

The Cross

Jesus was “born of the Virgin Mary” then we jump over 33 years of life to the final days: “He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified. After 6 hours on the cross, Jesus died. He descended to the dead. It was a Friday around 3:00pm.

God made this world perfectly, yet the first humans disobeyed Him and that brought a curse upon the world and the relationship with God was severed. Humans became slaves to sin and Satan, under Satan’s rule. Jesus came to free us!

Jesus’ was innocent, yet, his death was...

- At the hands of legal, political and religious leaders,
- Brutal, slow and torturous,
- Very public and humiliating,
- Prophesied in the Old Testament!

Jesus gave up his life... to

- **Forgive sin**, for those who accept him as their savior,
- **Defeat Satan**, to overthrow the “powers and principalities,” both physically and spiritually,
- **Give us peace** by setting us free from fear of sin, Satan and death,
- Restore our relationship **with God**,
- Show us how much **God loves us** and how to love God and others,
- Change the way we exercise **leadership**, not self-serving but sacrificially,
- **Bring unity** to Jews and Gentiles, in other words, all humans!
- Become the **Head of the Church**, he removed barriers to God,
- Give us courage to face prosecution,
- Affect the way we share, exercise our rights, and worship God.
- The cross changes everything!

The moment Jesus died...

- There was darkness, “Judgement”
- Curtain of the church tore, it removed the barriers to God, “Forgiveness”
- There was an Earthquake, to wake up unbelievers(?)
- Jesus received the Keys of Death and Hades(?)
- Tombs were opened and bodies were raised. Spirits that were in prison.
- Later, symbolically, Jesus gave Peter the keys of the Kingdom.
- Peter created the first Christian Church.