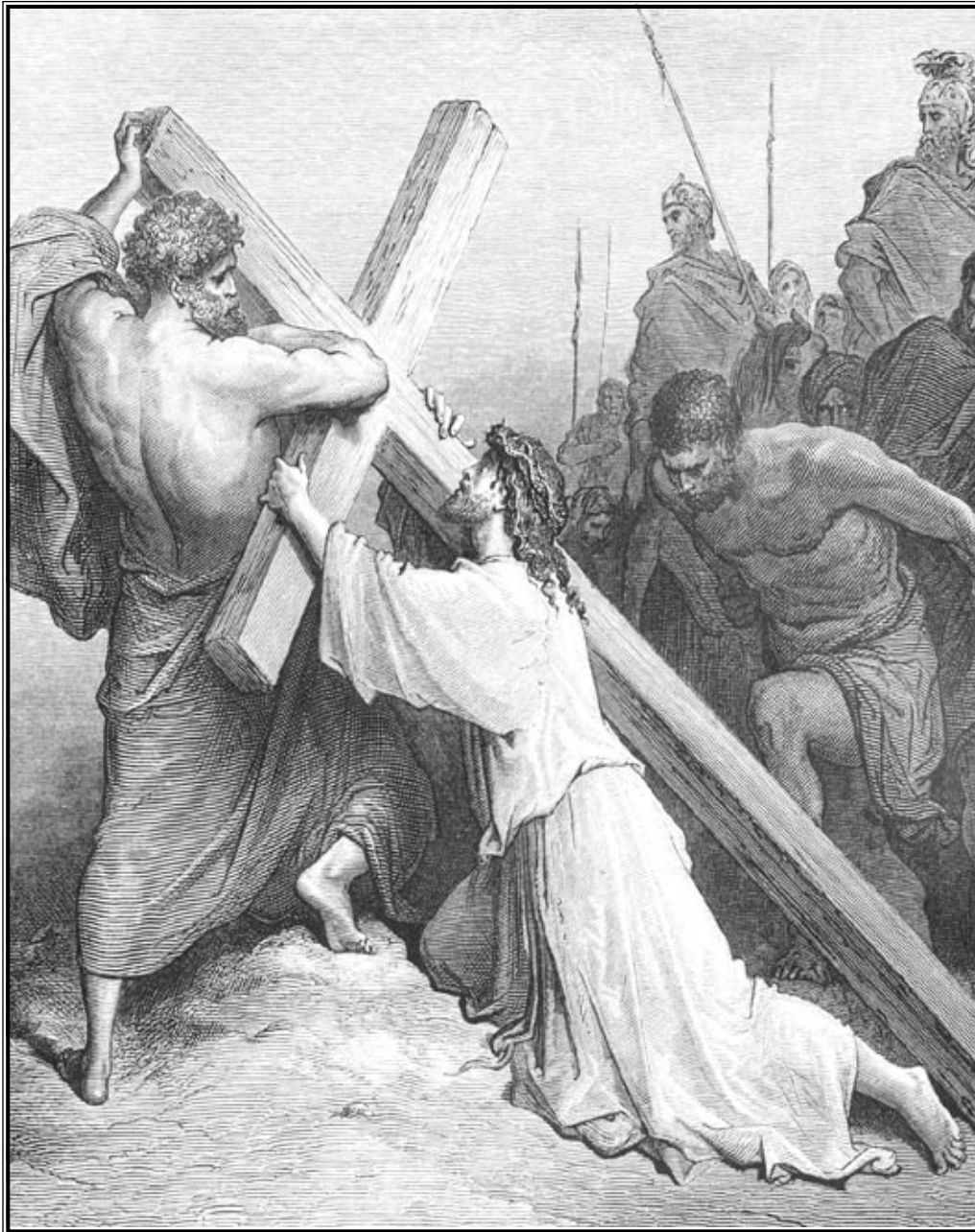


# Understanding the Sin Offering

**“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”**

Phil. 2:8



As we learned in the previous lesson on the **ransom**, death was the penalty upon Adam for his disobedience. The opposite of this behavior was the perfect obedience of Jesus' who will bring life to Adam and all of his children who have ever lived.

Jesus is the only person who ever lived a perfect life. He was always obedient to his Father in Heaven, because he loved his Father more than life itself. Because of Jesus' faithfulness, he could have lived on forever and would never have to die. But, because he came to earth from Heaven to be a **ransom for all**, it was necessary for him to give up his life in death and take the place of Adam.

Yes, Jesus had to die. But, did you ever ask yourself why Jesus had to suffer while he was alive? Couldn't he have just died quietly in his sleep? Why did Jesus suffer all the harsh words of the Pharisees? Why did Jesus have enemies just because he spoke the truth?



**“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows... he was wounded for our transgressions ...” Isaiah the 53rd Chapter**

**There are three very good reasons why Jesus had to suffer the kind of death that he did. And this is called the "sin offering."**

**First:** Because of the ransom sacrifice of Jesus, everyone who ever lived will be given a resurrection from the dead, but they need to have a chance to learn righteousness once they come up out of their graves. During the 1,000 year Kingdom on Earth, they will be given that opportunity. They will need someone to teach them how to learn obedience and how to live a righteous life. Jesus and his church will be the best teachers, because they lived among men and suffered in many ways like they did. Mankind will have sympathetic and understanding teachers whom they will trust.



### **Jesus truly suffered pain.**

He suffered tears over the sickness and death of those he loved. He suffered shame because he stuck up for truth and righteousness. And, he became weak and tired when he healed the sick and raised the dead. Jesus was even tempted in many ways, but he never did anything bad or selfishly—no, Jesus never sinned even when tempted. In all of this, he remained faithful to God, even though his experiences were difficult and painful. And then, after serving God faithfully, Jesus was nailed to a cross—suffering a cruel death.



Yes, Jesus suffered so that he could be an offering for their sins—a **sin offering**. The world of mankind will be happy to learn from a teacher like Jesus. They will know that he took upon himself much pain and suffering on their behalf. They will know that he sympathizes with their pain.

Not only will Jesus be the teacher of the world, but all who ever lived faithful lives in the past will be teachers. The Ancient Worthies learned faithfulness in the past and will teach upon the earth. The Church is learning lessons of faithfulness now and will soon teach from Heaven.

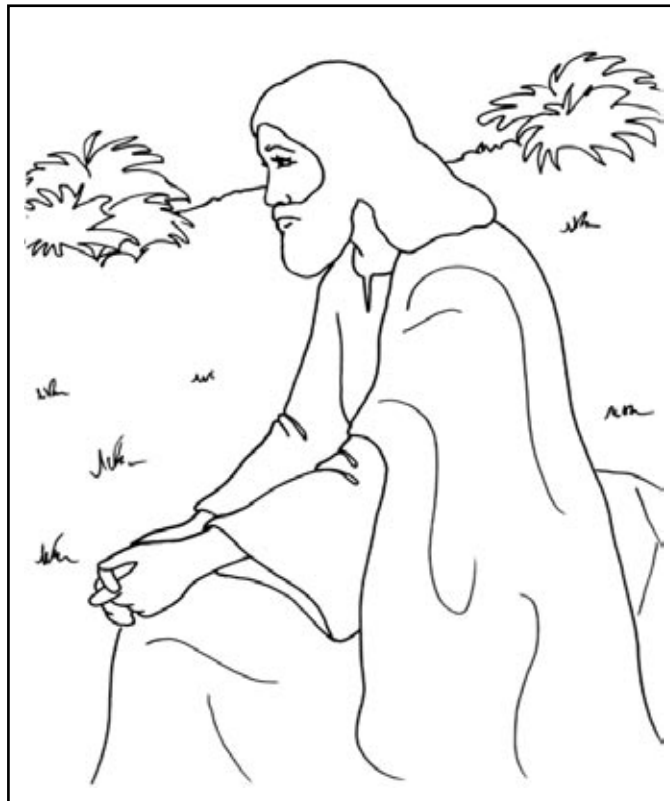


The Ancient Worthy, Joshua, Teaching in the Kingdom

**“When the earth experiences thy judgments (in the Kingdom), the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.” Isaiah 26:9**

**Second:** Another very good reason why Jesus had to suffer is that he needed to prove to His Father in Heaven that he could be trusted completely. God wanted Jesus to live again in Heaven with Him. In fact, God wanted Jesus to receive the Divine Nature for his faithfulness to Him. No one, not even Jesus or the angels, ever lived as a Divine spirit being before Jesus was rewarded this supreme gift — God was the only one.

The difference between the Divine Nature—the nature of God—and all other natures is that God can never, ever die. All other natures, such as humans, angels, and animals can die. If Jesus was to live again as a Divine spirit being, he would have to prove to God that he would never become disobedient. The only way to find out if Jesus would be obedient forever, was to test him under very hard experiences.



**“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered...” Hebrews 5:8**

**“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name...” Philippians 2:8-9**

**Third:** A third reason why Jesus had to suffer before his death is that he needed to set an example to those who would follow in his footsteps as Christians during this present evil world. Only Jesus could provide the **ransom** to bring Adam and his children back from the grave. But, God has provided an opportunity for others to share with Jesus in the **sin offering**. This means that those who would be willing to suffer with Jesus will share in being teachers in the kingdom.

Christians today live during a time when it is hard to be righteous. They follow Jesus and must suffer many things the way that Jesus did. They must suffer for truth and for righteousness sake. They must also learn that whatever happens in their lives is permitted by God, so that they can be sympathetic to the world in the Kingdom. The world of mankind will know that there is someone among all of the little flock who suffered just like they did. They will know that someone in Heaven can truly understand how hard life was for them.

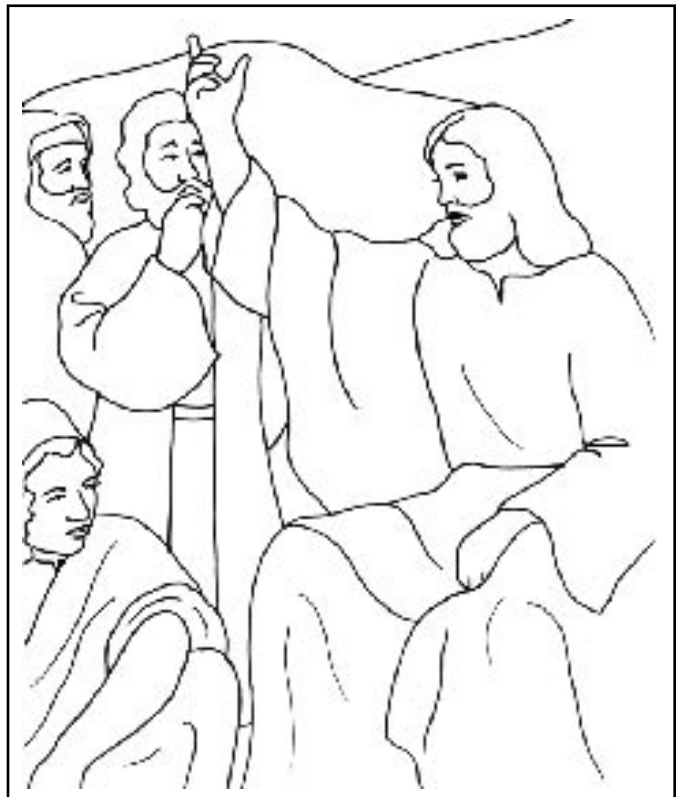
Because of Jesus' **ransom** (a life for a life), Adam and everyone who has ever lived will be resurrected in the Kingdom. Because of the **sin offering** (life of suffering as an offering for sin) of both Jesus and the church, the world of mankind will be taught to walk up the "highway of holiness" to perfection by the end of the thousand years. Isaiah 35 and Revelation 21:4

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About Jesus' followers  
—the church—  
the Apostle Paul explained  
that they would have a share  
in his sin offering:

"For unto you it is given in  
the behalf of Christ, not  
only to believe on him, but  
also to suffer for his sake..."  
Philippians 1:29

"...if we suffer (with Jesus),  
we shall also reign with him..."  
2 Timothy 2:12



## A Selfless Sacrifice

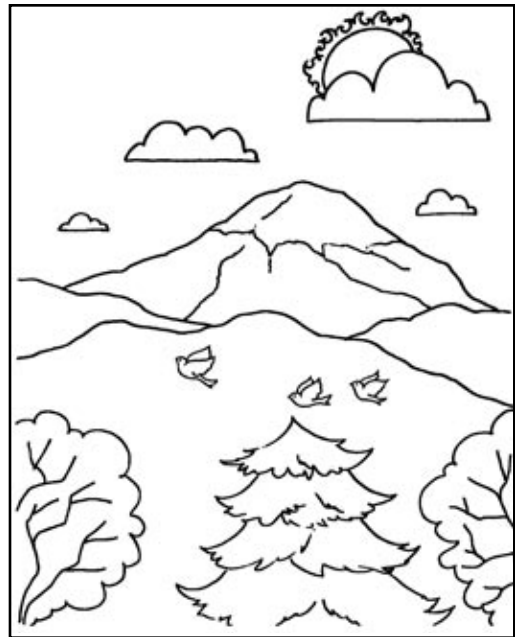
Over a thousand years ago, in a beautiful land, a King, beloved of his people, lived in a castle carved into the side of a majestic mountain. Flowing right through the middle of the castle estate was a cascading waterfall which tumbled over large rocks and through tall trees. This kingdom was hidden from view to the valley below by a layer of billowy clouds.

One day, when the King was admiring his beautiful waterfall, he reached deep into the water to scoop up a shimmering stone that had caught his eye. Losing his balance, he slipped into the water and down he went. Down, down, down over one slippery rock after another, he slid down the mountainside farther and farther away from his glorious castle. In all the tumbling and sliding, he lost his crown, tore off most of his royal garments and lost even his gold trimmed sandals.

By the time he reached the bottom of the waterfall, he was battered and bruised — barefoot and penniless — wearing only tattered rags. Lying unconscious on the side of the pool at the bottom of the falls, the people of the village gathered around the stranger and wondered how he ever survived the drop. "Who is this man?" they asked each other. "What shall we do with him?"

After about an hour of this musing among the villagers, the story became more and more gruesome as to just who this man might be. He looked like he might be a beggar at the very least! What if he is a thief—or worse—what if he is a murderer and the King at the top of the mountain threw him into the falls to rid his kingdom of this hideous person?"

Just then, a young man came out from the crowd and said, "We must help the man back to health. When he is well, he will tell us who he is and from whence he came." Of course, the villagers sneered and laughed at the lad—each taking his turn saying, "Not me! You take him home if you dare. You must be crazy!" Full of compassion, the strong young man lifted the stranger carefully onto his cart.



Before he helped the stranger, the young man had just been returning home from the market to make provision for his elderly mother and father who were waiting for him back at their little farm at the mountain's base. When he arrived home, his parents came to meet him and helped their son carry the stranger into their home. The poor stranger had broken both of his legs and was at death's door.

Many days went by and the man stirred in and out of consciousness. He mumbled things about his crown and his royal robes — all seemed quite odd — as if he were dreaming out loud. But, finally, after about five days, the stranger sat up in bed and cried out, "Where am I, and where is my chief servant Simeon?"

The young man and his parents came to the stranger's bedside and said, "Sir, you tumbled into the pool at the base of the waterfall that enters our tiny village from the mountainside. We know not who you are, nor do we know where you came from, but we took you into our home to nurture you back to health."

The King was confused by their words. He looked across the room into an old, dim mirror and gasped at the sight. His hair was a tangle and his face, hands and arms were bruised and bandaged. When he tried to move his legs, he discovered that they were broken and in splints. He turned to the young man and said in a humble tone of voice, "I beg you to bring me home to my castle in the mountain's side. I am the King of the Land, and I shall pay you and your parents a handsome wage for this task."

"But, sir," said the young man's father, "We do not know if what you are saying is true. The villagers all say that you may be a thief, or worse, a murderer. How do we know that you will not take our son from us? He means more to us than all the gold in the world."

The King could understand how they would be afraid, and so he calmly told them, "Look at the bottom of the pond where you said that you found me. There, you should find my crown, as I saw it tumbling down the waterfall with me." With that, the young man journeyed back into the village and dove into the deep pool. He searched and searched, but never found the crown that the stranger thought would be there.

When the lad returned home, he told his parents that he did not find the crown, but, that there was something wonderful about this man. He was gentle and his words were warm and regal. He saw kindness in the stranger's eyes and sincere appreciation for what his family was doing to help him. And, so, the young man said that he would do



as the stranger requested—he would take him up the mountainside to his home—whether it be a castle or not.

“Sir,” said the young man, “We have no means of travel up such a steep trail along the waterfall’s edge, other than my feet, and these shoes with very thin soles. I will have to drag you to your home on a cot. I am not sure I have the strength to do so, but I will make every effort.” The stranger responded, “This is a very great sacrifice to make. It will cost you your time, a long time being away from your family, and it will cost every ounce of your strength—maybe even your life. But, I assure you, I will provide a great reward for your effort to bring me home safely.”

And so the journey began the next morning. The villagers all scoffed at him and called him a fool. But this did not stop the young man. Up, up, up the waterfall’s edge they traveled. The young man, exhausted, still struggled on—not for the reward, but because he had come to see that the stranger was a good man and worthy to be helped.

After two long days they reached beyond the layer of clouds. The young man looked up from his straining legs and swollen feet, and high above him he saw a huge square block of white limestone shining in the sun. On top of this was the mammoth sculpture of a majestic lion. This image gave the young man a burst of energy, and he climbed up higher, not even feeling the ache in his back, the burn in his legs and the pain in his feet.

As they rounded over the next hill, the stranger cried out, “Look! There it is! My crown! There is my crown!” The young man ran to the waterfall and reached into the water for a beautiful gold crown which had tangled itself upon a submerged tree limb. “Amazing!” thought the young man, “Could this be true? Could he really be the King?”

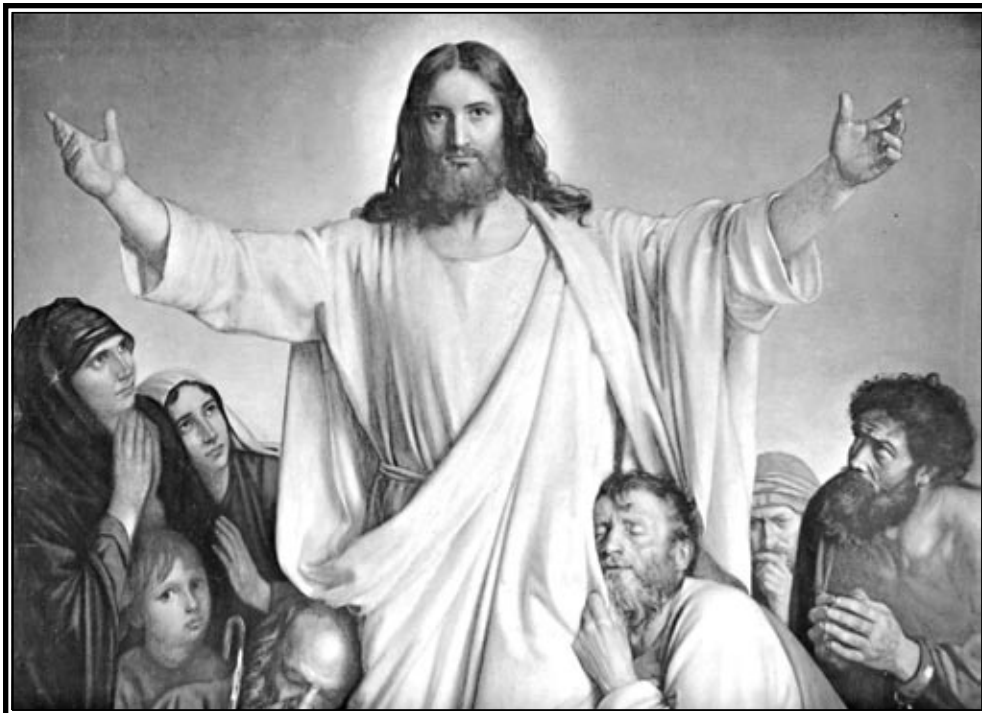
Just then, the stranger and the young man heard the howl of dogs in the distance. As the sound got closer and closer they began to hear voices shouting, “Sire, where are you?! Sire, answer if you can!” The King shouted, “I am here! I am here! Come to the waterfall, I am here!” He began to cry for joy, as Simeon, his chief servant ran to him shouting, “We have found him! We have found our beloved King!”

The young man was astounded! The stranger was right — he truly was the King of the Land! That very day, the King took the lad into his castle where he had his servants feed him from the royal table and clothe him in princely garments. And when the young man gained back his strength, the King sent him home again to the little village

from whence he came. Traveling with him were seven of the King's servants and seven carts filled to overflowing with lavish gifts for the young man's household and for all the people of his village.

The lad returned home, not as a peasant farmer's son, but as the newly appointed governor of the tiny village. The villagers rejoiced in their new governor, for he was kind and generous to them. They loved him, too, for his example of mercy and kindness to the King. And even more than this, they trusted and obeyed him, because they knew that he had once been one of them — toiling hard with his hands to provide for his family.

The lesson of this story points to the selfless sacrifice of the young man on behalf of a stranger—not for the reward, but because his heart was full of mercy for the stranger. His reward was helping the helpless. Jesus' sacrifice was selfless. His Heavenly Father rewarded him richly, but Jesus gave of his life for the poor groaning creation out of compassion for their helplessness. He knew that, if he did not sacrifice, they would not find life. And, because he became like them, "a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief," the world of mankind will soon know that he will be able to understand their needs. They will trust and obey him, because he lived among them and suffered as they did. They will accept him as a ruler who is worthy of their praise.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross... and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." — Hebrews 12:2**

**"We have a high priest who can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; because he was in all ways tempted and tried like we have been, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15 (modified version for clarity)**

1. What does the word "obedient" mean?
2. Why did Adam die?
3. Because Jesus was perfect and obedient, he could have... (1 answer is correct)
  - a. been a Pharisee.
  - b. lived forever.
  - c. led armies into battle to win souls for God.
4. Why did the Pharisees hate Jesus?
5. List three ways that Jesus suffered:
  - 1.)
  - 2.)
  - 3.)
6. Was Jesus ever tempted?
7. In the Kingdom, the world of mankind will accept Jesus as their teacher, because...
  - a. he lived on earth as a perfect man.
  - b. he suffered many painful experiences, just like them.
  - c. he continued to love his Heavenly Father through very hard times.
  - d. he set an example of faithfulness to his followers.
  - e. all of the above.
8. What must the world of mankind learn to live forever?
9. What was Jesus' reward for being faithful in providing the ransom & sin offering?
10. Why did God make the trials on Jesus so hard?
11. Who else, beside Jesus, could have provided the ransom? Why?
12. Who else, beside Jesus, will provide the sin offering? Why?
13. How does the Church share in the sin offering?
  - a. by receiving persecution when they witness to the truth.
  - b. by receiving persecution when they live a righteous life.
  - c. by rejoicing even when they are going through other hard trials such as health problems, loss of jobs, loss of loved ones, etc.
  - d. all of the above