer await the angels as they came to the heavenly courts..."

Do you realize the only reason in the time of Job, that Satan could come into the assemblies in heaven is because he still had sympathy with the angels? Once that sympathy was gone, he could no longer go back to heaven. God is not arbitrary. Satan could only go to places where his vibration and his frequency still had access. But once that was gone, he couldn't go there anymore. He didn't want to be there anymore because there was no one there that was willing to listen to him anymore.

**...and before them accuse Christ's brethren of being clothed with the garments of blackness and the defilement of sin. The last link of sympathy between Satan and the heavenly world was broken.**  
(*The Desire of Ages*, 761.2)

## **Further Reading:**

(Okay, so that's another whole picture.) For further reading: chapter 7 of the book *At-One-Ment*; and chapters 19 and 20 of the book *Agape*. (Both available at [maranathamedia.com](http://maranathamedia.com) and [fatheroflove.info](http://fatheroflove.info).) We're going to get into that in the next presentation.

## WHAT IS THE CROSS?

So that was a lot to take in. We need to go over that a few times – what is the Cross? I hope you have a clearer understanding of what the Cross is; and that we will look at the true Cross of Jesus Christ, not the false one.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Shall we pray?

Father, we thank you that we could look at this subject of What is the Cross? We look past the splintered wood of Satan's appeasement system, his justice, his false justice; in daring to believe that his justice could be satisfied in the death of your Son, and that then he could forgive You, Father. He thought he could forgive You for exalting Your Son against him and making him jealous. We know that would never work. How sad that Satan would walk this path. Lord, deliver us from this false justice system.

Let us look upon the Cross. The true Cross – Your suffering and Your agony. Change us, Father, into this image. We see you now in much greater clarity. Satan, who was hidden in plain sight, is now revealed and exposed. And now it only remains for the seal of God to be given to us. And we pray for this; we ask for this, in Jesus' name. Amen.

# WHAT IS THE CROSS?

“The Cross is a revelation to our dull senses of the pain that, from its very inception, sin has brought to the heart of God.” (Ed 263) A 7000-year Cross, with implications for eternal consequences. Can you think 500 million years into the future, a time when God goes into a corner and He remembers His children? The Cross is there forever. The scars are never removed from the hands and side of Christ. They’re always there, forever and ever, of what might have been, of what might have come of all of His children. “All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the **Book of Life of the Lamb slain...**” **From when? “...from the foundation of the world.** (Rev. 13:8) This is, of course, a reference to the world. The Cross existed before this in heaven, but from the foundation of the world, Christ was slain because the Cross is self-denial and self-sacrifice. That’s what it is.

I meditated upon this quote [Ed 263], I praised God, and I started to think about Him. And as you start to think about Him, your heart goes out to Christ. You start to think about His suffering; you start to think about His agony, and your thoughts shift from yourself and the agony that you’re experiencing, and you start to think about His suffering and His agony. And in that moment, life comes into the soul, and you stop thinking about yourself, and you start thinking about Him.