

BLOOD AND WATER FLOWED OUT FROM HIS SIDE



(John 19:32-35)

What's the meaning of blood and water flowing out from YAHSHUA'S side? Have you ever wondered why and the meaning behind it? The truth of the matter is that we never stop to wonder why and what's the significance behind it; we go on with minimum knowledge, not perceiving how little we care to know the reason behind it, to understand the extent of YAHSHUA'S suffering on our behalf. I believe that knowledge, as a glass window, will make possible for our eyes of understanding to see clearly and to change the way we see Him in His sufferings, and in relation to blood and water flowing out from His side when He was pierced. There is much to consider in the case of blood and water being flown from His side that is very important in the physical and in the spiritual realm to all those who are called believers in YAHSHUA.

John reports that, since it was the day of Preparation, in order to prevent the bodies from hanging on the cross on the Sabbath- for that Sabbath was a very solemn and important one- the Jews requested Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first one, and of the other who had been crucified with Him, but when they came to YAHSHUA and they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out (John 19:31-34)

The Prophet Isaiah prophesized that YAHSHUA'S sufferings inflicted by Jews and Gentiles were marked on His appearance. His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's, and His form beyond that of the sons of men... (52:14a); He was despised and rejected and forsaken by men, and a man of sorrows and pains, and acquainted with grief and sickness; and like One from Whom men hide their faces, He was despised, and we did not appreciate His worth or have any esteem for Him (53:3). David, in his poetic writings, prophetically described the extent of YAHSHUA'S physical as well as emotional sufferings in Psalms 22: Eli, Eli lama sabachthani? (My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?) I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it is softened and melted down with me. My strength is dried up like a fragment of clay pottery my tongue cleaves to my jaws and You have brought me into the dust of death, for [like a pack of] dogs they have encompassed me; a company of evildoers has encircled me, they pierced my hands and my feet, I can count all my bones, ...they part my clothing among them and cast lots for my raiment... (Psalm 22).

Why blood and water flowed from YAHSHUA'S side when He was pierced after His death? To understand this, let's go to the Romans way of scourging, or punishing a criminal before his crucifixion. The scourge they used was made of braided leather thongs, metal balls, and sharp bone pieces. These pieces were intertwined in the braids. The balls served to add weight as well as to bruise deeply causing contusions every time the victim was struck. The sharpness of the bones cut deeply into the flesh exposing the skeletal muscles, underlying veins, sinews and the bowels. Many of the victims died before going to crucifixion. With the loss of so much blood volume, the victim suffered hypovolemic shock. The hypovolemic shock causes the heart to work extra hard to pump blood that is not there,

causing fluid to gather around the heart and lungs. So, that's why when the soldier pierced YAHSHUA'S side, blood and water flew out. That shows the area where He was pierced was between the heart and the lungs. In many cases, the victim fainted as the result. Kidney failure happened and then thirst. YAHSHUA suffered all these symptoms, showing us that He suffered hypovolemic shock before His death. Blood and water flowing from His body confirmed the fact that He had died. It was an indication, without a doubt, that He had died. The soldier proved it to be true by piercing His side and blood and water flowed from His side. This is a fact!

Another way we can look at the meaning of the blood and water flowing from YAHSHUA'S side is through His teachings. Blood has to do with His humanity. He became man and dwelt among us (John 1:14). Water speaks of His divinity. In John 3 where we read about the discussion between YAHSHUA and Nicodemus concerning the new birth, YAHSHUA states the significance of water in its spiritual realm. He tells Nicodemus that unless a man is born of water and [even] the Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of God (vs.5). The new birth happens not by the fleshly desire. It is through the sacrificial work of YAHSHUA the Messiah. It happens through His Spirit – the water, the Living Water YAHSHUA offers to those who would receive Him.

YAHSHUA connects water with the Holy Spirit in John 7: 37-38: Now on the final and most important day of the Feast, YAHSHUA stood, and He cried in a loud voice, If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink! He who believes in Me as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow springs and rivers of living water. John, in his first epistle, chapter 5 verse 6, refers to YAHSHUA as the One who came by water and blood, not by water only, but by the water and the blood, and it is the Holy Spirit that bears witness, because the Holy Spirit is the Truth. YAHSHUA was God- water and He was a man –blood. The three witnesses in heaven are the Father, the Word (Yahshua) and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one. And there are three witnesses on the earth: The Spirit, the water and the blood and these agree. The Spirit gives life, the water purifies, sanctifies and the blood takes away our sins. All three are through the person of our Lord YAHSHUA, Whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins, which without it would not be forgiveness nor redemption. We are then born anew through water and the Spirit (Jn. 3:5).

Summarizing, YAHSHUA came in the flesh and He is the true God. His mortal life was in the blood; His eternal life was symbolic of water. He is the Living Water- the eternal life. At His death, the mortal and the eternal left his body, as when the blood and water flowed from His side. While in the earth, He held true in the eternal life – water and in His mortal life- the blood. The blood as a witness is mentioned by Paul in Romans 3:24-25: **We are justified by His grace as a gift, through redemption which is in Christ YAHSHUA, Whom God put forward as an expiation by His blood, to be received by faith.** In Ephesians 1:7-8: **In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses according to the riches of His grace which He lavished upon us. The blood constitutes as a witness in our justification, redemption. The Holy Spirit** serves as a witness in His ministry of guiding us into all the Truth; announcing and declaring the things that are to come, He will honor and glorify YAHSHUA. He will testify of YAHSHUA. He is the comforter, the Spirit of Truth (Jn.15:26; 16:13). The third witness on earth is **water** and it is connected to the Holy Spirit. He is the part of the regeneration according to Peter: Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of YAHSHUA the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

There is an interesting meaning of the flowing of the blood and water from YAHSHUA'S side adopted by the early church: They saw this event as a type of Eve's creation in Genesis 2:21-22. Tertullian, a writer of that time, said, "If Adam was a figure of Christ, the sleep of Adam was the death of Christ, Who was to fall asleep in death; that in the injury of His side might be figured the church, the mother of the living." In YAHSHUA'S death His bride was created. She was the substance that flowed from His side into a spiritual birth, a new creation, sanctified and separated for God, to be presented to His Son. "He shall see the [fruit] of the travail of His soul and be satisfied; by His knowledge of Himself [which He possesses and imparts to others] shall My Righteous One, My Servant, justify many and make many righteous, for He shall bear their iniquities and their guilt." (Isaiah 53:11) That's to be born again! A birth of water and the Spirit.

Are you born again?

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