

THE GOSPEL OF HEALING

A Book on Divine
Healing

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Unless stated otherwise, all scriptures are sourced from the King James Version. Printed in the United States of America.

CHAPTER ONE

THE SCOURGING

By His Stripes

He emits the first of many agonizing wails as the metal and bone fragments of the dreaded flagrum lash upon him. With the very first strike of the Roman soldier, this instrument of torture left lacerations and punctures on his back. The sight of the flagrum being jerked away by the muscular soldiers angers me. By the expression on their faces, they are thoroughly enjoying themselves. They actually look possessed by Satan. Their hideous laughs and thrust they put into every strike is abnormal. Each strike of the weighted thongs is so brutal that it tears the skin apart, leaving behind a trail of painful bruises. It is a truly horrific

sight as small pieces of flesh and blood propel through

the air. The scourging has been going on for a short time and I cannot tell when they will stop. Romans have no law like the Jews, about

the number of lashes they will give. The two soldiers are perspiring very heavy. His blood has already splattered their arms and legs. He has bloody holes in his back. No doubt they have done this many times. They seem to handle the flagrum with skill, striking Jesus exactly where they desire.

I was here waiting before they brought him in. I could see the concern on his swollen and bruised face as he saw the soldiers and the various weapons. He stood in a frozen state, waiting, as he knew what was coming next. They forcefully stripped him of his clothes, leaving only his undergarments, which exposed his vulnerable back for the impending beating. A soldier tells him to get on his knees before a wooden post. They secure his wrists with straps and his ankles behind him. It is warm and dry where we are. The walls prevent much circulation, but occasionally there is a small breeze. We are all drenched as the sun beams directly at us. There seems to be a stall. The soldiers and their superiors are talking. They continue to glance at Jesus as he waits. No doubt the conversation is about him. As I slipped a little closer, I overheard a tribune talking to a centurion nearby. He said, “Be sure not to kill him, because the Jews want to see him hang on a cross”.

Jesus lay defeated on the dusty ground, the rough texture scratching his cheek as the sounds of their cruel entertainment mocked his suffering. I was counting the lashes, but I became distracted at about twenty and lost count. Blood is everywhere at this point. There were several women watching in the beginning, but they left after he let out a long wail. A shuddering sob wracked one of them as they wept, their body shaking with overwhelming terror. *His visage is so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:* Though I have witnessed floggings before, this one is different.

The Romans continue to laugh and swear. One of the two performing the flogging seems overwhelmed by the heat and exertion. The young woman that was so upset a while ago runs back in, screaming and swearing at the tribune and centurions. They all laugh at her as she runs back out. In his slumped state, they continue the beating. With full force, they alternately strike him up and down his body. The small pieces of metal and bone continue to pull away flesh. One soldier pushes him over with his foot. His sides and chest are now exposed. I can see rib bones and veins. His body goes into jerking motions as the flogging continues. They have been careful to not

entirely open him up. That happens when they focus on a certain area, causing the organs to fall out and death follows.

The tribune walks over to Jesus, and the soldiers stop. He tells them to continue, but focus more on his legs and the front of his body. He writhes upon the ground as they shout at him to be still. His eyes are barely open. He is in shock. One soldier at a table *platted a crown of thorns*. The ruthless Romans will no doubt pound it into his scalp. Some of those Judean thorns are half the size of my foot. He will definitely feel them as they go in. The Jews will like this. I hear that they really gave him a pounding last night. His face looks it. His eyes and mouth are swollen. They have *plucked off the hair* from his face.

I think he has taken about all he can. The front of his body looks almost as bad as his back. I can see quivering ribbons of bleeding flesh, of what remains. He is not moving at all. I hope he is not dead. He looks as if he was *smitten of God and afflicted*. He will never carry a cross. The soldiers stop and stare for a few moments. The tribune calls them away. Several minutes pass as Jesus lays motionless except for his chest heaving in and out.

With his mouth open, he struggles to breathe, the air whistling through his parched throat. He is a mess. There is a lot of blood. I can smell it. The Romans are conversing as they stare at him. *They made long their furrows.* Two men come and lift him up. As he moans, his eyes open, and he stares right at me. His feet drag as they carry him out.

A Lack of Biblical Detail

The Bible provides little detail regarding scourging; however, historical texts explain Roman and Jewish practices. I wrote the previous six paragraphs using the Bible, a little imagination, and what history says about such a beating. Growing up, the pictures and paintings I saw of him hanging on a cross do not agree with how it actually happened. You will notice there are more details in the Old Testament compared to the New Testament. God knew what he was doing when he spoke his Word to men to write the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament, and the twenty-seven of the New Testament.

I will return to these passages in this writing to discuss Jesus' suffering and the promise of healing. If you believe the promises of the Bible, your faith will increase

and if appropriated while reading, you will find your body healed.

When reading the first six paragraphs, you may have noticed that I inserted several quotes from Old and New Testament writers regarding his beatings.

New Testament Scriptures

Referring to the Flogging of Christ

Matthew 20:19

And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Matthew 27:26

Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Mark 10:34

And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

Mark 15:14

And so Pilate, willing to content the people, released Barabbas unto them, and delivered Jesus, when he had scourged him, to be crucified.

Luke 18:33

And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

John 19:1

Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.

Old Testament Prophecies of the Scourging

Below, I will list Old Testament passages that refer to the scourging.

Psalm 129:3

The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows.

Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face

from shame and spitting.

Isaiah 52:14

As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

Isaiah 53:4-5

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

A Comparison of Roman and Jewish Scourging

Because there is no real detail about the scourging, does not mean there was nothing to it. Even the account of Jesus' crucifixion has little detail in the Bible. Many people use the Apostle Paul's scourgings of thirty-nine stripes by the Jews in the New Testament to say Jesus had thirty-nine stripes. The Jews had a law to not go over

forty stripes. They would typically give thirty-nine to be sure to not accidentally break Moses' law of a maximum of forty lashes. The Jewish flogging was more simple than that of the Romans. Not only did they have a maximum stripes to be imposed, but the whip used was more simple and did not include lead, metal or bone pieces attached to each of the leather straps. Let us remember, though, the Jews did not flog Jesus. The Romans did, and they had no such law. There is a lot of history regarding Biblical customs and laws. One of the famous writers, for an example, is a man by the name of Josephus. He was actually born after Jesus had resurrected. Josephus's father lived during the Lord's time and reportedly served in the temple under Caiaphas.

Paul, the apostle, received five scourgings at the hands of his countrymen. The scourging of the Romans was definitely more torturous than that of the Jews. As punishment, the Jews would use flogging on their own people. The Romans would flog a person to torture, to extract information and, in extreme cases, a means of execution. The online Jewish Virtual Library notes that a person was inspected by the Jewish community prior to being subjected to flogging, with a maximum of forty

lashes specified in Deuteronomy 25:3. Sometimes, they would postpone the flogging until another day if the flogging would endanger the offender's life. One-third of lashes on the chest and the balance on the back. Calfskin was a common material for the whip, but not exclusively. The executioners usually flogged the offender while fully clothed. There were several variations of how things were done, depending on the crime, etc.

The Roman flagrum and the cat-o'-nine-tails are often confused. The cat-o'-nine-tails, some historians claim, originated with pirates. It is considered a toy compared to the flagrum; the contrast in size, weight, and construction is stark. The Roman flagrum typically comprised three to twelve thick leather straps. Each strap had a lead ball attached to its end. The lead contained embedded metal or bone fragments. Measuring: At about three feet long, the weapon was significantly shorter than a normal whip. The soldier could more easily control where on the body he was striking. History says that there would usually be two soldiers taking turns. In certain instances, parts of the ribcage were exposed before the beating finished. Understand here that the strike of one flagrum may have

equaled twelve lashes. Each strike by the skilled and very strong Roman soldier included the leather thongs, the lead balls, and bone or metal. The bone and metal would latch onto the flesh, causing excruciating pain when forcibly removed, taking bits of skin and muscle with them.

The flogging was not just a physical assault on the person's back, but the soldier would go up and down the body, from lower legs to the shoulders. Sometimes, even the front of the body was subjected to such intense scourging that the skin was flayed and torn. Death would be swift if the soldier concentrated on one spot. Killing the criminal wasn't the goal, though it occurred occasionally.

Consider a scourge made of three lashes times 39 would equal 117 lashes. If the scourge consisted of 12 thongs with 39 lashes each, this would equal 468 lashes of leather, lead, metal, or bone, inflicted by two men from two different directions. So the great probability that Jesus was not only scourged on his back, arms and ribs but also on the legs and most likely on the front of his body (his visage was so marred more than any man **Isaiah 52:14**). I used here an example of 39 stripes, but

remember, the Romans did not limit the lashes. Jesus may have had many over forty.

Let us compare **Isaiah 52:14** with different versions of the Bible. Understand that “**his visage**” is possibly referring to his face and “**his form**” refers to his body.

Isaiah 52:14

As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

KJV

Isaiah 52:14

As many were astonished at you, his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind.

ESV

Isaiah 52:14

just as many were appalled at You. His appearance was disfigured beyond that of any man, and His form was marred beyond human likeness.

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Isaiah 52:14

But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.

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Isaiah 52:14

Many will be shocked by him. His appearance will be so disfigured that he won't look like any other man. His looks will be so disfigured that he will hardly look like a human.

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Considering the Bible's account of his ordeal, let's examine the medical perspective.

Each of the marks of a Roman scourge is equal to a 3rd degree burn. Each mark left from the flagrum, possibly hundreds, would leave, lashes, bruises, bleeding and burn marks. To get an idea of pain from these this type of burn marks, consider a child that falls off his bicycle and has scrapes and bruises, or consider a person who has a wreck on his motorcycle that leaves many scrapes,

bruising, and abrasions from his rolling and skidding across pavement. A hospital stay of days or weeks could be necessary for him.

Because of the brutality of the Roman scourging, Jesus could not carry his cross to Golgotha, which was only a half a mile away. Most of those crucified died a slow death hanging on the cross for days. Jesus died after only six hours. He bled to death. He lost so much blood at the flogging, he no doubt was already in hypovolemic shock. If so, this would have caused his blood pressure to be seriously unregulated and his heart would struggle to pump blood. Oxygen levels would drop, including a rapid heart rate, breathing difficulty, dizziness when standing, dry skin and mouth, fatigue or weakness, muscle cramps and multiple organs would struggle to work or stop all together. From a summary of online AI information.

The church historian Eusebius of Caesarea recounts with vivid, horrible detail a scene of scourging. He says, “For they say that the bystanders were struck with amazement when they saw them lacerated with scourges even to the innermost veins and arteries, so that the hidden inward parts of the body, both their bowels and their members, were exposed to view” (Ecclesiastical History, Book 4, chap. 15).

The historian Josephus stated that the Romans called the scourging the “intermediate death.”

Roman historians Josephus, Eusebius, Cicero, Seutonius wrote, “The strokes were laid on with full force, and when the executioners tired, the officers shouted: *Adde virgas!* (Livy 26, 16), or: *Firme!* (Suetonius, Caligula 26), demanding more force. The effect was horrible. The skin and the flesh of the back were gashed to the very bone, and where the armed ends of the lashes struck, deep, bloody holes were torn.

In Smyrna, just before Polycarp’s martyrdom, a number of other martyrs were scourged until, as Eusebius 4, 15 reports, the deepest veins and the arteries were exposed, and even the inner organs of the body were seen.

He took on himself our sin through the cross and our sickness by his stripes. When Jesus cried, “**it is finished**” in **John 19:30**, it culminated every single work, suffering, prophecy, declaration and promise. Yes, It is finished. Your healing is completed. The work is finished. When you agree in total faith, any sickness or disease must submit to the two covenants of the Bible. The two covenants are the New and Old Testaments. There is nothing else you or I can do but believe. God requires

nothing else from you. Faith in the Word of God and what he completed will provide a miracle or a recovery of healing to you.

On the cross, he hung only six hours (**Mark 15:25, Matthew 27:45, 50**), as the Bible reveals to us. I say “only” because those that were not scourged beforehand would have hung there alive for five to seven days before death. It was the scourging that prepared his quick death. When God spoke **Isaiah 53:5**, “***and with his stripes we are healed***,” hundreds of years prior, there was a definite and powerful reason. The crucifixion was the ultimate capitol punishment of the day. Should the Romans have decreed flogging until death, then his demise would be inevitable. With Jesus, we know it was not for his death but for his suffering. It was the just suffering for the unjust. It was he who was not sick that received stripes for our healing. By his stripes he suffered, felt pain and agony so that you would not have to. You are healed by his stripes. Jesus was your replacement at the beating post. The scourging is a second class act to most of Christianity. They misunderstand it and do not see its importance today. It truly was the most torturous act to be imposed upon a person. The wounds left upon the victim (if he survived)

would leave a lifetime of scars, both physically and mentally.

1 Corinthians 11:24

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

This powerful verse of scripture refers to the holy time (communion) when we take the bread and fruit of the vine in his remembrance. He wants us to remember his “**broken**” body. Not just the suffering itself. The evil flagrum shredded his body before the crucifixion. He was unrecognizable. “***his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: Isaiah 52:14.*** The very face of Jesus was unrecognizable. His body no doubt looked like raw meat. We do not know all the details of what happened before the chastisement of the Jewish leaders and then the Romans. The Bible mentions him being buffeted, which means to beat repeatedly with the fist. It also says that he was slapped (smote with the palms of their hands) no doubt in the face. Even the lowly servants got involved with the hatred and abuse. Do not forget the plucking of his beard. How painful was this? What marks

did it leave on his face? Think about it, the scripture says
“his visage was so marred more than any man...”

Isaiah 52:14.

Vine's Expository Dictionary connotes “visage” as seeing with one's eyes: So to see Jesus and what he looked like after the flogging and crucifixion was nothing to be compared. Look at the verse below. It uses the word “face” rather than “visage”. I can definitely see this. Think about it. The Jewish leaders had him in trial and they slapped him in the face, pounded him repeatedly with the fist. They spit upon him and plucked his beard. How many were involved in these beatings and how long did it last? We do not know, but ***his visage (face) was so marred more than any man,***

Isaiah 52:14.

Isaiah 52:14

But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.

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Mark 14:65

And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him, and to say unto him, Prophesy: and the servants did strike him with the palms of their hands.

Matthew 26:67

Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands,

Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

He willfully took all of this for you. You are the reason. He wants you healed. You are his bride. You are his child. Your good works could never earn healing. Healing is a mercy from the Lord. As said, he could have prayed in the garden the night before and requested legions of angels to deliver him from this hideous persecution.

Matthew 26:53

Thinkest thou that I can not now pray to my Father,

and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

Look beyond the doctors and nature. Jesus took the beating in the natural but you must accept healing in the supernatural. When your faith accepts, “**it is finished**”, it will manifest in your body. See, faith in God’s Word is in the supernatural realm. Your faith is independent of your body and five senses. Your sense realm will never agree with faith. Take hold of these facts of Jesus’ sufferings under the hands of the Jews and Romans, and know *it “is finished”* for you. He did not bail out. The death on the cross was not the only sacrifice. Repeatedly, the flagrum tore at his flesh, causing blood to splatter as it lashed his back in an attempt to bear your pain and suffering. The stripes he received placed every human disease, sickness, and pain upon him. ***Isaiah 53:5... and with his stripes we are healed. 1 Peter 2:24 “...by whose stripes ye were healed”***. I will deal with this (our sickness was placed on him) throughout the book. Since he took your sickness and carried it in your stead, you have legal and Biblical right to accept it and expect every symptom, sign or pain to go in Jesus name.

If someone that loved you paid the large medical bills

you owe, because you did not have the money, would you not accept it? You absolutely would. If that person wrote you a letter saying beforehand that he paid them, would you not believe it? The wonderful news is, Jesus paid the price for healing. He sent you a letter (his Word) stating *it “is finished”*, completely paid in full. If a stranger saw you walking across the street and pushed you to safety but an oncoming truck killed him, would you not feel grateful and overwhelmed by his sacrifice? A person who you did not know, that had no logical reason to give his life for you, did. Before you knew Jesus, he took this terrible beating from the Roman soldiers and then went to an old rugged cross to die, just for you. If you can wrap your head around this, you will be victorious. Every chapter from this point will help you do just that. Jesus said, “**only believe**” **Mark 5:36**. To *only believe* is not asking much. That may be why we struggle so much with it.

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