

CHAPTER TWO

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GOD'S WISDOM IS THE WISDOM OF THE CROSS.

(Contains the revelations of Mary of Agreda.)

Part 4 "Jesus scourged and crowned".

Pilate has Jesus Scourged.

Pilate, aware of the Jews hatred for Jesus, and unwilling to condemn Him to death, thought that a severe scourging might satisfy the envy of the priests and scribes. But Pilate would later find that he miscalculated in expecting any mercy or natural kindness and compassion from the Jews.

So, they brought Jesus to the place of punishment, which was a courtyard attached to the palace and set apart for criminals. It was enclosed and surrounded by columns, some of which supported the roof, while others were lower and stood free. To one of these columns, which were made of marble, they would eventually bind Jesus. They first, however, took off the white garment that they had covered Him at Herod's court. Then they loosened the ropes and chains, on doing so, they cruelly widened the wounds on His wrists. Having freed His hands, they commanded Him with curses to remove the seamless tunic, which He wore. Jesus obeyed the executioners and began to unclothe Himself, ready to bear the shame of the exposure of His Body to the crowd. But the soldiers, impatient at the delay, tore away the tunic. With the exception of a strip of cloth, which

girded His loins, the Lord stood now naked. Jesus was prepared to suffer all insults except the shame of total nakedness. His executioners tried to remove this cloth; but they failed, because, on touching it, their arms became paralyzed and stiff, as happened in the dungeon. Six of the executioners separately made the attempt with the same result. The miracle of their being paralyzed; didn't move or soften their hearts; but they attributed it all to the supposed magic of Jesus.

Thus the Lord stood uncovered in the presence of a great crowd and His executioners bound Him to one of the columns. Then, two at a time, began to scourge Him with inhuman cruelty. The first two scourged Jesus with hard and thick ropes, full of rough knots. In their fury, they strained all their powers to inflict the blows. This first wiping raised great welts, *so that blood gathered beneath the skin and disfigured His entire body.* The second pair, following the example of the first two; used hardened leather strips and leveled their strokes upon the places already sore, this caused the welts to break open. His *Blood spattered and drenched His torturers. His Blood ran down and formed streams on the pavement.* Those two gave way to the third pair, who beat the Lord with dried hard whips made from animal hide. They whipped Him

still more cruelly, cutting into the previous wounds. Looking at Him, He seemed but one continued wound. The third pair found no room for new wounds. However, their ceaseless blows inhumanly tore His flesh and scattered many pieces about the pavement. A large portion of the shoulder-bone was exposed and showed red through the flowing blood. In other places on His Body, the bones were laid bare larger than the palm of the hand. They beat Jesus in the face and in the feet and hands, leaving nothing unwounded. His Blood flowed to the ground, gathering here and there in great abundance. The whipping in the face, and in the hands and feet, was unspeakably painful, because these parts are full of sensitive nerves. The face of Jesus became so swollen and wounded that the swelling blinded Him. In addition to their blows, the executioners loaded their disgusting spittle and their insults upon Him. The exact number of blows dealt out to Our Savior from head to toe was 5,115.



Brothers, 5115 blows to the Body of Jesus is a mystery. If each executioner were to hit Jesus one time every two seconds, this would number 60 blows to the Body per minute. If we divide 5115 by 60, it would take 85 minutes to inflict 5115 blows. We need greater clarification to understand this fact. The question pertains to how, not questioning the number 5115.

Jn 19:1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had Him scourged.

Like a lion in the jungle, My heritage has turned on Me. Jer (12:8) My Father has given Me over to the impious. Jb (16:11) I am made a joke of by the people; their protest I have become. Jb (17:6) They attack with none to stop them. Amid the uproar they come on in waves; over Me rolls the terror. My dignity is borne off on the wind, and My welfare vanishes like a cloud. Jb (30:13)

Is 53:3 He was spurned and avoided by men, a Man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity, One of those from whom men hide their faces, spurned, and we held Him in no esteem.

53:4 Yet it was our infirmities (Weakened in health.) that He bore, our sufferings that He endured, While we thought of Him as stricken, as one smitten (hit) by God and afflicted.

53:5 But He was pierced for our offenses, crushed for our sins, upon Him was the chastisement (Punishment.) that makes us whole, *by His stripes we were healed.*

Beloved, I am not only enduring terrible pain in My Body from this scourging, but also suffering it with joy in My soul. 2 Mac (6:30)

His Blood Formed Streams Upon The Pavement.

Consider the total sum of man's cruelty upon one another. It's a pain we can't even imagine. And the same can be said about the cruelty in which Jesus experienced at His scourging. The lashes upon His Body mean far more than the physical pain, but the pains caused by the cruelties of mankind. The soul of Jesus

experienced every wound that has ever landed on a man, every sharp object, explosion and blunt instrument, all causing some horrific pain upon its victims. But Jesus experienced far more than this, these pains also included all emotional traumas, such as the death of a loved one or some verbal assault. Sin causes a mountain of pain and Jesus experienced it all.

Brothers, when it says in the Book of Isaiah, "It was our infirmities (Weakened in health.) that He bore, our sufferings that He endured", Christ took upon Himself every man's depressions. Yes, on this Day, He experienced the total sum of every man's sorrows. This includes the suicidal depressions of the damned. In the same way that the scourging consumed His Body in pain, He was consumed with emotions of depression, yes every single depression experienced by mankind.

Ps 56:8 You have kept count of my tossings (To move restlessly or turbulently); put my tears in Your vial. Are they not in Your book?



Old Testament vial

“Are my tears not stored in Your vial”; a unique saying in the Old Testament. For you see, the tears are saved because they are precious; God puts a high value on each of our troubles.

Heb 13:3 **Keep in mind those who are in prison, *as though you were in prison* with them; and those who are being badly treated, since you too are in the body.**

It's obvious the human body needs its blood to live. If the blood is poured forth from the body, the body will die. And this analogy can be made with the soul. If a soul is surrounded by darkness, it will be tempted into suicidal depression. And this happened to the Soul of Jesus. He took upon Himself the total sum of all sorrows. And this ocean of pain penetrated His every emotion. Thus Jesus was tempted with suicidal depression. See Chapter Part B: "My Flesh is food indeed; My Blood is drink indeed. Jn (6:55)

His Mother Mary And The Scourging.

When Christ's executioners had brought Him to the scourging place, Mary in the company of the Mary's and John stood in a corner of the courtyard. Assisted by Her visions, She witnessed the entire scourging. She felt in all the parts of Her Body the scourging, in the same intensity as were felt by Christ in His Body. Although She shed no blood except what flowed from Her eyes with Her tears. Her skin was not lacerated; yet the bodily pains so changed and disfigured Her, that John and the Mary's failed to find in Her any resemblance of Herself. Besides the

tortures of the body She suffered the sorrows of the soul. For Her sorrows flowed not only from the natural love of a mother, but it was proportioned to Her power of judging more accurately than all creatures the innocence of Christ; His dignity of His Divine Person.

Having executed the sentence, the executioners unbound the Lord from the column. With cursing; they had commanded Him immediately to put on His garment. But while they had whipped Jesus, one of them had hidden His clothes out of sight. The executioner did this for his own amusement and sport. However, one of the holy Angels brought the tunic within reach of Jesus. Although the Lord's executioners didn't understand the miracle, they attributed it to magic of the demon.

The morning of our Lord's flogging was very cold. Jesus suffered greatly from the cold of the morning. The coldness caused His Blood to compress upon His wounds, and this added to His pain. The cold also diminished His powers of natural resistance, although the fire of His love desired to suffer more and more. The Gospel of John mentions the cold from the night before.

Jn 18:18 **Now the slaves and the guards were standing around a charcoal fire that they had made, *because it was cold*, and were warming themselves. Peter was also standing there keeping warm.**

Now the Jews were men of flesh like all men, but still they were not satisfied at seeing Jesus torn and wounded by 5,115 lashes. The sight of Him lacerated didn't

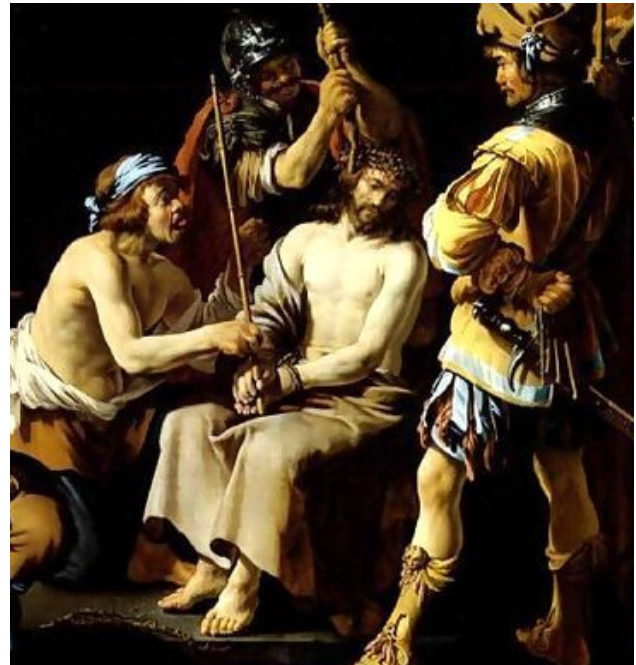
move their natural compassion, but only incited them to add new and unheard tortures upon their Victim.

Tell My people that the state of victim is to bear without defending oneself, as I did in My Passion, insults, slander, mockery, and brutality. Allow yourself to be stripped, yes, even to nakedness. You will never have all that; but accept the acts of self-stripping that come your way.

Jesus is Crowned with Thorns.

The Jews went to Pilate and said: “This deceiver of the people, Jesus of Nazareth, in His boasting and vanity, has sought to be recognized by all as the King of the Jews. We want to humble His arrogance and presumption and place upon Him a crown”. Pilate yielded to the demand of the Jews, permitting them to proceed according to their intentions. Thereupon they took Jesus, with the same cruelty and contempt; they again removed His tunic. They then clothed Him with a torn and soiled purple cloak. They also placed upon the Lord’s head a crown made of woven thorns. *This crown had many hard and sharp points that penetrated into His skull, and also penetrated His ears and His eyes.* Consequently, one of the greatest tortures suffered by Jesus was the crown of thorns. *Instead of a scepter they placed into His hands a contemptible reed.* (Reed is tall grasses with slender often prominently jointed stems that grow especially in wet areas.) Then all the soldiers, in the presence of the priests and Pharisees, gathered around Him and heaped upon

Him their blasphemous mockery. Some of them bent their knees and mockingly said to Him: “Hail, King of the Jews!” Others hit Him; others grabbed the rod from His hands and struck Him on His head. *This caused the thorns to penetrate deeper into our Lord’s head, causing greater pain.* Others ejected their spittle upon Him. During this time, Jesus opened not His mouth.



The Weeping and Bleeding Statue in Bolivia
<http://www.visionsofjesuschrist.com/weeping68.htm>

Jn 19:2 And the soldiers wove a crown out of thorns and placed it on His head, and clothed Him in a **purple** cloak,
 19:3 and they came to Him and said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him repeatedly.

Mk 15:16 The soldiers led Him away inside the palace, that is, the praetorium, and assembled the whole cohort.

15:17 They clothed Him in **purple** and, weaving a crown of thorns, placed it on Him.

15:18 They began to salute Him with, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

15:19 and kept striking His head with a reed and spitting upon Him. They knelt before Him in homage.

Mt 27:27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium, and they gathered the whole battalion before Him.

27:28 And they stripped Him and put a **scarlet** robe upon Him,

27:29 and plaiting a crown of thorns they put it on His head, and put a reed in His right hand. And kneeling before Him they mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

27:30 And they spat upon Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head.

27:31 And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe, and put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

Brothers, the soldiers clothed Jesus in a purple cloak and a scarlet cloak. It's likely that the soldiers took one color cloak and replaced it with the other. The color purple denotes royalty and the color scarlet represents obedience. A

color like scarlet can have two meanings. A person's sins can be called scarlet (1:18), but the opposite of sin and disobedience can be love and obedience. Jesus wearing scarlet symbolizes Jesus' obedience to the Father's will to taste death. Heb (2:9)

Jb 12:4 I have become the sport of My neighbors: “The one whom God answers when He calls upon Him, The just, the perfect man,” is a laughing-stock;

Jb 30:9 Yet now they sing of Me in mockery; I am become a joke among them.

30:10 They abhor Me, they stand aloof from Me, they do not hesitate to spit in My face!

30:11 Indeed, they have loosed their bonds; they lord it over Me, and have thrown off restraint in My presence.

Ps 38:14 But I am like the deaf, hearing nothing, like the dumb, saying nothing,

38:15 I am become like a Man who neither hears nor has in His mouth a retort.

Ps 69:8 For your sake I bear insult, shame covers My face.

69:9 I have become an outcast to My brothers, a stranger to My Mother's children.

69:10 Because zeal for your house consumes Me, and the insults of those who blasphemy You fall upon Me.

Thorns.

The thorns on His head that cost Jesus so much pain represents far more than the physical pain.

Lk 8:14 And as for (the seed that) fell among the **thorns**, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, **and their fruit does not mature.**

- 1) "The seed" represents the word of God.
- 2) **"Thorns"** represent the cares and riches and pleasures of life. "They are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, **and their fruit does not mature.**" Jesus is very aware that the elect allowed the cares and riches and pleasures control their lives and thus produced no mature fruit. In other words, **the limited good actions of the elect do not have the ability to feed anyone!** Their lives can't be used as examples of love because their actions fell far short of being a disciple of Jesus.



The elect used their spiritual ears to hear, but the word of God was choked by their worldly lives. **The elect are guilty of omission.** They failed to properly use

God's words and produce fruit. And the reason why Jesus considers this so painful is because the elect are responsible for those that chose death and damned themselves.

The elect who failed to produce 30, 60 or 100 fold are far from being disciples of Jesus. Wow, millions consider themselves disciples of Jesus, but they are actually thorns. Who has ears to hear this warning?

Thus the thorns on Jesus head represent the elect's failure to use the Word of God and produce virtuous actions. The damned were not saved because the elect failed to lead them to virtue. This knowledge that the damned were not saved because the thorns of the world choked the lives of the elect, caused great pain to the mind of Jesus.

Questions

- 1) Pilate was unwilling to condemn Jesus to death. Pilate thought if he _____ Jesus this would satisfy the envy of the Jews.
- 2) Two soldiers at a time scourged Jesus. How many pairs of two soldiers scourged Jesus?
- 3) The scourging of Jesus is to remind us how Jesus experienced the total sum of all cruelty men have done to each _____.
- 4) Jesus Mother Mary witnessed the scourging and also experiencing the _____.

- 5) One of the soldiers for his own amusement and sport _____ the clothes of Jesus.
- 6) The Jews believe Jesus was boasting and was vain in calling Himself king and thus in their cruelty wanted to humble Him. They got permission from Pilate to make a _____ from _____.
- 7) Jesus' crown had many hard and sharp points that penetrated into His skull, and penetrated His _____ and His _____.
- 7) Jesus' torturers used the reed that they placed into His hand and struck Jesus on His _____.
- 8) The soldiers clothed Jesus in two cloaks. What were the colors of the cloaks?
- 9) The soldiers made fun of Jesus by repeating over and over again, "Hail, _____."
- 10) What color represents obedience?
- 11) In a parable used by Jesus, the thorns choked the seeds. Jesus says these thorns symbolize how people's anxieties and _____ and pleasures of life cause their fruit not to mature.
- 12) Their fruit did not mature because of the thorns, thus these people and their lives can't be used as examples of _____.
- 13) The thorns on Jesus head represent the elect's failure to use the Word of God and produce _____.