

Grace and Peace to all the saints at Bible Fellowship Center.

After reading Psalm 22, written 1000 years before crucifixion was even invented by the Romans, depicting the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary, and Isaiah 53, written well over 700 years before Christ death, I'm sure I'm not the only one overwhelmed at the graphic picture portrayed of the price that was paid for the forgiveness of our sin. Jesus not only cries out from the cross, My God, My God, that God has forsaken Him because our sin had been laid upon Him, but He laments that men despise Him. Psalm 22 verse 6 gives this epitaph. But I am a worm, and no man. A reproach of men, despised by the people. Jesus was beaten so badly, He did not even have the appearance of a man. All those who see Me, ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him! **Jesus was so despised** by the Jewish rulers that He felt like a worm. A worm has no dignity and finds himself food for both the birds of the sky and the fish of the sea.

But there is more than you might think when Jesus refers to Himself as a worm. **The Hebrew word for worm is Tolath**, and it is translated Crimson in Isaiah 1:18. Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord, though your sins are like Scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like **crimson, tolath**, they shall be as wool. Exodus 25:4 helps us to understand what is being implied as that passage uses that Hebrew word for Scarlet and the reference there is to cloth that is being dyed blue, purple and scarlet. In the ancient world, there was a scarlet worm that when squeezed to death let out a Scarlet dye that was used to stain cloth. This worm was important only when it would be killed and the dye pressed out. It had a short lifespan anyway, and before it would have its baby worms, it would fasten itself to a tree, and then have its children. **After that**, it would die still fastened to a tree. The scarlet dye would then flow out of the worm on its own, and it would stain the tree a dark red. Do you see how David prophesied that Jesus would have the appearance of a scarlet worm fastened to a tree. Notice though, that worm's death is linked to new life coming from the worm's body. What an incredible picture of Jesus Christ and His blood stained cross, as He gives birth to all those who find new life in Him.

As you abide in Christ through this holy week, may your hearts and minds be filled with His love and goodness throughout 2026.
Happy Easter! Christ Is Risen Indeed!!!

Pastor Calvin VanderMey