

Spirit and Truth

Bible studies dedicated to helping the Bible student to know and worship God as he requires His followers to know and worship Him.

The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. John 4:23,24

Lesson 12

WHO DIED ON THE CROSS?

Part B. The Bible Describes the Death of Jesus

Our last lesson introduced the question as to who actually died on the cross of Calvary. In preparation for an investigation of the terms applying to Christ in respect to this question we established the Bible definitions for such terms as death, the penalty for sin, the soul, the spirit and the relationship of Christ to the law. The last lesson finished-up with the following issue unresolved...

While Jesus is as much divine and as much deity as the Father, and deity cannot die, did Jesus actually die? There is no question that the human part of Him died, but what of the God part? Is it possible that some part of Him remained alive --- the deity part? That is, was the death of Jesus complete? Did He fully die? Was the gift of God a divine sacrifice, or was it the sacrifice of a man?

To settle this issue, we will need to understand what happened to the *soul* of Jesus when He died and, to what capacity did the Son of God take upon Himself the human body; that is, was there any part of Him still in heaven at the time He was a man on earth? We will investigate where Jesus was, before His incarnation, during His life on earth and then after His ascension back into heaven. We will then be in a position to understand what part of Jesus (if any) went back to heaven at the moment of His death, and then what He received again at His resurrection. This approach should also reveal how complete was the death of the Son of God. What we shall learn is that Jesus did, in fact, completely die and was truly a divine sacrifice!

*Search the Scriptures for in them ye think
ye have eternal life and they are they
which testify of me. John 5:39*

BEFORE THE INCARNATION

1. Before Jesus came to this world as a man, where did He reside?
1Kings 8:30

2. Using Bible language describe the relationship that existed between Christ and His Father before the foundation of the earth.
John 17:5,24b
Proverbs 8:22-31

Note: Clearly, before the earth was created, the Father and the Son dwelled together in heaven with great joy and love, and with all the glory and adoration that accompanies the highest Majesty of the universe.

WHILE JESUS WAS ON EARTH

When Jesus came to this earth as a man, was there any part of Him that was not included in the incarnate body? Was Jesus, being the Son of God when He walked this earth, as much deity as He was when He occupied His throne in heaven, before the incarnation? The answers to these questions are important, for when Jesus died on the cross, how much of the real Son of God, Michael, died?

3. When God worked to save the human race, He gave His Son for us all. What is the wording in the text that indicates the totality of that offering?
Romans 8:32

4. When Jesus came to this earth what vehicle did He use to dwell among men?
Hebrews 10:5

Note: It was truly the Son of God that came in the flesh of man; God, fashioned in the form of a man (Phip.2:6-8). Though Jesus had

never sinned, His body was that of fallen, sinful flesh (Rom.8:3). This proves that being a member of the fallen race does not automatically predispose a member of that race to be a continual sinner, we chose to sin due to our weakened, fallen condition. It was this, the weakened condition, that Jesus had to vanquish that He would not fall as did every other child of Adam (Rom.5:18,19; 1Cor.15:22).

5. When Jesus was born what was the significance of His name "Emmanuel"?

Matthew 1:23

6. At the incarnation of Christ, how much of God was contained in that human form?

Colossians 2:9

Note: The fullness of God was in that human manifestation of the Godhead. Christ, in His human body, was no less deity and divine as when He occupied the throne of the universe. The angel of the Lord stated that, the holy Son of God that shall be born, will be *God with us* (Matt.1:23; Luke 1:35; 1Tim.3:16).

7. What is one indication that Jesus held the same God-like status when a man as when He reigned in heaven?

John 20:28,31; Matthew 2:11; Mark 5:6

Note: Jesus accepted worship. YAHWEH'S decree in respect to worship includes the worship of Jesus as the worship of Himself (John 5:23; Heb.1:6; Isa.42:8; 48:11; 44:8). Holy angels do not accept worship (Rev.19:10; 22:8,9) and Jesus came as a man, lower than the angels (Heb.2:16; Ps.8:4,5).

If we could have visited heaven when Jesus was on earth, who would we have seen there? --- The Father and the angels, but no Jesus!! Christ, on earth, was the full manifestation of the Father in the form of a man (1Tim.3:16). God withheld nothing in the giving of Himself. His Duplicate was all

that the original was. All that comprised the person of the Son of God in heaven was contained in the body and soul of the incarnate Christ. There was no part of Him separated to remain in heaven at the time of His mission of redemption.

WHEN JESUS WENT BACK TO HEAVEN

Further evidence that Jesus was the fullness of God with nothing lacking is seen in the Jesus that returned to His paradise home.

8. Who was manifest in the flesh and what happened to this One at the completion of His work?

1 Timothy 3:16

Note: This one verse synopsis of the incarnation of the Son of God emphasises the totality of the embodiment of God in Christ (Phip.2:6,7). It then states that He was received up into glory.

9. What did the angel declare about the Jesus who ascended up into heaven?

Acts 1:9-11

Note: When Jesus returns it will be with the glory of His Father and His own glory. Accompanying Him will be His heavenly Father, the Great God of all the universe and the whole angelic host with the full glory of heaven (Matt.16:27; 25:31; Titus 2:13). It was this same Jesus, who possessed all of this indescribable Godly glory, that came to this earth as a man yet, unabridged in His Godship, laid aside that glory and died for you, for me and for all men.

10. When Jesus returned into heaven what did He do?

Mark 16:19; Ephesians 1:20

Hebrews 8:1-5; 9:24; Romans 8:34b

Note: While Jesus took again His position at the right hand of the Father, He now began another function. Jesus assumed the garments

of High Priest in the sanctuary in heaven and there He offered His blood in reconciliation for the sins of the repentant sinner (Heb.8:2).

Now we have seen that Jesus was the fullness of the Godhead. There was no aspect of God, or Divinity, that did not exist in Him; therefore, whatever happened to Jesus on the cross was truly what God experienced in the person of His Son. We may well ask -- Did Jesus (God) really die!?!?

Let us now examine what the Bible says happened to Jesus on the cross and, using the Bible's own definitions for its own terms, avoid any misdirection that might arise from traditionally held views (2Pet.1:20).

God tells us what happens to a man's body at death! Also, He says what happens to the soul and to the spirit at death. Using these definitions, let us now apply them to Jesus, for the one law is for all men...

THE DEATH OF THE BODY

11. To cleanse the earth of blood guiltiness, what did it require?

Numbers 35:33; Hebrews 9:22

Compare Hebrews 10:10

Note: To cleanse the land of sin required the life of the transgressor. In order for Christ to remit the sins of the world, He, as the Head of humanity, shed His blood and died.

12. When Jesus was offered as the sacrifice for sin what happened to Him?

John 19:30,33; 1Peter 3:18b

Note: Jesus was dead in every sense of the word, and He was buried (John 19:38-42).

THE DEATH OF THE SOUL

The blood of the Son of man was shed for the sins of the land, but what of His soul and what part does this play in the atonement?

13. What did Jesus suffer for the transgressions of the people?

Isaiah 53:4-8

Note: The physical affliction endured by Jesus was more than any man will be called upon to endure (Isa.52:14; lesson 7). His suffering ended when He was "cut off from the land of the living."

14. What is mentioned in the record that indicates the extent of the offering and death of Jesus?

Isaiah 53:10b,12b

Note: If the body should die it is impossible for the mind (soul) to remain alive independent of the body. Even the mind of the glorified saints will reside in an immortal body (1Cor.15:51-54; Phip.3:21). All that Jesus was in heaven was contained in His mind. He was the fullness of God bodily. The soul of Jesus had all the attributes of God and qualified Him to be called God. His mind was as much a copy of the Father when He was on the cross as when He was on the throne of heaven! (Phip.2:5-8). The mind is the soul of the man. When the Son of God died, in verity, this was a Divine sacrifice.

15. When Jesus was in the tomb what is said of the One who lay there?

Acts 2:27

Note: It was the soul of Jesus that was in hell (Hades, death). As His soul/mind contained all the fullness of the Godhead, He is aptly called the "Holy One." Also, Stephen referred to Him as the "Just One" (Acts.7:52b). At His conception He was referred to as the "holy thing," the Son of God (Luke 1:35). That which God gave to man, in the person of Christ Jesus, was a duplicate of Himself and, that Holy One, dead

in the tomb, awaited the call of His Father that He may receive His life again.

16. What statement did Jesus make concerning His death and His life?

Revelation 1:18a

Note: Jesus does not lie (Heb.6:18). He stated -- He was dead, and contrasts this with the further statement that, He now lives for evermore. By implication, Jesus may also be understood to say that, if He had remained dead He would not, at that time, have been talking with John. That it was Jesus who spoke these words may be seen from vv.8-18.

17. When Jesus died what is said to have been offered?

Hebrews 10:10

Note: In isolation, this text may be thought to mean that the sacrifice for the sins of the world was that of a human body having no divine content. Jesus was the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col.2:9), in other words, all that Christ was in heaven was contained in that body; His divine glory being concealed (Heb.10:5). Hence when that body died so did the soul of the Son of God.

Notwithstanding all of the foregoing, there are other thoughts on Christ's, so called, activities while dead. Notice the next section....

PREACHING TO SPIRITS IN PRISON

18. What is one activity Christ is said to do?

1Peter 3:19

Compare, 1Peter 4:5,6

Note: This text follows immediately after the statement in verse 18,

"...put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit." Some have misunderstood the relationship between this statement and that of verse 19, "Christ preaching to spirits in prison." It has been interpreted to say that, while Christ lay dead in the grave, He was in another "life state," delivering the salvation Gospel to other people who had met their demise and were, themselves, in this supposed *life after death* state of consciousness.

With a clear understanding of the truth given in Scripture concerning the state of the dead, the above interpretation is totally without substance. Let us look at what God really means when He is talking about "spirits in prison."

19. What causes the binding, or imprisonment of a soul that He cannot be free?

Proverbs 5:22; Proverbs. 7:18–24

20. As part of the description of the work of Christ to save the sinner, what is said concerning those in captivity and in prison?

Isaiah 61:1

21. As the people are in captivity or imprisoned, who is their captor?

2Timothy 2:26; Isaiah 14:12,16,17

22. What group of people were addressed when Christ preached the acceptable year of the Lord and liberty to the captives?

Luke 4:18–21

Note: This is a direct quote from Isaiah 61. The people who heard Jesus at this time were living people, worshipping at the synagogue. Similarly, living evangelists can only help living people in the prison of sin, sin that leads to death (Isa.42:6,7; 9:2).

23. When is the acceptable year of the Lord?

2Corinthians 6:2; compare Isaiah 38:18,19

24. The time open for salvation is during our lifetime. What plain statements from Scripture show that the concept of *preaching to the dead* to be utterly false and of no avail?

Isaiah 38:18,19

Psalm 88:10-12

Note: Those in the grave cannot hope for the truth. In a prophecy concerning the closing scenes of Christ's passion, He cries unto the Father for He is sinking into death. He knows that such death is the end, there is no hope in the grave to which He is going. The Psalmist expresses the futility of the grave by asking the rhetorical questions -- Shall God show wonders to the dead? Shall the dead arise and praise God? Shall the loving-kindness and faithfulness of God be declared to the dead? Shall the wonders and righteousness of God be known to the dead? He knows that the answer to all of these questions is a decided NO (v.5). The opportunity for change does not exist in the grave; he that is holy will be holy still, and he that is filthy will be filthy still (Rev.22:11).

25. What is said of the prospects' of any further reward for those who lay dead in the grave?

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10

Note: The texts used in this and the previous two questions leave no doubt that the time to accept salvation is, at the earliest possible time during ones lifetime (Eccl.12:1). At death, the deceased have no comprehension that salvation, or even sin, is an option. Death is a closing of all options and is certainly an end of the appointed time for the salvation of the deceased (Jer.8:20; Rev.22:11). (See further comments on the state of the dead in the previous lesson)

Therefore, when Jesus was quickened by the Spirit He was alive (John 5:21) and when He was alive, He preached to other living people. The people He preached to were prisoners, bound by the cords of their iniquity. God is not a God of the dead He is a God of the living (Matt.22:31,32; Isa.38:18,19).

Hence, when Jesus lay in the tomb, dead, He had no conscious contact with anyone, human or otherwise.

WHEN JESUS DIED, WHAT RETURNED TO HEAVEN?

When the body of Jesus was dead in the grave, did some part of Him return to heaven? If so, could that part of Him, in heaven, be waiting for Sunday morning to quicken His new immortal human body?

26. When Jesus died as the transgressor, how does the Bible indicate that there was no part of Jesus that was not included in that sacrifice?

Psalm 37:10,20,36

Note: The penalty for sin is total destruction and removal from existence. Jesus was counted as the one who had actually committed the sin when He died for the sins of the world (2Cor.5:21; Eph.5:6). Jesus was as much removed from existence when He died for sin as will be the unrepentant sinner when he dies the second death. Jesus died the second death, the ultimate penalty for sin.

This would indicate that the Being that lay in the tomb was totally the Son of God, Jesus, minus His life. This will be the condition of the slain wicked. They will forfeit life, for both the body and the soul will be dead. Notice the next few questions and how this applies to Christ.

27. From where did Jesus receive His life?

John 5:26

Note: Notwithstanding that Jesus is the Son of God, and has all the attributes of God, He still received His life from His heavenly Father. It was this single property of Jesus that gave Him the option of retaining, or relinquishing His life (John 10:17,18; lesson 4).

28. Given that the "soul" is the mind, and the "spirit" may be either "mind" or the "element of life" (breath), what part of Jesus would have returned to God at His death?

Ecclesiastes 12:7

29. What did Jesus say, just before He died?

Luke 23:46

Note: When Jesus gave His Spirit into the hands of His Father both applications of the word (spirit) may be applied. Into Thy hands I commend My *soul (or mind)* and My *life*.

The giving of His soul was, to give to Him who judges righteously, trusting the judging of His case to He who makes no mistakes (1Pet.2:23b). His soul, or mind did not return to heaven¹. These faculties were dead in the grave with His body, as is the soul, or mind of every other dead person awaiting the resurrection and the results of the final judgement.

When the soul is dead and the spirit returns to God, this may also suggest that God has a record of the mind of that soul without that soul being in a rational state (Eccl.9:5,6,10; 2Tim.1:12; Rev.20:12; Mal.3:16; Dan.12:1). At the resurrection, God places that mind-record into the brain of the new body and again that person becomes a living soul (1Cor.15:51-55).

When the Spirit of Jesus returned to the Father, this may be understood to have the same meaning as it has when applied to men. It was the element of life and the record of His mind that returned to God who gave it. Hence this Spirit was able to be given back to the Son of God at His resurrection. Concerning the immortal life Jesus possessed, Christ laid it down and it lived on in the Father. Just as Jesus was the identical substitute for the Father in death, so the heavenly Father was the perpetuation of life during the death of His Son.

It was because of this identical sameness Jesus had with the Father and, His ability to surrender His life and take it again, that Jesus was brought forth. This miracle of the salvation plan effectively allowed the immortal God to die and yet live at the same time!! (lesson 5).

Hence, *deity did not die*. That element of life that was in Christ continued to live in the Father. Does this mean that Christ was not "deity"?... The Son of God cannot have all the attributes of God and, be called God by His Father-God, who is the Father of all (Eph.4:6) and, not have the attribute of being deity along with the Father!

To help us understand this concept of the nature of the death of Jesus let us consider a hypothetical question...

WHAT IF JESUS HAD SINNED ?!!

What would have happened if Jesus had sinned? If there were any misgivings over the extent or completeness of His death when He became sin for us, the answer to this question should reveal the workings of God in this matter. (Lessons 8, 9 and 10 clearly sets forth the just way in which God deals with sin. Lesson 7 shows the merciful escape plan for those sinners who choose the alternative)

We have adequately covered the topic of the reward of the wicked and the state of the dead. To recapitulate, it is total non-existence; the Bible calls it "death." It is not life in another state, dimension, or location. If Jesus had sinned, what would have been His lot?.... Death – total removal from existence!! There would have been no resurrection.

When the Son of God took the sins of the world upon Himself, He was counted as the actual sinner. He died, as it were, a sinner. Therefore, His death was that death from which there was no return, the second death.

The reason death could not hold Him was, not because He was the Son of God but, because He was, of Himself, sinless, He did not sin and there is no condemnation for the righteous (Rom.8:1,2). If Jesus had sinned of Himself, God the Father could not have let Him live and be just in His condemnation of every other sinner!

30. What is God's unmistakable reaction to the obedient and to the rebellious?

Romans 11:20–22

Note: God does not favour one man above another (Acts.10:34,35). To His *chosen people* He clearly states that they receive no preferential treatment (Eze.18; Eze.20:31,32). Likewise, Jesus would not have been excluded from the law² (Lev.24:22; Isa.56:1–8). The very reason He came to this earth to die was because the law could not be changed (1Pet.2:23,25; Ps.111:7; Matt.5:17,18).

31. What did Jesus say about the authority of the Scriptures, the law?

John 10:35b

Note: God's word cannot be broken, it is sure (steadfast, unchangeable) and it lives and abides forever (Ps.111:7; Matt.5:17,18; 1Pet.1:23,25).

32. What other statements has Jesus made concerning the authority of the Scriptures, and how the word cannot be changed?

Hebrews 10:7; Psalm 40:7; Luke 24:27,44

Note: The Son of man goes as it has been written of Him (Matt.26:24). The full outline and some explicit detail of the work of Jesus from eternity past to eternity future, including the salvation of the fallen race, are contained in the pages of Holy Writ. As Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies concerning Himself, and the fact that He suffered and died as He did, proves that the word of God cannot be broken. No mere man would have endured as He did and God does nothing

for appearances only (Luke 23:8,9). The life and death of Christ, as it has been written of Him, was essential if man was to be saved.

The Bible clearly shows the truth on what has been written of Him, both from a prophetic and a historical viewpoint and that *word cannot be broken* (Luke 24:25,26,27,46). That same word makes the equally categorical statement that, *the wages of sin is death.... which is a "Thus saith the Lord."* If Jesus had sinned, He would have suffered the same penalty as every other sinner.... Eternal death. And there would have been no Saviour, either for Himself or for any other child of Adam (Heb.2:14a; 1Cor.15:12-18).

What would this have meant for the vacant throne in heaven? It would have remained vacant, for Jesus would not exist. If Jesus, as a sinner, could have been allowed to continue, Satan would have proved his long asserted claim of the unfair demands of and the injustice of God (lesson 7, p2; lesson 5, p5,6) and, he would also have the right to continued existence. God could not, in justice, destroy all other sinners and preserve a sinful Christ alive!

It is evident that, Christ's death was as complete, when He was counted to be the sinner, as it would have been had He been an actual sinner! Hence, there was no part of Jesus that did not die with Him. Thus, Jesus, the express image of the Father, was truly a Divine offering for sin. *God died in the form of His Duplicate.*

HOW DID JESUS RAISE FROM THE DEAD?

Did Jesus raise Himself from the dead? Or did the heavenly Father raise Him? The Bible is forthright in its statements on this question, notice....

33. Examine the following texts and summarise them in respect to the question regarding how Jesus was raised from the dead.

Acts 10:40; Acts 3:26; Acts 17:31; Acts 2:23–32 (note v.32); Acts 13:32–37 (note v.34); Ephesians 1:20; Galatians 1:1; 1Peter 1:19–21; 1Cor.15:12–18 (note v.15); 2Cor.4:14; Romans 10:9; Hebrews 13:20

34. What other aspect of God is introduced in the raising of Jesus?

Romans 8:11

Compare 1Peter 3:18c

Note: He that raise up Christ is God the Father, YAHWEH. Jesus was quickened (made alive) by the Spirit of God, or by the word of God (1Pet.3:18c; John 6:63; Ps.33:9).

35. What comment does Jesus, Himself, make concerning His resurrection?

John 10:17,18

Compare 2Corinthians 13:4

Note: Jesus was in a position to relinquish His life in a manner that the Father could not. His retaking of the life that He surrendered is a repeat of the time when He first received the immortal life of the Father (John 5:26; 2Cor.13:4).

God says that He raised His Son from the dead. Jesus says that He is able to lay down His life and take it again. If Jesus was truly dead (equivalent to non-existent), this expression suggests that He *received* again the immortal life of the Father as in the beginning before anything was created, as opposed to the suggestion that, while dead, Jesus made the move to take His life again. Had He, while dead, made this move to again resume His life, He would not have been dead in the sense that God means dead!

To illustrate this point, consider the expression -- "dead with respect to sin," -- the Bible means that the one, so dead, has no activity in regard to sin (Rom.6:2; Col.3:5; Gal.5:24). Hence, if Jesus was truly dead we may conclude that He did not raise Himself, for He had

no conscious ability to do so. It was the Father who raised Him. The Bible does not lie, either Jesus was dead when He died on the cross, or He was not.

He was able to take His life again, receiving it from the Father, because He was sinless, leaving no just reason why He should stay dead (Acts 2:24,27,31,32). The righteous dead saints, likewise, will be able to receive eternal life because they are righteous as He is righteous (1John 2:29; 3:7; 2Cor.4:14) and God has promised that the life of the righteous Saviour has atoned for their past sins.

WHO REIGNED IN CHRIST'S ABSENCE ?

We have seen that when Jesus came to this earth it was the same Jesus that had previously sat on the throne of heaven and ruled over all the universe.

During His sojourn among men for a mere 33 years, including the time He was actually dead, there was no part of Him remaining in heaven, His position in heaven was vacant.

An obvious question that may arise from the forgoing would be.... During Christ's absence from heaven, when He was revealing the Father's love to mankind, completing the sacrificial part of the atonement and, with His Father's commission having all power committed into His hand, how did He attend to the responsibility of ruling the universe?

36. What did the LORD (Jehovah-God) say to His Son that indicates that the Son's position was vacant before His ascension back into heaven?

Hebrews 1:3

Compare Psalm 110:1

37. How did Jesus respond and what were His expectations concerning this appointment of Jehovah?

Hebrews 10:12,13

Note: Who was sitting at the right hand of God when Jesus was not there?.... No-one. For there was no other being who could qualify for such a position! (Heb.1:4-10; Rev.5).

38. When Jesus again took His position on the right hand of God, what position of power did He also receive?

1Peter 3:22

Compare Hebrews 1:5-10

Note: After the incarnation, Christ took the same position of honour and authority, with the Father, that He held prior to the incarnation. As such He received worship from all the host of heaven. There can be no exaltation greater than to be appointed equal with God and to share His throne.

39. While Jesus was absent from His throne and in attendance to fulfil the sacrifice of Himself as atonement for sin, how did the Father work the management of the universe?

1Corinthians 15:25

Compare Matthew 11:25a

Note: All things and all power had been given to the Son of God (Matt.28:18; John 3:35), yet He addressed His Father as *Lord of heaven and earth*. During His incarnation, He was not doing the work of ruling the universe. This is not to say, He was not Ruler, He was just not doing that work at that time. This is in much the same sense as when He laid aside His glory and God-like powers to become a man, yet, He was still God with us. Note that He did not lay aside His divinity, for it is the divine quality that made Him God, without it He would have been only a man.

40. When Jesus is in Kingly authority upon the throne what majestic title does He hold?

Revelation 19:16

Note: At the end of this world Jesus rides forth to vanquish His foes. As King of kings and Lord of lords He will crush and destroy every earthly power that has risen against Him (Dan.2:34,35,44,45; Rev.19:11-16).

41. Jesus will glorify His Father-God and will show Him to be the only Potentate. What specific title does the Father hold that applies to the only Potentate?

1Timothy 6:15

Note: There can be only one "King of kings and Lord of lords." Paradoxically, both the Father-God and His Son are Sovereign and King of kings and Lord of lords. The heavenly Father will place the enemies of Christ under His feet. All power in heaven and earth is given unto Christ and He rides forth to conquer His enemies in the name of His Father, King of kings and Lord of lords (Ex.23:21; lesson 4, pp.7,8,9).

The Father has done and will do all His works through His Son, viz.:— creation, the casting out of Lucifer, redemption, destruction of evil, destruction of the wicked, the setting up of His kingdom and the continued management of the universe.

Another work of the Father performed through His Son is the manifestation of His love toward men. While Jesus was fully engaged in this work on earth, the Father continued with the management of the universe without the interposition of His Christ, His co-Ruler, who normally sat at His right hand.

CONCLUSION

By taking the Bible definitions for the death of the body and of the soul we have been able to see how these apply to Jesus when the Bible states that He died.

The conflict in the minds of a lot of people is that, if Deity cannot die and Jesus is as much deity as is YAHWEH, how can Jesus die? From our study we have been able to learn that the *soul* as well as the *body* of Jesus did, in verity, die. He became non-existent, leaving an empty throne in heaven. Notwithstanding that the mind/soul and body of Christ were actually dead, the innate immortal life of Christ returned to the Father who gave it, while His mind, being identical to that of the Father, lived on in the life of the Father. Hence, Deity did not die. Thus was achieved the objective of the Almighty God --- to die and to live at the same time!! (lesson 5).

At His resurrection, Jesus took again the life God gave to Him at the beginning (lesson 3). The Father would not allow death to hold His Son, because His Son was righteous and God is committed to preserving the life of the righteous.

The death of Christ paid for the transgressions of the repentant sinner, His own spotless and undefiled life causing, mercy, love and justice to triumph. The Father-God shall put Christ's enemies under His feet, and He shall rule heaven and earth as King of kings and Lord of lords.

The salvation plan is almost complete, the mansions are built, the places are prepared. God's original purpose for this world will soon be realised, and man is included in that design. But, before this can happen, there is one more operation to take place....

**I will come again and receive you unto myself that where
I am there ye may be also. John 14:3**

Even so come Lord Jesus



Superscripts -- See appendix A

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