

YAHSHUA'S TRAVAIL- THE BIRTH OF HIS CHURCH



He shall see [the fruit] of the travail (labor pain) of His soul and be satisfied; by His knowledge of Himself Shall My Righteous One, My Servant, justify many and make many righteous, for He shall bear their iniquities and their guilt (Isaiah 53:11).

“He shall see the fruit of the travail of His soul and be satisfied.” The born-again believer is the fruit of the travail of His soul. Even though, “the story and the message of the cross is sheer absurdity and folly to those who are perishing and in their way to perdition, to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1Cor.1 18). YAHSHUA’S labor pains were marked when the Father let all our iniquities fall on Him. In the flogging, the world was offered physical healing. In His death, many were reconciled with the Father and were born anew. It confirmed His words to Nicodemus, Unless a man is born of water and [even] the

Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. You must be born-again (Jh.3:5,7b). It is only through YAHSHUA'S travail that man receives life eternal. Paul said that no mortal man should boast of his own merit to acquire salvation (I Cor. 1: 29). YAHSHUA, the only Way, Truth and the only life Giver, paid for our salvation in full through His travails before and when on the cross.

He suffered embarrassments at the hands of the Romans when they stripped Him off His clothes; when they spat on Him and struck Him on the head with a staff. When they ridiculed and made sport of Him concerning His kingship, piercing His head with a crown of thorns, when they hit Him with their fist. A confused world echoed their voices against Him and while the Romans nailed Him to the cross He uttered forgiveness amidst their hatred for Him. His flesh was torn deeply into His bones. His joints were out of place and still a heavy cross was given Him to carry where He was to go to be crucified. That was a cursed tree. Although, not a fault of its own. The noisy voices followed Him to His crucifixion. At last, the Romans gave Him a break when they provided someone else to carry the cross for Him. He wouldn't die peacefully, for Satan made sure that He was inflicted emotional pains on every side until He expired. At His final cry, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? (My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?) He fulfilled the words from Psalms 22 and the words from the Prophet Isaiah, "The Lord has made to light upon Him the guilt and iniquity of us all" (53:6b). The world of yesterday rocked themselves to sleep while the Creator was suffering labor pains to give eternal life to them. It was a time of leisure for some, a time for vengeance for others, due to their jealousy. The Bible says that the message and story of the cross is sheer absurdity and folly to those who are perishing and on their way to perdition (I Cor. 1). Why is it so? A mind and a heart contrary to the message of the cross is under condemnation, according to the words from YAHSHUA. He said he who does not believe is judged already (Jn. 3:18). The [basis of the] judgment lies in this: The Light has come into the world, and people have loved the darkness rather than and more than the Light, for their words are evil (Jn. 3:19). To no one has been given the right to claim salvation through their good works outside the works of YAHSHUA. No good deeds we perform will be credited to our salvation without first accepting YAHSHUA's sacrifice. His life is a gift to us through His grace. We did nothing to help Him to pay for our salvation. We are undeserving of this Gift. Nothing we do outside His grace can save us.

He risked and laid down His life for us. He gave us eternal life and we shall never lose it or perish throughout the ages, and no one is able to snatch us out of His hand (Jn. 10: 28-29). That's the assurance written in the sacred pages of the Bible forever. It was printed there so that we would never lose sight of this promise. No one else has died for the salvation of the world. All the nations' gods are a fragile, mortal, created gods. None shed their blood to give life to mankind; none of them volunteered their life for a sacrifice to save men. None, whatsoever. None of them had a divine nature, with power to give and to take life. They all died, that is, those who were human. Those made of wood, gold, and silver, well, they existed only in the carved piece of wood, gold or silver. Man was created to bring glory to God. God breathed in him life and gave him His own image. So, there is a longing in the heart of man for God that can only be satisfied when he acknowledges the true God in the person of YAHSHUA'S sacrificial life.

Psalm 22: 14-18 the psalmist prophesied YAHSHUA'S physical and emotional brokenness: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax; it is softened [with anguish] and melted down within me. My strength is dried up like a fragment of clay pottery; my tongue cleaves to my jaws; I can count all my bones. More descriptive than that of the Psalms is the prophecy found in Isaiah 52: 14-15: His face and His whole appearance were marred more than any man's, and His form beyond that of the sons of men- but just as many were astonished at Him, so shall He startle and sprinkle many nations, and kings shall shut their mouths because of Him; for that which has not been told them shall they see, and that which they have not heard shall they consider and understand. He was wounded, bruised, flogged; He carried our griefs and sorrows and pains, He was unjustly treated and without a fair trial, He was condemned to death. He was rejected by His own, He was betrayed and denied by His close friends. All these and more were laid on Him. These constitute the travail of His soul, necessary for YAHSHUA to give birth to His church. In dying, He saved her and in rising from the dead, He assured her of her resurrection to a life eternal with Him in heaven. He became the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since [it was] through a man that death [came into the world, it is] also through a Man that the resurrection of the dead [has come] (I Cor. 1:20-21). He shall see the fruit of the travail of His soul and be satisfied (Isaiah 53:11). Someday, He will present the church to Himself in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things (Eph. 5:27).

Nothing would have happened in the term of man's salvation if YAHSHUA had not died. As He has said, a seed must die first to experience life. His death brought us not only life but also an entrance to the Holy of Holies, with Him as our High Priest. His complete work of redemption set us free from the bondage to sin. It gave us the right to be called His children, we became part of His family. "For it was an act worthy [of God] and fitting [to the divine nature] that He, for Whose sake and by Whom all things have their existence, in bringing many sons into glory, should make the Pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering. For both He Who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one [Father]. For this reason, He is not ashamed to call them brethren. Since, therefore, [these His] children share in flesh and blood, He [Himself] in a similar manner partook of the same [nature], that by death He might bring to nought and make of no effect who had the power of death- that is, the devil" (Heb. 2:10-11,14).

The new birth through YAHSHUA is beautiful and pure. It transforms the nature of men and molds it to be more like that of YAHSHUA Himself. The fruit of the Holy Spirit permeates the heart of man at the time of his new birth. A new creation he becomes, leaving the old behind and pursuing the new ahead of Him, conforming himself to the perfect will of God. Have you been born-again?