

FREE

THE  
PASSION  
OF THE CHRIST

THE REST OF  
THE STORY

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

*Rarely has there been so much controversy and emotion generated over a religious movie. Some are outraged by the movie's violence, while others wholeheartedly embrace Mel Gibson's message of the sufferings of the Christ. The impact of this movie on those who have watched it reveals just the tip of the iceberg of real, deep pain in the soul of America. People are hurting. They see a violent world filled with intense human suffering and death. War, terrorism, and violence are a constant and growing reality all over the earth, threatening to invade their own lives.*

***And popular religion is providing  
no real answers...***

**T**he movie's portrayal of Christ's last twelve hours of intense anguish gives many people hope that God really does have a plan to end all human suffering and to save them from this corrupt world. Their hearts well up with gratitude and appreciation for how this innocent man willingly took what we deserved for our sins.

But what many people don't realize is that it was not enough for **Yahshua,<sup>1</sup> the Messiah,** to suffer *only* on the cross, but He also had to *go into death* in order to save us from death. When the guilt of our sins was placed upon Him on the cross, His Father in heaven turned His face from Him<sup>2</sup> and He died. His human spirit and soul descended into death for three days and three nights.<sup>3</sup> Death is an *actual place* where His soul suffered the agonies of death for us until He paid the full wages of our sin.<sup>4</sup> Only then could He rise from the dead.

We are giving out this paper in hopes of finding those who come away from *The Passion of the Christ* affected somewhere deep in their hearts — asking the question, "Where do we go from here?" Without a real, life-changing answer to this question, the movie may prove to only inoculate a person to the real message of love and hope that the Christ's life, death, and resurrection communicates.

## <sup>1</sup> **Yahshua**

*is the Hebrew name of the Son of God; please see "What's in a Name?" on page 23 for more about this name.*

<sup>2</sup> *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"*

*(Matthew 27:46)*

<sup>3</sup> *For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. (Matthew 12:40)*

<sup>4</sup> *...whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. (Acts 2:24)*

*For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. (Acts 2:27)*

*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)*

*Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.*

*(Isaiah 53:10-11)*

<sup>5</sup> For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. (Romans 6:10)

<sup>6</sup> For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

(2 Corinthians 5:21)

Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed.

(1 Peter 2:24)

See also: Isaiah 53

<sup>7</sup> For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Hebrews 2:10) though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.

(Hebrews 5:8-9)

<sup>8</sup> John 18:37

<sup>9</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

<sup>10</sup> But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

(John 13:34-35)

<sup>11</sup> To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.” (Luke 1:79)

## THE RIGHT RESPONSE

*“The cords of death encompassed me and the terrors of Sheol came upon me... You have rescued my soul from death... What shall I render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me? I shall lift up the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD. I shall pay my vows to the LORD, Oh may it be in the presence of all His people!”*

(Psalm 116:3,8,12-14)

Yahshua did not die because He sinned, but on the contrary, He died to not sin.<sup>5</sup> He died because of our sin.<sup>6</sup> His death was the greatest act of love and obedience ever, perfecting Him in His humanity.<sup>7</sup>

All who really understand this great act of love will know in their hearts that they owe a great debt of love to the One who went to death for them and rose again on their behalf. They will want to spend their whole lives repaying that debt by leaving their old lives behind and joining His cause. Messiah Himself said, “For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice.”<sup>8</sup> His *cause* was to establish a witness of the kingdom to come<sup>9</sup> — a holy nation made up of His special forgiven people who demonstrate the love of Messiah by loving one another the way He loved them.<sup>10</sup>

***The only proper response to what He did for us is to wholeheartedly join His cause and become a part of the life that demonstrates His love daily, loving each other as He***



***loved us, thus becoming a true light to those who are sitting in darkness<sup>11</sup> under the sentence of death.***

This life is the restoration of a new culture that sprang forth 2000 years ago for a short time after the resurrection. This new culture is re-emerging today and stands above the increasing decadence of society. It waves its banner of love high! We who are part of this new culture want the whole world to see that there is a *movement* taking shape, a people being formed to give hope of a *real* kingdom that is coming!

## OUR RESPONSE

We are the Communities of the Twelve Tribes of Israel, and we are waving that banner all across this land and in many places around the world. We, just as the Jews that heard the gospel on the Day of Pentecost, have been cut to the heart by realizing it was *our* sin also that killed Him and plunged His soul into death.<sup>12</sup> Our response has been to give our whole lives to follow Him. Obeying His word is saving



<sup>12</sup> Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

(Acts 2:37)

<sup>13</sup> And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."

(Acts 2:40)

<sup>14</sup> That at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:12)

<sup>15</sup> Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

(Acts 2:44-45)

## Where Do We Go from Here?

<sup>16</sup> He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.

(John 12:25-26)

<sup>17</sup> If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

(1 Peter 4:11)

<sup>18</sup> Indeed He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth." (Isaiah 49:6)

To this promise our twelve tribes, earnestly serving God night and day, hope to attain. For this hope's sake, King Agrippa, I am accused by the Jews. (Acts 26:7)

James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings. (James 1:1)

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife..." Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel. (Revelation 21:9,12)

us from the decadence of this perverse, abnormal society<sup>13</sup> in which we live, as well as saving us from the things inside of us that hurt our families, our friends, and our fellow man, replacing that alienation with relationships of peace and unity.

***Our love for our God and for one another is forming us into a commonwealth of communities<sup>14</sup> where we share a common life of love.<sup>15</sup>***

Our heart goes out to the sincere ones who are stirred by the *passion* of the Christ portrayed in the movie, yet are unable to find that same *passion* in the churches or anywhere in society at large. The emotional impact of this movie underscores the impotence of the gospel being presented every Sunday in churches and cathedrals around the globe. That gospel leaves sincere ones empty, not knowing how to really give Him all that He deserves.



So, are people looking to Hollywood to find the passion they don't experience in their churches or in their daily lives?

With all our hearts we are laboring to cultivate a life, a culture, a place to belong for all who want to serve Him<sup>16</sup> by the grace and strength He provides,<sup>17</sup> giving all *their* passion in response to *His* passion in dying on the cross and suffering in death on our behalf. Now all the disillusioned and disgruntled ones can put their trust in Him and join with us in building this spiritual nation of Twelve Tribes, the Israel of God, so that His light and His salvation will reach the ends of the earth.<sup>18</sup>

### OUR ANTICIPATION

Our anticipation is that we could find all those who want to do more than see a movie, get all stirred up, and then just return to their mundane existence, with nothing really changing. If you are one of those people, we hope that you will contact us. You can visit our website at [www.twelvetribes.org](http://www.twelvetribes.org). There you will find valuable information and articles we've written for you that will help you understand more about who we are and what we are saying in this paper.

We also warmly invite you to visit any of our communities listed on the back cover. We want you to see the life and the cause we are writing about.

Come for a day, or to stay. 🌿

*"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it."*

*(Matthew 21:43)*

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)*

# The Passion of the Christ

## The Rest of the Story

A radio personality described his experience of having viewed the uncut private showing of "The Passion" before it was released for public viewing. He said that he was speechless, and that almost everyone who left the cinema was either pensively silent or weeping. Obviously the emotional impact was highly successful. Now the question arises: What was the point?

From the many articles, critiques, and interviews on the movie, the general consensus seems to be that the last twelve hours of Jesus' life, ending with His dying on the cross, is what produced forgiveness for the sins of

mankind. The whole consideration goes no further than His physical suffering on the cross. The movie was explicit in its portrayal.

But is there more to it than that? Does the Bible go beyond this?

The answer is: Yes.

To be very simple and direct,

without splitting theological hairs, it is necessary to make a distinction between the process of dying and the actual presence of being in death.

Did the Son of God go into death, a state and place where the ultimate agony occurs, or did He just die on the cross, and then rest peacefully in the tomb until the resurrection?

According to 2 Corinthians 5:21, He was made *to be sin* for us. He became all of what our own sins

**Did the Son of God go into death, a state and place where the ultimate agony occurs, or did He just die on the cross, and then rest peacefully in the tomb until the resurrection?**

caused us to be like, and took these sins to certain death. He took our place in death. He became what our sins made us into. The only result and consequence

of sin is death... not *dying*, but *death*... the state and place of being, after having died. Death is the only *place* to deal with sin. Dying is the transition; death is the destination.

Yahshua spoke to His disciples about this place in His account about the rich man and Lazarus,



and in His description, He spoke of a place where there was consciousness and torment. There was even comfort for some there.

In Luke 16:22 we see that both men died. If dying were the effective part in dealing with sin, then the story would have ended there. They both died, their sins were dealt with — end of story. But that was not the case.

Yahshua went on to say that something further happened. From verse 23 on, there is action and interaction. This is obviously not in the physical realm, since both their bodies were disposed of in whatever ways were the custom of the day. The rest of the story takes place in another realm... the spiritual realm... death. In that realm there are clearly emotions, consciousness, sensation, will, and intellect.

The rich man was in torment, and this is *after* the dying. Whatever he died of, and however he suffered in the process, it was not sufficient to deal with his sins. Now, in the place of death... the place of departed spirits... he begins to experience what his choices, against the promptings of his conscience, have brought upon him. It is excruciating, agonizing torment.

Lazarus, the poor man, experienced something entirely

## Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31)

*"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.*

*But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*

*So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried.*

*And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'*

*But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'*

*Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'*

*Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'*

*But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"*

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different. The choices he made, in spite of his terrible circumstances, brought him to the place in death where he found comfort after dying.

### YAHSHUA BECAME SIN

Yahshua became the sin of all of us, and having become the sin of the entire world, experienced no comfort in death. He even experienced what every murderer, liar, homosexual, filthy and unjust



person would experience in death for eternity. He experienced total agony.<sup>1</sup>

What will all who love and practice lying experience after dying, the first death, and the judgment? There will be a horrendous second death.<sup>2</sup> Yahshua experienced that also. What will cowards, unbelievers, homosexuals, murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, and idolaters, experience after dying

and the judgment? There will be the same horrendous second death. Yahshua experienced that as one of them. Having become those exact sins and more, He experienced to the fullest what all mankind deserves to experience, from the least to the greatest... from the best to the worst.

His corporal suffering lasted around twelve hours, but His deepest agony in death lasted some seventy-two hours.

No movie could ever adequately communicate the reality of that suffering. The spiritual is far greater than the physical.

To emphasize the physical torture and suffering only, without understanding what took place beyond that, is to miss the whole point and purpose of His death, burial, and resurrection. Most people who watched "The Passion" left with an indelible mark in their psyche concerning His physical suffering. In many there might be an unsettling desire to do something... to respond somehow. But what do you do? How do you respond? Where do you go from here?

Sunday School and church attendance will surely soar to record heights in the next

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<sup>1</sup> whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it... For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption... (Acts 2:24,27); Psalm 16:10; Isaiah 52:10 <sup>2</sup> Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 19:13-14; But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." (Revelation 21:8)

few months. This may be an appropriate response to what was depicted in the movie. However, when one understands that the sufferings of the Son of God went far beyond the physical, then it becomes clear that the spirit of man will never find peace, or forgiveness, until a fitting response is made... one that corresponds to the enormity of the sacrifice made by the Son of God.

Mel Gibson quoted Isaiah 53:5 as being the catalyst for his film:

*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*

*(Isaiah 53:5)*

I remember taking that verse to mean that the physical beating and the flow of His blood are what effected, or brought into reality, the forgiveness of sin. It says in Hebrew 7:22 that there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood. I took that to mean that the blood flow itself was what produced the forgiveness. It seems that most people view the sufferings of the Son of God from this same perspective.

It is true that His physical sufferings were tremendous. Yet many people suffer unimaginable tortures in other parts of the world. They die as a result. Keith Richburg, one of the bureau chiefs for the *Washington Post*, wrote a book describing his four-year coverage

of the different wars in Africa during the early '90s. He put forth vividly the gruesome details of the multiple thousands of horribly mutilated bodies that assaulted his senses. Thousands of these people had nothing to do with the warring factions. They were simply available for slaughter.

In His physical suffering, then, the Son of God didn't experience worse pain than thousands of other victims of man's inhumanity

**The spirit of the man will never find peace, or forgiveness, until a fitting response is made... one that corresponds to the enormity of the sacrifice made by the Son of God.**

to man throughout history. So what makes the difference?

Without dying there is no death. Without death there is no dying.

Most of us can relate in some way to dying. You can see it; you can empathize with someone going through the process. Some have even experienced it to a certain degree, and lived to talk about it.

Death is the frightening reality... the unknown factor. You

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know it's there, but you can't see or experience it ahead of time. Everyone knows instinctively that it's there, waiting for the dying to be over. Even though some have dared to deny its existence, it hasn't served to erase the instinctive knowing that every man has.

You watch Him expire on the cross. The minutes, the hours, then days pass. What's happening? Where is He? What was going on?

Many have sounded the depths of their active imaginations to venture forth with their explanations and theories as to what occurred during those three days and nights in death. There are enough volumes to fill several libraries. Not one of these volumes has brought about the desired response that forgiveness causes.<sup>3</sup>

The stripes and the wounds of the Son of God do bring healing to us, because they were what brought on the dying of His body. The profuse flow of all the blood from His body was the guarantee

that the biological functions would soon cease. But the stripes and blood alone didn't deal with the sin of the whole world.

Sin is a spiritual reality with physical manifestations. It must be dealt with spiritually.<sup>4</sup>

The brutal dying of the Son of God stopped His body from functioning, so that He — the very essence of Him — could go into the ultimate horrors of death to experience what every human being must otherwise experience in order to pay for their own sin.

**Their response corresponded to the sacrifice of the Son of God... a life for a life. No other response is adequate.**

Everything humanity must suffer to pay for their sin, to the ultimate extreme, the Son of God suffered. His whole purpose for being born was to do this, so that we wouldn't have to go

through that horror.<sup>5</sup> There was no resistance in Him, which is why He was able to pay for the infinite guilt of the sins of all mankind in a finite amount of time.<sup>6</sup>

After accomplishing His work in death and in the lake of fire, the Son of God went through

<sup>3</sup> Isaiah 53:10-11 <sup>4</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation. (Hebrews 9:27-28); For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Corinthians 5:21) <sup>5</sup> "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost." (Luke 19:10); "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. (John 12:27) <sup>6</sup> whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. (Acts 2:24)

another spiritual and physical phenomenon. He — the essence of Him — was re-united with His physical body. Then the breath of life was breathed into that body that He might live for all eternity. Because He was innocent, death could not hold Him.<sup>7</sup> Sin was dealt with forever.<sup>8</sup>

So He's alive and somewhere in heaven.<sup>9</sup>

How do I handle all that?  
What was He expecting?  
What is God expecting?  
Where do we go from here?

People are leaving the cinema feeling the need and impulse to do something... what?

If what we now know can penetrate our heart, it causes us to love the One who went through so much for our sake. That love comes from understanding that

**That love comes from understanding that He sacrificed His whole life for us, and it causes us to want to do the same for Him.**

He sacrificed His whole life for us, and it causes us to want to do the same for Him.<sup>10</sup>

Those who understood and were pierced to their hearts, not just in their emotions, in Jerusalem, did what all true disciples do.<sup>11</sup> Their response corresponded to the sacrifice of the Son of God... a life for a life.

No other response is adequate.

Please contact us at the addresses and numbers shown on the back of this paper to know

more about those who are daily giving the proper response to the sacrifice that was made for the sin of all mankind. You are warmly invited to visit us at the address that is most convenient for you. 🌿

<sup>7</sup> Acts 2:24; John 20:19-31 <sup>8</sup> But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, (Hebrews 10:12) <sup>9</sup> Acts 1:1-11 <sup>10</sup> For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15) <sup>11</sup> So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple. (Luke 14:33);

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. (Acts 2:41-45); Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all. Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need. (Acts 4:32-35)



# THE SIGN OF JONAH



<sup>1</sup> Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

(Matthew 12:38-40)

<sup>2</sup> For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. (Acts 2:27)

...he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

(Acts 2:31)

Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." Now this, "He ascended" — what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things. (Ephesians 4:8-10)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison...

(1 Peter 3:18-19)

When the Messiah walked the earth, He said the only sign that would be given to that evil and adulterous generation (to prove that He was who He claimed to be) would be the sign of Jonah.<sup>1</sup> Just as Jonah had spent three days and nights in the belly of the great fish, so He would spend three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. Obviously, something awesome had to result from those three days and nights that would be the sign, the only authentic proof from that time onward that God had indeed sent His Son.

The startling thing about Jonah was that he emerged *alive* from his "tomb" with an urgent message that produced a startling effect — the dramatic repentance of the whole city of Nineveh. Would not the resurrection of Messiah from His suffering in death call for an *even more startling* effect?

## WHAT IS DEATH?

When Messiah died, His spirit and soul left His body and descended into death.<sup>2</sup> He was undergoing the "baptism" He had told His disciples about in Luke 12:50, "I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is My distress until it is accomplished!" This baptism was nothing short of His immersion *into death*. For it was not through the act of dying on the cross alone that He would make atonement for the sins of the whole world,

but through His suffering *in death* on our behalf. What He suffered in those three days and three nights was the incomprehensible agony of death.

The wages of sin is *death*, not just dying.<sup>3</sup> *Dying* is the transition that separates your spirit and soul (who you really are) from your body, but death is the *place* where you must go to pay the wages of your sin. Sin is not a light matter to God — especially the sins that hurt and destroy the lives of others. And death, most certainly, is not a pleasant place to go.<sup>4</sup> It is a *conscious experience* in a place of torment.<sup>5</sup>

## PROOF OF THE RESURRECTION

After the resurrection, Yahshua must have given His apostles understanding about death when He explained, from the scriptures, the things He had to suffer.<sup>6</sup>

***Before repentance and forgiveness of sins could be proclaimed in His name,<sup>7</sup> they had to understand the necessity for a ransom<sup>8</sup> and the awesome price He had paid.<sup>9</sup>***

This was the message the apostles proclaimed at that eventful first Pentecost after His resurrection. They explained to the assembled house of Israel their sins, especially the sin of rejecting and crucifying the Messiah, and how He paid *in death* (not just dying) for their sin so that they now could repent and be forgiven and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.<sup>10</sup>

Many of those before Pilate who cried out, "Let His blood be upon us and upon our children" were cut to the heart by the words of the apostle Peter because of their own *personal involvement* in His crucifixion.<sup>11</sup> Being pierced for their guilt, three thousand

<sup>3</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:23)

<sup>4</sup> "...for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment." (Luke 16:28)

<sup>5</sup> The pangs of death surrounded me, And the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. (Psalm 18:4-5)

See also: Psalm 116:3;

Proverbs 1:12;

Numbers 16:30-34

<sup>6</sup> (Paul was) explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." (Acts 17:2-3)

See also: Luke 24:25-27; 44-46

<sup>7</sup> and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (Luke 24:47)

See also: Acts 2:38

<sup>8</sup> "Ransom" means that which is given up to secure what is more valuable.

<sup>9</sup> For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

(Mark 10:45)

For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him

(2 Corinthians 5:21);

See also: Hosea 13:14;

1 Timothy 2:5-6; Titus 2:14

<sup>10</sup> Acts 2:24-47

<sup>11</sup> And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

(Matthew 27:25)

<sup>12</sup> *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29)*

<sup>13</sup> *"...for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment."*  
(Luke 16:28)

<sup>14</sup> *For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.*  
(2 Corinthians 5:14,15)

<sup>15</sup> *And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me."*  
(Hebrews 2:13)

<sup>16</sup> *So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*  
(Acts 2:46,47)

responded to Peter's proclamation. They could not hold back. They understood their sin and they understood what this man, whom they crucified, had done for them. He had taken their place in death. He was their sacrificial lamb — the Lamb of God that had borne the sin of the whole world.<sup>12</sup>

They knew that He had paid the price to buy them out of that *place of torment*.<sup>13</sup> They knew that receiving His ransom meant that from now on their life belonged to Him. His love was communicated to them so deeply that they couldn't help but respond with the only adequate response they knew: *to surrender the rest of their lives to Him*.<sup>14</sup> In doing this, they became the "offspring" His soul had labored for (like a woman's birth pangs) in the agonies of death.<sup>15</sup>

## Their lives, now being lived for Him, created the vibrant community life of the first believers in Jerusalem.

No one lived for themselves, but all lived for the One who died and rose again on their behalf. This was expressed in how they laid down their lives for each other daily, sharing all their possessions so that there were no needy among them, and taking their meals together with sincerity and gladness of heart.<sup>16</sup>

The unique and most amazing life of these believers in community was the *startling sign* that He had indeed spent three days and three nights in death. Nobody saw Jonah in the belly of the great fish. What you could

see, however, was the dramatic result of him being there. In the same way, none of the living saw Yahshua in death, but we should be able to see the *startling effects* of it.

Those who received His passion are the indisputable sign – back then, as well as today – proving that He was who He claimed to be.<sup>17</sup>

Their common life is the witness of the kingdom<sup>18</sup> – the visible evidence of His rulership.



It is the light of the world, the city on the hill which cannot be hidden.<sup>19</sup> It convicts all those who claim to know Him,<sup>20</sup> but are living *out of harmony* with its witness. The demonstration of a people living in community, expressing a life of self-sacrificing love by the power of One who sacrificed His

<sup>17</sup> Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me! We are for signs and wonders in Israel From the Lord of hosts, Who dwells in Mount Zion. (Isaiah 8:18)

See also: Isaiah 53:10;  
Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37

<sup>18</sup> And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Matthew 24:14)

<sup>19</sup> You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.

(Matthew 5:14)

<sup>20</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you say, 'We see.' Therefore your sin remains.

(John 9:41)

<sup>21</sup> **Criterion** – a basis for comparison; a reference point against which other things can be evaluated; the ideal in terms of which something can be judged.

<sup>22</sup> He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18);

See also: 1 Corinthians 6:2



<sup>23</sup> *I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!*

(Luke 12:49-50)

*Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. (Hebrews 2:14)*

<sup>24</sup> *...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood (Revelation 1:5);*

*Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:4)*

*See also: Colossians 1:18;*

*John 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:3*

<sup>25</sup> *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Yahshua ha Mashiach for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)*

<sup>26</sup> *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11)*

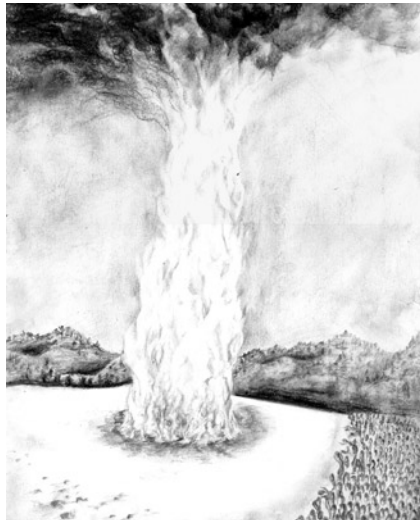
*See also: Luke 3:16;*

*Romans 5:5*

life for them, will be the criterion<sup>21</sup> by which the whole world will ultimately be judged.<sup>22</sup>

## CASTING A FIRE ON THE EARTH

Before He went to the cross, Yahshua told His disciples that He wanted to cast a fire on the earth. He knew that fire couldn't be kindled unless He went through death and came out on the other side, victorious.<sup>23</sup> He knew He had to be *born again* from the dead so that all men could be born again and walk in newness of life.<sup>24</sup> Apart from Him paying in death for our sins, God could not righteously forgive us, and



we could not receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.<sup>25</sup>

Apart from the Holy Spirit pouring His love into our hearts, there would be no fire, as was kindled on the day of Pentecost:<sup>26</sup>

*Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common – Acts 2:44*

*Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common. – Acts 4:32*



We can see what the fire caused when it was finally sent to the earth. It was so consuming that it left no room for any kind of self-life among those who had received it.

Their fervent love for one another caused them to stay together and share all things in common. The love of God had truly been poured out into their hearts, causing them to love one another in the same way Messiah had loved them — by laying down their lives for one another daily.<sup>27</sup>

### In order for this new life to come about, the death of our old life must be just as real as His death was.

For unless we are actually united with Him in His death through our death in baptism, there is no real repentance and the “old man” didn’t really die.<sup>28</sup> At best, it will produce a reformation of the old man, modifying our behavior and action, which most likely will fade out in due time.<sup>29</sup> Our baptism will be everything it was ever meant to be if we take total identity in Yahshua’s death and resurrection. If our old life is truly terminated in baptism, we will be born again out of spiritual death into newness of life just as He was “born again” after going through the agonies of death. We can know that we’ve passed from death into life, and that the fire of God’s love has been truly kindled in our heart, because we are living together in community with our brothers and sisters, in unity, not seeking our own needs, but truly caring for each other.<sup>30</sup> This is the normal spiritual life of every believer in every place where the love of God has been kindled.<sup>31</sup> 🌿

<sup>27</sup> Acts 2:42-47; 4:32-37

<sup>28</sup> *Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection. (Romans 6:3-5)*

<sup>29</sup> Matthew 12:43-45

<sup>30</sup> *Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’*

*For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:31-33)*

<sup>31</sup> *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death. By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.*

(1 John 3:14,16)

*Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Yahshua ha Mashiach, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

(1 Corinthians 1:2,10)



# WHAT'S IN A NAME

*Some time ago when I was in college, I was searching for something meaningful in life. I wasn't finding it in school. I had been primed all my life to go to college and then on to "life", whatever that meant. Somehow, being one more cog in the machine didn't appeal to me. I wanted true friends and I wanted to do something with my life that really made a difference. I was experiencing neither.*

*A few years earlier in high school, I was at a music concert in much of the same state of mind as I would be several years later — lonely and searching for something.*

*When I left the concert someone must have handed me a little paper. It was from some people who lived in a community. This was very interesting to me since I was looking for something like this. However, in the busyness of my life, I put it into my closet and forgot about it.*

*As the years went by, I would see them at many of the events that I went to. They were beginning to capture my interest. One day a friend and I happened to park right behind their big maroon-and-cream-colored bus. On the back it read, "We Know the Way, We'll Bring You Home." I thought to myself, "That's what I want, a real home." As we were sitting there, I asked my friend if he knew anything about them.*

*He answered, "Yeah, they are some community that follows God."*

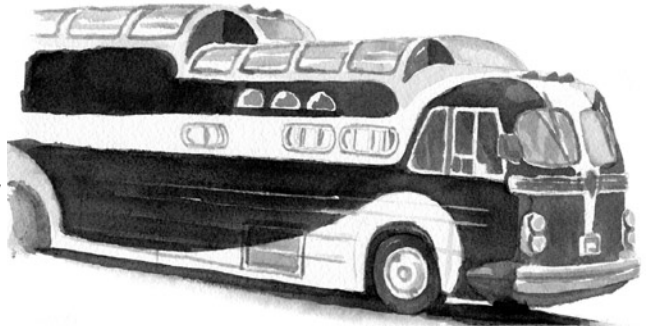
When he said this, my heart leapt inside. That was what I was looking for — a community where people loved the God of the Bible. So I asked him, "Do they believe in Jesus?"

"No way," was his reply, "they follow some guru called Yahshua."

"Yahshua," I thought to myself, "who is that?" I was disappointed, to say the least. These people seemed so nice, but if they didn't follow the Son of God then I didn't want to have anything to do with them. If there was one thing I didn't need to get involved with, it was some strange religion. So I decided to steer clear of them.

So eventually there I was in college, still very lonely and still searching. Some friends had invited me to several concerts that would be happening that summer. I decided to go with them. At one of the first concerts, I saw that same bus and I was instantly intrigued again. Something about these people seemed so special, but, I had to remind myself, they didn't follow the Son of God. It had been a couple of years since I had first come in contact with them. I had gone my way, searching for something real, but had found nothing.

At one of those concerts, I was walking through the parking lot and saw a good friend of mine. Oddly enough, he was sitting very near that bus. He was talking with someone and I sat down to join the



conversation. After a few minutes, I asked him if he knew anything about that bus. He told me that I should talk to the other man, because he was part of the community that was traveling on the bus.

I was excited, since I had never actually talked to anyone from the bus; I had just heard things about them. The things I had heard about them following "Yahshua" had kept me away for almost two years. But I was full of questions about the community and what they believed. My first question was, of course, "Do you believe in the Son of God?"

To my surprise, the man said, "Of course we do. Our entire life revolves around Him and His teachings!"

I could hardly believe it!

**He went on to explain to me that while most people call the Son of God Jesus, they preferred His original Hebrew name, Yahshua. He told me that it actually meant "God's Salvation."**

## What's in a Name

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The more he talked the more everything began to make sense to me. I had grown up in a society that had caused me to question everything, but somehow I never questioned what had been handed down to me at church. I thought that because these people didn't say *Jesus*, although they were full of love and kindness, they must be bad. But what I found out was that *Jesus* wasn't even the Savior's name!

So now, as you have guessed, I am a part of this people who follow the Son of God, and I would like to share with you the amazing things I have learned about His name.

### THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, they spoke Hebrew in the land of Palestine. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, "...and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins." But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *Iesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *Iesous* has no meaning of its own,<sup>1</sup> but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *Yahweh's Salvation*,<sup>2</sup> which makes sense out of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, "...you shall call His name *Yahshua* [Yahweh's Salvation], for He shall save His people from their sins."

If you look in an old King James Bible, you will find the name *Jesus* in these two passages:

*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, KJV)*

*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, KJV)*

However, if you look in any modern Bible, including more recently printed King James Bibles, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus* they use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *Iesous*.

You see, *Joshua* is the popular English transliteration of the Hebrew name *Yahshua*. Joshua of the Old Testament had the same name as the One called *Jesus* in the New Testament, for Joshua was the prophetic forerunner of the Son of God, bringing Israel into the Promised Land

and leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *Iesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The fact is, the name of God's Son was not even pronounced as "Jesus" in English until the 16<sup>th</sup> century, simply because there was no "J" sound or letter in English until then.<sup>3</sup> The modern letter "J" developed from the letter "I" which began to be written with a "tail" when it appeared as the first letter in a word. So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *Iesous*. Eventually the hard "J" sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial "I" in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name of the Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn't hear the Greek name *Iesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.<sup>4</sup>

I'd much rather call the Son of God, my Savior, by His true name — the name His own mother, Miriam, and father, Yoceph, and all of His Jewish friends called Him. Not only have I found out what His true name is, but His true Body on earth as well. I am so thankful to have finally found true rest with the true Savior. Please take the time to read the other articles in this paper. You are always welcome to come visit us in any of our communities. Our addresses are on the back. 🌿

**Michael**



<sup>1</sup> Some authorities say that *Iesous* is derived from an earlier form meaning "healing Zeus," the supreme god of ancient Greek mythology.

<sup>2</sup> **Yah** is the personal name of God, and **shua** is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as **YAH** (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 ("whose name is Yah"), and as most familiar in the word **Halleluyah** ("Praise Yah"). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that He came in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father's name would be incorporated into the Son's name, **Yahshua**.

<sup>3</sup> *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496,1507.

<sup>4</sup> *Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12*



**THERE IS A PEOPLE** who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds — to love their Creator with all their heart, mind, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being just ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth.

Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that the Son of God came to earth to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. He has won our hearts and brought us together as a people to demonstrate His love and care in the midst of a collapsing social order. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created. 🌿



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