

A THOUSAND YEARS BEFORE... and more

Introduction

*But I am a **worm** (Heb, Tola – A maggot, a coccus worm, a crimson-grub worm), and **no man**; a **reproach** of men, and **despised** of the people.*

Psalm 22:6

This verse is the **17th prophecy** in Psalms about the coming Messiah **1,000 years before Christ**. David prophecies 27 sufferings of the Messiah in His first “coming.”

- The common Hebrew word for worm is “**rimma**.” But “**tola**” is the name of a very specific worm commonly called the “**crimson** worm.” (or, **scarlet** worm)
- David had first written about God’s faithfulness to prior generations in previous chapters as he establishes **his own belief in God’s faithfulness to him**.
- This **maggot** is used in creating a **scarlet** or **crimson** dye for the **priest’s robes**, the **veil** and the **curtains of the tabernacle**. **Scarlet** is the symbol of the **blood of the sacrifice**. Also used for public clothing and products. It is still used today.

*Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, **and scarlet**: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.*

Exodus 26:1

- Among the multipole uses of “**tola**” is **the description of man** in his sinful state as compared to God and His glory.
- Also used in the **conscience and never ending soul of men** in hell.
- Also of Christ, meaning that **He took the lowest place among men**, as a **worm** and **not a man** to be **rejected, scorned, spit upon**, and even **humiliated** and **shamed** for all of us.



Lesson

Here is the significance. This coccus worm, also known as the **crimson or scarlet worm**, is not a typical worm.

It is **native to the Middle East** and particularly associated with certain oak trees. The **female worm mates only one time in her life**. Then, she undergoes a unique life cycle. When ready to lay eggs, she **inches** her way up a tree or **post** and permanently attaches herself to the wood. A hard **crimson shell** forms over her body. Her choice has been made. **She goes up there for “one purpose” only, SACRIFICE**. Under this protective shell, she lays her eggs, and the children feed on her living body for the next three days. **The only way for her children to live is for her to slowly die.**

After the mother has **died to feed and save** her children one of the most amazing and profound transformations in all of nature takes place. Her body excretes a **scarlet or crimson dye** that stains the wood and the **baby worms**, which remain this color throughout their lives as well.

Christ had “**one purpose**” to come into this world. **SACRIFICE!** He knew He was going to that post to die so that we, His children, might live eternally. **The only way for us to live eternally was for Christ to die. This is how we know what love is.**

*In this was manifested the **love of God** toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, **that we might live through** (Gr dia – for this cause, because, because of) **him**.¹⁰ Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that **he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.***

1 John 4:9-10

Christ laid down His life so that we might live.

*And at the **ninth hour** Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou **forsaken** (Gr. - enkataleipō – To leave behind, to desert) **me?***

Mark 15:34

*My God, my God, why hast thou **forsaken** (He. ‘āzab – To loosen, relinquish, refuse) **me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?***

Psalms 22:1

This had to be the **hardest part of Christ's sufferings** in my view. Together with God before time began and now no longer. He had suffered unspeakable torture before the cross. Then suffered on the cross for about 6 hours and finally took on the sins of all mankind. God removed His presence from Christ as He was dying. **God could not be part of or tolerate sin** even if it were borne by His only begotten son. I simply cannot think of anything that would better emphasize the awfulness of sin in the sight of God.



There is **more to this symbolism**. On the morning of the fourth day **after her death**, the mother worm's **dead** shell pulls the head and tail together until she is now in **the shape of a heart on the tree**. **The shell begins to change color until it is no longer crimson**. It is now a wax-like substance which continues to change color until she is **white as snow**. She becomes **like a little patch of lamb's wool on the side of the tree** eventually flaking off and dropping to the ground, **like snow**.



*Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: 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

While this symbolism was revealed in prophecy **1,000 years before Christ**, it was **purposed by God** to speak to us about Christ before time began and **implemented** during creation. I believe God placed this tiny creeping thing **throughout the middle east** (native there) to become **one more illustration of the way to God through Christ!** We are told the tiny worm **instinctively** knows it is not going to come down from that tree or post alive when it is inching its way up there. The worm goes up there to give birth, sacrifice, and die. **Christ knew He would die on the cross for our sins before He would be brought down**. This illustration is pointing to Christ. **Christ willingly took His place atop that post to sacrificially die, It was His purpose.**

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being **dead to sins**, should **live unto righteousness**: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

1 Peter 2:24

Paul wrote that **Christ humbled Himself** and became obedient unto death upon the cross.

*And being found in fashion **as a man**, he **humbled himself**, and became **obedient unto death**, even the death of the cross.*

Philippians 2:8

*Therefore doth my Father love me, because **I lay down my life**, that I might take it again. ¹⁸ **No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.***

John 10:17-18

The point is not that the worm is identical to Christ, but that the worm's **sacrifice-like posture provides an illustration** of what Jesus did willingly. **The population of Jews before and at the time of Christ knew all about the crimson worm.** They harvested the crimson color. The dye was used on the **priest's clothing**. It was in the **veil** of the Tabernacle. It was also used for other purposes all around the area and even today.

Jesus said, "**I lay down my life, that I might take it again.**"

*After this, Jesus knowing that **all things were now accomplished**, (Gr – teleō – complete, concluded, ended, paid, performed) **that the scripture might be fulfilled**, saith, I thirst. ²⁹ Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. ³⁰ When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished** (Gr – teleō): and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.*

John 19:28-30

God has taught us **to love**. He has illustrated the concept of **sacrificial living and love** in Christ's life and death; and in many other ways. Having taught us **how much to love**. Now, He is telling us **we ought to love** as He has loved us.

*Hereby perceive we the **love of God**, because **he laid down his life for us**:
and **we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren**.*

1 John 3:16

*Who hath **saved** us, and **called** us with an holy calling, not according to our works,
but according to **his own purpose** and **grace**, which was given us in Christ Jesus
before the world began,*

2 Timothy 1:9

*And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead,
and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed** us from
our sins in his own **blood**,*

Revelation 1:5

*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the **blood** of
Christ.*

Ephesians 2:13

*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given
among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Acts 4:12

We are forever changed in our spirit by the blood of Christ's sacrifice.. His **crimson blood** that was **spilled over us upon His death** makes us **white as snow**.

*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and
gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; ¹⁹ But with
the precious **blood of Christ**, as of a **lamb without blemish and without
spot**: ²⁰ Who verily was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world, but was
manifest in these last times for you, ²¹ Who by him do believe in God, that*

*raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; **that your faith and hope might be in God.*** ²² *Seeing ye have **purified your souls** in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye **love one another with a pure heart fervently.*** ²³ *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible**, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

1 Peter 1:18-23

*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, **clean and white**: for the fine linen is the **righteousness of saints.***

Revelation 19:7-8

Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. ⁵ ***Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*** ⁶ *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:* ⁷ ***But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*** ⁸ *And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***

Philippians 2:4-8

*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and **follow me.***

Matthew 16:24

Conclusion

*The **heavens** declare the glory of God; and the **firmament** (He - rāqîa' - An expanse, the visible arch of the sky) sheweth his handiwork. ² Day unto day uttereth **speech**, and night unto night sheweth **knowledge.** ³ There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, ⁵ Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to*

run a race. ⁶ His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

Psalm 19:1-6

Firmament – A separation, an expanse.

*And God said, Let there be a **firmament** in the midst of the waters, and let **it divide the waters from the waters.** ⁷ And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were **under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament:** and it was so. ⁸ And God called the firmament **Heaven.** And the evening and the morning were the second day. ⁹ And God said, **Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear:** and it was so. ¹⁰ And God called the dry land **Earth;** and the gathering together of **the waters called he Seas:** and God saw that it was good. ¹¹ And God said, Let the earth bring forth **grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth:** and it was so.*

Genesis 1:6-11

*And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature **after his kind,** cattle, and **creeping thing,** and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and **every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind:** and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and **over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.***

Genesis 1:24-26

So God “divided the waters which were **under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament.**” In between was all things man could see in the sky. When the flood came in the days of Noah the waters came from above and below the earth and killed every living thing.

*In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were **all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened.** ¹² And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights.*

Genesis 7:11-12

*All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of **all that was in the dry land, died.** ²³ And **every living substance** was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the **creeping things**, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.*

Genesis 7:22-23

Somehow this little **creeping thing** has become native to the middle east and harvested for use in the Tabernacle to provide crimson color for the priest's robe and the curtains. Was it there at creation or did God cause it to evolve there after the flood? Or, both? Whatever. I believe it was **purposed** before time began.

*Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds because of your evil actions. ²² But now He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before Him— ²³ if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. **[This gospel] has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.***

Colossians 1:21-23

We have seen this morning that even the **creeping thing** points the way to **eternal life through Christ**. In Christ we have become **HIS NEW CREATION!**

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

2 Corinthians 5:17