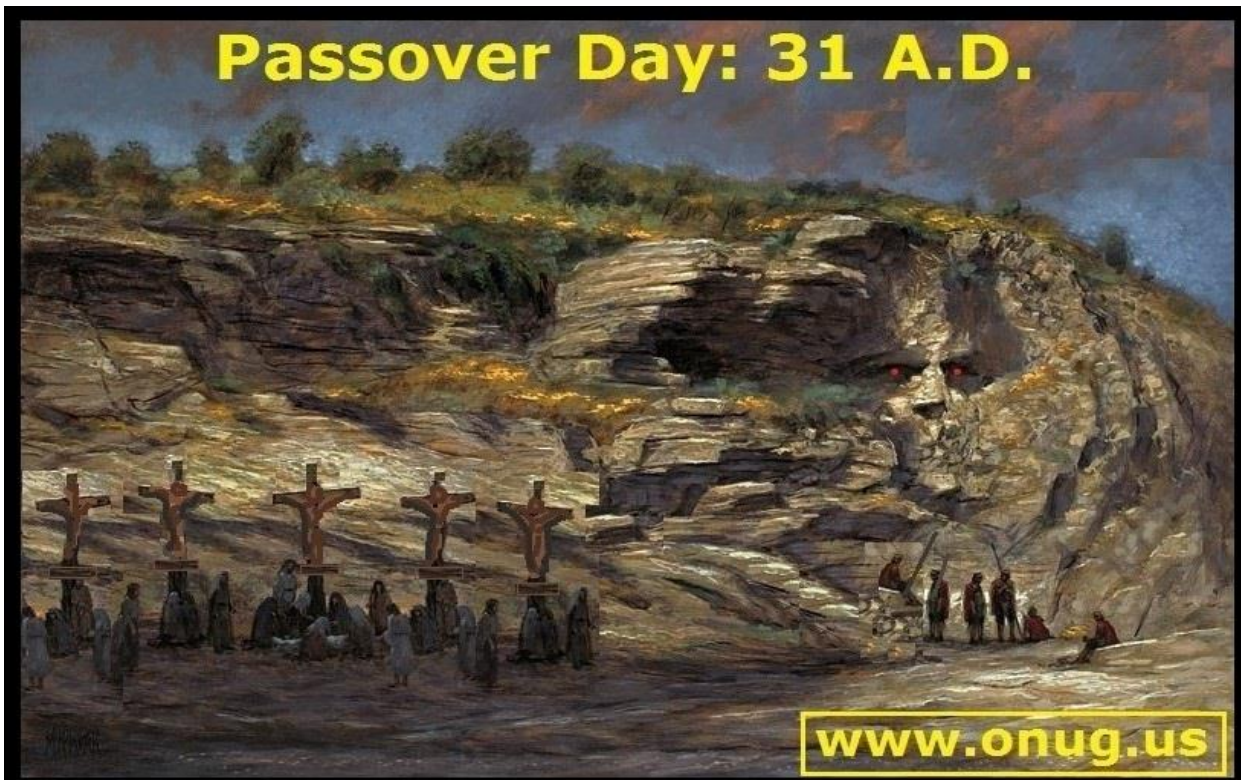


BIBLE STUDY: Golgotha - The Place Of Goliath's Skull and The Death of Jesus Christ (Part II)!!!



It's the fourth day of the week (or Wednesday): Three Terrorist Rebels, and Two Pirates (or Plunderers), have been nailed through the wrists to Patibulums or Cross Pieces. They have been hoisted up, on tree trunks (or large posts) with pulleys and ropes; their ankles have been nailed through with spikes on either side of the tree trunks, and each has their criminal charge posted below them; it is almost three hours before sunset! There is something different about the man in the midst (or center). **Why would Almighty God, the Jews, and the Romans - ALL allow a Preaching Carpenter to die like this?** You **NEED** to **READ** our Golgotha Bible Study Series to Fully Understand!!!
One Nation Under God Ministries

BIBLE STUDY: Golgotha - The Place Of Goliath's Skull and The Death of Jesus Christ (Part II)!!!

Imagine, if YOU could travel back in time to Passover Day, 31 A.D.! Imagine, if YOU could personally witness the Mocking and the Taunting of Jesus Christ, as He stumbled through the streets, to the place of His Public Execution! Imagine, YOU being an Eyewitness to EVERYTHING that was Said, and Done, the morning after Jesus ate His Last Supper with His Disciples, in the Upper Room; and broke bread as His Body, gave wine as His Blood, and Washed His Disciples' feet – Establishing The Annual New Testament Passover in His Church forever (John 13:12-17)! If YOU could actually Witness, as Jesus Christ's Disciples did - The Crucifixion of The Lamb of God; WHAT WOULD YOU REPORT BACK? WHAT WOULD YOU WRITE DOWN? WHAT WOULD YOU PASS ON to your children, and future generations, so as to Preserve History, and to Prepare Humanity - for The Future Return of The Son of Man?

Golgotha: The Place of Goliath of Gath's Skull, and Where Jesus was Killed!



One of The MOST Historically Important Places on earth, and one of The Main Entrances into Jerusalem in Jesus' Day! Today's Jews who reside in Israel, bury it in Obscurity - as a Bus Parking Lot! **LEARN History - LEARN TRUTH!!!**

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Let us open up our Bibles today, and go Back in Time! Let us READ, and DISCOVER, and PROVE - These Remarkable TRUTHs for ourselves; from Actual EYEWITNESS accounts of those who were Really There!!! www.onug.us

Bible Study Instructions: One Nation Under God Ministries (www.onug.us) publishes and distributes weekly Bible Studies, worldwide – FREE of charge, to anyone who requests them, in both printed and electronic formats. Our Studies are intended to be a simple and fun way to Learn The Scriptures, and are very easy to follow! We adhere to Jesus Christ’s Biblical Instructions to Teach and Feed The Flock of God (John 10:16) portions of Meat in Due Season, on weekly Sabbaths, and on The Seven annual Holy Days (Leviticus 23:1-44) throughout each calendar year (Luke 12:42 / Isaiah 28:9-10 / Matthew 13:52). Using both The Old and New Testaments, our Bible Studies are designed to present a premise, make a statement, or ask a question – followed by one or more Scriptural References. Just look up and read from your Bible The Scriptures listed. Comments following questions elaborate on The Scriptures you just read. Pray always BEFORE beginning any Study of God’s Word, Asking God to OPEN both your eyes and your mind to His Truth (Matthew 7:7-8); then Prove EVERYTHING you read, is in fact the Truth, by comparing it to The Word of God (1 Thessalonians 5:21 / 2 Timothy 3:15-17). Then use The Biblical System of Checks and Balances, and SEE if both Jesus Christ, and The First Century Church of God Apostles – also **Did, Said, and Taught** These SAME THINGS (Galatians 1:1-12, 5:25 / 1 Peter 2:21, 25 / 1 John 2:3-6)! That’s all there is to it! Our Bible Studies are based on the King James Version, unless otherwise stated. We will be Praying for your eyes to “SEE” (Matthew 13:11-17); and we are always available to answer any of your questions! Be Blessed, in Jesus’ Name! - One Nation Under God Ministries, and their FREE Online College of Biblical Knowledge, are Preparing The Brides of Christ (Matthew 25:1-13), and this world (Mark 16:15-20), for The Return of Jesus (John 10:16); One Bible Study (Matthew 11:28-30) At A Time! Join Them at www.onug.us!!! **JESUS IS LORD!!!**

Have YOU Been Brain Washed?



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YOU HAVE BEEN BRAINWASHED!!!

www.onug.us

- 1) **MOST** have been conditioned to **THINK** and **SEE** 3 Crosses on top of a hill; instead of 5 Crosses **NEXT TO** a hill! See our "Why was Christ Crucified?" Bible Study at www.onug.us for more Proof on this!
- 2) **MOST** have been conditioned to **THINK** of and **SEE**, a skinny, long haired, bearded Christ on a cross; instead of a well-muscled, short haired, clean shaven Christ! See our "Will The Real Jesus Christ Please Stand Up" Bible Study at www.onug.us for more Proof on this!
- 3) **MOST** have been conditioned to **THINK** and **SEE**, only Christ's cross with a sign above His Head; Instead of all 5 crosses with signs, **BENEATH** the condemned

mens' feet (or at an average man's - standing, face level), in order for the MANY passing pedestrians and wagon traffic, to EASILY READ the charges!!!

4) Most have been conditioned to THINK and SEE, nails driven through Christ's Palms and the tops of His Feet; instead of Nails driven through His Wrists and the sides of His Akles!!! More on this below!!!

Nobody was going to climb up a steep rock, off the roadway, to read the small letters of a sign posted at the top of a cross! The Romans would nail "The Charges Against Us" (ie: Escaped Slave, Marauder / Pirate, Malfactor / Rebel. See Colossians 2:14) usually on the bottom of a cross (at face level) so most people could READ THE CHARGES, as they walked by; and mock the dying! www.onug.us

It's Time for us to Truly Understand Why The Lamb of God Died (John 1:29)!

Think about the incredible significance of this fact: Jesus Christ came, and by sacrificing Himself for all Israel, paid the ransom for us according to The Law! **But He also died on the very spot where the Romans "counted the skulls" for their census of anyone coming into Jerusalem.** Anyone who desired to come to the Holy Mountain would first have to go through the outer gate, Golgotha (Jesus), and be counted as His - by accepting the ransom (His Blood) that was paid for their entrance. Indeed, Jesus, Himself Said, **"No man Comes to The Father EXCEPT through Me!!!" (John 14:6, 10:1-18).**

Let us look at yet Another Reason Why was Jesus Crucified NEXT TO a hill known as The Place of The Skull (Goliath of Gath / Gol-Gath / Golgotha)!!! www.onug.us

In Genesis 3:15 we have The First Prophecy of The Coming of The Lord Jesus to BE The Savior of ALL of Mankind: "And I will put hostility between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your seed and Her Seed; He shall crush your head, and you shall bruise His Heel." The crushing of Satan's head is our first clue as

to WHY Jesus was Crucified on Calvary, The Place of The Skull. Moses prophetically writes that there will come a time when the future seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent!!!

After David slays Goliath, he cuts his head off, and brings it to Jerusalem. Victors would often decapitate their foe, and then set them on a hill, or at a site, that would display victory for all to see. Why not on – and then in - The Hill that Already looks like a Skull; and is a narrow bottle neck road, into the city? Now The Skull Look-A-Like Rock, can become **The Place**, not of any skull; **But of THE Giant's Skull – Goliath of Gath!!!**

The fact that David brought Goliath's head to Jerusalem is quite astonishing since Jerusalem at this time was inhabited by David's enemies, the Jebusites. The question is, where did David bring the head of Goliath? The Scripture doesn't tell us, but I don't think it would be going too far out on a limb, to suggest that the giant's skull, was buried on Calvary !!!

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Fulfilling Scripture!!!

The REAL Significance of Jesus being Crucified on Calvary, The Place of The Skull, was to show His VICTORY over His enemy, Satan (Genesis 3:15)!!! As the nail would have been driven through the **heels** of the one crucified, the prophecy of Genesis 3:15 was being partially fulfilled! **Satan would bruise His (Jesus Christ's) HEEL (The Nails DID NOT go through the top of Christ's feet as we see in pagan church idols of Christ, and as we are brainwashed into believing through artistic LIES presented to us in the movies)!!!**

Jesus had Nails Hammered Through His Ankles – One on Either Side of A TREE or POST!!! www.onug.us

The remainder of the prophecy was fulfilled as Jesus (The Son of David) was lifted above the ground (at The Place of The Skull) - CRUSHING the head of Satan; just as David defeated the enemy

of Israel, by cutting off his head!!! Jesus was literally in a position over His enemies, over the Giants of Evil!!! www.onug.us



The Times of Israel:

In a 26 March 2012 article, written by Matti Friedman, there was a picture of an interesting bone and a very big nail!



The Remains of a Crucifixion Victim survives in a stone box - with its impaling Nail intact!

An ossuary at the Israel Museum contains the only physical evidence ever found, for the Roman practice of execution on the cross! www.onug.us

It is interesting to note, so far as I could determine; in all of archaeology, there is NO other evidence, no remains, no physical proof of a person's remains – who had been crucified. No evidence of the punishment: no existing crosses, and no perforated skeletons, are found anywhere in the world – until recently. **The one exception: a stone box of Yehohanan's remains was discovered in the 1970's. www.onug.us**

After Yehohanan's body was removed from the cross, it would have been laid out in a burial cave. After the flesh had decomposed a year or so later, leaving only the skeleton, his bones were gathered in a simple stone box, an ossuary; in keeping with the Jewish practice of that time. Today, the box is displayed in a gallery, at the Israel Museum, alongside other artifacts from the period of Roman rule in Judea.

His name is inscribed in simple letters on one side: Yehohanan, son of Hagakol. (Some scholars, interpreting the letters differently, believe the second name is Hezkil.)

Inside the box, archaeologists found a heel bone with an iron stake driven through it, indicating that the occupant of the ossuary had been nailed to a cross! Proof at last!!!

GOLGATHA: **The Place of The Skull!**

**Learn The Truth About Location Of Goliath Of Gath's Head,
And The Place Where The Crucifixion Of Christ Took Place!**

Fiction



VS.

**"And I will put enmity
between thee and the
woman, and between
thy seed and her seed;
It shall bruise thy head,
and thou shalt bruise
His Heel."**

(Genesis 3:15)

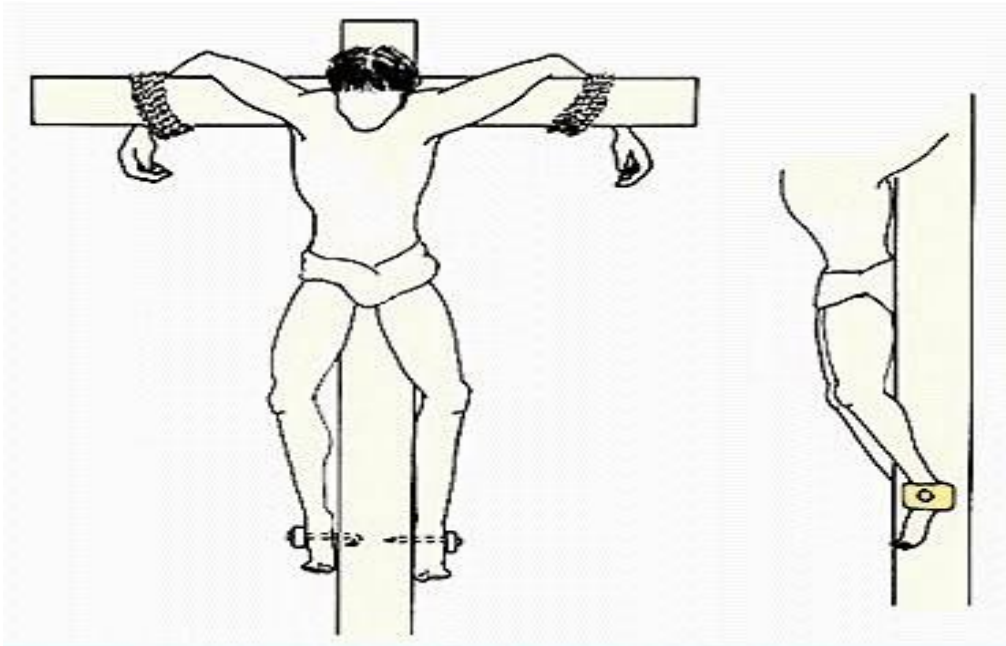
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Fact



The position of the stake was evidence of a crucifixion technique that had not previously been known, according to museum curator David Mevorah. In the image of crucifixion made famous by Christian iconography, Jesus is pictured with both feet nailed to the front of the vertical beam of the cross. But this man's feet had been affixed to the sides of the beam with nails hammered separately through each heel! Now Genesis 3:15 makes much MORE sense; doesn't it? Praise God!!!

The bones of Yehohanan's hands showed no sign of wounds, indicating that:




- 1) they had been tied, rather than nailed, to the horizontal bar; or
- 2) they had been nailed through, just below the wrists, on the forearms; as was Jesus Christ!

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A Bible Study Series

GOLGATHA:


The Place Where David Placed Goliath of Gath's Head; And Where Jesus Christ Died On His Cross With Four Other Condemned Men!!!



Where Would YOU Put The Nails?

Crucifixion 101

www.onug.us



Let's Ask The Romans!!!

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The surprising lack of similar physical evidence for crucifixion elsewhere, Mevorah said, may be due to beliefs that crucifixion nails had magic properties. People in the ancient world, he said, "might have collected the nails as amulets."

Yehohanan was not alone in his ossuary: Inside, archaeologists found a second skeleton, this one belonging to a child aged three or four. They also noticed that the side of the ossuary bore a second, fainter inscription near the first. Curiously, this one also read "Yehohanan."

After the discovery of the ossuary in the 1970s, the famous Israeli archaeologist Yigael Yadin suggested that the faint inscription referred to the crucified man and the second inscription — Yehohanan, son of Hagakol — to his son.

"Hagakol" is not a name familiar to scholars, and this theory suggested it was not a name at all. Instead, Yadin thought, having looked at similar words in use at the time, it might have meant "crucified." The inscription thus read: **Yehohanan, son of the Crucified One.**

The child Yehohanan, in this version of events, died not long after the elder Yehohanan's execution, and his bones were added to those of his father in the unadorned stone ossuary kept in the family's burial cave north of the walled city.

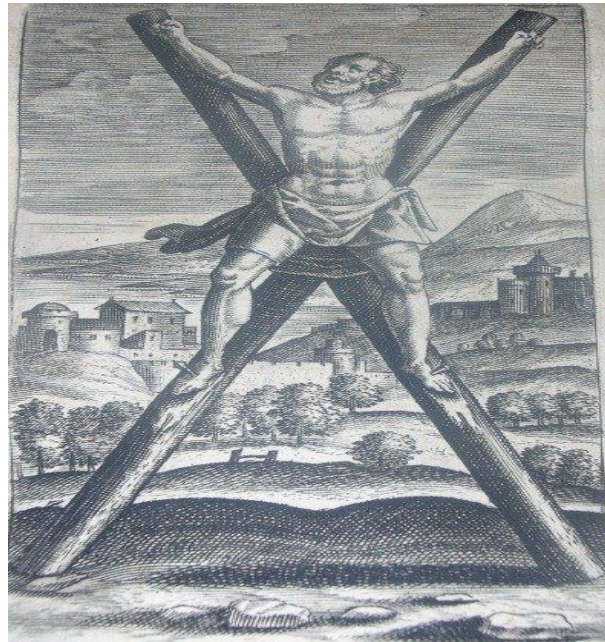
This is also WHY Jesus Christ spent no more than 3 days and three nights in His Tomb (Matthew 12:38-42, 16:4 / Luke 11:29-32); so that His Body would NOT Decay, as was expected in a burial chamber or cave (as described above), or as did Jesus' friend Lazarus; after being DEAD, 4 days in a tomb (John 11:1-44). Jesus would have TWO Spikes nailed through His Wrists (NOT His Hands), and He would have TWO Spikes hammered through His Ankles (NOT the top of His Feet); but Christ's Body would NOT see Corruption (or physical DECAY) BEING ONLY THREE 24 HOUR DAYS IN HIS GRAVE!!! www.onug.us

Jesus Said He Would be Crucified: (Matthew 26:2); but what type of Crucifixion did Christ REALLY endure?

- 1) Was He nailed to a tree, or tied to a tree?**
- 2) Was He nailed to a post, or tied to a post?**
- 3) Was He nailed to a Cross; and / or tied to a Cross?**
- 4) What kind of Crosses did the Romans use?**
- 5) Was the Cross of Christ a traditional Cross, and X Cross, a T Cross, or just a plain post of tree, with no cross piece at all?**

MANY people today will argue with you fiercely, when they are presented with the following TRUTHS!!!

Let us now PROVE from The Bible our answer; and then let us see if history, and surviving eyewitness accounts, will also VERIFY our Newly Discovered, and Proven, Biblical Truth!!!



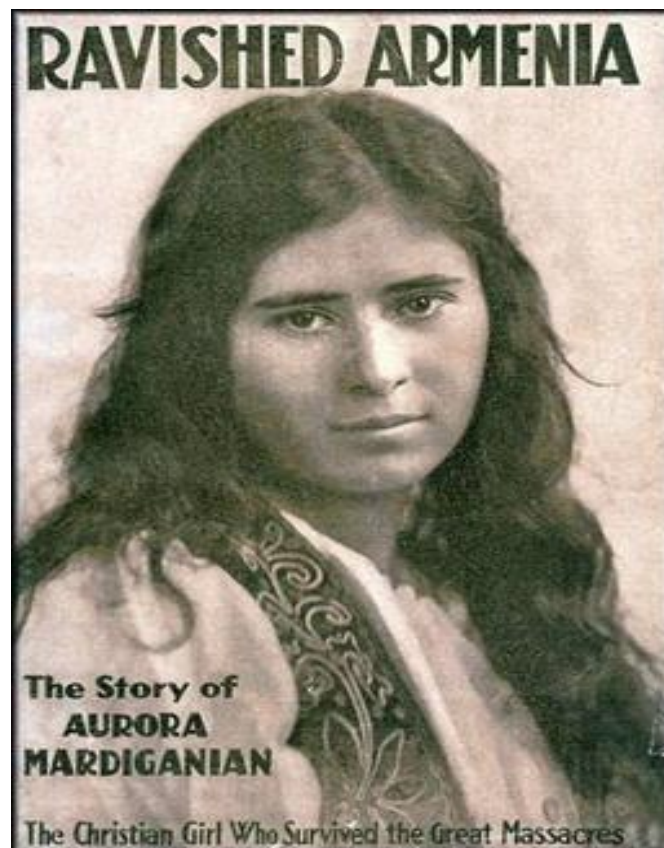
Some of those who were Crucified, were executed as the illustration above shows us. Two "Crossed" posts or poles (trees) were used in an "X" fashion; with the victim either tied or nailed to the structure!

The word commonly translated as '**crucified**' is the Greek word "**stauroo**" which **sometimes** can mean **impalement on a stake or pole**. Outside of The Biblical use of that word; it is still used today, to mean putting up a fence or a pole! Actually, that term is translated as 'crucified' at least 46 times in The New Testament.

**So, Does "Crucified" (stauroo) ALWAYS mean to impale?
No, it does NOT!!!**

History is full of examples of people being impaled on posts; and yes, the Romans were known to do this too. But The Bible is clear; Jesus was Crucified: **NAILED to a Cross – NOT Impaled!!!**

So "stauroo" can and does also mean to "Hang on a tree" or "hang on a post"!!! www.onug.us



Aurora Mardiganian, a survivor of the Armenian genocide of 1915–1923, recalled seeing sixteen young Armenian girls being "crucified" by their Ottoman tormentors.

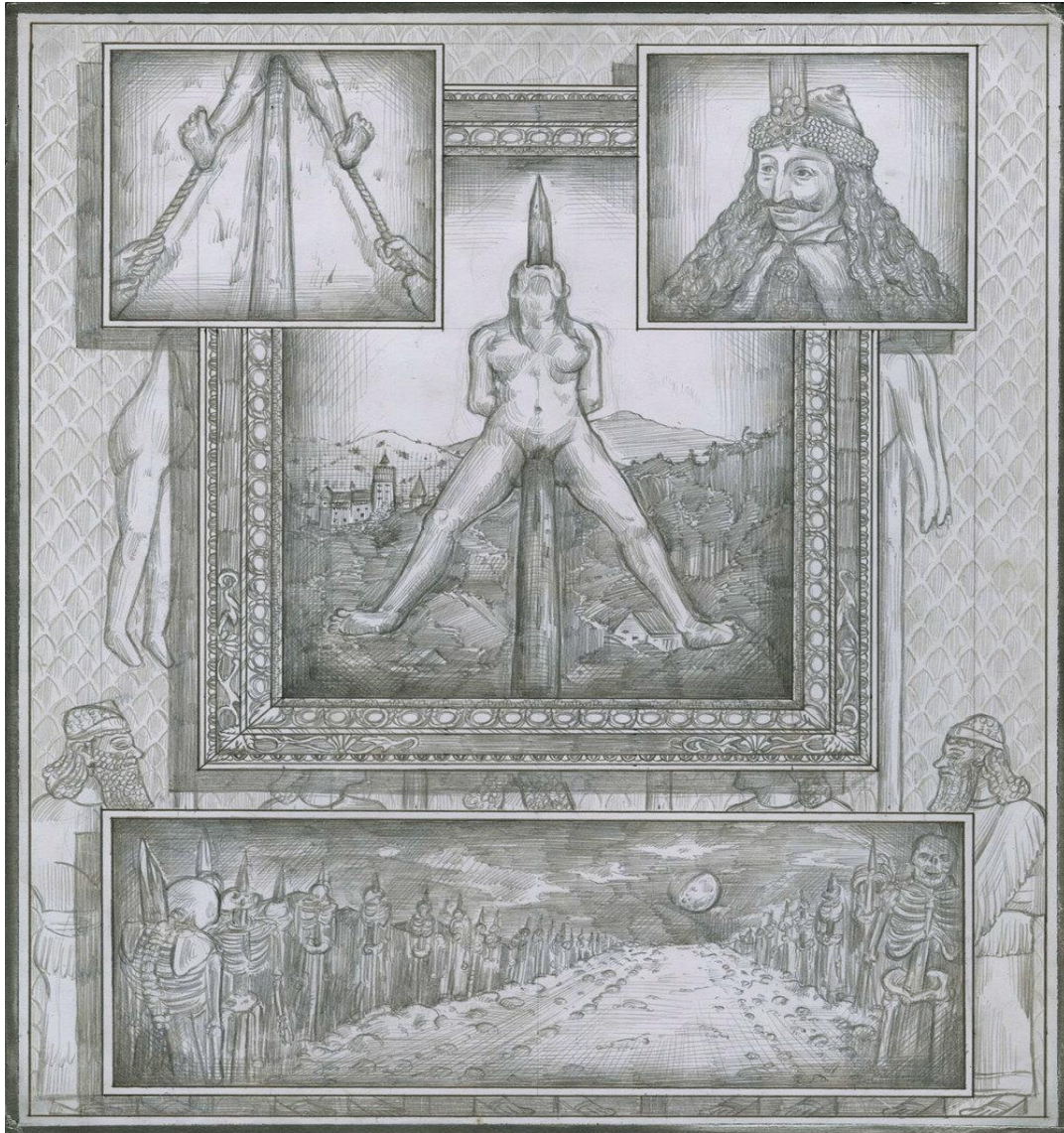


The photo above is not a picture of the Armenian genocide, it is a picture from a very old film called "Ravished Armenia". The film was made in from 1919. The film "Ravished Armenia" is actually based on a memoir by Aurora Mardiganian, a survivor of the Armenian genocide who wrote about the atrocities she witnessed. According to her, the film's depiction of Armenian women being crucified is incorrect. It didn't happen that way. The girls were actually impaled on pointed wooden spikes, through their vaginas. The film directors chose to depict this event as a crucifixion instead, because the true incident was considered too nefarious, un-filmable!!! The REAL truth was much too violent and graphic, especially for a 1920's audience.

The Ottoman Empire, as recently as the 1920's A.D., was still impaling people on sharp pointed, wooden poles!!!

This strengthens the "modern" assertion by some, that Christ was impaled, or hung on a "death stake", as the Jehovah Witnesses currently claim.

We, however, should **KNOW**, that the word commonly translated as 'Crucified', is the Greek word "**stauroo**", which **sometimes, but NOT always**, can mean **impalement on a stake or pole**. **However, by this point in our Bible Study, YOU should KNOW and be able to PROVE (1 Thessalonians 5:21), that this was NOT The Case; in Jesus Christ's Biblically Recorded Death – ON A CROSS!!!** www.onug.us



Above, is an example of the old practice of Impaling. The victims were usually impaled alive, on the stake or pike; then left to rot and their bodies to decay, as warnings to those who opposed the current despot, dictator, or king! **Christ was NOT Impaled!!!**

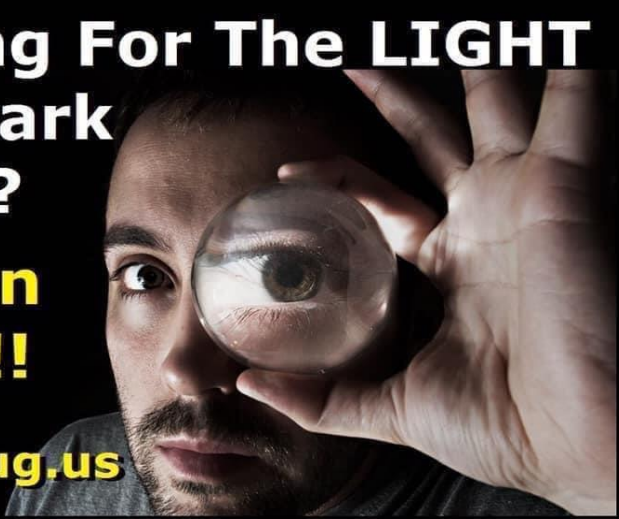
Did The Romans Often Use Crosses?

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The Romans did use several types of crosses as part of their capital punishment. In Crucifixions, what they tended to use was **a tree or pole**. Not something that looks like the type of crosses in most churches today (neatly trimmed and finished timbers; assembled and carried together by the victim). (Samuelsson, p. 338).

Usually, in places where multiple crucifixions would take place, the Romans would use large posts, or tree trunks, as their post or stake; then they would nail the condemned **"stretched out"** onto a "Cross" or "cross piece" – arm to arm, and hoist them up the post or tree to die! In this way, they could have a sort of production line, or a conveyor of death plant, that was Very Efficient in killing large groups and numbers of people. As we will show you today from historical records, this was **the same mindset** that Adolph Hitler and the Nazis adopted during World War II. **Quick, Efficient, Repetitive Killings on a large scale!!!** Executioners could choose how long to keep their victims alive, by whether or not they inflicted additional injuries on their prey; ie: burning them, spearing them, or even breaking their legs to speed up the process!

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**Looking For The LIGHT
In A Dark
World?
We Can
HELP!!!
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The Road to Rome lined with Crosses. Here the condemned would be tied or nailed to a "cross" (in reality and in practice - a cross beam), then hoisted up by rope and pulley system to die! Once the victim was dead, they would lower and remove one body and cross piece; then quickly and efficiently hoist up another! Mass Executions were perfected by Rome, and other ancient cultures, in this manner; and revolts quickly quelled!!! www.onug.us

Although there are references to crucifixions hundreds of years before the Romans, these sometimes can also refer to other forms of impalement, or cases where offenders were nailed to trees and other frames, where they were left to die!



Here is an old illustration of someone nailed to a "tree" or pole. In many of these instances, additional spikes or nails were used, sometimes through the body to help hold a person onto their pole, tree, or cross! www.onug.us

Remember, This is NOT how Christ was Crucified!!! Let us continue to PROVE this Exhaustively!!! www.onug.us

Let's Recap:

The Greek word translated "**cross**" is **stauros**, meaning "**a pole**" or "**a cross**" used as an instrument of capital punishment. The Greek word "**stauroo**", which is translated "**crucify**" means "**to be attached to a pole or cross**". **It can mean impale on a stake, or it can mean to be tied or nailed to a structure too!** Outside of The Bible, the same verb was also used in the context of putting up a fence with stakes.

In Latin word "**crux**" which is generally translated as "**cross**", and originally had an even less specific meaning, referring to any object on which victims were impaled or hanged. So, even the Latin word did NOT have to mean a cross. Crosses, as seen in Greco-Roman churches, were not as common of a capital punishment device as many seem to think. www.onug.us

Knowing all this, let us now ask:

"Was Jesus crucified on a cross, pole, or stake?"

The cross is arguably the most beloved symbol in all of Christianity. It adorns our churches and cathedrals, our jewelry, our books, Bibles, T-shirts, and music, and is used in numerous marketing logos. The empty cross has come to symbolize the work performed there by our Savior, who went to His death willingly; in order to pay the penalty for our sins!!! Among Jesus' last words before He died were, "It is finished" (John 19:30). The Law was fulfilled by Him; and Jesus, as He Did during Creation, had "Finished" that particular part of God's Plan, and had BECOME OUR SAVIOR!!! The Messianic prophecies pertaining to His first advent were accomplished, and redemption was complete. Christ would now BEGIN His New Role of being our Intercessor, at The Right Hand of God; and we, as His Disciples, would continue Follow Him and Keep His Law (John 14:15,21 / 1 John 2:3-6 / Revelation 22:14); bringing others to His Cross to be WASHED in the Soul Cleansing Blood of The Lamb – and Teaching them to Obey and Follow Christ too; in order that they may be Saved from the penalty of breaking God's Law: which is DEATH (Matthew 28:18-20 / Galatians 1:8-9 / Hebrew 4:1-11 / Matthew 11:29-30 / Luke 6:46)!!! www.onug.us

It is no wonder that the cross has come to symbolize the greatest story ever told: The Story of the Sacrificial death of Christ (John 1:29); in order to offer ALL People FORGIVENESS of Sins; and Eternal Life - in one of Two Resurrections from the dead –At, or AFTER, His Second Coming (Daniel 12:2-3 / 1 Corinthians 15:20-

58 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 / 1 John 3:1-3 / Revelation 5:9-10, 20:4-6, 21:1-7,22:1-5 / Ezekiel 37:1-14)!!!

The Romans were not picky in regards to how they would crucify people. Historically, we know the Romans crucified people on crosses, poles, stakes, upside-down crosses, X-shaped crosses (such as the apostle Andrew is said to have been martyred on), walls, roofs, etc. Jesus could have been crucified on any of these objects, and it would not have affected the Perfection or Sufficiency of His Sacrifice – had NOT The Scriptures, and Jesus Christ, Both previously told us, that Jesus would die on a traditional Cross!!! **Yes; THE BIBLE, HISTORY, JESUS CHRIST, AND OTHER EYEWITNESSES – ALL DO - IN FACT - ANSWER the question: "Was Jesus crucified on a cross, pole, or stake?"**

So Now, Let Us KNOW, and PROVE Our TRUTH; For Almighty God's Eternally Great Glory!!!



**Have YOU Been Searching
For God's TRUTH?**

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You've Found It!!!

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The Apostle Peter crucified upside down
Rome, AD 69

Paul NEVER forgot that he killed TRUE Christians in The Name of God, BEFORE his conversion to TRUTH (1 Corinthians 15:3-11). Likewise, Peter who had initially denied Christ three times, lived the rest of his life CONFESSING The Christ Whom both he and Paul had at one time denied. www.onug.us

Tradition tells us that Peter (who was in prison, sentenced to death, see 2 Peter 1:13-15), when he was given a choice of how he should die said, "I would like to be crucified upside down, because I am unworthy to die as My Lord died!"

Scripture does not record Peter's request of manner of death, but we can Rightly Assume there was DEPTH in Christ Hearing Peter (John 13:36-38), and in Jesus' Very Own Words (John 21:18-19)!!!

JESUS SAID: "FOLLOW ME!!! (John 21:19)" – "But thou (Peter) SHALL Follow Me AFTERWARDS (John 13:36)!!!!" ...and The Apostle Peter DID!!! www.onug.us

Hands, Wrists, Forearms; Ankles, or Feet? Where Do I Hammer The Nails? www.onug.us

That's a question a Roman soldier would NEVER have had to ask. They KNEW HOW to Crucify people!!!



Circus Maximus was the largest, most important arena in Rome. For 500 years it was where the Romans held violent horse races, conducted public executions, crucifixions, and celebrated the greatest triumphs of their empire. Jesus would refer to these Romans as "Dogs" (Revelation 22:14-15). So would King David!!! www.onug.us

“For DOGS have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed (enclosed) me: they Pierced My Hands and My Feet!!!” (Psalm 22:16 / See also “Dogs” in Revelation 22:15) – Translated from the Ancient Hebrew.

In the above Scripture, the specific Hebrew words for hands and feet were used, but let’s remember Genesis 3:15! Satan must bruise Christ’s heel (NOT Foot) to fulfill prophecy! So there is some latitude here in our piecing of this puzzle together!

If someone chopped you in the wrist, with an ax, severing your hand; you wouldn’t say, “They cut off my wrist!” You would say, “They cut off my hand!” Right? The same would be true if they took a sword and cut through your forearm. Again, they would have cut off your hand! **Outside of an anatomy class, or a medical diagnosis; The Bible can use general terms to define very specific actions (Isaiah 28:9-10)!**

Think back to our previous example of the only documented Crucifixion remains yet discovered. Yehohanan had his ankles nailed to his cross, not exactly his feet. But we could say truthfully, that the Romans did nail his feet to the cross; being general in terminology about a specific action!

Remember in the Greek language of the time; **forearms**, and **wrists** were included broadly in the term **“hands”**. **The Greek word “cheir” can refer to the hand and / or the wrist.**

The Latin Vulgate uses the word “manus” (in Luke 24:40), specifically referring to hands, as of the second century forward. However, the Vulgate was translated from the Original Greek, which originally used “cheir” (Hand or Wrist), in its place!!! www.onug.us



Jesus Was NAILED, Not Tied, To His Cross! www.onug.us

Remember: "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced My Hands and My Feet!!!" Psalm 22:16 is talking about **NAILING** Christ to His Cross; NOT tying Him to it!!!

You could be **Tied** to a cross, as the Romans sometimes did. But the word "Crucified", in Jesus Christ's case – and ALSO WITH the other four men with Him on that Passover Day in 31 A.D.; means to be **NAILED** to a Cross; **NOT tied!** Jesus was PAYING for our Sin Debt, for the Sins of the Whole World! He had to die a Maximum kind of death, in order to Pay for ALL The Sins - ever committed by flesh and blood humans – throughout time; and being NAILED to a Cross, was the WORST Kind of Death there was!!! That's what Jesus FREELY took upon Himself – for YOU and I!!! Being **NAILED** to a Cross is also the **PIERCING** of both hands and feet, and it does fulfill David's Prophecy about Jesus (Psalm 22:16); in a way that tying to a cross, would simply **NOT** do!!! www.onug.us

Then There Is Doubting Thomas (John 20:25)!

"The other disciples therefore said unto him (Thomas), 'We have seen The Lord!'. But he (Thomas) said unto them, 'Except I shall see in His Hands, **the print (hole) of the nails, and put my finger into the print (hole) of the nails,** and thrust my hand into His Side; I will NOT believe!" (John 20:25).

Thomas Knew and had Seen, Jesus NAILED to His Cross. There was NO "Tying" going on here!!! ALSO, take note that Thomas says "nails" plural – TWICE!!! If Jesus was nailed to a post with His Hands above His Head; **only one nail (singular)** would have been used for both hands!!!

Jesus then shows Thomas and the other Disciples the nail holes in His wrists and ankles!!! **Thomas put his finger inside the Nail holes,** and his hand into Christ's open side!!!

They were NOT examining Rope Burns, from Jesus being tied to a cross (John 20:26-29 / Luke 24:39-40)!!!

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JESUS IS LORD!!!

"Verily, Verily, I Say unto thee, 'When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old (mature), **Thou shalt stretch forth (stretch out) Thy Hands,** and another shall gird Thee, and carry Thee whither Thou wouldest not!' This Spake He (Jesus), signifying by what death He should Glorify God!!! And when He had Spoken this, He Saith unto him, 'Follow Me!!!'" (John 21:18-19).

Luke 24:50 "And He led them out as far as to Bethany, and **He Lifted Up** (NOTE: He did NOT "Stretched Forth" or stretch out) **His Hands, and Blessed them!"**

Notice the difference in Christ's Hand positions! **Lifted Up is Vertical; Stretched Out is Horizontal!!!** www.onug.us

Galatians 3:13

"Christ hath Redeemed us from The Curse (or Penalty) of The Law, being made a curse for us: for it is Written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree (or Post)!"

Luke 9:23

"If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross (or cross piece) daily, and Follow Me!!!!"

Nailed To A CROSS (Piece); Hung On A TREE (Post)!!!

Jesus "STRETCHED Forth" or "Stretched Out" His Arms!

John 21:18-19



He Did NOT "Lift Up" His Hands!

Luke 24:50

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Is The Cross A Pagan Symbol?

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Certain religions and faith groups, most notably the Jehovah's Witnesses, are adamant that Jesus **did not** die on **a cross**; and they maintain **that the cross is in fact a pagan symbol!**

But is it REALLY? What Scriptural and Historical Proofs do they offer (1 Thessalonians 5:21)? Their insistence on this point is curious, given the ambiguity of the Greek word "**stauros**" (meaning EITHER "**a pole**" or "**a cross**") used as THE Instrument of capital punishment. As we have gone to great lengths to explain previously; Stauros is too vague of a word, if left by itself, to determine its specific meaning! We need other supporting or clarifying texts, to specifically differentiate and determine it.

The Jehovah's Witnesses have worded their New World Translation to say that Jesus died on a "torture stake", rather than on a cross. But as our investigation into Biblical Truths continues, we are seeing that the evidence for a pole, or an upright stake - alone, is lacking!!!

Scripture is showing us that BOTH a Stake (or Post), AND a Cross (or Cross Piece) were used to BOTH Hang Jesus on a Tree; AND Nail Him with outstretched arms - to a Cross!!!

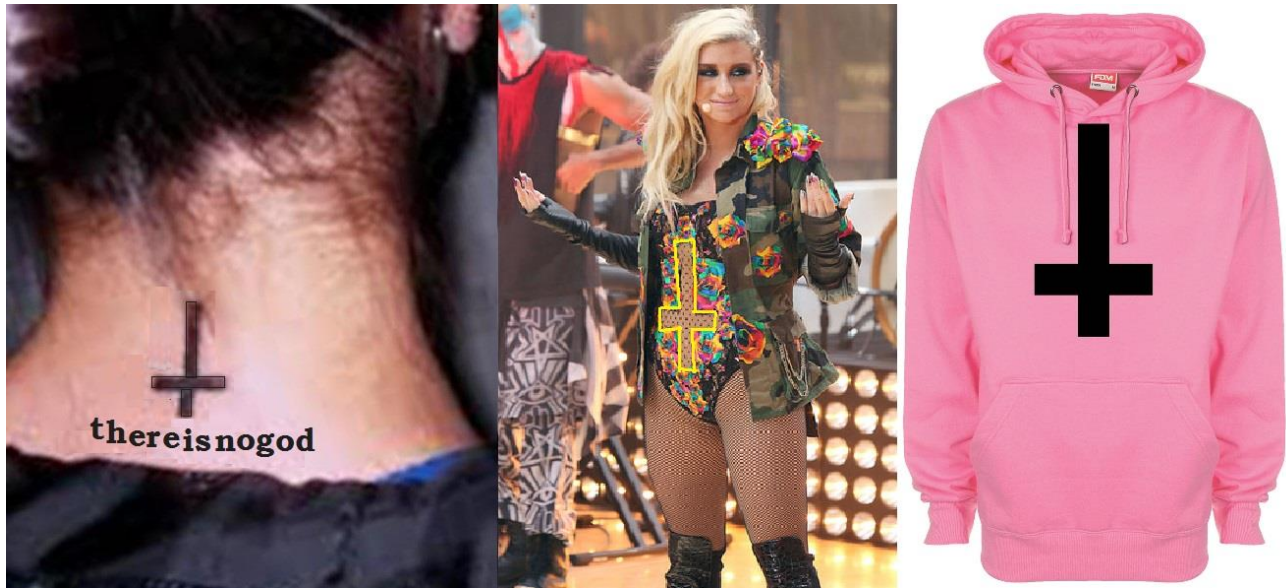
We also have our doubting Thomas, twice speaking of nails (plural) which made holes in Jesus' Hands; NOT a sole Nail (singular), which would have made two holes in overlapping hands! www.onug.us

The Cross was a Pagan method of Death; but it is NOT a pagan symbol or idol of worship! Jesus Commands Christ Followers or "Christians" today, to "Take up (or pick up) their CROSS (PIECE) or PATIBULUM" and to Follow Him (Matthew 16:24-25)!

The big giant post, stake, or tree was always buried several feet into the earth - for support and strength. The condemned would take up, or pick up, their cross piece or cross beam; and carry THAT to the tree, or post to be hoisted up onto! Then, their ankles were nailed in to either side of the tree or post! www.onug.us

The Emblem, or the method, of Christ's Death: A Cross; is a Jesus Christ Authorized and Sanctioned, metaphor and symbol in His Body of Believers!!! Nobody worships the long ago rotted away wooden timbers; today Christians who display a cross - Worship The One True God - Who Sent His Son to DIE on a Cross, to Pay Off our Sin Debts!!! Thank You Jesus - For YOUR Sacrifice AND FOR YOUR Cross!!! May we all be worthy to carry our crosses, as you so selflessly Did for ALL of us!!!
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If the Traditional Cross used by Billions today, was really a pagan symbol; why would the pagans go through such pains to disgrace it, submerge it in urine, and deface it?



“And he that taketh NOT his Cross (Piece) or Patibulum, and Followeth after Me; is NOT Worthy of Me!!!” – Jesus Christ in Matthew 10:38.

By telling us to take up our cross and Follow Him, Jesus is Saying in essence, that in order for us to be His True Followers - we must die to self!!! If we call ourselves “Christians,” then we must deny ourselves, and give up our lives for His sake!!! This may take the extreme form of being martyred for our faith; but in most cases, and even in the most peaceful political settings, it means NOT to literally give up our life on a cross – but that we must be willing to LOSE OUR “SELF” - Crucifying self-righteousness, self-promotion, selfish ambitions, and our Self-Centeredness - in order to be His Followers. Picking Up Our Cross means - our old life is GONE, when we Follow Christ; just like a man who actually was sentenced to death, and picked up his cross (piece) – he will never go back to the things and places he once knew! Those who are not willing to do so are “not worthy” of Him; so Says Jesus (Matthew 10:38)! And this is WHY The CROSS is NOT a pagan Symbol, regardless of what the godless do with it.



The Cross – It's A Beautiful Thing!!!

ONLY JESUS Could Make The Cross A Beautiful Symbol Of A NEW LIFE In Him; Made From One Of The Most Terrible Forms Of Ancient Death! www.onug.us

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a New Creature! Old things are passed away (or have died)! Behold, ALL THINGS (even The Cross) are become NEW!!!" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Cross Symbolizes dying to our old self; and walking in a Holy, New Life, Following The Teachings, The Laws, The Plan of God which Jesus Came to Teach ALL Flesh to Follow (Romans 6:6 / Galatians 2:20 / Psalm 119:172 / John 14:15,21)!!! The Cross Symbolizes Christ dying, shedding His Blood to Pay For our Sins; it Symbolizes our Redemption to Our Heavenly Father AS HIS CHILDREN!!! The Cross Symbolizes The Implementation of The Plan of God - when The Father Comes to our earth (Matthew 5:5) – To Make ALL Things NEW (Revelation 21:1-8); **and that is WHY Satan, and all his many different flavors of minions, HATE it so!!!** And NOW YOU KNOW!!! www.onug.us

What Shape Was Christ's Cross?

Historically, The Romans Used ALL Of The 5 Below Crucifixion Methods. Which One Did Pontius Pilate Have Christ Nailed To?



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The instrument of Jesus' crucifixion (known in Latin as *crux*, in Greek as *stauros*) is generally taken to have been composed of an upright wooden beam or post (tree), to which was added a transom (cross piece or cross beam / Patibulum), thus forming a "cruciform" or a Cross / T-shaped structure. Sometimes we see it with a hypopodium (or foot rest) added; but this would not really have Christ hanging on His Cross (he would be standing); and Christ had to "hang" ON a tree, in order to be cursed (Deuteronomy 21:23 / Galatians 3:13). A foot rest or hypopodium would also NOT allow for Christ's heel to be bruised, or nailed through!!! www.onug.us

Most Christian denominations present the Christian cross in this form, and the tradition of the T-shapes (Traditional "t" and Capital "T" shapes) can be traced to early Christianity and the

Church fathers. However, some scholars of the late 19th century have maintained that it was in reality a simple stake (cru^x simplex), or death stake, as the Jehovah's Witnesses claim.

The Koine Greek terms used in the New Testament of the structure on which Jesus died are stauros (σταυρός) and xylon (ξύλον). Those words, which can refer to many different things, do not indicate the precise shape of the structure. Scholars have long known that the Greek word stauros and the Latin word crux did not uniquely mean a cross. They have known too that the words had that meaning also, and so have not considered necessarily incorrect, the traditional picture of a cross with transom.

The ambiguity of the terms was noted by Justus Lipsius - in his De Cruce (1594), Jacob Gretser - in his De Cruce Christi (1598), and Thomas Godwyn - in his Moses and Aaron (1662).

John Pearson, Bishop of Chester (c. 1660) wrote in his commentary on the Apostles' Creed that the Greek word stauros originally signified "a straight standing Stake, Pale, or Palisador", but that, "when other transverse or prominent parts were added in a perfect Cross, it retained still the Original Name", and he declared: **"The Form then of the Cross on which our Saviour suffered was not a simple, but a compounded Figure, according to the Custom of the Romans, by whose Procurator he was condemned to die. In which there was not only a straight and erected piece of Wood fixed in the Earth, but also a transverse Beam (Patibulum) fastened unto that, towards the top thereof"!!!**

Justus Lipsius invented a specific terminology to distinguish different forms of what could be called a cross or crux. His basic twofold distinction was between:

1) The Cru^x Simplex (a simple stake) and

2) The Cru^x Compacta (a composite of TWO pieces of wood).

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The victim could be affixed to the crux simplex or could be impaled on it (as we have discussed previously in our Study. +-shaped).

Lipsius then subdivided the crux compacta into three types:

A) The Crux Decussata (X-shaped),

B) Crux Commissa (T-shaped), and

C) Crux Immissa (†-shaped)!!! www.onug.us

Lipsius himself, as also Gretser and Godwyn; held that Jesus was nailed not to a crux simplex, but to a crux immissa!!!

ERROR:

However, W. E. Vine and E. W. Bullinger, as well as Henry Dana Ward, considered that the "cross" (Greek stauros, in its original sense literally an upright pale or stake) had no crossbar, and that the traditional picture of Jesus on a cross with a crossbar was incorrect.

TRUTH:

The Scriptures we have looked at so far, in this Study, rule out a stake or post only; and Thomas' statements show us we need at least TWO Nails – one per hand (as in outstretch arms)!!!

So Biblically, we CAN NO LONGER define "Stauros", as a stake only! It MUST HAVE A CROSS BEAM (PATIBULUM) – Biblically, to fulfill ALL of The Scriptures we have read so far (Isaiah 28:9-10 / 1 Thessalonians 5:21 / Matthew 13:52, 28:20)!!! www.onug.us

Who Began Calling Christ's Cross A Pagan Symbol?

Plymouth Brethren preacher **W. E. Vine's Expository Dictionary** of New Testament Words also states that the primary meaning of stauros was an upright pale or stake on which malefactors were nailed for execution. Vine said the shape of the ecclesiastical form of two-beamed cross had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as the symbol of the god Tammuz (taking on the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) in Chaldea and nearby lands, including Egypt. He said third century churches, which by then had departed from certain doctrines of the Christian faith, accepted pagans into the faith in order to increase their prestige and allowed them to retain their pagan signs and symbols. "Hence the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the cross-piece lowered, was adopted to stand for the 'cross' of Christ." So by a Tammuz cross, it would mean they are referring to a **Crux Commissa (or T-shaped cross)!**

You and I, having Proven our Truth above – AND By Scripture Alone; we now KNOW that Vine was incorrect in his assertion that The Cross is a pagan relic!!! A Cross Piece is permissible in the Greek definition of the word; and MANDATED to Fulfill ALL of The Scriptures God has Preserved for us today (John 15:15)!!! www.onug.us

Anglican theologian **E. W. Bullinger**, in The Companion Bible (which was completed and published in 1922, nine years after his 1913 death), was emphatic in his belief that stauros never meant two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, "but always of one piece alone ... There is nothing [of the word stauros] in the Greek of the N.T. even to imply two pieces of timber."

Students of The Word of God, and of this Bible Study, now KNOW how to PROVE Bullinger incorrect in his assertions! The New Testament has MUCH to say about a Cross and Cross Piece that stretched out Christ's Arms!!!

Bullinger wrote that in the catacombs of Rome, Christ was never represented there as "hanging on a cross" and that the cross was a pagan symbol of life (the ankh) in Egyptian churches that was borrowed by the Christians. **Both of these statements may be true; but that does NOT undo Scripture! What the Catholics, or the Egyptians, do or don't do; in NO WAY affects God's Eternal Truth, Plans, or Word!!! Praise God!!!**
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The Ancient Egyptian "Ankh":

The ankh is an ancient Egyptian hieroglyphic symbol that was most commonly used in Egyptian writing, and in their art, to represent the word for "Life"; and, by extension, as a symbol of life itself. The ankh has a cross shape but with an oval loop in place of an upper bar.

Early Egyptian Christian churches, post Resurrection; would come to use this ancient symbol of Life to represent Christ's Cross in their writings, because they were so familiar with it from their culture.

Still, many years later; some "Modern" historians would discover this Ankh depicted in old Egyptian church records, and then **INCORRECTLY** conclude that Christ's Cross **MUST** be a Pagan symbol, as the Ankh predates the Crucifixion of Christ.

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Read our "Golgotha Bible Study Series"!!!

TRUTH: Whether depicted as an Ankh, or the more structurally CORRECT, "Crux Immissa" († - Shaped Cross); The FACT STILL REMAINS: That Jesus Christ Did Die on THAT precisely shaped, Instrument of Death; and Almighty God IS USING THAT SAME CROSS PIECE, to Give LIFE, and Bring SALAVATION, to Hundreds of Billions of people - Throughout Time (John 21:18-19 / Luke 9:23-27)!!!!

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Carrying The Cross Piece (Patibulum):

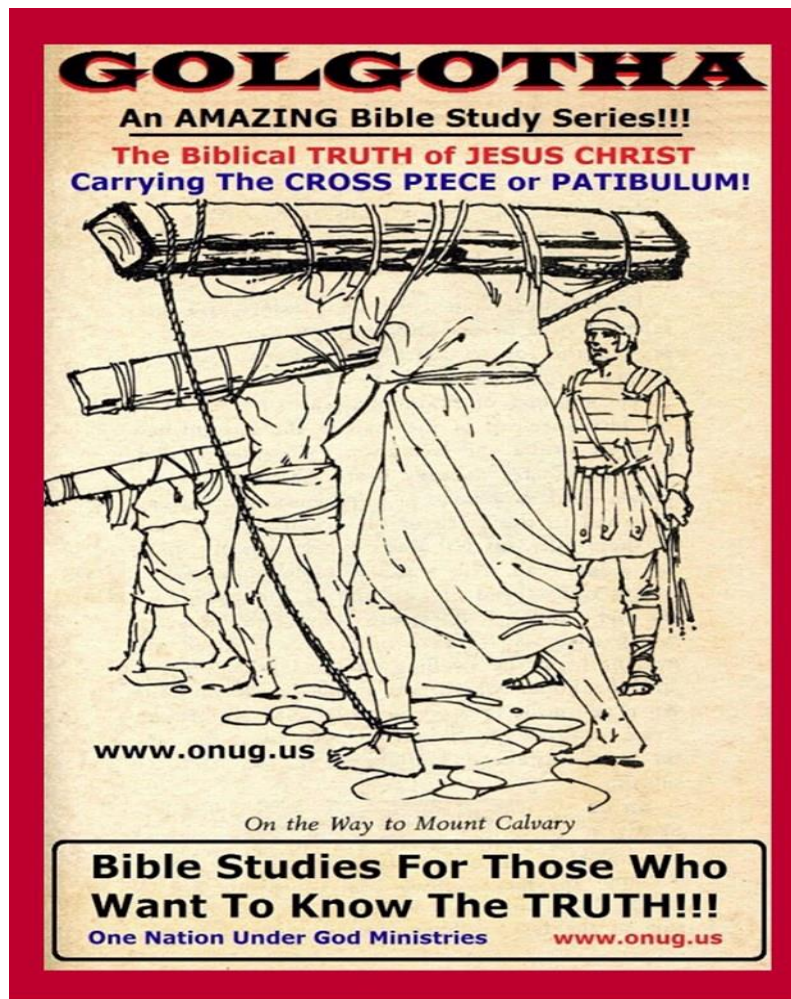
Andreas J. Köstenberger (2004) notes that traditional academic reconstruction of the cross has first Jesus, then Simon of Cyrene bear the "stauros"; i.e.: only the horizontal crossbar (Latin patibulum). Yet when Simon carries the patibulum to Golgotha, the crossbar is then hoisted to the stake to make the traditional crucifix shape!!!

Schröter (1997) notes that the lack of references in ancient sources, aside from Plautus (The Charcoal Woman and The

Braggart Warrior) and Plutarch (Moralia), to "bearing the cross", implies that a criminal carrying his own patibulum was not very common.

However, Scripture (Isaiah 28:9-10 / Matthew 13:52) makes ample reference to both Christ AND us, to Carrying Our Cross (Piece) or Patibulum!!!

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James B. Torrance, in the article "Cross", in the New Bible Dictionary, writes that the Greek word for "cross" (stauros; verb stauroō; Lat. crux, crucifigo, "I fasten to a cross") means primarily an upright stake or beam, **but also allows the construction that Jesus and Simon of Cyrene carried a patibulum to Golgotha!!!** www.onug.us

In applying the word *stauros* to the crossbeam, these writers indicate that the complete structure on which Jesus died was not a single upright post, **but formed what is normally called a cross!!!** www.onug.us

The Greek-English Lexicon of Liddell and Scott, reports that the meaning of the word "*σταυρός*" (*stauros*) in the early Homeric form of Greek, possibly of the eighth to sixth century BC, and also in the writings of the fifth-century BC writers Herodotus and Thucydides; and the early-4th century BC Xenophon, is "an upright pale or stake" used to build a palisade or "a pile driven in to serve as a foundation"!!!

It reports that in the writings of the first-century BC Diodorus Siculus, first-century AD Plutarch and early second-century Lucian—as well as in Matthew 27:40, Luke 9:23, 14:27 - the word "*σταυρός*" (*stauros*) is used to refer to a cross, either as the instrument of crucifixion or metaphorically of voluntary suffering; "its form was indicated by the Greek letter T". It also reports that Plutarch used the word with regard to a pale for impaling a corpse. Of the writers whom Liddell and Scott gives as using "*σταυρός*" (*stauros*) to mean a cross, the New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology, holds that in Diodorus Siculus, **the word probably means a stake for hanging (a patibulum – cross piece)!!!** Plutarch (in *An vitiositas ad infelicitatem sufficiat*) distinguishes crucifixion on a *stauros*, from impalement on a *skolops*!!!

The Bible is ALSO VERY CLEAR that Jesus Hung, outstretched arms, on a patibulum or cross piece; which was hung on a tree!!! www.onug.us

Just How Strong were the Condemned? Could they carry a whole Post and Cross Piece to their place of execution? Let us PROVE ALL of God's TRUTH!!! www.onug.us

Historical sources and The Bible say that there were **two possible ways of erecting the *stauros***, which would probably

have been not much higher than the height of a man. In Christ's case, we know the crosses were higher than a man's height, as the Roman soldier pierced Christ's side with a spear; NOT a Knife or Sword (John 19:31-37)!!!

Option 1) The condemned man could be fastened to the cross lying on the ground at the place of execution, then lifted up on it.

Option 2) Alternatively, it was probably usual to have the stake implanted in the ground BEFORE the execution. The victim was tied to the crosspiece and was hoisted up with the horizontal beam and made fast to the vertical stake. They say that as this was the simpler form of erection, and the carrying of the crossbeam (patibulum) was probably a form of punishment for slaves, **the crux commissa may be taken as the normal practice (Pre-existing upright post, horizontal cross piece added, and hoisted up)!!!**

This is the option BOTH The Bible, and Common Sense, support!!! Even in Hollywood recreations of the Crucifixion; actors struggle with lightweight full size crosses, when they try to drag them through the streets!!!



REMEMBER: CHRIST INSTRUCTIONS ARE FOR YOU AND I TO "CARRY" OUR CROSSES; NOT FOR US TO "DRAG" THEM BEHIND US!!! www.onug.us

Jesus DID NOT Have wheels on his Cross!



Rely on The Bible For YOUR TRUTH; NOT Hollywood!!!

Now YOU Know...

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- 1) David killed Goliath of Gath, cut his head off; and buried his head at Golgotha (The Place of Goliath of Gath's skull)!**
- 2) Christ Defeated Satan, The Head of the kingdom of darkness at Golgotha; while Satan bruises Christ's heel, by driving a crucifixion stake through each of His Ankles – not the tops of His feet!**
- 3) Polls are Skulls, and they are counted, cursed, and Blessed by God – at Golgotha – By Christ's Blood!!!**
- 4) The Cross of Christ is NOT a pagan symbol; It Represents God's LOVE for US (John 3:16)!!!**
- 5) Christ's Cross was a traditional one (2/3's of the way up – cross beam or Patibulum)!**
- 6) Christ was nailed through the wrists with outstretched arms to His Cross Piece – Patibulum.**

- 7) **The Cross was hoisted and hung on a Tree or Post – which was already planted firmly in the ground!**
- 8) **The 5 Crosses at Jesus' Passover Crucifixion, were alongside the roadway; NOT up on the hilltop!**
- 9) **The Charges were written on all the condemned crosses, down low, under the accused, where they could be read by "MANY" who PASSED BY ON THE ROAD - not just to a few rock climbers!**
- 10) **Pilate added ADDITIONAL info to Christ's charges!**
- 11) **JESUS IS LORD – He IS Our Risen Savior! He's Coming Back Soon; so let's ALL Abandon Sin, LOVE GOD through Obedience; Pick Up our Cross Pieces (or Patibulums) – and Walk in NEWNESS of LIFE – WITHOUT ANY Leavening; In Christ Jesus!!!**

MAY WE NEVER AGAIN, BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO SATAN'S DECEPTION AND LIES, ABOUT OUR SAVIOR'S DEATH ON A CROSS!!!

We Hope and PRAY that this Bible Study will make YOU PROVE or re-PROVE all the things you think you know about God, Jesus, and The Coming Kingdom of God – for God The Father's Exceeding Great GLORY!!!

The First Century Church of God is still alive and well; and we are still about our Father's Business! We would like to Thank You for joining **One Nation Under God Ministries (www.onug.us)** today in The Study of God's Word, and hope that you will continue on with us next week, and that you will SHARE what you have Learned here, with others – at home, at work, and in your neighborhood (Matthew 28:18-20 / Mark 16:15-20)! May our Great God, Bless you and Keep you, until then!!!

In Jesus Christ's Precious Name, By Whose Soul - Cleansing Blood We Are WASHED!!! Amen!!!

– Submitted by Pastor R.C. Brown III

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PASSOVER:**

**Are YOU Washed
in the Soul Cleansing
Blood of The Lamb?**

John 1:29
**YESHUA
HaMashiach**
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Jesus the Messiah

JESUS IS LORD!!!

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Learn How To KEEP The Lord's Passover With Us This Year!

**PRINT yourself a FREE Holy Day Calendar (below) and
Never Again MISS One of God's Holy Feast Days!!!**

Leviticus 23:1-44
Hebrews 4:1-11

The Annual Festivals of God

Exodus 31:12-18
Matthew 11:29

Roman Year	Passover	Feast of Unleavened Bread	Pentecost	Feast of Trumpets	Day of Atonement	Feast of Tabernacles	The Eighth Day
2013	March 25	March 26-April 1	May 19	Sept. 5	Sept. 14	Sept. 19-25	Sept. 26
2014	April 14	April 15-21	June 8	Sept. 25	Oct. 4	Oct. 9-15	Oct. 16
2015	April 3	April 4-10	May 24	Sept. 14	Sept. 23	Sept. 28-Oct. 4	Oct. 5
2016	April 22	April 23-29	June 12	Oct. 3	Oct. 12	Oct. 17-23	Oct. 24
2017	April 10	April 11-17	June 4	Sept. 21	Sept. 30	Oct. 5-11	Oct. 12
2018	March 30	March 31-April 6	May 20	Sept. 10	Sept. 19	Sept. 24-30	Oct. 1
2019	April 19	April 20-26	June 9	Sept. 30	Oct. 9	Oct. 14-20	Oct. 21
2020	April 8	April 9-15	May 31	Sept. 19	Sept. 28	Oct. 3-9	Oct. 10
2021	March 27	March 28-April 3	May 16	Sept. 7	Sept. 16	Sept. 21-27	Sept. 28
2022	April 15	April 16-22	June 5	Sept. 26	Oct. 5	Oct. 10-16	Oct. 17
2023	April 5	April 6-12	May 28	Sept. 16	Sept. 25	Sept. 30-Oct. 6	Oct. 7
2024	April 22	April 23-29	June 16	Oct. 3	Oct. 12	Oct. 17-23	Oct. 24
2025	April 12	April 13-19	June 1	Sept. 23	Oct. 2	Oct. 7-13	Oct. 14
2026	April 1	April 2-8	May 24	Sept. 12	Sept. 21	Sept. 26-Oct. 2	Oct. 3

In biblical reckoning, days begin in the evening (Genesis 1:5), when the sun goes down (Joshua 8:29; 2 Chronicles 18:34; Mark 1:32), and are counted "from evening to evening" (Leviticus 23:32). Thus, all God's festivals begin the sunset just before

the dates listed in this table. For example, in 2015 Passover is observed on the evening of April 2, after sundown, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread begins the following evening, April 3. The festivals end at sunset on the dates given.

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"But ye believe not, because ye are NOT of My Sheep, as I Said unto you. My Sheep Hear My Voice, and I Know them, and they Follow Me: And I Give unto them Eternal Life; and they shall Never Perish, Neither shall any man pluck them out of My Hand!!! My Father, Who Gave them Me, is Greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's Hand!!! I and my Father are One" (John 10:26-30).

Christians must Learn to Read The Bible, interpret The Scriptures according to Biblical Principles (1 Thessalonians 5:21 / Isaiah 28:9-10 / Psalm 111:10), and begin to Apply The Precepts they Learn in their Walk with God. Individual Study is Essential; coupled with Fellowship times of Group Study, Worship, and discussions of personal insights and observations.

We strive, each Saturday, to foster an open and welcoming atmosphere where Spirit led confirmation, clarification,

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One Nation Under God Ministries (www.onug.us) is working to unify The Body of Christ in The Worship of God The Father, in The Way that Jesus Showed us to - in Spirit and in Truth!

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NOTES: