

TO WEAR A “CHRISTIAN” CROSS OR NOT?

Millions wear or at least have a cross, yet few are aware of its ancient roots.

A dramatic voice emanates from the television: “The cross is revered throughout Christianity as a symbol of faith in Jesus. We are pleased to present this beautifully detailed 24-karat gold cross with matching gold chain. It will bring you great joy while you proudly wear it as a symbol of your faith. Let it inspire you in your Christian walk. Place your order now by calling the number shown on the screen, and we will rush you your very own cross for three easy payments of \$39.95. Quantities are limited, so do not delay!”

Stirred to action by the presenter’s strong words and images of a sparkling golden cross, a TV viewer picks up the phone and dials the number. Like millions of others, he wants to wear this display of his religion. He wants others to know he is “Christian.”

The cross is revered and admired across the wide spectrum of traditional Christian churches. It is a cornerstone symbol—supposedly representing the message of Yahshua Messiah and how He died for the sins of ‘humanity’.

It is worn around the neck, placed on the dashboard of a car, hung from a wall, neatly lined in cemetery rows, placed on top of church steeples, or found along highways either alone or with two slightly smaller crosses on each side, this icon is made of varied materials and found in different shapes, forms and places.

Most display the simple cross—an upright stake with an intersecting crossbeam located about a third of the way down from the top. Some have two crossbeams; while still others have an oval shaped circle on top. Still another type, called a crucifix, has an image of “Jesus” affixed to it. The shapes, sizes and configurations are seemingly endless, with “something for everyone.”

While the King James Version of the Bible speaks of the “cross of Christ” {**Galatians 6:12**}, does this mean a True Israelite Christian should use this symbol as a physical manifestation of their faith?

Since Yahshua warned His followers against blindly following the traditions of men [jewish created “traditions”]

{**Mark 7:6-7**}, you must not make assumptions. Do not just accept or assume that the cross is Scriptural—demand proof!

Constant Reminder?

Symbols and symbology carry significance and meaning. Often, they are used to invoke feelings or thoughts in the mind of the viewer. Some bring remembrance of events, places or people: national flags, war memorials, monuments to famous persons, or grave markers.

The image of a cross is no different. Yet few people consider what meaning this symbol has for Yahweh. Many questions flow from this: Does Yahweh want you to wear a cross and display it where you live?

Does Yahweh want to see this instrument of cruelty hanging from the True Christians’ necks, on the wall of their homes, or placed on the dashboard of their cars? Does He want to look upon a symbol that reminds Him of when He had to completely turn from His Son? {Read: **Matthew 27:46, II Corinthians 5:21, and Isaiah 53:6; 59:2.**} And would you

wear a constant reminder of how your child was put to death? Think about this!

Let us consider the following for a moment. If Yahshua were put to death with a .38 Special handgun, would you wear this around your neck? If Yahshua were put to death in an electric chair, would you place a miniature one on your dashboard as a sign of your faith? What if by lethal injection? Would you have its representation prominently placed on the wall of your home?

Why venerate or give honor to an instrument used in the Messiah's death? Are you certain Yahweh desires this?

Before Yahshua

The cross was not widely used in mainstream Christianity until the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine—about 270 years after Christ established His Church on Pentecost AD 31. None of the apostles or first-century Christians used it or accepted it as a “Christian” symbol.

The Classic Encyclopedia, based on the famous 11th edition of Encyclopaedia Britannica, states: “From its simplicity of form, the cross has been used both as a religious symbol and as an ornament, from the dawn

of man's civilization. Various objects, dating from periods long anterior to the Christian era, have been found, marked with crosses of different designs, in almost every part of the old world. India, Syria, Persia and Egypt have all yielded numberless examples, while numerous instances, dating from the later Stone Age to Christian times, have been found in nearly every part of Europe. The use of the cross as a religious symbol in pre-Christian times, and among non-Christian peoples, may probably be regarded as almost universal, and in very many cases it was connected with some form of nature worship.”

According to Babylon Mystery Religion by Ralph Woodrow, “Ages ago in Italy, before the people knew anything of the arts of civilization, they believed in the cross as a religious symbol. It was regarded as a protector and was placed upon tombs.” This symbol is still placed on graves today!

The book continues, “In 46 B.C. [Before Christ], Roman coins show Jupiter holding a long scepter terminating in a cross. The Vestal Virgins of pagan Rome wore the cross suspended from their necklaces, as the nuns of the

Roman Catholic church do now.”

According to Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, the shape of the cross “had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) in that country and in adjacent lands, including Egypt.

“By the middle of the third century A.D. the churches had either departed from, or had travestied, certain doctrines of the Christian faith. In order to increase the prestige of the apostate ecclesiastical system, pagans were received into the churches...and were permitted largely to retain their pagan signs and symbols. Hence, the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the cross-piece lowered, was adopted to stand for the cross of Christ.”

Who was this Tammuz? Anciently, he has been known by many names: Baal, Molech, Osiris. The Holy Scriptures identifies him as Nimrod: “He was a mighty hunter before יהוה, therefore it is said, “Like Nimrod the mighty hunter before יהוה.”” **{Genesis 10:9}**.

The Ashkenazi Jewish historian, Josephus, records in Antiquities of the Jews important evidence of Nimrod's role in the post-

Flood world. Notice: “He also gradually changed the government into tyranny...He [Nimrod] also said he would be revenged on God, if He should have a mind to drown the world again; for that he would build a tower too high for the waters to be able to reach...Now the multitude were very ready to follow the determination of Nimrod, and to esteem it a piece of cowardice to submit to God.”

Ezekiel 8:13-14 records a picture of the women of Israel “weeping for Tammuz.” This Tammuz (the god of fire) of the Babylonian mystery religion is none other than Nimrod. The etymology of the word Tammuz bears examination: tam means “to make perfect” and muz “fire.” In other words, to make perfect through burning in fire!

Ancient Israel fell into worshipping Tammuz. Again, he was also known as Baal or Molech: “And they built the high places of Ba’al which are in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to offer up their sons and their daughters to Molek, which I did not command them, nor did it come into My heart, that they should do this abomination, to make Yahuḏah sin” {Jeremiah 32:35}.

These practices were so terrible that Yahweh says they never

entered His mind—they were unimaginable to Him!

If a symbol was first used for a pagan god—one that tied to child sacrifices, paganism—should you still wear it around your neck, or have it in your home?

Also notice what the Davis Dictionary of the Bible states about the origin of the cross: “The pre-Christian cross of one form or another was in use as a sacred symbol among the Chaldeans, the Phoenicians, the Egyptians, and many other...nations. The Spaniards in the 16th century found it also among the Indians of Mexico and Peru. But its symbolic teaching was quite different from that which we now associate the cross.”

How was its meaning different? It was used as a symbol of fertility. “Various figures of crosses are found everywhere on Egyptian monuments and tombs, and are considered by many authorities as symbolical either of the phallus [a representation of the male sex organ] or of coition...In Egyptian tombs the crux ansata [cross with a circle or handle on top] is found side by side with the phallus” (A Short History of Sex-Worship).

Clearly, the cross symbol in its various forms has pagan

origins—and meanings—all of which are outside of Christianity. Origins that long predate the birth of Yahshua Messiah—and the Assembly He founded. It was “Christianized” or “Canonized” and brought into mainstream Christianity.

What Did It Look Like?

What did the instrument of Yahshua the Messiah’s suffering look like? What was its true shape? There are many differing opinions.

Professing jewdeo-Christianity has traditionally taught that Yahshua died on a two-beamed cross—His feet nailed together, with arms outstretched. The gospel accounts do say that Yahshua was nailed to a cross. Yet, and as always, a closer examination is warranted.

The word “cross” is translated from the Greek word *stauros* [σταυρός, οὔ, ὀ] *stow-ros*’. Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words states that this word “denotes primarily, ‘an upright pale or stake.’ On such [criminals] were nailed for execution. Both the noun and the verb *staurōo*, ‘to fasten to a stake or pale,’ are originally to be distinguished from the ecclesiastical form of a two-beamed cross.”

Interestingly, other scriptures record that Yahshua was nailed

to a “tree” {I Peter 2:24; Acts 5:30, 10:39, 13:29}. The Greek word used in these verses, xulon, ξύλον, ου, τό, [xoo'-lon] means “anything made of wood, a piece of wood, a club, staff; the trunk of a tree, used to support the cross-bar of a cross in crucifixion.”

Anciently, Roman soldiers would crucify people using wooden structures of various shapes. Sometimes they used upright stakes or poles. Other times they used wooden crosses by attaching beams either at or just below the top.

The Holy Scriptures does not specify the exact shape of the “stauros” or “xulon” on which Christ was crucified. But in light of the historical meanings of “stauros” and “xulon,” it was likely on a stake or upright pole, not on the currently taught and widely accepted two-beamed cross.

Do not, however, put too much emphasis on the shape of the cross. If Yahweh thought it were important for us to know exactly which, He would have clearly recorded it, leaving us without doubt.

The shape is not important—but Yahshua’s sacrifice is!

Wrong Focus

Established jewdeo-Christianity often has its adherents focus

on a Yahshua Messiah who is either pictured as a helpless baby in a manger or a long-haired, effeminate weakling hanging dead on a cross.

Yet the Scripture reveals that Yahshua now looks completely different. Inspired by Elohim, the apostle John described Yahshuas’ present appearance: “And His head and hair were white as white wool, as snow, and His eyes as a flame of fire, and His feet like burnished brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters. And in His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was as the sun shining in its strength.” {Revelation 1:14-16}.

Yahweh would not have inspired this description unless He wanted us to know Yahshua’s glorified appearance. Instead of focusing on how He may have looked in the past, we should think about Yahshua’s appearance in terms of how He looks today—as a soon-coming King who will rule all Adamkind nations!

This is a very different picture from the one invoked by traditional jewdeo-Christianity!—which has its emphasis on “feelings,” “emotions” and “physical” things. The Scripture calls this approach a false “having a form of reverence...”

{II Timothy 3:5}. This is especially true of a cross.

People own crosses and other religious items to “feel religious.” But the Second Commandment clearly prohibits any rendering of Yahshua’s or the Father’s appearance or any other religious image: “You do not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of that which is in the heavens above, or which is in the earth beneath, or which is in the waters under the earth, you do not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, יהוה your Elohim am a jealous Ēl, visiting the crookedness of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me,” {Exodus 20:4-5}.

Crosses are made or created—“graven”—by man’s hand. They are of “the earth beneath.” Supposed pictures or images of Yahshua the Messiah or Yahweh Elohim the Father (who are in heaven above) are also rendered by the hands of men. Both are used as objects of worship—they are adored and venerated.

Any picture, image or statue of Yahshua the Messiah or Yahweh our Elohim is in clear violation of the Second Commandment, and this includes all crosses and crucifixes. All such icons become the object of worship,

which breaks the First Commandment as well: “You have no other mighty ones against My face.” {**Exodus 20:3**}.

Ancient Israel constantly fell into worshipping physical objects (in large part due to the Jewish infiltration of the priesthood), such as the golden calf in **Exodus 32**. There is no difference today.

Physically minded Adamkind beings desire physical representations of Yahweh, as well as physical symbols to which they can attach meaning. They find it hard (in fact impossible) to worship an Elohim they cannot see (unless it is pagan in origin). Yet Hebrews 11, verses 1 and 6, states that we must believe Yahweh exists even though we cannot see Him.

Yahweh is composed of spirit. He does not consist of anything made by “human hands”, of wood, stone, gold, silver, ivory or otherwise. Yahweh seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and truth {**John 4:23-24**}—not with physical objects.

See the cross symbol for what it is—pagan! Its meanings and symbolism do not honor OUR Elohim or Yahshua the Messiah. The Holy Scripture clearly teaches that Yahweh’s Chosen people or Race must not practice or tolerate any pagan

ways, customs, traditions or practices {**Deuteronomy 7:1-6; Jeremiah 10:1-5; Revelation 18:1-4**}.

The Right Focus

How then should a person honor Yahshua the Messiah? What kind of worship does He approve? Allow Yahweh’s Word to answer: “For to this you were called, because Messiah also suffered for us (you), leaving us (you) an example, that you should follow His steps, who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth, who, being reviled, did not revile in return; suffering, did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;” {**I Peter 2:21-23**}.

Worshipping Yahweh in “spirit and truth” means following the example set for us by Yahshua the Messiah. It means patterning your life after Him. Your focus should be on how He lived—in complete submission to the Father—faithfully obeying all of the Commandments, including the Second Commandment.

He said, “If you love Me, you shall guard My commands.” {**John 14:15**}. Also, “If you guard My commands, you shall stay in My love, even as I have guarded My Father’s commands and stay in His love” {**John 15:10**}.

Simply put, love for—worship of—Yahweh can only truly be expressed by active Commandment-keeping. Our faith must be accompanied by actions {**James 2:20**}. Yahshua Messiah never wore or had a cross, and neither should His followers. True Biblical and as such Israelite Christianity is a way of life that you live—the exact same way Yahshua the Messiah lived while on Earth—it is not demonstrated by any religious symbol.

While you can be “justified by His blood” {**Romans 5:9**}, forgiven of past sins by His death, the next verse clarifies that you are “saved by His life” (vs. 10).

Rather than focusing primarily on Yahshua’s death, which is the central purpose for displaying the cross, you should emulate His life! If you will allow, He will live that very same Commandment-keeping life in you.

Yahweh bless, and keep you and your family forever in His Kingdom!