

JOURNEY WITH THE RABBI

THE CRUCIFIXION: Part 4

Messiah's Wounds & Their Spiritual Meaning

Session 4 · Study Handout

SECTION 1

HIS HANDS — WHY WERE THEY PIERCED?

I. HANDS & THE FALL

Hands are associated with redemption.

יָד (yad) = Hand = 14

David — יָדָוּד = 14

II. PSALM 22:17

“They pierced my hands and my feet”

הִקְיִפוּנִי כְרוּ יְדֵי רַגְלִי

“Like a lion, they are at my hands”

הִקְיִפוּנִי כְאֵרִי יְדֵי וְרַגְלִי

כִּי סָבְבוּנִי, כְּלָבִים: עֹדֵת מְרַעִים, הִקְיִפוּנִי; כְּאֵרִי[כְרוּ], יְדֵי וְרַגְלִי

III. TWO HANDS = 28 — HANDS OUTSTRETCHED = CROSS

תַּו

The **TAV** = 28 ordinal Hebrew letter.

A cross-shaped mark, either like a “+” or an “X”.

KEY INSIGHT

Hands represent actions.

NOTES

SECTION 2

HIS FEET — WHY WERE THEY PIERCED?

I. PSALM 22:17

“They pierced my hands and my feet.”

II. GENESIS 3:15

“I will put animosity between you and the woman— between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel.”

III. ROMANS 16:20

“Now the God of shalom will soon crush satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Yeshua be with you.”

KEY INSIGHT

Feet represent calling and mission.

NOTES

SECTION 3

HIS CROWN OF THORNS — WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

“And after braiding a crown of thorns, they placed it on His head and put a staff in His right hand.”

Matthew 27:29

I. THE EDEN CONNECTION — GENESIS 3:17-19

“Then to the man He said, ‘Because you listened to your wife’s voice and ate of the tree which I commanded you, saying, “You must not eat of it”:

Cursed is the ground because of you— with pain will you eat of it all the days of your life.

Thorns and thistles will sprout for you. You will eat the plants of the field.

By the sweat of your brow will you eat food, until you return to the ground, since from it were you taken.

For you are dust, and to dust will you return.’”

By wearing a crown of thorns at His crucifixion, Yeshua as the Second Adam was taking upon Himself the curse of creation, to undo it for the purpose of restoring the blessing.

NOTES

SECTION 4

THORNS AND THISTLES SPROUTING — WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

I. GENESIS 3:18

וקוץ ודַרְדַר תִּצְמִיחַ לָךְ

“Thorns and thistles it shall cause to sprout for you”

קוץ (*qots*) = thorn · דַרְדַר (*dardar*) = thistle

This is the first time creation pushes back against man.

Internal disorder → external resistance

Sin within → thorns without

The earth becomes a mirror of the human heart.

II. “SPROUT” = TATZMIACH = TZEMACH (BRANCH)

The word “sprout” in Hebrew is *tatzmiach*, which is the verb form of **Tzemach (Branch)**, one of the key names of the Messiah in Scripture and Jewish thought.

וְהִקְמַתִּי לְדָוִד צֶמַח צְדִיק

“I will raise up for David a righteous Branch”

Jeremiah 23:5

הִנְנִי מְבִיא אֶת עֲבָדֵי צֶמַח

“I am bringing My servant, the Branch”

Zechariah 3:8

הִנֵּה אִישׁ צֶמַח שְׂמוֹ וּמִתַּחְתָּיו יִצְמַח

“Behold, a man — Branch is His name — and from beneath Him He shall sprout”

Zechariah 6:12

III. MIDRASH MISHLE — THE SEVEN NAMES OF MESSIAH

Rav Huna said:

“The Messiah is called by seven names and they are **Yinnon**, **Tzidqenu** (‘Our Righteousness’), **Tzemach** (‘Branch’), **Menahe**m (‘Comforter’), **David**, **Shiloh**, and **Elijah**.”

Mid. Mishle

IV. SPROUTING, TZEMACH, & THE PRAYER FOR MESSIAH’S COMING

את צמח דוד עבדך מהרה תצמיח

“At the Branch of David Your servant, quickly cause to sprout”

tatzmiach again

NOTES

SECTION 5

THE REVERSAL PATTERN

I. FROM GROUND TO HEAD

The curse began in the soil. Now it rests on the King.

He is crowned with the consequences of sin.

II. FROM ADAM TO MESSIAH

First Adam: Brings thorns into the world.

Last Adam: Takes thorns onto Himself.

The tree that brought the curse is answered by the tree that bears the curse.

Thorns represent, in part, the physical aspect of the curse. Being placed on His head represents the redeeming and renewing of the mind.

III. PROPHETIC ECHO — REVERSAL OF THORNS

“Instead of the thorn bush, the cypress will come up...”

Isaiah 55:13

This is Eden restored.

Thorns → trees

Curse → blessing

Resistance → fruitfulness

THE QUESTION BECOMES

Where am I encountering thorns? Is it external, or is it revealing something internal? Because Genesis is telling you: the ground fights you when the heart is misaligned.

NOTES

SECTION 6

CRUCIFIXION IN THE ROMAN WORLD

I. SHAME & HONOR CULTURE

Crucifixion was designed to:

- Humiliate
- Publicly shame
- Dehumanize
- Display Roman dominance
- Crush rebellion psychologically

II. WHO WAS CRUCIFIED?

Generally:

- Slaves
- Rebels
- Insurrectionists
- Violent criminals
- Enemies of the state
- The lowest social classes
- Non-Romans

III. FROM A JEWISH PERSPECTIVE

“He who is hanged is accursed of God.”

Deuteronomy 21:23

IV. THE SCANDAL OF THE CROSS

“We proclaim Messiah crucified, a stumbling block to Jewish people and foolishness to Gentiles.”

1 Corinthians 1:23

NOTES

SECTION 7

CRUCIFIXION ON A PSYCHOLOGICAL LEVEL

Crucifixion destroyed the victim’s identity.

- Cultivated helplessness and hopelessness
- Created social devastation and destruction

Shame cultures attack identity.

The goal was not only physical death. It was internal emotional collapse.

People today are still living under “cross psychology” without realizing it.

People fear:

- Public humiliation
- Failure
- Rejection
- Cancellation
- Weakness
- Not being enough

Modern culture still crucifies people socially.

Social media often functions like miniature Roman coliseums and crucifixions:

- Public shaming
- Mockery
- Group outrage
- Identity destruction

KEY INSIGHT

The mechanisms changed. Human nature did not.

NOTES

SECTION 8

GUILT, CONDEMNATION, AND SHAME

I. GUILT

Guilt is fundamentally connected to actual moral responsibility.

| *“I did wrong.”*

II. CONDEMNATION

Condemnation is the state or sentence resulting from unresolved guilt.

Guilt says:

| *“I did wrong.”*

Condemnation says:

“I stand judged and separated because of wrong.”

Condemnation becomes spiritually destructive when a person believes:

“I can no longer return.”

That mindset opposes covenant mercy.

Unholy condemnation says:

“I am beyond repair.”

And shame often adds:

“I AM wrong.”

III. THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL

THE PATTERN

Sin → guilt → condemnation → shame → isolation

NOTES

SECTION 9

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE NEW COVENANT / BRIT HADASHA — THE ANTIDOTE

In Eden, humanity experienced four wounds:

- Sin
- Guilt
- Condemnation
- Shame

Sin broke covenant trust with God. Guilt awakened awareness of transgression, as well as a sense of rupture, distance, and disconnect in our relationship with the Lord. Condemnation declared separation. Shame made humanity hide.

The cross answers all four.

1. SIN SAYS: “YOU REBELLED.”

The Cross Says: “Reconciliation is possible.”

“God was in Messiah reconciling the world to Himself.”

2 Corinthians 5:19

2. GUILT SAYS: “YOU OWE A DEBT.”

The Cross Says: “Your debt has been paid in full. It is finished.”

“It is finished.”

John 19:30

τετέλεσται — Tetelestai

This was an accounting and commercial term that could mean:

- Paid in full
- Completed

“He canceled the record of debt against us with its regulations. This He took away by nailing it to the cross.”

Colossians 2:14

“You were bought with a price.”

1 Corinthians 6:20

“There is cleansing.”

“The blood of Messiah purifies our conscience.”

Hebrews 9:14

3. CONDEMNATION SAYS: “YOU ARE REJECTED AND SEPARATED.”

The Cross Says: “There is now no condemnation for those in Messiah Yeshua.”

Romans 8:1

4. SHAME SAYS: “HIDE YOURSELF. COVER YOURSELF.”

The Cross Says: “You can come near uncovered and still be loved.”

“He endured the cross, despising the shame.”

Hebrews 12:2

“In Him we have boldness and confident access through faith.”

Ephesians 3:12

“We have confidence to enter the Holiest Place by the blood of Yeshua... let us draw near with a true heart...”

NOTES

SECTION 10

NO LONGER NAKED BUT CLOTHED IN MESSIAH

“For all of you who were immersed into Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah.”

Galatians 3:27

“With respect to your former lifestyle, you are to lay aside the old self corrupted by its deceitful desires, be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self — created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

Ephesians 4:22–24

Revelation 3:18 — To Laodicea

“I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich, and white clothes so that you may dress yourself and so the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed, and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.”

NOTES

SECTION 11

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. WHERE ARE YOU STILL HIDING?

Adam and Eve hid after the fall because shame distorted their identity and their view of God.

“They hid themselves from the presence of Adonai God among the trees of the garden... ‘I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid myself.’”

Genesis 3:8–10

Where in your life are you still spiritually hiding?

- Behind performance?
- Behind success?
- Behind ministry?
- Behind humor?
- Behind control?
- Behind isolation?

“Adonai, You searched me and know me.”

Psalm 139:1–2

“No creature is hidden from Him, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

Hebrews 4:13

What would it look like to let God fully see you and still believe you are loved?

“Nothing will separate us from the love of God that is in Messiah Yeshua our Lord.”

Romans 8:38–39

NOTES

2. WHAT “THORN” KEEPS APPEARING IN YOUR LIFE?

Genesis teaches that internal disorder eventually creates external resistance.

“Cursed is the ground because of you... thorns and thistles will sprout for you.”

Genesis 3:17–18

What recurring “thorn” in your life may actually be revealing something deeper in your heart?

- Fear?
- Pride?
- Anger?
- Bitterness?
- Insecurity?
- Unhealed pain?
- Distrust?

“The heart is deceitful above all things and incurable—who can know it?”

Jeremiah 17:9

“And after braiding a crown of thorns, they placed it on His head.”

Matthew 27:29

Is the struggle only external, or is God trying to heal something internal?

“Instead of the thorn bush, the cypress will come up...”

Isaiah 55:13

NOTES

3. WHICH VOICE SPEAKS LOUDER: CONVICTION OR CONDEMNATION?

The Holy Spirit convicts in order to restore. Condemnation accuses in order to separate.

“There is now no condemnation for those in Messiah Yeshua.”

Romans 8:1

“When He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.”

John 16:8

When you fail, what is your internal response?

- “I need to return to God”? Or
- “I am beyond repair”?

“Because of the mercies of Adonai we will not be consumed... great is Your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22–23

“Return to Adonai your God, for He is gracious and compassionate.”

Joel 2:13

How has condemnation shaped your relationship with God, yourself, or other people?

“Let us draw near with boldness to the throne of grace.”

Hebrews 4:16

NOTES

4. WHAT PART OF YOUR IDENTITY STILL NEEDS TO COME DOWN FROM THE CROSS?

Roman crucifixion was designed to publicly destroy identity through shame and humiliation.

“He endured the cross, despising the shame.”

Hebrews 12:2

What false identity have you allowed pain, rejection, failure, trauma, or people’s words to nail onto you?

- Not enough
- Unwanted
- Unworthy
- Too broken
- Forgotten
- Unlovable
- Failure

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name—you are Mine.”

Isaiah 43:1

“For all of you who were immersed into Messiah have clothed yourselves with Messiah.”

Galatians 3:27

“If anyone is in Messiah, he is a new creation.”

2 Corinthians 5:17

What would change if you truly believed Messiah carried not only your sin, but also your shame?

“We have confidence to enter the Holiest Place by the blood of Yeshua... let us draw near with a true heart.”

Hebrews 10:19–22

NOTES

CLOSING WORD

The tree that brought the curse is answered by the tree that bears the curse.