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and inquire no further is not an indication of studious integrity. It is established from the foregoing information only that Jesus was put to death upon a vertical post, which does not exclude the presence of a horizontal piece. For the Watchtower to insist that nothing else was involved is presumptuous.

In five other occurrences (Acts 5:30; 10:39; 13:29; Galatians 3:13; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:24), inspiration reveals that Jesus was killed on a “tree.” Peter preached, *“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree”* (Acts 5:30). The word simply means that the device of His suffering was wooden, and so all the Greek experts agree. Strangely, though, the New World Translation presents it as “stake” again, despite no linguistic basis for it. In doing so, the Watchtower reveals an agenda.

An appeal to history, which is a legitimate method of confirming revelation (Esther 10:2), indicates that the Romans were not committed to one method of crucifixion. Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian, recorded, “So the soldiers, out of the wrath and hatred they bore the Jews, nailed those they caught, one after one way, and another after another, to the crosses” (The Jewish War 5:11:1). The most common styles of crucifixion were: the *crux simplex*, I-shaped, a simple upright pole; the *crux commissa*, T-shaped, having a transom affixed to the top of the vertical stake; and the *crux immissa*, t-shaped, with the horizontal beam intersecting the vertical lower than its top. All of these involved a piece of wood set upright, and two out of three included a horizontal portion, which Scripture does not rule out.

The earliest image of a Roman crucifixion yet uncovered by archaeology, the Alkimilla graffito, was discovered in a tavern in Puteoli. Depicting a victim being crucified on a T-shaped cross, the artwork is dated to the reign of either Trajan or Hadrian (117-138 A.D.). History and archaeology confirm that Rome was not limited to vertical stakes without attachments when crucifying.

Without further information, one might fairly conclude it is wrong to visualize Jesus on any specific style of cross, choosing instead to accept this detail as an undetermined variable. However, further information does exist.

*“Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross”* (John 19:19). Where this title was placed is a point of curiosity pertinent to this matter. *“The inscription of His accusation was written above”* (Mark 15:26) or

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## A FIRE WITHIN

David McPherson

*“If I say, ‘I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,’ there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot”* (Jeremiah 20:9).

One of God’s prophets, Jeremiah, got to a point where he decided he’d just quit speaking God’s word. The more he opened his mouth, the more he was mocked, ridiculed, persecuted. It was as though he concluded, “What’s the use?! I’ll just keep silent.” But silent he could not be. Why? Because God’s word was so within him, as a raging fire, he could not but speak.

Oh that the same might be true of us! That we would be so filled with the Holy Scriptures that they are our regular conversation. May God’s word be our meditation, strengthening our soul, turning us away from sin. And may it be our message, ever shared with others for their benefit and to the glory of God!

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*“written over Him”* (Luke 23:38). Whether it was over the Lord’s head or hands would settle the debate. *“They put up over His head the accusation written against Him”* (Matthew 27:37). There it is.

Jesus’ hands were nailed during the crucifixion (John 20:25, 27). If He was killed on a vertical stake, nailing them below would have been unnecessary because gravity would have generally kept them in that place, so they would have been nailed over His head, and this is how the Lord’s death is depicted in artwork produced by the Watchtower Bible and Tract Society. Yet a placard bearing the inscription of the accusation against the King of the Jews was placed over His head, not His hands. Therefore, the common notion that Christ Jesus was killed on a *crux immissa*, a t-shaped instrument, is accurate.

Had the JW’s’ contention been correct, it would have been a tedious accomplishment of little worth, but, being false, it is an argument set forth for no reason other than to argue. The apostle Paul warned about *“useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth”* and instructed, *“from such withdraw yourself”* (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 6:5).

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.

Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS..."**

**RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN**

**SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"If Satan could convince Eve she was oppressed while living in the Garden, then he can convince any of us that our blessings are actually burdens."

– Chris Gore

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

**VOLUME 1, ISSUE 39**

**OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2023**

**THE SHAPE OF THE CROSS**

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Self-described "Jehovah's Witnesses," more accurately disciples of the Watchtower Society, insist the Savior was put to death, not on a cross, but on a vertical post without a horizontal beam. This seems a rather pointless argument to engage in, and it would hardly be worth answering if they merely presented the idea that the exact device of His execution might be uncertain. Unfortunately, however, it stands as a point of doctrine for the JW's to deny the t-shaped cross, so it is worth examining the merits of this claim.

The English word "cross" appears twenty-seven times in the New Testament in reference to the means of Christ's agony. In one such instance, the reader is informed, "He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross" (Philippians 2:8), but the Watchtower's New World Translation puts it this way: "he humbled himself and became obedient as far as death, yes death on a torture stake." Thus, the word is consistently rendered in the JW's' proprietary version of the Bible. The Greek word is "stauros" and is defined as "a stake or post (as set upright)" (Strong), "an upright stake, especially a pointed one" (Thayer), or "an upright pale or stake" (Vine).

Given the definitions provided by all reputable Greek scholars, it is not unreasonable to question the matter, yet questioning should begin, not end, with a simple definition. To arrive at a settled conclusion here – Continued on page 2 –

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