

6:19. We will be born again at that time (*Read Tract - 'Are You Born Again?'*). Salvation and eternal life is only made possible through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Belief in Christ's promise of resurrection to eternal life is a powerful remedy for the fear of death and anxiety about our future destiny - Heb 2:14-15. There are many eyewitness accounts of Jesus' resurrection, recorded in God's Word. The resurrection of Jesus was a fundamental part of the apostle's announcement to the world. Ac 2:14-40 includes apostle Peter's first sermon where he speaks about the truth of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus appeared to a large number of witnesses as scripture clearly shows. Many to whom Jesus appeared, were willing to die for the truth of their testimony about Jesus' resurrection. Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene as she stood outside the tomb - Mt 28:1-10. He also appeared to His disciples and Thomas Jn 20; the eleven disciples on a mountain in Galilee Mt 28:16-20; to His apostles during the 40 days after His resurrection, and preached to them the message of the Kingdom of God. Jesus gave them convincing proof that He was truly alive - Ac 1:1-5. In 1 Cor 15, the resurrection of Jesus Christ and true believers was a central theme of Paul's preaching. Jesus also appeared to Cephas, to the twelve, and more than five hundred people at the same time. Also, to James and all the apostles, including apostle Paul. Moreover, He appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus - Lk 24:13-32. There are many other eyewitness accounts as revealed in God's Word. Jesus ascended to heaven, forty days after His resurrection, from the Mount of Olives - Ac 1:9-12. He is now at the right hand of the divine majesty in heaven - Heb 12:2.

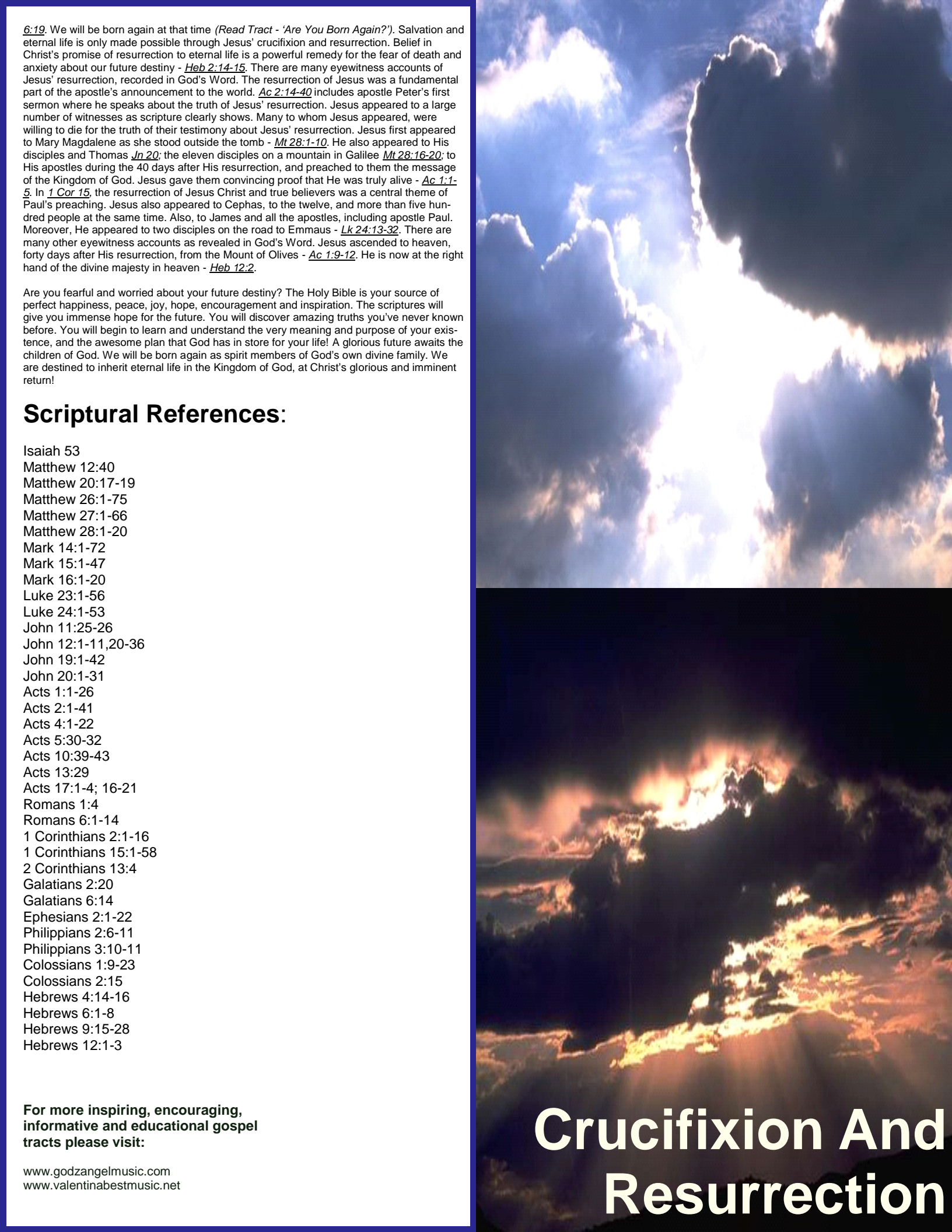
Are you fearful and worried about your future destiny? The Holy Bible is your source of perfect happiness, peace, joy, hope, encouragement and inspiration. The scriptures will give you immense hope for the future. You will discover amazing truths you've never known before. You will begin to learn and understand the very meaning and purpose of your existence, and the awesome plan that God has in store for your life! A glorious future awaits the children of God. We will be born again as spirit members of God's own divine family. We are destined to inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God, at Christ's glorious and imminent return!

Scriptural References:

Isaiah 53
Matthew 12:40
Matthew 20:17-19
Matthew 26:1-75
Matthew 27:1-66
Matthew 28:1-20
Mark 14:1-72
Mark 15:1-47
Mark 16:1-20
Luke 23:1-56
Luke 24:1-53
John 11:25-26
John 12:1-11,20-36
John 19:1-42
John 20:1-31
Acts 1:1-26
Acts 2:1-41
Acts 4:1-22
Acts 5:30-32
Acts 10:39-43
Acts 13:29
Acts 17:1-4; 16-21
Romans 1:4
Romans 6:1-14
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
1 Corinthians 15:1-58
2 Corinthians 13:4
Galatians 2:20
Galatians 6:14
Ephesians 2:1-22
Philippians 2:6-11
Philippians 3:10-11
Colossians 1:9-23
Colossians 2:15
Hebrews 4:14-16
Hebrews 6:1-8
Hebrews 9:15-28
Hebrews 12:1-3

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Crucifixion And Resurrection

Belief in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of Christianity. Why is the crucifixion and resurrection of greatest importance and significance to our Christian faith? Is the traditional view of a Friday-afternoon crucifixion and burial, and Sunday-morning resurrection Biblically correct? Did Jesus prophesy His own death and resurrection? What does the Bible mention about the single most important event in human history?

What do 'Jesus Christ' and the 'Messiah' mean? According to the Holman Bible Dictionary, 'Messiah' is the transliteration of Hebrew word meaning, "anointed one" that was translated into Greek as Christos.

What is the importance and significance of Christ's sacrifice? Christ willingly gave His life for us. He has the authority to lay down His life, and authority to take it up again - [Jn 10:17-18](#). God's Law requires that there be shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sins, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins - [Heb 9:22](#). Sin is defined as the transgression of God's Law - [1 Jn 3:4](#). The wages of sin is death - [Ro 6:23](#). Jesus Christ paid the price for our sins - the punishment that each of us deserved. He took upon Himself all our sins. Without Christ's sacrifice, we would've paid the death penalty ourselves, and would've had absolutely no hope beyond the grave. Jesus was the only perfect sacrifice, once for all, for the cleansing and redemption from, and purification and forgiveness of sins. This is how we are reconciled to God. Without reconciliation to God the Father, there is no forgiveness of sins - [Ro 5:10](#); [1 Pe 3:18](#). Jesus also bore all our sins to save us from everlasting death - [2 Cor 5:21](#); [Heb 9:28](#); [1 Pe 2:24](#). Jesus is described as our Great High Priest, who fit the description of the one and only perfect sacrifice that could take away the sins of the world. He is holy, pure, blameless and set apart from sinners [Heb 7:26](#); [1 Pe 2:22-25](#). The grace of God, which is unmerited favor or pardon toward the undeserving, or forgiveness of sins, is a free gift and cannot be earned. But that does not give one a license to sin [Ro 6:1-2](#). Grace gives us hope and a new beginning. Grace makes it possible for us to live a new life in Christ, and in harmony with God's Laws and teachings. God's grace does not nullify His Laws - [Ro 3:31](#). God commands everyone, everywhere to repent - [Ac 17:30-31](#). Only through repentance can we be saved. We must act on what Christ tells us to do in His word. We must remain faithful to our calling (*Read Tract - 'Parable of the Sower'*). God gives grace to the repentant, forgiving them of their sins - [Ac 2:38](#). Upon repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we must live a life of self-sacrifice (it does not mean self-mutilation). We put to death the sinful carnal nature, and live by the spirit - [Mk 8:34](#); [Ro 12:1](#). Through the cross, we become dead to: sin, to the world, and to earthly pleasures and worldly influences. We are made alive to God - [Ro 6:2](#); [Gal 2:20](#); [6:14](#); [Eph 2:1](#); [Col 3:3](#). The importance and significance of Christ's perfect sacrifice is further described in the tract entitled: *'Precious Blood of Jesus - Wonder Working Power!'*.

When was Christ's crucifixion and how long was Christ in the heart of the earth?

Many professing Christians believe that Jesus had His "Last Supper" on Thursday night, was crucified and buried on Friday afternoon, and rose from the dead on Sunday morning. Others believe that Jesus observed the New Testament Passover on a Tuesday night, was crucified during the daylight portion of Wednesday, buried in the late afternoon, just before sunset on Wednesday, and resurrected 3 full days and 3 full nights in the late afternoon, just before sunset on Saturday. Let's examine the scriptures to see which view is Biblically correct. Some of the scribes and Pharisees requested a sign from Jesus, to demonstrate He was the Messiah. Jesus replied that the only sign He would give was that of the prophet Jonah - [Mt 12:38-40](#). He mentioned that Jonah was in the belly of the huge fish for exactly three days and three nights, and that He too, will be in the heart of the earth, for the same amount of time. [Jnh 1:17](#) also confirms Jesus' words. Jesus also states in [Jn 11:9](#) that there are 12 hours of daylight. Therefore, we can calculate exactly how many hours Jesus was in the tomb, which is a total of 72 hours. There is no scripture in the Bible to show that Jesus meant otherwise. Many have made false assumptions that Jesus was crucified on Friday, based on [Lk 23:54](#). Let's examine this verse. We must remember that there are two Sabbaths which occurred in the week of Christ's crucifixion. Firstly, the annual high-day Sabbath, or the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is one of seven annual holy days, as mentioned in [Lev 23](#); [Lk 23:54](#); [Jn 19:31](#); and secondly, the regular weekly Sabbath - [Lk 23:56](#).

The chronology of Christ's crucifixion and resurrection - Tuesday - Jesus Christ ate an evening Passover meal with His disciples (at the beginning of Nisan 14, Jewish reckoning), and instituted the New Covenant Symbols of wine representing His shed blood for the forgiveness of sins; and unleavened bread symbolizing His broken body - [Mt 26:26-28](#). Jesus was betrayed by Judas, arrested and brought before the high priest, during the night.

Wednesday - Jesus was crucified during the daylight portion of Passover (in the year AD 31), at the third hour - 9 a.m. according to [Mk 15:25](#). There was darkness over the whole land from the sixth hour until the ninth hour - 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Jesus died at the ninth hour - 3 p.m. He was on the cross for a total of 6 hours - [Mt 27:46-50](#); [Mk 15:33-37](#). This day was the preparation day for the special Sabbath (high-day Sabbath), or preparation day for the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Not preparation day for the regular weekly Sabbath - [Mk 15:42](#); [Lk 23:54](#); [Jn 19:31](#). Jesus' death is also described in [Lk 23:44-49](#). [Verse 54](#) states that "It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin." [Jn 19:31](#) confirms that Jesus was crucified on the preparation day for the "high day Sabbath" or "annual Sabbath." Jesus' body was placed in the tomb quickly, just before sunset, or just before the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread - [Mt 27:57-60](#); [Mk 15:46](#). The women were also present at His burial and saw Jesus' body being laid in the tomb - [Mk 15:47](#); [Lk 23:55](#). Jesus' burial is described in [Lk 23:50-56](#). **Thursday** - This was a High-day Sabbath, the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which is a day of holy convocation or sacred assembly, in which no servile work was to be done. Also called the day after the "Day of Preparation" - [Mt 27:62](#). The Unleavened Bread Festival is one of seven annual Holy Days [Lev 23:4-7](#); [Jn 19:31](#). Several Bible resources, such as Encyclopedias, Commentaries and Dictionaries confirm that John is referring to a "high-day Sabbath." From Wednesday sunset to Thursday sunset were the first of three days and three nights Jesus' body was in the tomb - **Friday** - The annual high-day Sabbath was now past, and the women now purchased and prepared spices and perfumes to anoint Jesus' body before resting on the regular weekly Sabbath day (which began at evening) according to God's commandment. God blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy. It is a day of rest dedicated to God, in which no work is to be done - [Ex 20:8-11](#); [Mk 16:1](#); [Lk 23:56](#). From Thursday sunset to Friday sunset were the second of three days and three nights Jesus' body was in the tomb. **Saturday** - The women still rested during the daylight portion of the regular weekly Sabbath day, according to the 4th Commandment - "Keep the Sabbath Day Holy" - [Lk 23:56](#); [Ex 20:8-11](#). Jesus rose near sunset on Saturday afternoon, exactly three days and three nights after His body was placed in the tomb, confirming the sign He gave of His messiahship, and fulfilling the sign of the

prophet Jonah - [Mt 12:38-40](#). From Wednesday sunset to Saturday sunset is exactly three days and three nights. **Sunday** - Early in the morning, on the first day of the week, "while it was still dark," the women brought the prepared spices. Jesus was already risen from the dead - [Mt 28:1-6](#); [Mk 16:1-6](#); [Lk 24:1-3](#); [Jn 20:1-2](#). Jesus was not resurrected on Sunday morning, as the stone was already rolled away and the tomb was empty, before Mary Magdalene and the other women arrived there! He was resurrected just before sunset on Saturday afternoon - exactly three days and three nights after being entombed, as He himself prophesied in [Mt 12:40](#). Therefore, Sunday could not constitute a day, as He was not in the tomb during the daylight portion of Sunday, as God had already raised Jesus Christ from the dead! [Ac 2:32](#); [3:15](#). Jesus' resurrection is further described in [Mk 16:1-8](#). [Note](#): No work was to be done on Sabbaths - annual or weekly. Household tasks such as cooking and housecleaning were completed the day before - called "preparation day." [Lev 23:4-8](#); [Ex 20:8-11](#). Shops in Jerusalem were closed on both annual and weekly Sabbaths. Scriptures also show that days do not begin from morning to evening - but from sunset to sunset [Gen 1:5,8,13](#); [Lev 23:32](#). By investigating the Gospels - Mark and Luke, we find that there are two Sabbaths mentioned. The Gospel of Mark states: the women bought spices after the Sabbath - [Mk 16:1](#). The Gospel of Luke states: the women prepared the spices before resting on the Sabbath - [Lk 23:56](#).

What is the agony of the crucifixion and how was it carried out? This form of punishment was the most barbaric, cruel, painful and degrading form of capital punishment in the ancient world. It was designed to be a deliberately slow and excruciating execution. In Jesus' day, crucifixion was considered so gruesome that it was reserved for slaves, the worst of criminals and enemies of the state. Firstly, Jesus was scourged. The Roman floggings typically consisted of thirty-nine lashes. But often were a lot more than that, depending on the mood of the soldiers. (Jewish Law limited flagellation to forty strokes, and in practice delivered thirty-nine - [2 Cor 11:24](#)). The soldier used a whip consisting of braided leather thongs with pieces of metal or bone woven through them. This would produce deep bruises. The sharp bone would cut the flesh severely. It was a horrible and excruciating ordeal, where the person was scourged with whips until almost dead. Many died under the scourging, and weren't even able to make it to the execution site. Jesus would've been in a serious to critical medical condition as a result of the beatings and scourging. Eusebius, a 3rd century historian, described the flogging by stating: "The sufferer's veins were laid bare, and the very muscles sinews and bowels of the victims were open to exposure." In the crucifixion, the nails were made of iron material. They were five to seven inches long (12.7 cm to 17.8 cm), and approximately three eighths of an inch square. They were driven through the person's wrist, between the arm bones, because the hands could not support the body's weight. Jesus, being hung by His arms would've caused immense stress on His body. His arms being stretched several inches would've resulted in shoulder dislocation - [Ps 22:14](#). Nails were also driven through the feet. The pain would be indescribable and absolutely unbearable. The death of Jesus is mentioned in [Jn 19:28-37](#). The agonies that Jesus endured are further illustrated in the Book entitled "The Case For Christ" by Lee Strobel. "Once a person is hanging in the vertical position, crucifixion is essentially an agonizingly slow death by asphyxiation. The reason is that the stresses on the muscles and diaphragm put the chest into the inhaled position; basically, in order to exhale, the individual must push up on his feet so the tension on the muscles would be eased for a moment. In doing so, the nail would tear through the foot, eventually locking up the tarsal bones. After managing to exhale, the person would be able to relax down and take another breath in. Again he'd have to push himself up to exhale, scraping his bloodied back against the coarse wood of the cross. This would go on and on until complete exhaustion would take over, and the person wouldn't be able to push up and breathe anymore. As the person slows down his breathing, he goes into what is called respiratory acidosis - the carbon dioxide in the blood is dissolved as carbonic acid, causing the acidity of the blood to increase, this eventually leads to irregular heart beat. In fact with his heart beating erratically, Jesus would have known that he was at the moment of death, which is when he was able to say, 'Lord into your hands I commend my spirit.' And then he died of cardiac arrest. The hypovolemic shock that Jesus suffered from the flogging he had received earlier would have caused a sustained rapid heart rate that would have contributed to heart failure, resulting in the collection of fluid in the membrane around the heart, called pericardial effusion, as well as around the lungs, which is called a pleural effusion. This is significant because when the Roman soldier confirmed his death by thrusting a spear into his right side, the spear apparently went through the right lung and into the heart so when the spear was pulled out, some fluid - the pericardial effusion and the pleural effusion - came out. This would have the appearance of a clear fluid, like water, followed by a large volume of blood, as the eyewitness John described in the gospel. John's description is consistent with what modern medicine would have expected to have happened."

According to the *Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*, the word translated "cross" in the New Testament is the Greek word *stauros*, which "denotes, primarily, 'an upright pale or stake.'" "Both the noun and the verb *stauroo*, 'to fasten to a stake or pale,' are originally to be distinguished from the ecclesiastical form of a two beamed 'cross.'" "The shape of the [two-beamed cross] had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) in that country and in adjacent lands, including Egypt. By the middle of the 3rd cent. A.D. the churches had either departed from, or had travestied, certain doctrines of the Christian faith. "In order to increase the prestige of the apostate ecclesiastical system pagans were received into the churches...and were permitted largely 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." *Oxford University's Companion Bible* says: "The evidence is that the Lord was put to death upon an upright stake, and NOT on two pieces of timber placed at any angle." *The New Catholic Encyclopedia* admits: "The cross is found in both pre-Christian and non-Christian cultures, where it has largely a cosmic or natural significance." (*Read Tract - 'Praise and Worship!'*).

What is the importance and significance of Christ's resurrection? Only Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior has been resurrected to eternal life. The living and resurrected Jesus Christ provides a great and living hope for the resurrection of true believers at His return, and the hope that we will inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God [1 Cor 15:50](#); [Tit 1:2](#); [1 Pe 1:3-5](#). The resurrection of the dead is only made possible through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The dead in Christ and those who are alive in Christ at that time, will be transformed to immortal spirit beings. We will receive a glorious spirit body, share in God's eternal divine nature and possess magnificent power - [1 Cor 15:1-58](#); [1 Th 4:13-18](#). This is our awesome destiny - [1 Jn 3:2](#). Those who have repented and received the gift of God's Holy Spirit, have the assurance that as Christ was raised to immortality, they, too will be resurrected to immortality - [Ro 8:11](#). The complete work of salvation will be at Christ's return, for those who are eagerly waiting for Him - [Heb 9:28](#). This hope is a firm and secure anchor for our souls - [Heb](#)