

## GOD'S BRIDGE FROM DEATH TO LIFE

**Introduction** When we studied the Origin of Evil (Lesson 5), we learned God's answer to the question: "What is really wrong with the world?" According to Genesis 3, which is the key-chapter of the Bible, man turned his back upon God, opened the door to Satan, and let loose the demons of greed, hatred, disease and death upon the perfect creation.

In this lesson we will study the question: "Why did Jesus come to the world?" The answer is so simple that a child can understand it.

**Luke 19 : 10:** "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Jesus came to rescue man from Satan's power; to repair the cruel wrong that sin had done; and to restore man to the peace and security of a sinless world.

**Discussion** To illustrate the seven steps in Jesus' work of salvation, we will use the chart, "God's Bridge from Death to Life".

*(Display and briefly explain Chart No. 4)*

At the extreme left is the bleak picture of our lost condition: "Satan's Kingdom of Sin, Suffering and Death". At the extreme right is the bright picture of hope: "God's Kingdom of Life, Peace and Eternal Happiness". And in between, spanning the river, is God's Bridge which, as we can see, is none other than Jesus Christ Himself!

**John 14 : 6:** "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life."

This chart is designed to open up to us the whole of the saving work of Christ in such a way that we can understand it, and take hold of it for ourselves. Each of the seven pillars is indispensable. Take any one away and the whole bridge is marred. We can study these great pillars only very briefly now, but in future lessons we will consider them in fuller detail.

### 1.—THE INCARNATION — John 1 : 14; Phil. 2 : 5-7

By the "Incarnation" we mean Christ's human birth, the entrance of the Son of God into human flesh in order to bridge the gulf between God and sinful man.

#### Why was the Incarnation Necessary?

When God made Adam, he was designed to be a living temple for God's indwelling and possession. But when Adam sinned, this ideal relationship between man and God was broken.

**Isa. 59 : 2:** "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God."

The Son of God laid aside His Divine powers and took human flesh to restore that broken relationship. By so doing He proved God's unquenchable love for fallen man, and provided a perfect illustration of God's ideal for Adam and his descendants. By the Incarnation He also disproved Satan's claims that the Divine law could not be kept in human flesh, and that a holy God had no option but to destroy all who had transgressed His law. The Incarnation also made it possible for Him to sympathise fully with fallen man, and to experience death on man's behalf (Heb. 2 : 14-18).

### 2.—THE SINLESS LIFE — Heb. 4 : 15; 1 Pet. 1 : 19

Wonderful though the Incarnation was, it was not sufficient to save man. It was only the first step towards a complete redemption. In order to be our "Sin-Bearer", Christ must live a human life without sin.