

23 October 1995, Morning Minchah Sus, France

The Cross of Messiah

Varus was a general in the Roman army. There was an insurrection in Palestine. They rebelled against Rome. Varus lined up 2,000 zealots along the road and crucified them. You could see them hanging there in absolute torture. It happened in our Master's youth. It really impressed on the Jews how horrible crucifixion was. They hung there for at least 36 hours, sometimes up to nine days. Everyone knew what crucifixion was. It probably happened according to our Father's Sovereignty so they and we could understand crucifixion.

"If you want to follow Me you have to pick up your cross." Probably the fathers explained it to their children. There were more crucifixions afterwards, and even until 70 AD. The people were judged, beaten, their clothes stripped off and made to carry their cross outside to a place where they crucified the criminals.

I carried a big beam the other day, and it was hurting to endure it. I remembered our Master. They beat Him, thinking maybe the people would have compassion on Him and ask for His release. But they asked for Barabbas, a criminal. Our Master was beaten so badly that He wasn't able to carry His cross all the way to the place of crucifixion. They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country, Simon of Cyrene, to bear His cross. This man was probably a black man. It's amazing our Master released the black people from their curse.

If we follow Him we have to pick up our cross. We will be misunderstood. 1 Pet 2:21-23 — Our Master didn't react when He was mistreated. We can't be reacting when we are. He never reviled. That's what it means to take up your cross and follow Him. If anyone intends to follow Me, let him lose sight of himself, disown himself, pick up his cross. Whoever wants to save his life shall lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake shall find it.

There is no other way to have eternal life, have your sins forgiven, and receive the Holy Spirit. That's what it means to follow Messiah. What good does it do to gain the whole world and forfeit your soul? Rev 19:20 — What good does it do for the false Messiah to gain the whole world, get all the glory and then be thrown bodily alive into the lake of fire?

Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words the Son of Man will be ashamed of when He comes in the glory of His Father. If we are ashamed of Him now He will be ashamed of us then.

Isa 52:13-14 — No one has ever been beaten in crucifixion more than Him. Then Isa 53:11 — As a result of the suffering of His soul we came about. His offspring will startle the nations through the great marvelous life we have. They see His offspring and consider and understand finally. Isa 52:15.

Although our Master didn't hang on the cross for 36 hours or nine days, He experienced excruciating pain. It wasn't that His flesh had to suffer any more, but it was that He had to go to death and suffer ten trillion times more excruciating pain.

Of course His flesh suffered excruciatingly. But His soul experienced anguish — Acts 2:24. He paid for our accumulated guilt. Death couldn't hold Him because He was righteous. He took our sins and became our sin, but He was righteous.

He suffered the *agony* of death, not the pangs of dying — the pangs of death. That's another thing. It's beyond comparison to how horrible death is. Even if people are tortured, this torture doesn't compare to the suffering in death. Can you imagine to be in that place eternally?

Isa 53 — When He was dying, when all the blood was draining out of His body, all He had to look forward to was death.

We can't pay for our guilt, the iniquity, the evil bent in us through physical suffering. The only way we can pay for our sins that would have taken us to the second death is by going to death.

He paid for our sins in death. When His blood was shed it meant He died, like the animal sacrifice they offered before Yahshua came, died. They slit the front of the lamb, but when all the blood was gone, drained out, it was dead.

It was the same with our Master. As long as there was blood in Him, His Spirit was in Him. But His soul, thoughts, emotions, consciousness went to death. I'm thankful He did this for us. We are the offspring of His anguish. If they didn't understand Yahshua, they will understand when they see His offspring. They will understand when they see our loyalty and devotion to Him. We follow Him by carrying our cross daily.

Our Master had no personal sin. He never committed any sin. There was no personal guilt on Him. But He took our sin, our guilt. He died for that. That's who we follow, worship, give our thanksgiving to.

Let's draw near and give our bodies as a living sacrifice. Since He died in our place we can be a living sacrifice now.