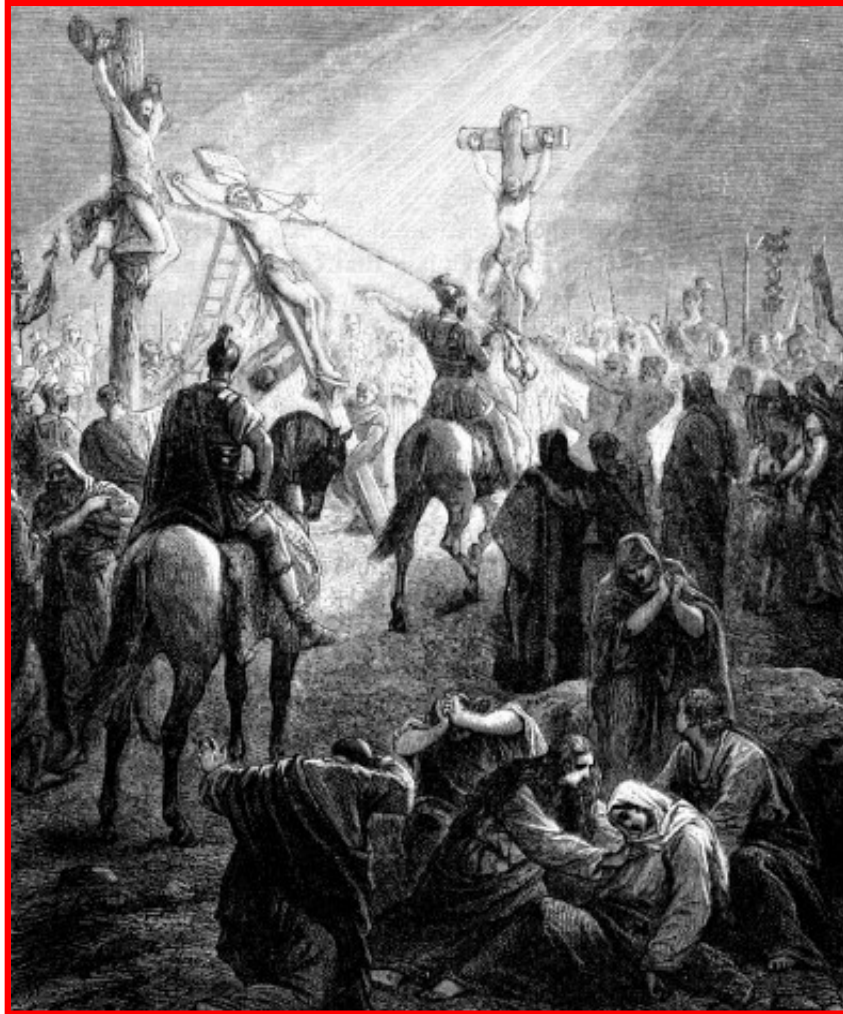


Lesson 4

Pictures of Jesus

## *The Accursed One*



Deuteronomy 21:23 | “**Anyone** who is hung on a tree is under God’s curse.”

Galatians 3:13 | “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘*Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.*’”

*Jesus takes our sins on Himself and takes God's anger and punishment in our place. Jesus became accursed so that we would not be accursed and gave us His righteousness instead as a free gift of His love.*

To be under God's curse is to be in serious trouble. You have to do something really bad to be under God's curse.

Let's look at some of the words in the Bible passages above. Really bad criminals were killed and then their bodies were hung on a tree for everyone to see. This hanging was done so that people would not do the same things as the criminal and have the same thing happen to them. In Jesus' time, the cross was used like the tree in the passage above.

The law is God's law. We sometimes call this the Ten Commandments. If we did not have the Ten Commandments, we would not be guilty of sin. If there is no law, you cannot be guilty of breaking the law. When God gave us the Ten Commandments, we became guilty every time we sinned. The law of God became a curse to us. By breaking God's law, we became criminals and were under God's curse.

What do we mean by God's curse? A curse is not a nasty word. A curse is a great punishment from God. When we sin, God becomes so angry at us that He curses us. This means that God will punish us now and always. This is really scary isn't it? If we behave badly, we get punished. If we behave badly against God we get terribly punished. Don't be afraid. Let's look at one more word in the Bible passage above, the word is redeemed.

To redeem someone is to free them from trouble. When Jesus redeemed us, He paid for our sins so that we do not have to pay for our sins. We are not under God's curse anymore.

When we say that Jesus died to save us from our sins, what does that mean? The second Bible passage above tells us. Jesus, who never sinned in His whole life, took all of our sins on Himself. Jesus took the blame for every bad thing we have ever done. Jesus took the punishment that we deserved. Jesus did this because He loves us. When Jesus died on the cross, He took all our sins away and paid for them with His blood. Now God is not angry with us anymore.

We should always remember what Jesus did for us and thank Him. We should try to behave the way Jesus wants us to as He tells us in the Bible.

### PRAYER TIME

I thank You Jesus for taking away all my sins. You were punished instead of me. Help me always remember what You did for me. Amen