

Messiah and the 'Crimson Worm'

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27th day of the 8th month 5849 years after the creation of Adam
The 8th Month in the Fourth year of the third Sabbatical Cycle
The Third Sabbatical Cycle of the 119th Jubilee Cycle
The Sabbatical Cycle of Earthquakes Famines, and Pestilences

November 2, 2013

Shabbat Shalom Family,

Yehovah is the same yesterday today and forever. He does not change!

At Sukkot this year we had the great pleasure of meeting Chad and Marilyn Wilhelms and sharing some very special times together. Chad has offered us this following article for your edification.

Messiah and the 'Crimson Worm'

The traditional Haftarah reading for Torah portion 'Devarim' is Isaiah 1:1-27. This Haftarah is the last of three Hftarahs read between the 17th day of Tammuz (when the Babylonians breached the city walls of Jerusalem) and the 9th of Av (when the Babylonians razed the Holy Temple). Traditionally these three Haftarahs are known as the 'three haftarot of affliction (also called the 'three haftarot of punishment')'. This Haftarah is read on the Shabbat preceding Tisha b'Av (9th of Av) and, because it begins with the Hebrew word 'chazon' (meaning vision), the Shabbat is called 'Shabbat Chazon'. This Shabbat is also referred to as 'Black Sabbath' due to its status as the saddest Shabbat of the year.

Within the Haftarah reading of Isaiah 1:1-27 is a particular verse worth taking note of. In Isaiah 1:18 it is written:

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD (YHWH): though your sins be as **scarlet**, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like **crimson**, they shall be as wool." (**emphasis mine**)

During the day of Yom Kippur in the first and second temple times a miracle would occur. A piece of wool dyed crimson in color would be tied to the scapegoat and another piece dyed crimson would be tied to the entrance of the temple sanctuary for all to see. The sage rabbi Yishmael taught that when the scapegoat reached its destination in the desert this wool would miraculously turn white before the people of Israel and providing a Heavenly sign that the sins

of the people had been atoned for (Yoma 6, 8). But after 30 AD, the crimson thread never turned white again for 40 years, till the destruction of the Holy Temple. As recorded in the Babylonian Talmud:

“Our rabbis taught: During the last forty years before the destruction of the Temple the lot [‘For the Lord’] did not come up in the right hand; nor did the crimson-colored strap become white; nor did the western most light shine; and the doors of the Hekel [Temple] would open by themselves” (Soncino version, Yoma 39b).

What ‘vision’ can we see through the Isaiah 1:18 scripture? Take note of the words ‘scarlet’ and ‘crimson’. The Hebrew word (according to the Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon) for ‘scarlet’ is ????? pronounced ‘sha-nee’ (H8144) and has the meaning of scarlet (as in color). This scarlet color comes from an insect ‘coccus ilicis’ which looks more like a grub. The dye from the female grub is used to make the red/scarlet dye. The Hebrew word for ‘crimson’ is ?????? pronounced ‘tow-lah’ (H8438) and is defined as: worm, scarlet, crimson, the dye made from the dried body of the female worm ‘coccus ilicis’. In layman’s terms: a scarlet worm or a crimson worm. This is what was used to dye the wool crimson for the Yom Kippur Temple service!

Digging further one can see the same word ‘tow-lah’ (crimson/ scarlet worm) used in Psalm 22:1-6.

“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou* so far from helping me, *and from* the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou *art* holy, *O thou* that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. **But I *am* a worm, and no man**; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, He trusted on the LORD *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.” (emphasis mine)

For many who believe that Messiah came in the Flesh 2,000 years ago, this Psalm (sometimes called the ‘Psalm of the Cross’) speaks of The Messiah who suffered and died on the tree for the sins of those who believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Him. In the Gospels of Matthew 27:46 and in Mark 15:34, Messiah Yahshua cried out the same words of Psalm 22:1 while hanging on the tree:

“And about the ninth hour (3 pm) Jesus (Yahshua) cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (emphasis mine)

Indeed if Psalm 22 is a Psalm concerning Messiah, then what was meant by verse 6: “But I am a worm, and no man.” What is meant here by this saying? Usually in the Bible, the English word for worm comes from the Hebrew word ‘rimmah’ ????? meaning ‘maggot or worm’, but in this particular verse the Hebrew word used is ??????, again meaning a scarlet or crimson worm. This again is the same word used for ‘crimson’ in Isaiah 1:18. Both scarlet and crimson

are a deep red color very similar to the color of blood. Let's take a deeper look into this 'coccus ilicis'.

According to Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary (1913):

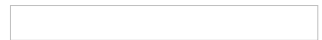
Kermes Ker'mes, n. [Ar. & Per. girmiz. See Crimson, and cf.

Alkermes.]

1. (Zo[“o]l.) The dried bodies of the females of a scale insect (*Coccus ilicis*), allied to the cochineal insect, and found on several species of oak near the Mediterranean. They are round, about the size of a pea, contain coloring matter analogous to carmine, and are used in dyeing. They were anciently thought to be of a vegetable nature, and were used in medicine. [Written also chermes.]

2. (Bot.) A small European evergreen oak (*Quercus coccifera*) on which the kermes insect (*Coccus ilicis*) feeds. –J. Smith (Dict. Econ. Plants).

Other interesting facts regarding this creature include:



- In ancient days, the dead bodies of the female crimson worms were scraped from a tree, dried, and then ground into a powder that was used to dye their cloth garments red or crimson color. The crimson color dye would also have been used in the fabric of the priestly garments and tabernacle.
- The crimson worm is found throughout the Mediterranean including Israel.
- In 2008, the Temple Institute in Jerusalem conducted the first harvest for the tola'atshani (crimson worm) in nearly two thousand years.
- After three days, the dead mother crimson worm's body loses its crimson color and turns into a white wax which falls to the ground like snow.
- The crimson worm does not look like a worm, some people thought they were part of a plant.
- A female crimson worm will have offspring only once in her lifetime. When she does, she finds a tree or wooden item and attaches her body to it making a hard crimson shell. Once attached, she will be permanently stuck to the wood that the shell cannot be removed without tearing her body apart and killing her. The crimson worm then lays her eggs under her body and protective shell. When the larvae hatch, they stay under the shell. The mother gives protection to the larvae under her hard shell and feeds them as her young will feed on her living body! In a few days, once the larvae are mature enough to take care of themselves, the mother dies. As she dies, she oozes out a crimson color dye which not only stains the wood she is attached to, but also her offspring. Her offspring are colored crimson for the rest of their lives.

Let's see if we can look at the deeper meaning here. Is there any connection with this worm and Messiah?

Messiah Yahshua came ONCE to pay the atonement for sin, yours and mine. He willfully laid down his life (John 10:18), allowing himself to be ATTACHED to the TREE. He could not be removed without his BODY being TORN. He was CRUSHED in order to pay the redemption price of his people, Israel. When Yahshua DIED on the tree, a Roman soldier pierced his side and BLOOD and water OOOZED OUT, STAINING the tree. We who believe in Messiah Yahshua are also washed in HIS BLOOD for forgiveness of sins. After being in the grave for THREE days, our Heavenly Father raised his Son from the dead and later he ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven. In Revelation, John sees Yahshua and describes him as "...like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and *his* hairs *were* WHITE like wool, as WHITE as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire..." (Rev 1:14-15). We who endure the great tribulation will have our robes washed WHITE in the blood of the Lamb (Rev 7:14)!

Continuing on, the female crimson worm is a rather unattractive grub. As stated earlier, many people in ancient times believed that they were a part of the plant and did not recognize them to be living creatures. Compare that statement with the following verses:

"Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for *that* which had not been told them shall they see; and *that* which they had not heard shall they consider." Isaiah 52:13-15 (emphasis mine)

"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is* no beauty that we should desire him." Isaiah 53:2 (emphasis mine)

The above verses are clearly Messianic and the 'he' is referring to Messiah Yahshua. Just as the crimson worm could hardly be recognized, the Messiah would be so marred that he could barely be recognized as a man.

Crimson in the following verse equates to the red color of **BLOOD** (symbolic), **scarlet** symbolizes **sin**. Remember Isaiah 1:18 from the Haftarah of Vision (chazon)?

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD (YHWH): though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18

Praise YHWH that we have been redeemed and forgiveness of sins has been atoned for through the blood of Messiah Yahshua, the Lamb of Elohim (God)! Remember the name of this 'crimson worm' is called 'coccus ilicis'? The word 'ilicis' in Latin means "it is finished".

“After Jesus (Yahshua) had taken the wine, he said, “It is finished.” Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.” John 19:30 (emphasis mine)

As mentioned earlier, Psalm 22:6 & Isaiah 1:18 tells of a worm- more specifically, a crimson/scarlet worm (*coccus ilicus*). How incredible is that for our Heavenly Father to reveal to us Messiah Yahshua- hinted at in a prophecy concerning the life cycle of a female ‘crimson worm’?! As the Apostle Paul states in Romans 1:19-20:

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and divinity; so that they are without excuse:” (emphasis mine)

“Moshiach Bo”, Come quickly Messiah Yahshua~ AMEN!

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