

## **They Will Look On Me Whom They Pierced**

Psalm 22:16: 'Like a pack of wolves they have surrounded Me; a company of evildoers has encircled Me; like lions they pierced My hands and My feet'.

Zechariah 12:10: 'I will pour out upon the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of Grace and of supplication. They shall look to Me Whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and will grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for his firstborn'.

John 19:34 & 37: 'One of the (Roman) soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out' ... 'Another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him Whom they have pierced'."

John 20:25 & 27: Thomas said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the marks made by the nails and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe (He has risen)" ... Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach out your finger here, and see My hands; and put out your hand and place it in My side. Have faith and believe!"

Revelation 1:7: 'Behold, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, including those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so ... Amen'.

When we study the above scriptures in sequence, we can form a mental 'picture' of what is to come. When we read that the people who pierced Jesus will look at Him, we can see the Bible is talking about the Gentile Romans, not the Jews. No Jewish person speared Jesus. Jesus our Messiah came to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. He was opposed by some religious Jews who called for Jesus to be crucified because they were jealous of Him, however, apart from wanting Jesus dead and out of their way, the Jews played no further role in the torture and death of Jesus. It was the Gentile Romans soldiers who took the action against Jesus way too far, surrounding Him like a pack of wolves, torturing Him for hours before piercing His hands, feet and side.

The Roman soldiers were the ones who whipped Him, taunted Him, mocked Him, forced Him to carry His cross, stole His clothing, the Romans nailed Him to the cross and it was a Roman soldier who stabbed Him with the spear that caused the gash large enough to fit a man's hand. It was the death and resurrection of Jesus that ushered in this time of history called the Age or Spirit of Grace mentioned in Zechariah 12:10. The Spirit of Grace started in Jerusalem when the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place. 'When the day of Pentecost had come, they were together in full agreement, in one place, when suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a stormy wind, and it filled the house in which they were sitting. Flames like tongues of fire settled on each one of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave the language. There were then residing in Jerusalem, Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven' (Acts 2:1 to 5).

When Jesus was resurrected, He was seen by hundreds of people, including the Roman soldiers who had murdered Him and stabbed or pierced Him. 'When the (Roman) centurion and those who were with him keeping watch over Jesus saw the earthquake and all that was happening, they were terribly frightened and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"' (Matthew 27:54). So we see, those who pierced Him looked on Him, and John 19:34 & 37 said that was the fulfilment of Zechariah's prophecy. However, there is the other similar prophecy recorded in Revelation 1:7 that will be fulfilled at His second coming.

When the Gentile soldiers pierced Jesus, all humanity pierced Him because He was pierced for our transgressions and all humanity has transgressed, and all humanity will one day look on Him. Jesus suffered many tortures and each of those tortures was for a specific purpose. God the Father put on Jesus the guilt and iniquity of all humanity. He was rejected so we could be accepted. He bore our sickness and sorrows with His pain of suffering. He was pierced for our transgressions. He was bruised for our guilt, iniquities and sins. He was punished for our peace. He was whipped with strips of leather that had pieces of bone attached causing terrible wounds so we could be healed. It was the will of God to bruise Jesus, to make Him suffer and be acquainted with disease and sickness, but after it all, Jesus would see His spiritual children; He would see the spiritual fruit of His intense suffering and be satisfied. Through His suffering He will justify many and make many righteous. He bore the consequences of our sin. Jesus poured out His life for the sin of all humanity and makes intercession for us (Isaiah 53:1 to 12).

That brings us to ask why people who know Jesus as the Firstborn Son, will mourn. The exceedingly wicked Babylonian cult was very active in Rome and the surrounding areas during the time of Jesus, but the Jews were not involved with it. According to the scriptures, the Jews had at one time, actively participated in the Babylonian cult, but when the Babylonians took the Jews by force to Babylon, the Jews did away with all their idolatry forever. It is ironic, that what was a time of spiritual cleansing for the Jewish people bringing about their devotion and obedience to God, was at the same time, a time of spiritual darkening for the Gentiles. It was the Gentiles who kept the Babylonian cult alive, and it is the Gentiles who still accept the influence of the cult in our day. When the early church began to accept deceptions within its doctrine, many of the Babylonian heresies were incorporated into the church and masked as Christian themes, and are still active in various religions today and tragically, the people who are deceived by the cult, do not realise they are being deceived.

Common sense tells us it is not the actual present day city of Babylon that the Lord is talking about. It is the evil cult that began in Babylon and spread from there all around the world after the tower of Babel. Some of those beliefs taken directly from the Babylonian cult are the veneration of the so-called 'queen of heaven', the Madonna and child; the goddess of fertility and her offspring, a form of idolatry that brings severe judgement from God (Jeremiah 7:18). Other errors that originated from the Babylonian cult and incorporated into various religions is forbidding people to marry, celibacy and abstaining from eating meat for religious reasons, which is a doctrine of demons (1 Timothy 4:1 to 7). Pagan temples, incense, fragrant oil lamps, vote of offerings, holy water, seasons of devotions, public processions, blessings of fields, blessing of the surf, lent, 'priestly' garments, the tonsure (shaving the heads) of priests, monks and nuns, rosary beads, images, icons, idols of all descriptions, lent, prayers for the dead, worship of the dead and ancestor worship, the sign of the cross, some aspects of Easter and Christmas, hot cross buns (once offered to idols), Easter bunnies and Easter eggs (representing the goddess of fertility), Yule trees, New Year's day, veneration of angels, stigmata, some aspects of funeral rituals, Halloween, the office of papacy, and many more not listed here. None of these incorrect doctrines or beliefs has anything to do with salvation or the Gospel message and all originated from the devilish ancient Babylonian cult, so we can see that the cult has permeated and corrupted all areas of human life for centuries. The Bible says the yeast representing sin, will defile the whole lot. 'Do you not know that a little leaven will ferment the whole lump? Purge the old leaven so that you may be undefiled, for Jesus our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed' (1 Corinthians 5:6 & 7). The cult from Babylon was exceedingly wicked, practiced by people who had deliberately turned their backs on God, and encouraged by the devil that deceives the whole earth and all nations (Revelation 12:9; 20:2).

The modern church needs to understand the massive, worldwide impact that the Babylonian cult has had on the whole earth from the time it began thousands of years ago right up to the present day, and purge it out of our society. It is a tragic fact that millions of people who embrace the Babylonian teachings as a way to salvation will be devastated when they learn they had been living their whole lives in complete deception and error. Much of that error was spread by the Roman church, but not all of it. For example the Hindus had 'prayer beads' long before the Catholics and Moslems did, but it is still erroneous and non-scriptural. Buddhists and some Moslem sects have 'prayer wheels' and they think by turning those wheels God will hear them. Prayer beads and prayer wheels cannot usher anyone into the Kingdom of God, nor does God listen to such empty repetitive prayers. 'When you pray, do not heap up phrases, repeating the same ones over and over as the Gentiles do, for they think they will be heard for their much speaking' (Matthew 6:7) ... so the people who practice their prayers using beads and wheels are in error – they have been deceived by the devil, and it is the people who are religious leaders that have led millions astray (Matthew 24:11; 24:24; Mark 13:22). Jesus said that even some of His own people would be led astray and that is evident by the high numbers of spiritually dead 'Christian' religions around the world.

When we link the Babylonian cult with the Gentile Romans who pierced Jesus, the Roman church that not only embraced the Babylonian cult but actively defended it by murdering those who tried to oppose it, then we see the millions of people who still believe the things taught in the various unholy and Godless religions, many of which are dead 'Christian' religions that are filled with congregations who believe they are on the right track, we can easily see that when these people see Jesus at His second coming and the resurrection of the righteous, they will mourn and grieve because it will only be at the resurrection that they will realise they were deceived and will be going to a lost eternity. That is why they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and will grieve bitterly for Him as one experiences deep grief for a lost child. They will grieve because they will realise they could have spent eternity with God's beautiful Son, if only they had obeyed the Father, but instead, they will spend eternity separated from Him, and their regret and hopelessness will be felt as a sense of horror. Their grief will be as though they had been disowned by their own precious Son. That is when Revelation 1:7 really comes alive: 'Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see

Him, including those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him.' People will suddenly realise they are lost; they have refused to hear the true Gospel of the Kingdom of God, they have rejected the truth of the Bible for the lies of the devil, and sadly much of their religious beliefs are tied in with Babylon. Religious people and non-believers alike will cry out to the Firstborn Son, but Jesus will say, "I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who act wickedly" (Matthew 7:23) ... "Begone from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!" ... Then they will go away into eternal punishment, but those who are righteous into eternal life' (Matthew 25:41 & 46).

The Lord is going to utterly destroy the influence and effects of the Babylonian cult that has deceived billions of people throughout the ages and has kept people out of heaven. The Bible says all nations have had some degree of influence by that cult, and it is the 'mother' or beginning of all idolatry and prostitution. People will be terrified when they see the wrath of God deal with the Babylonian influence. The Bible makes it clear that the influence of the Babylonian cult is where loathsome evil spirits dwell. We can see by what the Bible says, that the Babylonian belief system is evil and is controlled by the devil, and we can see what will happen to it in the end. 'Another angel, a second, followed declaring, "Fallen is Babylon the great! She who made all nations drink of the wine of her (sexual) immorality" (Revelation 14:8) ... 'The great city (Rome) was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drink the cup of His furious wrath' (Revelation 16:19) ... 'On her forehead there was a name written: "Babylon the great, the mother of prostitution, idolatry and of the abominations of the earth"' (Revelation 17:5) ... 'The angel shouted with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen! Babylon the great is fallen! She has become a place for demons, a dungeon of every loathsome spirit, an abode for every filthy and detestable bird (evil spirit)" (Revelation 18:2) ... 'The rulers of the earth who committed sexual immorality, will weep and wail when they see the smoke of her burning. They will stand a long way off in terror of her torment, crying, "Woe, alas, the great city Babylon; the strong city! In one hour your judgment has come and you are doomed!" (Revelation 18:10) ... 'A mighty angel took up a boulder like a great millstone and flung it into the sea, crying, "With great violence will Babylon the great city be hurled down (to the lake of fire) and will never again be found" (Revelation 18:21).

The early church became strongly influenced by the Babylonian cult and was fervently instructed to come back out of it. The cult is utterly evil; the genuine church was holy. There can be no fellowship between the two. The holy people cannot bring the cult followers upwards into right living. On the contrary; the cult dragged the whole Christian church into a downward spiral until there was very little left of the Lord in any church for nearly 2,000 years. During last century, revival brought about change and genuine believers began echoing what the scriptures tell us. 'Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship have righteousness with iniquity? How can light have fellowship with darkness? What harmony can there be between Jesus and Belial, that is the devil? What has a believer in common with an unbeliever? What agreement can there be between a temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell among them and will walk with them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. "Therefore, come out from among them, and separate yourselves from them", says the Lord, "and touch no unclean thing; then I will receive you; and I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty. Therefore, since these promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that defiles body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord' (2 Corinthians 6:14 to 2 Corinthians 7:1).

If we want to avoid being one of the people who will look on Jesus Who was pierced and mourn for Him, then we must do away with all things connected with the Babylonian cult and repent. We can then look to Him Who was pierced and rejoice because He was pierced for our transgressions. He took our judgement so we can go free. After the Babylonian cult, its influences and its followers are judged, the people who embrace the Bible – the Word of God, those who are washed in the Blood of the Lamb, those who walk closely with the Lord and are looking to the Kingdom of God, who are obedient to the Lord's commands and have made themselves ready for Jesus' second coming, will be declared righteous by God the Father. After that the righteous Bride will be taken to the Lamb's supper, the marriage feast. He will be our God and we will be His people. 'Let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad, and give Him glory and honour, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready ... Then I heard a mighty voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with people. He will dwell with them and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God (Revelation 19:7; 21:3).

Amen and God bless you.

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