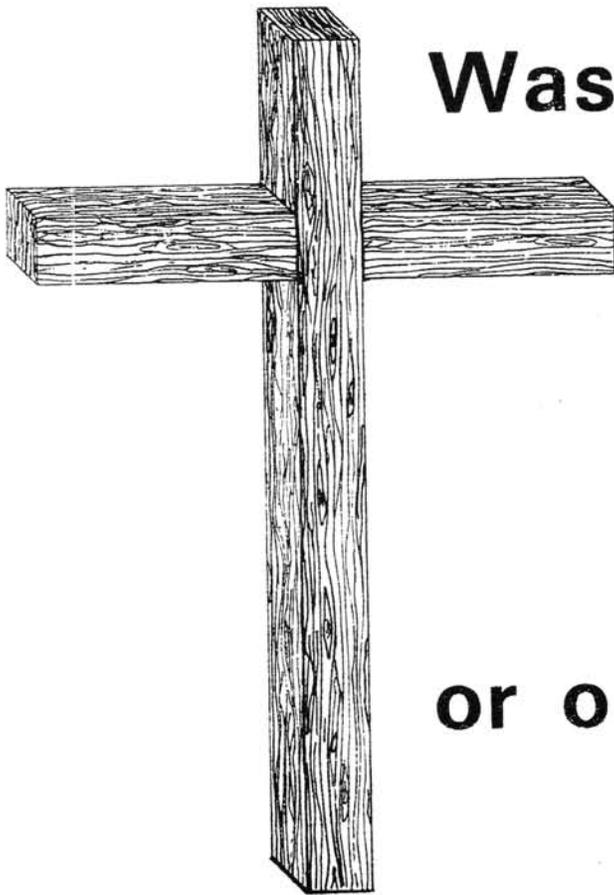
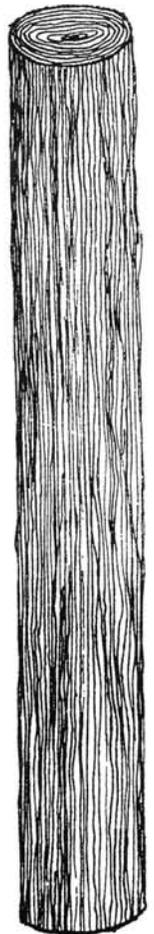


THE DEATH OF THE MESSIAH

Was it on a **Cross**



or on a **Tree?**



by
Jacob O. Meyer

The old rugged WHAT?

Did you know that those shiny crucifixes people wear are actually symbols of **SUN WORSHIP**?

One of the shocking surprises which awaits the diligent Bible student is the knowledge that the pagans were using a "cross" as a symbol of their worship hundreds of years before our Savior Yahshua the Messiah was put to death. Variations of the cross may be found associated with almost every sun deity which was ever worshiped. Was our Savior really put to death on a cross? Your Bible holds the answer.

Just recently in the Holy Land, a corpse of a man was discovered who had been put to death exactly as the New Testament writers describe the death which our Savior suffered. The surprising thing, which caused consternation among ecclesiastical circles, was that this person appeared to have been put to death in a different manner than the usual "crucifixion" of our Savior depicted in religious art. The criminal had been put to death on a post, with his hands and feet nailed together. Perhaps this discovery is one of the ways that Yahweh has chosen to substantiate His true message in these last days as He confirms the word

of His servants.

The Assemblies of Yahweh teach that our Savior was not executed on a "cross." The word "cross" is entirely foreign to the words which are used in the New Testament for the instrument of torture upon which our Savior was placed. Two words have been translated "cross" and they are "stauros" and "xulon." A "stauros" was an upright post, similar to a fence paling, upon which criminals were nailed for execution (with their hands fixed in an upright position over their heads). The word "stauros" means "to drive stakes"! A "xulon" was simply a dead log as distinguished from a green tree. Neither of these words ever mean a piece of manufactured work such as a cross, especially two pieces of timber nailed at right angles to each other. There is nothing in the Greek to even imply two pieces of timber!

The following is a part of the study on "The Cross and Crucifixion," Appendix # 162 in the **Companion Bible**. Please study it carefully.

In the Greek N.T. two words are

used for "the cross", on which Yahshua was put to death.

1. The word *stauros*; which denotes an upright pale or stake, to which the criminals were nailed for execution.

2. The word *xulon*, which generally denotes a piece of a dead log of wood, or timber, for fuel or for any other purpose. It is not like *dendron*, which is used of a living, or green tree, as in Matt. 21:8; Rev. 7:1, 3; 8:7; 9:4, etc.

As this latter word *xulon* is used for the former *stauros*, it shows us that the meaning of each is exactly the same.

The verb *stauroō* means to drive stakes.

Our English word "cross" is the translation of the Latin *crux*; but the Greek *stauros* no more means a *crux* than the word "stick" means a "crutch".

Homer uses the word *stauros* of an ordinary pole or stake, or a single piece of timber. And this is the meaning and usage of the word throughout the Greek classics.

It never means two pieces of timber placed across one another at any angle, but always of one piece alone. Hence the use of the word *xulon* (No. 2, above) in connection with the manner of our Master's death, and rendered "tree" in Acts 5:30; 10:39. Gal. 3:13. 1 Pet. 2:24. This is preserved in our old Eng. name *rood*, or *rod*. See the *Encycl. Brit.*, 11th (Camb.) ed., vol 7, p. 505d.

There is nothing in the Greek of the N.T. even to imply two pieces of timber.

The letter chi, X, the initial of the word Christ (Χριστός), was originally used for His Name; or Χρ. This was superseded by the symbols ☩ and †, and even the first of these had four equal arms.

These crosses were used as symbols of the Babylonian sun-god, ⊕, and are first seen on a coin of Julius Caesar, 100-44 B.C.E., and then on a coin struck by Caesar's heir (Augustus), 20 B.C.E.

On the coins of Constantine the most frequent symbol is ☩; but the same symbol is used without the

surrounding circle, and with the four equal arms vertical and horizontal; and this was the symbol specially venerated as the "Solar Wheel". It should be stated that Constantine was a sun-god worshipper, and would not enter the "Church" till some quarter of a century after the legend of his having seen such a cross in the heavens (Eusebius, Vit. Const. I 37).

The evidence is the same as to the pre-Christian (phallic) symbol in Asia, Africa, and Egypt, whether we consult Nineveh by Sir A.H. Layard (ii. 213), or Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians, by Sir J. Gardner Wilkinson, iii. pp. 24, 26, 43, 44, 46, 52, 82, 136.

Dr. Schliemann gives the same evidence in his Ilios (1880), recording his discoveries on the site of prehistoric Troy. See pp. 337, 350, 353, 521, 523.

Dr. Max Ohnefalsch-Richter gives the same evidence from Cyprus; and these are "the oldest extant Phoenician inscriptions"; see his Kypros, the Bible, and Homer: Oriental Civilisation, Art, and Religion in Ancient Times, Plates XIX, XXV, XXVI, XXX, XXXI, XXXII, XL, LVIII, LXIX, etc.

The Catacombs in Rome bear the same testimony: "Yahshua" is never represented there as "hanging on a cross", and the cross itself is only portrayed in a veiled and hesitating manner. In the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life, borrowed by the Christians, and interpreted in the pagan manner. See the Encycl. Erit., 11th (Camb.) ed., vol. 14, p. 273.

In his Letters from Rome Dean Burgon says: "I question whether a cross occurs on any Christian monument of the first four centuries".

In Mrs. Jameson's famous History of our Lord as Exemplified in Works of Art, she says (vol. ii, p. 315): "It must be owned that ancient objects of art, as far as hitherto known, afford no corroboration of the use of the cross in the simple transverse form familiar to us, at any period preceding, or even closely succeeding, the time of Chrysostom"; and

Chrysostom wrote half a century after Constantine!

"The Invention of the Cross" by Helena the mother of Constantine (in 326), though it means her finding of the cross, may or may not be true; but the "invention" of it in pre-Christian times, and the "invention" of its use in later times, are truths of which we need to be reminded in the present day. The evidence is thus complete, that Yahshua was put to death upon an upright stake, and not on two pieces of timber placed at any angle. (Sacred Names supplied).

How amazing! Did you notice that there is nothing in the words "stauros" and "xulon" in the Greek New Testament to even imply that two timbers were placed at right angles to each other to form an instrument of death? As a matter of fact, the cross first appears in Christian worship several hundred years after the Savior died and by this date the Apostolic Assembly had slipped from the pathway of pure truth. Sun worship had crept in, and with it had come symbols which were venerated by this false idolatry. Believe it or not, much of nominal Christianity today is almost a carbon copy of ancient sun worship.

If you desire more information on the word "cross" you may check Greek lexicons for the roots to the words "stauros" and "xulon."

Don't you think that the type of our Savior's execution should have been depicted in the Old Testament Scriptures? The Old Testament is actually the basis for our faith. Yahshua the Messiah Himself informs us that He would fulfill a type which appeared in the Old Testament. We read in John 3:14, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." Also in John 12:32 and 33 we read, "And I, if I be lifted

up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me. This He said, signifying what death He should die." How obvious if we are indeed searching for the truth! We must return to the Old Testament episode to which we have been directed, when Israel was in the wilderness, to find precedent for our Savior's death and how it was to occur.

In Numbers 21:8 and 9 we learn what took place after Israel had sinned and Yahweh had sent fiery serpents among the people as punishment because they were dissatisfied with the manna which He had provided for them. "And Yahweh said unto Moses, 'Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.' And Moses made a serpent, of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived." The word which has been translated "pole" is "nace" in the Hebrew and the margins of some Bibles say "standard." There is not even a hint of two pieces of timber placed at right angles to each other. No cross is even implied! The serpent of brass was placed on a pole, a straight stick of wood, just as was our Messiah.

In writing to the Assembly of Yahweh at Galatia, Paul the Apostle points us back to the Old Testament to prove that the Messiah was to take upon Himself the curse for disobedience to the law of Yahweh which we, the human family, rightfully deserve. Galatians 3:13 reads, "Messiah hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: For it is written, 'Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.'" Paul was quoting from Deut. 21:22-23 and preaching this

passage to the Galatian brethren: "And if a man have committed a sin worthy of death, and he be put to death, and thou hang him on a tree: His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of Elohim); that thy land be not defiled, which Yahweh thy Elohim giveth thee for an inheritance." As you have noticed, the death of our Savior Yahshua the Messiah fulfilled several of the prophecies in this passage. A check of the words used for tree will reveal that "xulon" appears in the Greek and "ets" in the Hebrew (which is defined in Hebrew lexicons as a tree or a piece of wood). Again we have ample evidence that our Savior was not executed on a cross.

Religious history proves that the cross was also used in ancient worship as a phallic (sex) symbol. Sex worship among the ancient pagans was very prominent and associated closely with the worship of the sun. Those of you who have taken biology in high school and college will remember that the cross was used to signify the female, (depicted like this: ♀). Similarly, among the pagans of ancient times the cross was used as a sign of the female. Our Heavenly Father demands that we destroy all vestiges of pagan worship, Deut. 12:1-3. We must never allow pure scriptural truth to become mingled with idolatrous worship.

If you would like to learn more about who was perhaps the foremost source who introduced an abundance of paganism into the Apostolic Assembly, research the life of Constantine. The Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great, was a man of violence, a hardened soldier who was so terrified that someone would displace him as ruler that he murdered several

members of his own family! He was the man, although not yet baptized, who moderated the Council of Nicaea, at which most of the basic scriptural commandments were set aside and were supplanted by the doctrines of pagan sun worship. History informs us that Constantine was a sun worshiper all his life, and only on his deathbed was he baptized into Christianity. When he supposedly saw the vision of a cross coming out of the sun with the attached inscription "In hoc signo vinces" (In this sign conquer) while leading his Roman army, he was a sun worshiper and would certainly have interpreted this pseudo-vision in the light of the doctrines which he then believed. However, this pagan error has been enlarged and glamorized by Christianity, until today it is believed as a miraculous truth. Should we revere the cross? Just think about this for a moment. If our Savior had been executed by hanging, would we sing lyrics to the "Old Hangman's Noose"? Had Yahshua been put to death by cyanide, would we sing praises to the "Old Gas Chamber"? Ridiculous! It is absolutely meaningless

to sing praises to anything but to Him to Whom we owe our everlasting salvation.

The word "crucifixion" should be eliminated from our vocabulary also, since it is foreign to True Worship. Some of the writers in describing the death of Messiah use "impalement." I have found that a more accurate term to use is "transfix," since impalement denotes a "thrusting through." "Execution" would also be a proper term to use.

Are you a dedicated, sincere "True Worshiper"? Are you humble enough to reject error when you find it and begin to believe the truth? The Word of Yahweh has corrected us! Will you brush it aside lightly and continue to allow your worship to be leavened by the contamination of pagan error? If we do, we may find ourselves outside the Kingdom, in company with the rejected group of people described in Revelation 22:15, a list which includes those who **love** and **make** a lie. May Almighty Yahweh give you the understanding to follow the narrow pathway of truth. □

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EASTER

OR

PASSOVER?

by
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The free companion article shown at left examines the popular practice of Easter Sunday worship. The pagan corruption inherited through the ages is contrasted with True Worship—write today for an illuminating study of this traditional and familiar custom.