

## CHAPTER 6

### The Terrible Rejection of Jesus Christ

#### The Rejection of the Saviour

Suppose the pollution level in the air we breathe and in the water we drink were suddenly to become twenty times what it is today. Furthermore, suppose that as a result of these increased rates of pollution, death becomes inevitable for every person. For some with poor health and low resistance (such as elderly people), death would take place in a few days. For other stronger individuals, death might not strike for two or three weeks. But the result of this pollution for everyone would be **death**. At the end of one month's duration, there would not be one survivor.

Suppose also that this is a completely hopeless situation. Humanly speaking, there is no way to correct this pollution problem. All of the world's scientists totally fail to come up with any solution, and time is quickly running out. There is no hope, no help, no remedy. Mankind is doomed!

But before mankind perishes, from many millions of light years away, a kind creature on another planet sees our plight (our difficult problem) and has compassion upon these doomed earthlings. Quickly he enters his spaceship and zooms to planet earth, and with his advanced technology and scientific know-how he offers a substance called "pure-fission" which when applied to the atmosphere or to the water produces a mild nuclear reaction which brings immediate purification!

How do you suppose our visitor from outer space would be greeted by us earthlings? Would we rejoice at his coming? Would we cheer his arrival? Would he be given the greatest welcome possible? Would he be received with open arms and grateful hearts and hope-filled eyes?

Did you know that a very similar situation has actually happened? Earthlings were facing a terrible pollution problem. It was an inner pollution problem known as pollution of the heart (Jeremiah 17:9; Mark 7:21-23). This terrible pollution always brought about sure death, because the pollution of sin when it is finished brings forth \_\_\_\_\_ (James 1:15; compare Romans 1:32; 6:23 and Ezekiel 18:4). Moreover, the situation was absolutely hopeless (Eph. 2:12; 1 Thess. 4:13). There was nothing man could do to make his heart clean.

But then, from out of the heavens came a Visitor, a Saviour who had a remedy or cure for man's pollution problem (John 3:13-17). How was He **welcomed** and **received** by those He came to save? Was He received and welcomed with open arms when He came to rescue and save lost people (John 1:11)? \_\_\_\_\_ The Bible says, "And this is the condemnation, that \_\_\_\_\_ is come into the world, and men loved \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_ because their deeds were evil" (John 3:19). How tragic! Men chose to continue on in their pollution! They did not want to be made clean! They decided to continue walking on the road that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13). What did they do with the Visitor from outer space? Read Matthew 27:31? \_\_\_\_\_

When the Saviour came to this earth from heaven, the **majority** (most of the people) rejected Him and R\_\_\_\_\_ Him N\_\_\_\_\_ (John 1:11). A **minority** (a small number, a

"few" (Matthew 7:14) did receive and welcome Christ the Saviour. What promise does God give to every man, woman, boy or girl who receives His Son (John 1:12)?

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### Rejection of the King

If the King or President of another nation were to come and visit our country, he would, under normal circumstances, be given royal treatment. Our government would care for him in every way. He would be provided with the finest sleeping quarters. He would be served the most delicious food. He would be presented with the best entertainment. In short, he would be treated like a King!

When the **King of the Universe** came to visit this earth, how was He treated? Was He provided with the finest sleeping quarters (see Luke 2:7)? \_\_\_\_\_ Was He given a beautiful palace to live in (see Luke 9:58)? \_\_\_\_\_ Was He given royal treatment and treated like a King (see Matthew 20:18-19; 27:26-31)? \_\_\_\_\_ What kind of love and respect did they show for their KING (John 19:15)? \_\_\_\_\_

### The Rejection of the Prophet

Though most of the Jewish people (the majority) rejected Christ, we would expect Him to be well received by the people from His own home town of Nazareth. After all, this was the place where He grew up (Luke 2:51-52). Think for example of a presidential election. A presidential candidate is usually able to at least win in his own home state! He may lose all of the other states, but usually the people from his own state vote for him! How popular was Jesus among the hometown crowd? Did the people of Nazareth consider Jesus their hero? Did they think He was the greatest prophet that ever lived?

Read Luke 4:16-30. Did these people love to hear Christ preaching God's Word to them? \_\_\_\_\_ What did they want to do to Him (verse 29)?

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### The Rejection of the Bread of Life

When the Lord performed the miracle of feeding a huge crowd of people about how many people were present if you do not count the women and children (Matthew 14:21)?

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The people thought that Christ would make the perfect King (see John 6:15)? Why did they seek Christ (John 6:24,26)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did they want Jesus to give them food for their stomachs or food for their souls?

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When Jesus began giving the people food for their souls (teaching them God's Word), what began to happen to all those people who were seeking to make Him their King (see John 6:41,52,60,66)? \_\_\_\_\_

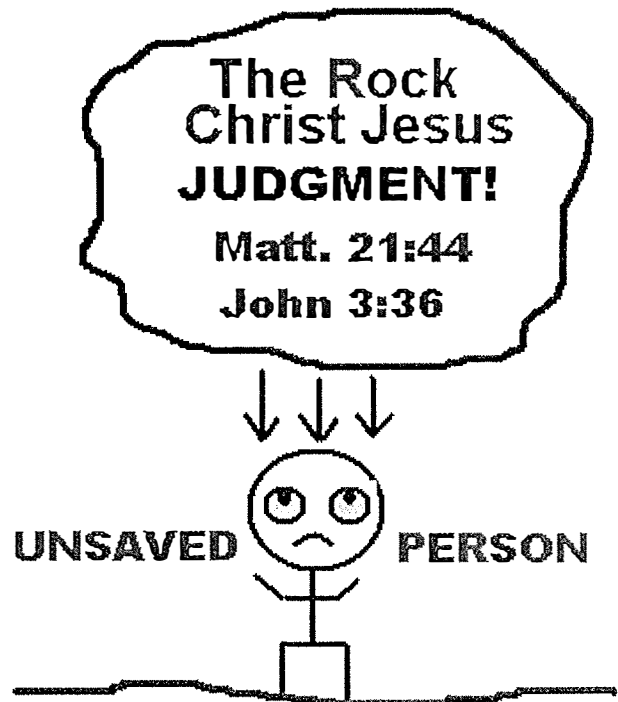
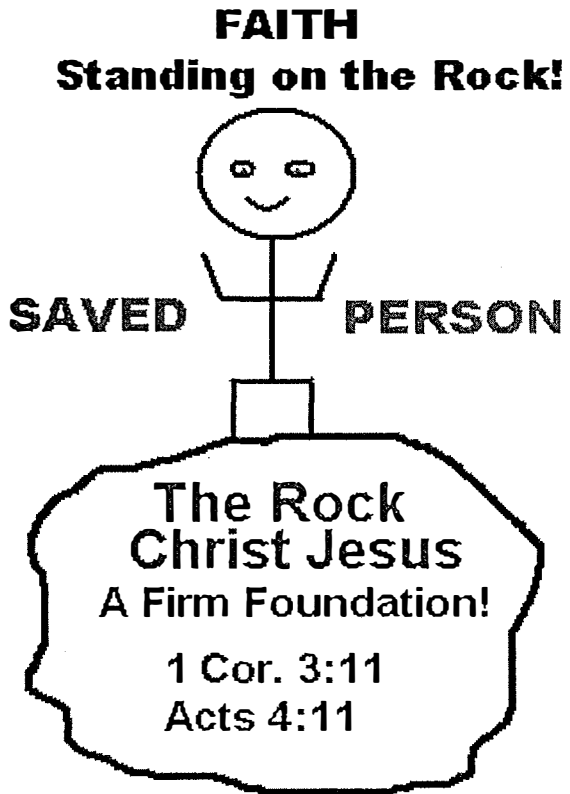
Though the Lord started with thousands of people, how many did He end up with (John 6:67)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Soon He would lose one more (John 6:70-71)!

What was the one thing that attracted Peter and the other ten disciples, not counting Judas (John 6:68)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did they want Jesus to feed their souls?  
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### The Rejection of God's Stone

Read Matthew 21:42. In Acts 4:11 Peter told the Jews that the Lord Jesus Christ was the **stone** which they rejected ("whom ye crucified"--verse 10). What a marvelous and wonderful thing God had done! He took that rejected Stone, and by resurrection He made this Stone the Head of the corner (Acts 4:10-11)! The cornerstone is the most important stone in the whole building! The key question is this: *What will you do with this Stone?* Here is your choice:



Either you are on the Rock by faith or the Rock is about to fall on you by way of impending judgment! Where are you in relationship to this Rock? You can trip and fall on this Stone and be broken (see Matthew 21:44; 1 Cor. 1:23; 1 Pet. 2:8; Isa. 8:14-15) **or** you can let it fall on you so that you are pulverized or crushed (Matthew 21:44) **or** you can plant your feet on its firm foundation and let it support you and hold you up (1 Peter 2:6)! Don't **reject** God's Rock! **Rely** and **rest** upon It! "On Christ the solid Rock I stand! All other ground is sinking sand!" – Edward Mote.

### The Rejection of the Good Shepherd

When the Lord Jesus claimed to be the Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18), how did the Jews

respond? There was "**a division**" (John 10:19) among the people. What did the **majority** ("many") say (John 10:20)?

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What did the **minority** ("others") say (John 10:21)?

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What did the Good Shepherd promise to do for His sheep (John 10:11,15,17,18)?

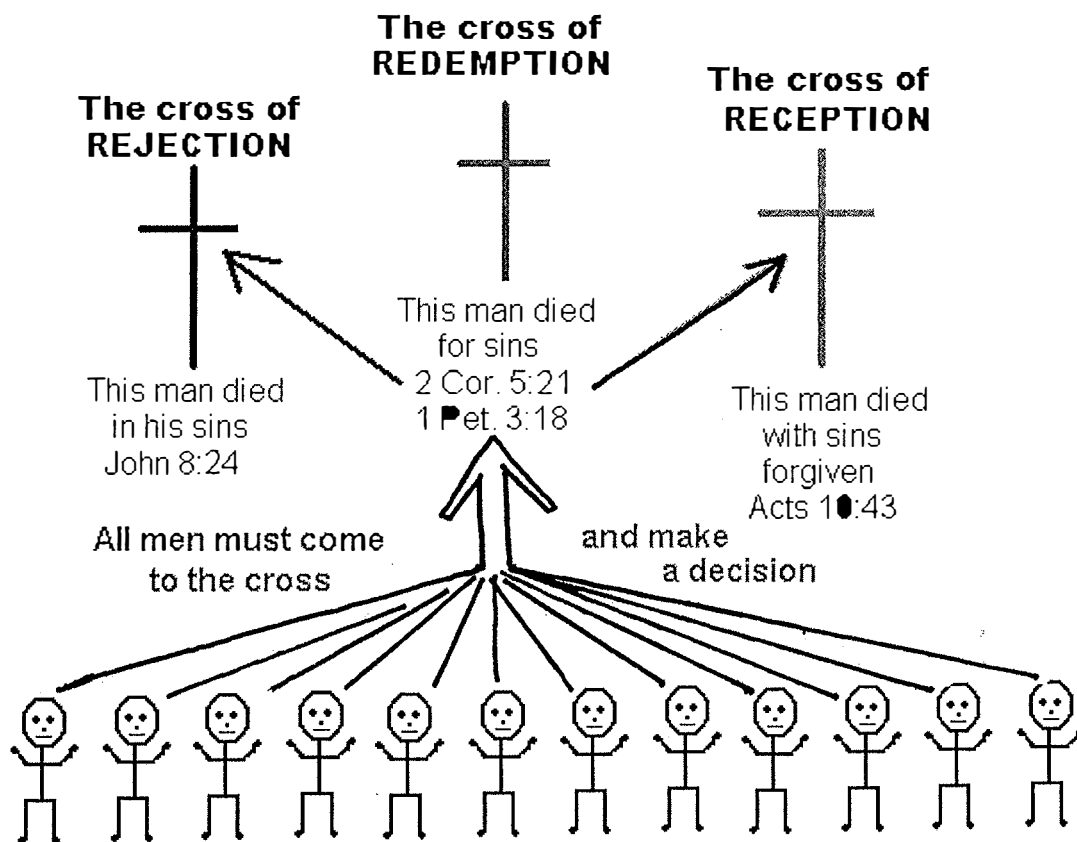
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Read John 12:32 where the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of His death on the cross. When He is lifted up on Calvary's Cross, He will \_\_\_\_\_ unto Himself! Certainly this does not mean that all men will be saved. What does it mean?

When the Lord Jesus died, there were two other crosses, one on His right hand and the other on His left (Mark 15:27). The Lord Jesus draws all men to the center cross where they must choose to receive or reject the Crucified One. There are only two choices that a person can make, as symbolized by the other two crosses:



As you think about this question, it would be helpful to carefully read Luke 23:39-43. Also you should realize that there was a time when both of the criminals (robbers) **rejected** the crucified Christ (see. Matthew 27:42-44). Thankfully, one of them repented and changed his mind! Instead of being a Christ-rejecter, he became a Christ-receiver! **What about you?** What will you do with the One who died on **the center cross** for you?