A wooden cross is positioned on the left side of the image, set against a background of a sunset or sunrise. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon, where a bright sun is visible. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams, one vertical and one horizontal, intersecting in the center. The text 'The Foolishness of The Cross' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a dark, serif font.

The Foolishness of The Cross

Good Friday Service
Solid Rock Church
Pastor Elliott Anderson

Foolishness

Aphrosune = reckless, senseless

Moria = moronic, folly, absurd

How is the Cross foolish?

It doesn't make sense.

It seems absurd and reckless.

Jesus allowed Himself to be
brutally murdered.



Foolishness of the Brain

Things Science Can't Explain

Science can explain the mechanics of the brain but can't explain *how* we produce subjective, lived experience.

Scientists don't know how the brain integrates distinct functions into a single, seamless perception of reality.

Science understands the *what* of sleep, but doesn't fully understand *why* it's necessary or why evolution hasn't eliminated it



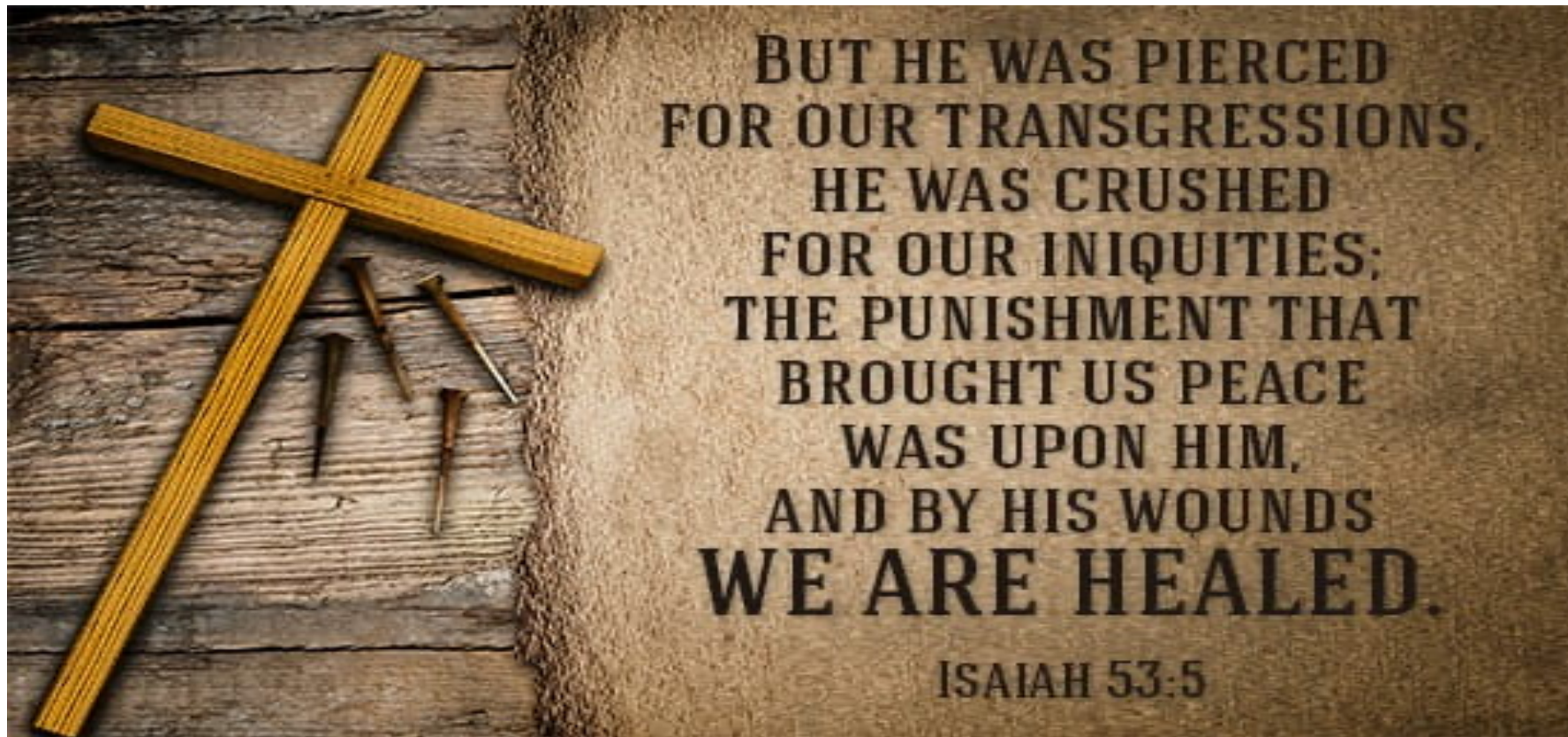
Foolishness of Prophecy About the Crucifixion 1000 BC



Psalm 22:16-18

- **Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, **they have pierced my hands and my feet.****
17 I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. 18 **They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.**

Foolishness of Prophecy About the Crucifixion 700 BC



BUT HE WAS PIERCED
FOR OUR TRANSGRESSIONS,
HE WAS CRUSHED
FOR OUR INIQUITIES;
THE PUNISHMENT THAT
BROUGHT US PEACE
WAS UPON HIM,
AND BY HIS WOUNDS
WE ARE HEALED.

ISAIAH 53:5

The Disciples Struggled with the Foolishness of the Cross Also

To the natural mind, the cross is offensive and unacceptable. There's no merit in our salvation – we can't earn it or glory in it.

Even the Disciples struggled with it...

Matthew 16: 21, From that time, Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Peter's Rebuke of Jesus

Matthew 16: 22 - 23, And Peter took Jesus aside began to rebuke him, saying, Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.



Foolishness of the Cross Fulfilled:

Luke 23: 32 – 38, Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with Jesus to be executed. When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals—one on His right, the other on His left. Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they divided up His clothes by casting lots. The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at Him. They said, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.” The soldiers also came up and mocked Him. They offered Him wine vinegar and said, “If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself.”

Foolishness Fulfilled:

Luke 23: 44 – 46, It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, for the sun stopped shining. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last.



Paul Preached Foolishness of the Cross To the Corinthians

Corinth was a wealthy, Roman port city known for Greek philosophy.

Corinthian church (Jews and Gentiles) wrestled with divisions and arrogance; they were fighting alliances to different teachers.

Paul emphasized true wisdom is found in Jesus and the crucifixion, a message that appeared as foolishness to Greeks (who loved philosophy and hierarchy) and a stumbling block to Jews (who wanted Mesianic signs).

**FOR THE
MESSAGE OF
THE CROSS IS
FOOLISHNESS
TO THOSE WHO
ARE PERISHING,
BUT TO US WHO
ARE BEING
SAVED IT IS THE
POWER OF GOD.**

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18 -



FOR IT IS WRITTEN: "I WILL
DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE
WISE; THE INTELLIGENCE OF THE
INTELLIGENT I WILL FRUSTRATE."

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:19

Paul Quotes
Isaiah 29:14



Foolishness of an Angel of the Lord

Reference of the Quote in Isaiah

Sennacherib, King of Assyria, planned to conquer Judah
The Lord told Isaiah not to worry – King's plan would fail

But Judah would be saved solely by God's power!

2nd Kings 19: 35, Then it happened that night that the Angel of the Lord went out and struck 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians...

God's Wisdom is Not Our Wisdom

Proverbs 14: 12, There is a way that seems right to man, but its end leads to death.

Jeremiah 8: 9, The wise men shall be put to shame; they shall be dismayed and taken; behold they have rejected the Word of the Lord, so what wisdom is in them?



Paul Challenged the Greek Stoics

WHERE IS THE WISE MAN? WHERE
IS THE SCRIBE? WHERE IS THE
PHILOSOPHER OF THIS AGE? HAS
NOT GOD MADE FOOLISH THE
WISDOM OF THE WORLD?

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:20

What Has Man's Wisdom Solved?

International Rescue Committee World Report 2026:

Hunger and food insecurity at all time high

Water scarcity and water bankruptcy a regular reality

Chronic, degenerative diseases on the rise

Mental health (anxiety and depression) at all time high

Economic inequality and cost of living highest ever

Air and water pollution at highest levels ever

**Paul countering the
Gods of Greek and
Roman culture.**

FOR SINCE IN THE WISDOM OF GOD
THE WORLD THROUGH ITS WISDOM
DID NOT KNOW HIM, GOD WAS
PLEASED THROUGH THE
FOOLISHNESS OF WHAT WAS
PREACHED TO SAVE THOSE WHO
BELIEVE.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:21

Foolishness of Ancient Gods

Sumerians had over 3,000 gods

Egyptians had over 2,000 gods

Greeks/Romans had 12 gods

Thousands of minor gods



ZEUS



POSEIDON



ATHENA



ARES



ARTEMIS



HERMES



CERA



DEMETRA



HEPHAESTUS



APOLLO



DIONYSUS



APHRODITE

BUT WE PREACH CHRIST
CRUCIFIED, A STUMBLING
BLOCK TO JEWS AND
FOOLISHNESS TO
GENTILES,

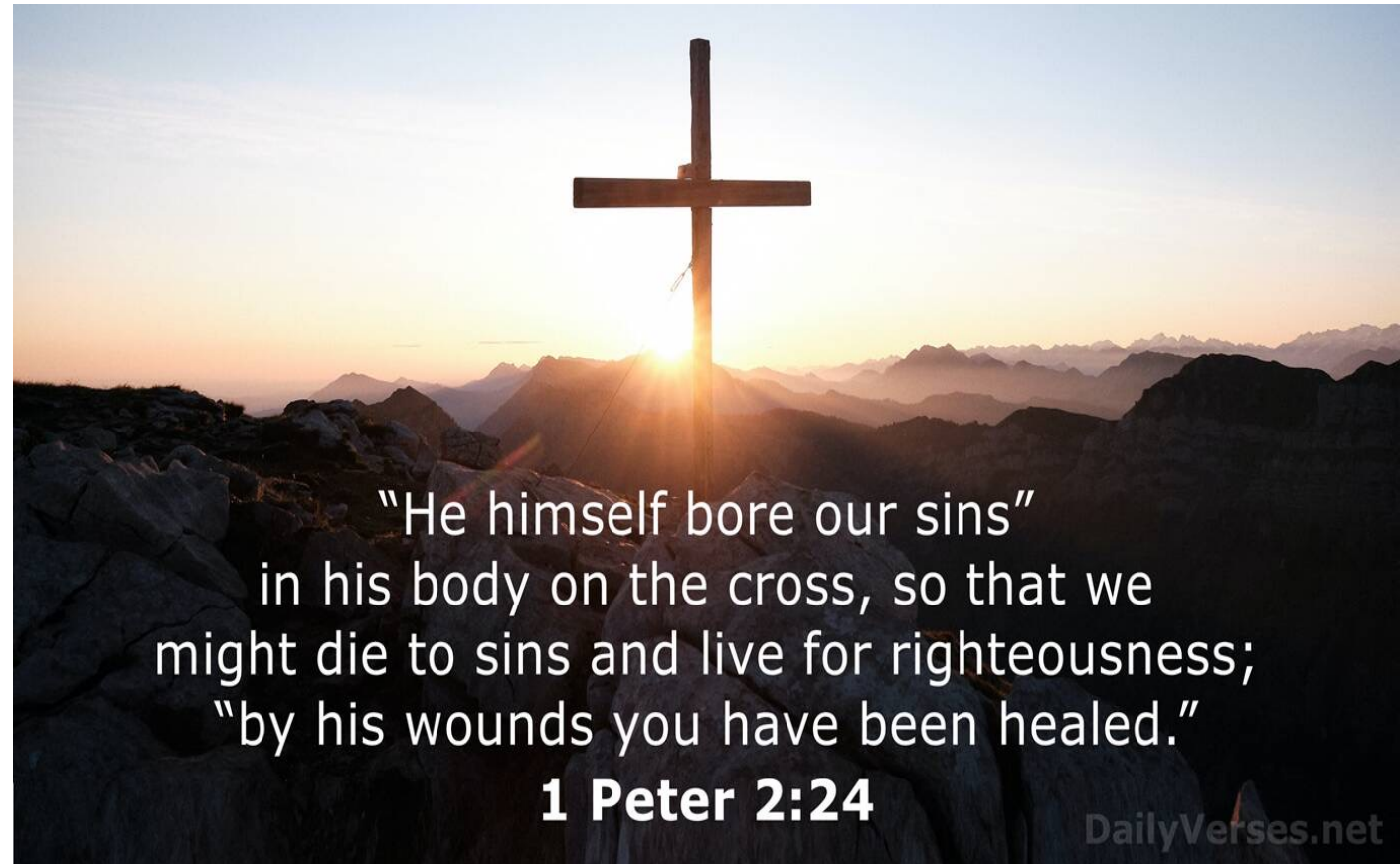
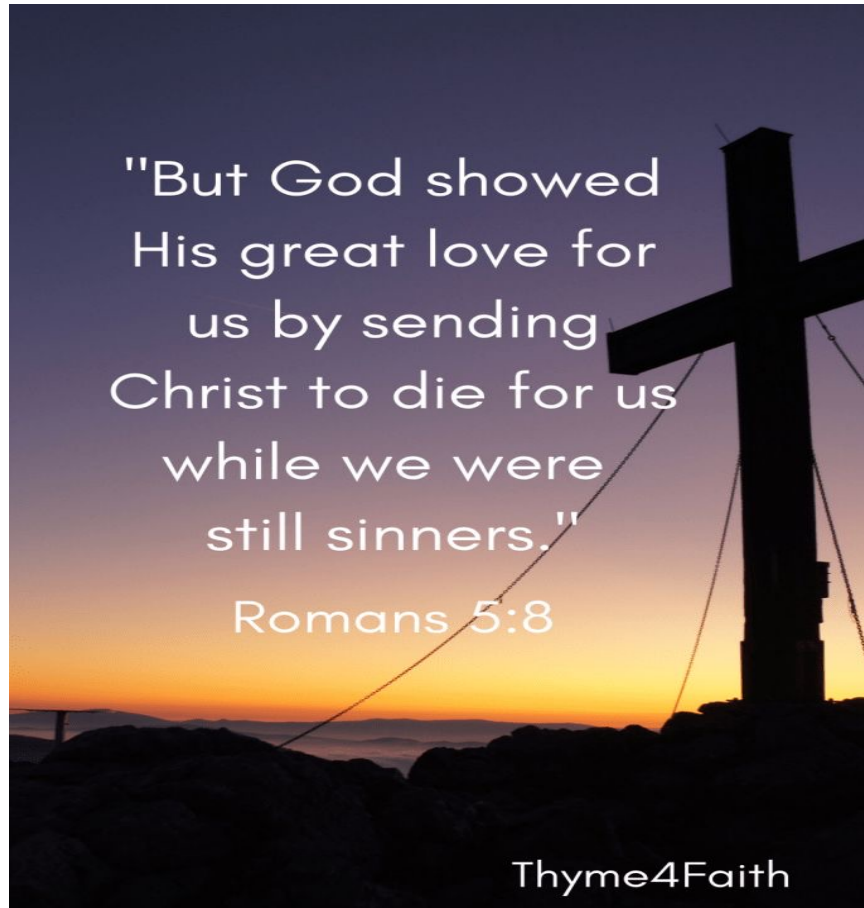
- 1 CORINTHIANS 1:23

Jews stumbled because they would have to admit that Jesus was the Messiah

Greek's foolishness because they'd have to acknowledge the idiocracy of their own gods.

Paul and Peter

Foolish Love and Healing



The Foolishness of Good Friday

We mournfully celebrate His death
His sacrifice for our Salvation
We are liberated from our death

Romans 3: 23 - 25, For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation in His blood through faith.



Foolishness of Faith

Hebrews 11: 1, Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

2nd Corinthians 5: 7, For we walk by faith and not by sight.



“For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:25



Faith in the Work of the Cross

Hebrews 11: 6, And without faith it is impossible to please God...

1st Corinthians 2: 5, So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Galatians 2: 20, I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

