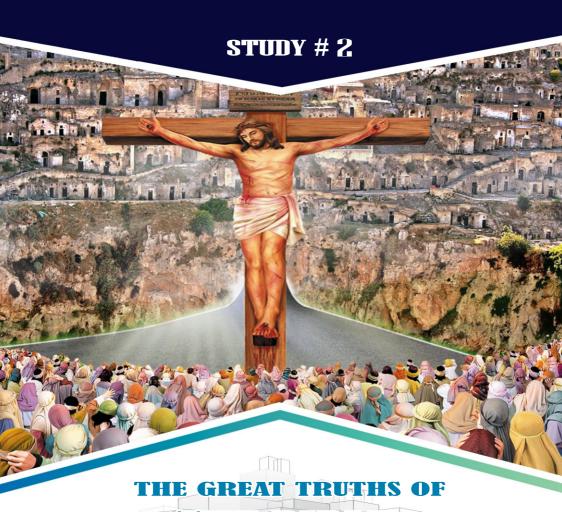
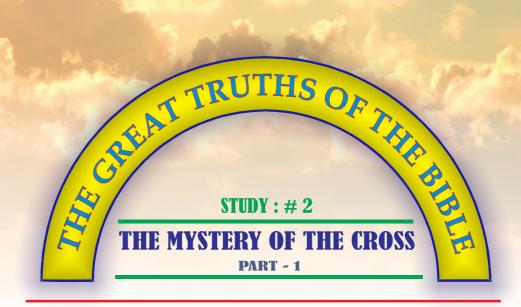
# The Mystery of the Cross

PART - 1





PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Today we will look unto THE CROSS OF OUR LORD!

Through His death upon the cross Our Lord became
the SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD.

But does Jesus save ONLY
Christians.....or the WHOLE
human race?

The answer to this question is very **VAGUE** and confusing with so many differing answers being offered.

BUT WHAT IS THE ANSWER?
WHAT IS THE TRUTH?

The answer to this QUESTION is found within the "MYSTERY OF THE CROSS"



Have you heard about it?

It is found in-

John 12:32

"And I, if I be LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH, will draw ALL men unto me."



What does this mean?

Notice the drawing to Jesus is of "ALL MEN"!

Who are these "all men"?

Is it only.... the world of Christians

....or the WHOLE world of mankind?

And is this "draw all men unto me" mean to be taken to heaven?

Is JESUS saying that He will draw ALL men to heaven?

SUCH A THOUGHT WOULD BE VERY. VERY, UNREASONABLE!

> Thus what **REALLY** is meant here by these words of Jesus? It is found explained in the next verse in -

## John 12:33

"This He said, signifying what death he should die"

Yes! This is the reference to.... THE CROSS!

One who dies on a cross, dies above the ground level—
that is....he is LIFTED UP from the earth.

You might have observed this in the film - "THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST".

NOW.... **HOW** DOES JESUS DRAW <u>ALL MEN</u> TO HIM

THROUGH HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS?

This is the "mystery" that we are going to understand today!

Let us begin by going back to the beginning.... and to the message spoken by the angel at Jesus' birth—

**Luke 2:10** 

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, which shall be to ALL PEOPLE."





How was the birth of Jesus to be good tidings (GOOD NEWS) to.... ALL PEOPLE?



And WHO are meant by this "all people"?

We see a part of the answer in—

**Matthew 1:21** 

"and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall <u>SAVE</u> his people from their sins—

Yes! Jesus was to be— "THE SAVIOUR"

That is what the name "JESUS" means!!

BUT WHAT KIND OF SAVIOUR?

AND WHO ARE THESE "HIS PEOPLE" THAT HE SAVES ?

ARE THEY.... THE JEWS ONLY?



Is it the whole world of mankind or only those who believe on Him now?

# WHO HAS THE ANSWERS ? FOR WHOM DID JESUS REALLY DIE FOR ?

The answers to these questions are found in the words of Jesus Himself as we read in—

Mark 10:45

"The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister

### and TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY"

There! This is the KEY verse that gives us the answer!

But WHAT does this word "ransom" mean?

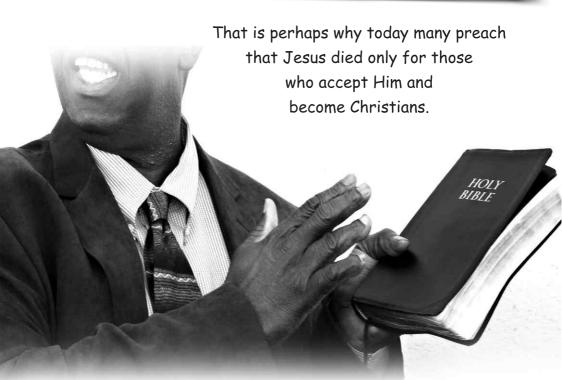
And to whom do the words "for many" apply to?

Let us see.....

The words "for many" today has a usage and meaning of a LARGE number, ......even a MAJORITY but......NOT REALLY SIGNIFYING ALL!

Is this the meaning in this verse regarding Jesus "ransom"?

Did Jesus die "FOR MANY" but...NOT REALLY ALL ??



...that the CONDITION for Jesus to become one's SAVIOUR is to PERSONALLY ACCEPT HIM and....become a CHRISTIAN!

IS THIS THE MEANING OF - "to give his life a ransom for many..."?

To understand what Jesus meant we must see what "for many" means in BIBLICAL LANGUAGE.

We find this in -

#### **Romans 5:19**

"For as by one man's disobedience <u>many were made sinners</u>, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."

Yes! Here it is noticed that the words "the many" (KJV) really means.... ALL!

Thus Jesus' RANSOM was ACTUALLY.....FOR ALL—"for many" really meaning ALL!!

This is AGAIN VERY CLEARLY found recorded in

1 Timothy 2:5,6

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

who GAVE HIMSELF A RANSOM FOR ALL...."



There it is! So simple and.... VERY CLEAR!



Now we come to the question of what this word "RANSOM" really means?

It is derived from the Greek word—



# **ANTILUTRON**

which in turn means —



# "an EQUAL CORRESPONDING PRICE OR VALUE".



It signifies an exact equal quantity and quality of anything for anything.

Example: Gold bar for a Gold bar.

or,The exact equal measure for measure





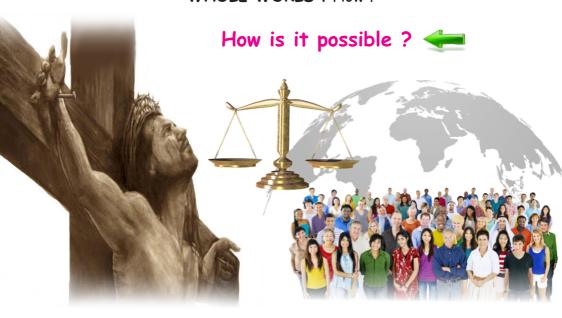
which then brings us to the question—

HOW CAN THE ONE MAN
JESUS OFFER HIMSELF
AN EQUAL
CORRESPONDING PRICE
FOR ALL?

An equal price would mean He could offer His life for ONLY

ONE other man!

And yet we read that He is.....THE SAVIOUR OF THE WHOLE WORLD! How?



We read this fact that He is the saviour of the world in -

#### 1 John 4:14

"And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent his Son  $\underline{to}$  be the Saviour of the World."

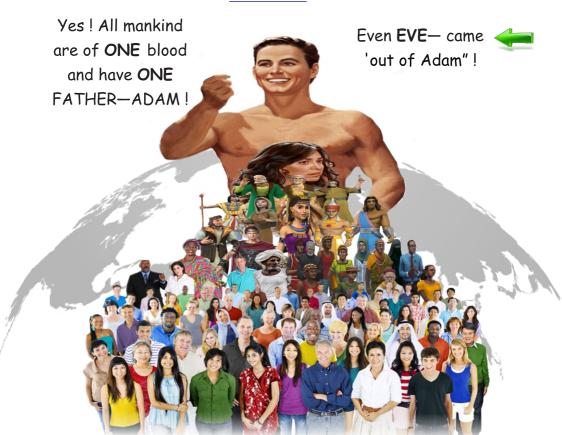
Did you see that? It is very clear!

Who then could be that **ONE MAN**, Jesus would die for, through whom the benefits would **also** come to **ALL MEN** - the whole world ???

Ah! The answer is found in—

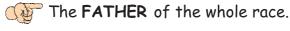
## **Acts 17:26**

"And hath made of ONE BLOOD all nations of men....."



# Thus we see that we <u>ALL</u> are related to each other and share a common "ANCESTOR" -Adam!

# So Adam was a VERY IMPORTANT PERSON (VIP) (Yes! The FIRST VIP of earth!)



The **HEAD** of the race.

The REPRESENTATIVE of the whole race.

# HE WAS ALL THESE THINGS TO THE HUMAN RACE.

Perhaps the key in understanding more about Adam is
that if he won the whole human race would have won
andvice versa.

# This is BEST ILLUSTRATED in EVERY FAMILY where the FATHER <u>typifies</u>..........ADAM and the mother <u>typifies</u>........EVE and the CHILDREN <u>typify</u>.......the "children of Adam" - the world of mankind.

Thus in the family when the ACTIONS and EFFORTS of the Father is FRUITFUL the children are BENEFITTED but if NOT - the BAD RESULTS AFFECT the children too and the whole family.

So too it was with ADAM and the whole human race
- THE FAMILY OF MANKIND!

Yes! Today we **NEED** to study a little more about ADAM —

# HOW WAS HE WHEN GOD CREATED HIM?

Let us read from -

Genesis 1:26

"And God said, Let us make man in <u>OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR</u> LIKENESS...."

What a MARVELLOUS description of man's creation!!

And just imagine,.....today people greatly prefer the theory that man was made from and descended from APES!



Yes! Adam was created "in the image and likeness" of God.



That is to say — HE WAS PERFECT and had LIFE within him and was given the RIGHT to go on living subject to some conditions.



# What were these conditions?

We read of them in .....

**Genesis 2:16,17** 

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of GOOD and EVIL thou shalt NOT eat of it: for in the day that thou eastest thereof thou shalt surely die."

This was a command that required OBEDIENCE, God even clearly informed Adam (and Eve) of the PUNISHMENT for disobedience as we read in -

"....for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"—vs-17



Thus disobedience = SIN ( I John 3:4 )

> The punishment for sin = DEATH ( Romans 6:23)

It was all very clear! Then what happened?

Do you know HOW Adam and Eve must have lived?

Theirs was a most HAPPY and BLISSFUL life!

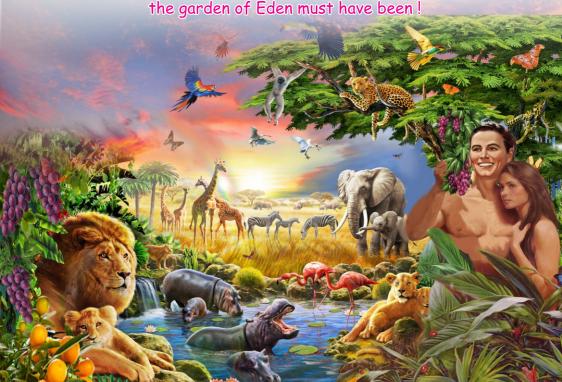
They had **NO WORRIES** at all -no rent worries, no work worries, no financial worries, no fears for the future....NOTHING!! NO WORRIES AT ALL!

There was NO STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL AT ALL.

Food was in abundance! They only had to reach out for it!

There was great variety in tastes and aroma!

Just close your eyes for a few moments and imagine how



Yes! The food was **FRUITS** of every possible kind!

Today we hardly eat any fruits except perhaps when sick and the doctor recommends it!

THEN WE EAT AND GET WELL!

Because fruits are the FOOD OF LIFE!

Now for Adam and Eve, fruits were their food and through it they had life.

Now Adam and Eve must have spent many happy moments with each other between the meals of eating!

Adam would have educated Eve on the names of the various living creatures around them <u>for he himself</u> had named them (Genesis 2:19,20)

They would have long walks together in that garden.

On one particular day

Eve was alone and Adam was NOT with her.



She saw the serpent -a living creature, eating of the VERY

TREE God had told them not to eat of

(Genesis 2:16,17)

And she thought, "Ah! Let me see how the snake is <u>now</u> going to die!" She sat and watched...and watched!

....AND......NOTHING HAPPENED!

Thus it was that....the snake SPOKE TO EVE! And let us now read the details in -



Genesis 3:1

"Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God hath made. And he said unto the woman. Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

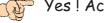
Now did the serpent speak with words from its tongue?



# DEFINITELY NOT!

Have you ever heard of "talking", SNAKES?? OH, No? This was the **SPEAKING** of a different kind!

Not of words -but OF ACTIONS !



Yes! Actions SPEAK LOUDER than words!

Thus the actions of the snake eating of the "forbidden" tree and fruit and NOT DYING was a QUESTION MARK of doubt for Eve regarding God's command and instructions.

> In HER HEART she reconfirms the words and instructions of God in-

# Genesis 3:2.3

"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of

# the garden, God hath said, <u>Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye</u> touch it, lest ye die."

Yes! Eve had clearly registered in her mind and heart the command of the Lord God.

In fact she went a little further as to say-

"....neither shall ye touch it....."

This was **NOT** part of God's command in **Genesis 2:16,17**. Evidently she had <u>exaggerated</u> the matter a little!



# SINCE THEN THIS HAS BECOME.....A WEAKNESS OF THE FEMALE SEX !!!

Thus it was <u>A COMBINATION</u> of......the actions of the snake... and the suggestions of Satan that we read in -

## Genesis 3:4-6

"And the serpent said, unto the woman,Ye shalt not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

And when he woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat."



Yes! Here is "the deception upon <u>EVE</u> through the "serpent"— A LIE!

# The FIRST lie!

Thus it was that Satan became — "the father of lies" (John 8:44)



It was a QUESTION (vs-1) that led to sin and disobedience.

This was the FIRST question upon the earth — "asked by".....the serpent—

Thus the question mark too is shaped like a serpent—



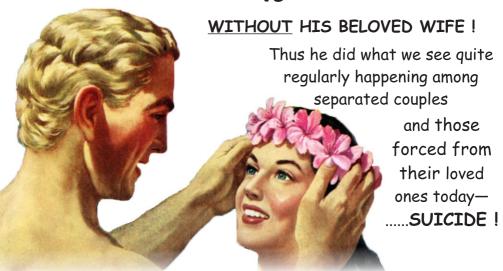
But though we read that Adam <u>TOO</u> ate of the fruit in vs-6 we must realise that he was not **DECEIVED** into eating like Eve. For we read of the matter in -

# **1 Timothy 2:14**

"And Adam was NOT DECEIVED but the woman being deceived was in the transgression".

If Adam was not deceived— WHY then did he eat of that fruit too?

It was his **DEEP LOVE** and **ATTACHMENT** for Eve that caused him to think it impossible to think of living



Yes! He VOLUNTARILY gave up his life.

—that is he committed suicide for the sake of his wife!

Yes! When he considered the LONELINESS
he had felt BEFORE God created Eve and thought of that
condition in COMPARISON with the life he shared with his
wife Eve, he thought that it would be preferable to
FOLLOW Eve into DISOBEDIENCE and "death" than to be
ALONE again!



We read that answer in-

## **Romans 5:12**

" For as by ONE MAN ( Adam ) sin entered into the world and death by sin,.....

Yes! Adam was **NOW** under the condemnation of death having sinned against God. But **THEN** what do we read even further....

"....and so death <u>passed</u> UPON all men, for that <u>all</u> have sinned.

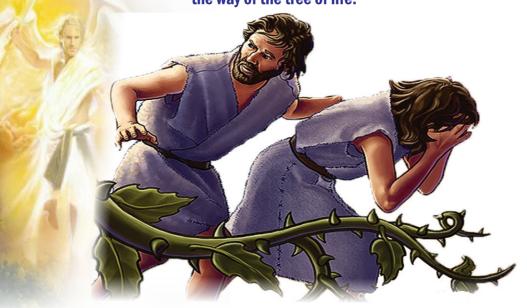
# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

Are ALL born perfect and have then BECOME sinners VOLUNTARILY as Adam did?

No! Here the matter is very different! Let us see how as we read in —

# Genesis 3:23,24

"....Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."



Having sinned and come under the death condemnation, Adam and Eve were **EXPELLED** in **THAT** condition from the Garden of Eden.

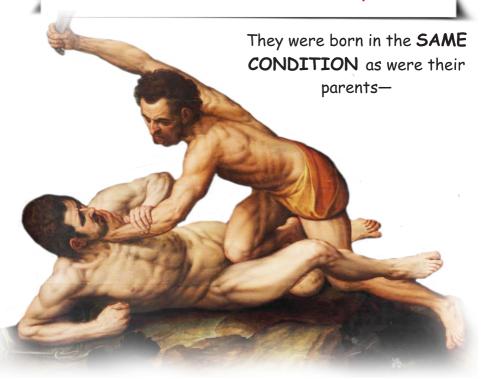
And in that condition they began to reproduce and the first-

born CAIN was THUS born as we read very clearly in -

## Genesis 4:1

"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD."

But Adam's children were **NOT** born perfect!





in THE SIN and DEATH CONDEMNED CONDITION which they inherited from their parents.

This we read of very clearly in....

**Psalms 51:5** 

"Behold I was shapen in iniquity: and <u>in SIN</u> did my mother conceive me".

This speaks of SIN FROM BIRTH— or in other words an INHERITED CONDITION.

THUS ALL THE WORLD THROUGH FATHER ADAM AND MOTHER EVE ARE BORN INTO THE CONDITION OF INHERITED SIN AND DEATH CONDEMNATION.

If this is understood then we can understand the words of our Lord Jesus in -

Luke 9:60 "Jesus said unto him, let the DEAD bury their DEAD ..."

This is one of the **VERSES** guoted in a book by a Muslim called -



# THE ERRORS OF THE BIBLE".

Therein the Muslim asked and questioned how was it ever possible for one dead body to BURY another dead body?



He RIDICULED these words of the Lord!

Many Christians today too are EQUALLY CONFUSED and are of the opinion that the Muslim is right!

# WHAT DID JESUS REALLY MEAN?

Ah! How can TWO DEAD people— or one dead man bury another dead man?—

UNLESS ONE of the "dead" being referred to is actually alive and YET DEAD!

Yes! This is the way Jesus referred to this **DEATH**CONDEMNED WORLD where even the "living" are **DEAD**from God's point of view

having NO LIFE RIGHTS at all!

Thus there are TWO conditions of DEATH among mankind -



where the reference is to the living members of all mankind who are ALL under the death condemnation and are gradually **DYING**.



where the reference is to those who breathe their last and fulfill their **DEATH CONDEMNATION**.

They are said to RETURN to the DUST !!

Thus Jesus said -

"...let the (living) dead bury their (dead) dead...."



Now what can be done to save this "dead" race of mankind?

The law of God says in —

**Exodus 21:23-25** 

"thou shalt give life for life...."

Yes! Thus to save the whole race it required ONE MAN'S life in sacrifice or exchange!

-.... "A life for (A) life"..

Now in many countries we read of martyrs who sacrificed

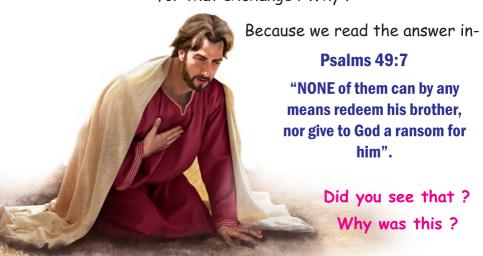
their lives for the freedom of their countries.

Would not there have been MANY willing to die to save
the WHOLE human race?



# OF COURSE THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN MANY!

But **NONE** of Adam's children were <u>SUITABLE</u> for that exchange! Why?



Because none of Adam's children are **EQUAL** to the condition of perfection that Adam was in **BEFORE** he sinned!

Thus **NONE** of Adam's children <u>CAN</u> redeem the human race!

It requires a **PERFECT MAN** to **REDEEM ADAM** and the whole **HUMAN RACE**.

So WHO could give this REDEMPTION PRICE that would save the race from the death condemnation?

Obviously NONE from mankind would be fit!

So then WHO would HELP and SAVE mankind?

Oh yes! ONLY GOD!

And how would God save mankind?

We read His words in -

Hosea 13:14

"I will RANSOM them from the power of the grave, I will REDEEM them from death...."

Yes! How did God do this? By sending from heaven the **REDEEMER** as we read in-

John 3:16

"For God <u>SO LOVED</u> the world, <u>that He gave</u> His only begotten son...."

Yes! God gave His only begotten Son Jesus to **BECOME**that redemption price!

Ah! Did you understand now the CONTEXT and BACKGROUND behind the words of this very <u>POPULAR</u> scripture text?

How, the great LOVE of God for ALL MANKIND

"FOR God so loved the world..."

was MANIFESTED in HIS providing the very important RANSOM or





But how can Jesus who was
FROM HEAVEN, BE
EQUAL to Adam of whom
we read in —

# Psalms 8:5 "For Thou hast made him A LITTLE LOWER than angels,....."

Yes! We see here how man was made "a little"....LOWER THAN ANGELS!

So how could Jesus be an EQUAL PRICE or RANSOM for Adam, seeing that he came from HEAVEN?







We see this answer as we read from - Hebrews 2:9

"But we see Jesus, who was <u>MADE</u> a little lower than angels for the suffering of death....."

Yes! Jesus <u>became</u> or........."was made" a **PERFECT MAN** like was Adam!

He was born "holy, harmless and undefiled and separate from sinners"- (Hebrews 7:26)



Though "all things where maid by Him" (John 1:3) - he became an embryo in mary's whomb.

Pillippians 2:7

"But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."

He became the "second Adam"—

I Corinthians 15:45 - the <u>second</u> PERFECT

MAN!

"And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."



THUS THE EQUAL CORRESPONDING PRICE FOR ADAM WAS FOUND!

YES!....THE "LIFE FOR A LIFE" WAS FOUND!

# THIS IS THE RANSOM PRINCIPLE



Mark 10:45

"...the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many"

Before we go to the conclusion of this RANSOM transaction let us just spend a few moments beholding the GREAT SAVIOUR and......the DEPTH OF His sacrifice!

# HOW was Jesus.....BEFORE He "became flesh"?

# We read of this matter in - 2 Corinthians 8:9

"...that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor,"

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Let us illustrate this matter to make it clear -

Supposing we allot Adam in his perfection a value of 100, then immediately Cain & Abel were born in the condition that can be represented as <u>LESS</u> than 100 and we would suggest it to be 90 and 95.

Ever since then the whole race have only been becoming more and more DEGENERATED

and DEPRAYED and away from the PERFECTION as was

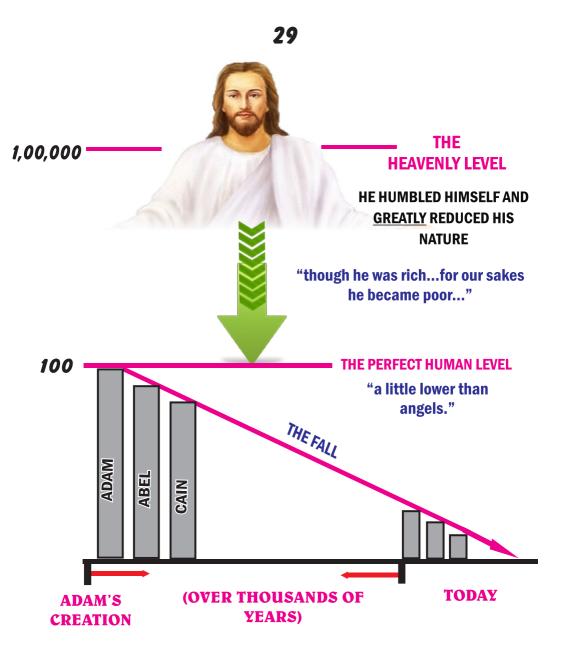
and **DEPRAVED** and.....away from the **PERFECTION** as was once represented in Adam.

Today we all must be at a value represented between 1 and 10!

Some of the even more fallen and degraded human beggars and drunkards who are in the drunken condition all through the day, can be said to be about  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  !!

Now Jesus perfection in the Heavenly nature could be compared to 100,000 !!

Let us see this matter in the chart below -



Imagine that **DIFFERENCE** of 100 and 100,000 and how much the Master did humble himself to become that **RANSOM price**!!

Yes! He was "rich" and on a far higher level of life and made himself "poor" by coming down to a far,

# far LOWER level of life!

And not only that, we read of something else regarding Him in-

# **Phillipians 2:7**

"But made Himself of NO REPUTATION, and took upon Him the form of a servant..."



# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

The **DEPTH** of meaning hidden in this scripture is understood only by an illustration as follows—



HOW LARGE INDEED IS THIS WORLD

we live in and how many **DIFFERENT KINDS OF** CREATURES live in it.!!

There is the FISH world, the ANIMAL world, the BIRD world, the INSECT world!

Now let us look at the insect world, and in the insect world let us take the SPECIES of the COCKROACH:-





Everybody hates cockroaches! They find them dirty, filthy and disgusting !!!

But today let us look at......THE COCKROACH WORLD!

Yes! Theirs is a busy and bustling world!

They live and have their homes in dark dingy places!

Don't they have **families**— little ones? Yes, they do!

There is **work** to do— food to gather, and a busy life to live.

# ISN'T IT?

Now IMAGINE that this cockroach world needed

a SAVIOUR and .... A REDEEMER!



And that someone from among mankind would be needed to **VOLUNTEER** 

to be changed into a cockroach and spend many years among the cockroaches and then in a very terrible way to die among those cockroaches for the redemption of the ENTIRE cockroach world!

# WOULD YOU BE READY?

Just imagining the cockroach conditions, and.....their food and.....living areas makes

the thought ABSOLUTELY AND totally REPULSIVE and REVOLTING!!



THIS IS EXACTLY how man in this CURRENT condition and in the ways of sin MUST SEEM AND LOOK TO the heavenly beings and.....TO JESUS!



> YES! JUST LIKE COCKROACHES!!



OH! WHAT A SAVIOUR!

Imagine yourself growing POORER everyday!!

And that you can no longer eat the FOOD you preferred

....or wear the CLOTHES or shoes you liked

....or TRAVEL the way you liked

.....and that you had to gradually LIVE IN A SLUM!

This is **SOMETHING LIKE WHAT HAPPENED** to the master!

THUS IT WAS THAT GOD SENT THE RANSOM FOR ALL MANKIND! - " a life for a life"

We read about the **DELIVERANCE** of the whole race and

THE DIVINE TRANSACTION of the RANSOM in—

## 1 Corinthians 15:21

"For since <u>by man</u> came death, <u>by man</u> came also the resurrection of the dead."

Yes! Through ONE MAN came the death sentence on ALL and through ONE more man comes the deliverance of ALL.

Let us see who these TWO MEN are as we read the next verse —

Vs. 22 - "For as in ADAM <u>ALL</u> die, even so in CHRIST shall <u>ALL</u> be made alive"

# WHO ARE THESE "ALL" ?

Why! They are Adam's children—the WHOLE WORLD OF MANKIND!!



Today they are called by different names-Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Jains, Christians, Atheists, etc, etc.

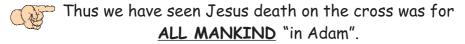
Yes! Indeed THIS is the GOOD NEWS



"of great joy which shall be unto all people".



Yes! ALL that is necessary to gain the BLESSINGS and BENEFIT from the death of Jesus on the cross of CALVARY is to be a child of Adam!





レ Now let us bring to mind that beginning verse again –

John 12:32

"And I, if I be lifted from the earth, will draw ALL MEN UNTO ME.

Yes! We have today seen how JESUS through his death on the cross has "drawn all men unto Him" or

## REDEEMED or SAVED ALL MEN

- from the death sentence

and bought <u>FOR ALL MANKIND</u> through His blood the VERY REAL HOPE of a RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD in

God's due time!

Yes! ALL ARE to be RESURRECTED from the dead!

Go tell this GOOD NEWS to all your neighbours

and friends!

But how is this **RESURRECTION** to take place and....**HOW** will the conditions be like ??

Yes! In this CLASS we studied the RANSOM PRICE.....

which is the first part of the study of THE MYSTERY OF THE CROSS.

In the next we will study the details of .... the  $RANSOM\ WORK$ !



Yes! The **RESULTS** that are to be manifest as a result of Jesus **RANSOM** sacrifice!



