





Devotional / Bible Study Guide

Title: Between the Cross and the Crown: A 5-Day Journey Through the Two Realms

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Introduction: Why “Between the Cross and the Crown”

On Good Friday, we reflect on the Cross — the suffering, the shame, and the sacrifice.
On Resurrection Sunday, we celebrate the Crown — the victory, the authority, and the eternal life of our risen Savior.

But what about the day between? Saturday often goes unspoken. It’s not marked by miracles or movement in the physical realm. It feels like silence. Stillness. Waiting. But it’s in that “between” where Jesus did some of His greatest spiritual work.

This Bible study is called “**Between the Cross and the Crown**” to remind you that the silence was not the end — it was the setup.
It’s in the in-between moments of your life — when you feel buried, forgotten, or delayed — that God is preparing resurrection.

Jesus didn’t skip the descent.
He went low before He rose high.
And in doing so, He showed us that what feels like the end may just be the beginning of your elevation.

This study will walk you through both realms — physical and spiritual — and help you recognize that what Jesus did in the unseen is just as powerful as what He revealed in the seen.

 **Watch the Full Sermon by Pastor Charles:**
“A Tale of Two Realms: What Did Jesus Do Between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection?”

 <https://youtu.be/skJOu5YVcQQ>

Day 1: Two Realms, One Creator

Colossians 1:16 (ESV)

“For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

Colossians 1:16 (NLT)

“For through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can’t see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.”

Scripture Breakdown (From the Sermon):

Pastor Charles said Colossians 1:16 reveals the two-realms reality: "in heaven" points to the spiritual realm, and "on earth" points to the physical realm. When Paul says “visible and invisible,” he’s explaining that there are things influencing our lives that we cannot see with natural eyes. Angels, demons, spiritual authorities — these all exist in the realm that’s invisible but still powerful.

Reflection:

There is more to reality than what we see. Pastor Charles reminded us: “You live in a physical world, but you are called to engage in the spiritual one.”

From the Sermon:

“When scripture says ‘in heaven and on earth,’ it’s showing you the two realms. What you see with your eyes isn’t the full battle—there’s a whole spiritual war behind it.”

Journal Prompt:

Where in your life have you only been responding to the visible realm? What would shift if you asked God to help you see in both realms?



Day 2: When God is Silent, He's Still Working

Romans 8:28 (ESV)

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28 (NLT)

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

Scripture Breakdown (From the Sermon):

Romans 8:28 is often quoted but not fully understood. Pastor Charles emphasized that the key phrase is “for those who are called according to His purpose.” The promise of things working together for good is conditional — it’s based on your alignment with God’s will. “The tomb was sealed,” Pastor Charles said, “but Heaven was wide open. Work was happening in the realm you couldn’t see.” God’s silence is never His absence.

Reflection:

The tomb was closed, but Heaven was open. Jesus was hidden, but paradise was opening.

From the Sermon:

“Jesus didn’t stop working when He died — He went underground and started moving things in the spirit.”

Journal Prompt:

What situation in your life feels like a “Saturday” season? Are you trusting that God is still working while it seems silent?



Day 3: Jesus Didn't Just Win — He Publicly Triumphed

Colossians 2:15 (ESV)

“He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

Colossians 2:15 (NLT)

“In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross.”

Scripture Breakdown (From the Sermon):

Colossians 2:15 describes a “triumph,” not just a victory. Pastor Charles used the Roman victory parade as a teaching example — when a general conquered a foreign land, he would lead a public procession with the defeated enemies paraded in shame. Jesus did the same in the spirit — He made a spectacle of Satan's defeat.

Reflection:

This wasn't just about quiet victory — it was about public display. Jesus led a spiritual triumph.

From the Sermon:

“Jesus beat Satan and then walked him through Heaven in front of everybody — showing he lost.”

Journal Prompt:

Write out a few spiritual battles Jesus has already won for you. Then declare out loud: “That battle is already won.”



Day 4: The Descent Had a Purpose

Ephesians 4:9–10 (ESV)

“(In saying, ‘He ascended,’ what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)”

Ephesians 4:9–10 (NLT)

“Notice that it says ‘he ascended.’ This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world... and the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens.”

Scripture Breakdown (From the Sermon):

Jesus went to Hades — not to the place of torment, but to Abraham’s Bosom — and led the righteous who had died into the presence of God. Pastor Charles explained that the descent wasn’t punishment; it was purpose.

Reflection:

Jesus went down before He went up. Don’t despise the descent — your lowest moments may be your launchpad.

From the Sermon:

“Jesus didn’t fall — He descended. And He did it with authority.”

Journal Prompt:

Where have you felt yourself descending — emotionally, spiritually, mentally? Write it down. Then declare: “This descent is not punishment — it’s preparation.”



Day 5: The Keys Are in the Right Hands

Revelation 1:18 (ESV)

“I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.”

Revelation 1:18 (NLT)

“I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave.”

Scripture Breakdown (From the Sermon):

Jesus holds the keys now — not Satan. The authority to open eternal life was reclaimed. Pastor Charles taught: “He has the keys. That means He’s got the final say — not death, not hell, not your past.”

Reflection:

You’re no longer locked out. The door to eternity has been unlocked — from the inside.

From the Sermon:

“Satan used to have the keys because Adam gave them up — but Jesus took them back.”

Journal Prompt:

What part of your life feels locked up? Invite Jesus to use His authority to open that place again.

Bonus Teaching Section: What Happened Between the Cross and the Crown

In the sermon “**A Tale of Two Realms: What Did Jesus Do Between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection,**” Pastor Charles explained:

- Jesus declared victory in the spirit realm
- He descended into the lower parts of the earth (Ephesians 4:9–10)
- He retrieved the righteous from Abraham’s Bosom (Luke 16:22–26)
- He took back the keys of Death and Hades (Revelation 1:18)
- He publicly triumphed over the enemy (Colossians 2:15)

Further Reading:

- Psalm 68:18
- Revelation 1:18
- Colossians 2:15
- Ephesians 4:9–10
- Luke 16:22–26

Go Deeper with the Full Sermon

“**A Tale of Two Realms: What Did Jesus Do Between the Crucifixion and the Resurrection?**”

 <https://youtu.be/skJOu5YVcQQ>

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