

The Cost ... The Reward

**TORN, RIPPED, BEATEN
BROKEN, BRUISED, STABBED
PIERCED, CRUSHED, DISFIGURED
SPIT UPON, BELITTLED, MOCKED
CRUCIFIED!!!**

Have you ever thought about what this might look like? Or are you like me, sometimes just too busy to stop and really think about what the Son of the Most High God did for us? It is more than our human minds can imagine. Isaiah 52 gives us some idea, but we know this not the entire picture.

All of this, including more, was inflicted upon Deity!! Deity who stepped out of His heavenly kingdom, became flesh as man, and lived 33 years of a perfect, sinless, and love-filled life on the earth. Even though He was flesh and endured all the same temptations, all the same physical and mental anguish, and all the same trials and hardships as we have, He did not sin – not once!! (*Hebrews 4:15*) And there is only one reason He did all this... to redeem His chosen people and His creation unto Himself. He willingly laid down His life for us, because He loves us (*1 John 3:16*). Do you know any other “god” that has done this or offers this? Do you know any other “god” that loves like this? There is no other and never will be. What Yahusha did gives Him the sole right to proclaim, ***“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”*** (*John 14:6*)

And so, the Son of the Most High God of Israel, Yahusha ha Meshiach, gave up His own life, and it pleased His Father to allow this. It pleased the Father to crush Him (*Isaiah 53:10*), because this was the only thing that would restore His created family unto Himself. Does that speak at all to your heart about how much your Heavenly Father loves His people??! And even more unfathomable is that our Father actually had to see His Son’s sacrifice, very similarly to the many blood sacrifices that were presented to Him in the Temple by the Levitical High Priests before Yahusha.

In the times prior to Yahusha, a blood sacrifice from an innocent and perfect living animal had to be made to atone for sin; this was the only way to keep the people in right standing with a holy, righteous God. Basically, the sin of the people was cast onto the animal; then it was slaughtered, and its blood was poured on the alter in the Holy of Holies within the Temple. So the Most High, in His infinite wisdom, love, and mercy, and being totally in love with His creation, found a way to do this once and for all, and to put a complete end to sin (*Hebrews 9:12*). But this would take the sacrifice of a man; not an animal! Where could He find a perfect, sinless, innocent man to be the eternal sacrifice? There wasn’t one and never would be one, so He sent His only Son – holy and righteous Deity! This is the Son who created the heavens and the earth; the Son who, with the Most High, made man in His own image; the Son who will one day rule the world! The Father sent Him down to earth to live a sinless life of flesh from birth until adulthood and allowed Him to be tortured beyond what any human being has ever experienced and ultimately sacrificed – and again, it pleased Him to do so. He knew the great cost would bring even greater reward.

Did you know that Yahusha not only died for our sins; He actually became sin?! (2Corinthians 5:21) The Word tells us that He was basically repulsive – marred and disfigured (*Isaiah 52:14*). All our sin placed upon Him all at once made Him as a worm and not a man (*Psalms 22:6*) – a worm that was crushed as crimson. Because the sin on His body was so abominable and disgusting, the Father had to turn away from Him. This is the reason that just before Yahusha died, He exclaimed, “My God, why have you forsaken me?!” (*Matthew 27:46*) He knew all of this would happen to Him; He knew His purpose from the beginning. Yes Yahusha was Deity, and yes He was the “right hand” of the Most High, but nonetheless, He walked the earth in flesh, in the likeness of man. He felt all the same things that we feel and had all the same opportunities to sin. Think of Yahusha in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before He was crucified... He went so far as to plead with His Father to take His cup of wrath from Him. The agonizing anticipation of the crucifixion was almost too much for His flesh – to the point His sweat turned to blood! (*Luke 22:44*) Oh how my heart aches for Him thinking about this!! But, because of the **joy that was set before Him** (*Hebrews 12:2*), that is you and I being reunited to Him; and because of His own love for the Father and desire to obey Him, He surrendered His own will to that of the Father. And the Father’s will was to have His children, His family, restored to Him at all costs! This is why Yahusha is so highly exalted; He was obedient even unto death taking the sin of the world as well as the consequential wrath of the Most High upon and in His pure and innocent fleshly body. He did all this so that you would not have to!! He deserves our utmost love and devotion!!!!

All through this writing, you may be wondering why? Why is all of this even necessary? How could a loving God inflict something so horrible on another human being, and even more so, His only Son? Well, because our Almighty Father is holy and pure, we too must be holy and pure to be in His presence; He simply cannot look upon sin. We are all sinners; there is not one of us who isn’t. And it doesn’t matter the type of sin whether minor or outright vile; it is all punishable by death! (*Romans 6:23*) The Most High must judge sin in order to remain holy and true to His very being. And don’t forget that all of this became necessary after the fall – when Adam and Eve disobeyed Him. At that very moment, sin entered the world, and their heavenly bodies then already clothed in the righteousness of Christ, were removed and they were left naked and exposed. At this point, death ruled and a Redeemer became required so that the Father could reclaim and enjoy His creation once again. Although the Most High did not cause the fall, He being full of mercy and grace, offers a way – a gift -- to avoid the eternal punishment of the fall. This gift is offered to each and every one of us, and His name is **Yahusha**. All we have to do is accept Him, believe Him, and surrender to Him, allowing His righteousness to be our own and to consistently walk in this unto obedience! All in all and to make this personal...**The Most High thought it worthwhile to punish His only perfect Son for your sins, so that you could be restored and redeemed to Him for all of eternity in a paradise of love, peace, and bliss -- and just as important, to avoid an eternal punishment of torture, evil, and separation from Him. He loved and loves you that much!!**

In closing, I would like to leave you with an excerpt from an awesome bible study on the Song of Solomon by E. Shoshanah. This study focuses on the deep and incredible love that Yahusha has for the Bride of Christ. In the study, however, the Bride is presented as one person for the sake of

making a point. What she is shown will move you to tears. Read this with an open heart and try and picture the scene as you are reading it. Better yet, picture yourself as the Bride!!

The Holy Spirit guided the Bride into the dark place where her Bridegroom was. With hesitant steps she enters. What she saw there was repulsive to her soul. She shrank back in horror. It was her Beloved on the cross. With tears running down her cheeks, she heard Him speak in tones of excruciating pain from the cross. "Come closer; consider the cost of making you My Bride." Gazing at her Beloved's torn and mangled body caused her to turn back in horror. At that very moment, Her Beloved cried, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" The Holy Spirit pulled the curtain away, and what she saw was much more terrifying than what had happened to His precious body. The most unimaginable hideous looking dark images of sin formed: murders, adulteries, blasphemous words of slander, violence, hatred, and so much more. Then came the demonic attack: laughing, mocking, and spewing out filthy slime against His mind. They kicked, they howled, they screamed, they tempted, they tortured Him with unspeakable acts. What was once holy was being crushed and conformed to the most grotesque evil image possible. The Holy Spirit brought to her mind, "My Beloved not only took my sins (John 1:29), but He actually became my sin (2Corinth 5:21). My Beloved not only took my curse but became it (Gal 3:10,13). All the curses of Deuteronomy 28 were poured over His soul (tumors, boils, madness, blindness, pestilence, fever, etc.).

She was made to look at her Beloved's spirit. What had been filled with the Holy Spirit and the glorious fellowship of the Father has now been forsaken and left entirely empty. The chamber of His spirit became filled with anguish and loneliness. As she wept, the Holy Spirit said to her spirit, "Do you now understand why a terrible darkness fell from the sixth hour to the ninth hour while your Beloved was on the cross (Matt 27:45)?" You are seeing Him in all His physical, emotional, and spiritual hideousness. You are seeing what it meant for Abba Father to "crush" His own Son (Isaiah 53:5,10).

She cried out, "Oh my Beloved, I never realized the depths to which You went. I did this to You!" On His face she could see how deeply He was "despising the shame" (Heb 12:2). No words could describe it. Fierce flames erupted from His innermost being as He cried out in pain. She saw her face in the midst of all those flames of evil which enveloped His soul (Rev 20:14-15). The Holy Spirit spoke once again to her heart and said, "These are the flames of the second death that you deserved to suffer. Your Beloved is taking the penalty you deserved. He loves you that deeply!!"

It was too much for her to bear as she fell to her knees sobbing and filled with a love for Him she had never felt before. Steams of living water began to flow from her heart to the cross. When she looked up again, she saw in His eyes an unspeakable joy. That Spirit-filled water flowing from her heart to the foot of the cross was the "joy that was set before Him" (Heb 12:2), so that He could endure her hell.

Surrender to Him today, for He is worthy. **Hallelujah to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Yahusha ha Meshiach!**