

*“But I am a worm, and no man;
a reproach of men,
and despised of the people.”*



Breaking News

The Incredible Crimson Tolerant Worm



Worms and Maggots

There Are Two Hebrew Words For “Worm”:

1. **H8439b Tolê’âh**, Tolâ’, or tola’ath, *a crimson worm*
2. **H7415 Rimmâh**, *a maggot*

Both words are found in Job 25:6– “How much less man, that is a **Rimmâh**? and the son of man, which is a **Tolê’âh**?”

The Tolâ’ Worm [תּוֹלַעַת Tolâ’, H8438, H8439a] and [תּוֹלַעַת־תּוֹלַעַת tolê’âh H8439b, תּוֹלַעַת tola’ath, or תּוֹלַעַת tola’ath]

I. worm, scarlet stuff, crimson

A. worm – the female 'coccus ilicis'

B. scarlet stuff, crimson, scarlet

i. the dye made from the dried body of the female worm “coccus ilicis”

II. worm, maggot

A. worm, grub

B. the worm “coccus ilicis”

Worms and Maggots

The Yeshua Tolê'âh Worm

Job 25:6 – *“How much less man, that is a rimmâh, the son of man, which is a Tolê'âh?”*

Psalms 22:6 – *“But I am a Tolê'âh, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised.”*

Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34 – Yeshua quotes from **Psalms 22** while being crucified.

The Ya'aqôb Tolê'âh Worm

Isaiah 41:14 – *“Do not fear, you Tolê'âh Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you,” declares Yahweh.*”

The Tolê'âh Worm That Will Not Die

Isaiah 66:24 – *“They shall look upon the carcasses of the men who have sinned against me: their Tolê'âh shall not die.”*

The Tolê'âh Worm That Kills Plants

Jonah 4:7 – *“The Tolê'âh attacked the bush, so that it withered.”*

Worms and Maggots

The Rimmâh Worm or Maggot [רִמָּה H7415]

I. maggot, worm (as cause and sign of decay)

A. maggot (as rapidly bred), literally or figuratively:—worm

Job 7:5 – “*My flesh is clothed with rimmâh and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.*”

Job 21:26 – “*They shall lie down alike in the dust, and the rimmâh shall cover them.*”

Job 24:20 – “*The womb shall forget him; the rimmâh shall feed sweetly on him; he shall be no more remembered; and wickedness shall be broken as a tree.*”

Job 25:6 – “*How much less man, that is a rimmâh? and the son of man, which is a tōlâ’?*”

Worms and Maggots

The Greek Skōlēx Worm or Maggot [σκώληξ G4663] and skōlēkobrōtos [G4662 σκωληκόβρωτος; from G4663]

- I. a worm, specifically that kind which preys upon dead bodies
 - A. a grub, maggot or earth-worm:—worm.

Mark 9:44 – *“Where their skōlēx dies not, and the fire is not quenched.”*

Mark 9:46 – *“Where their skōlēx dies not, and the fire is not quenched.”*

Mark 9:48 – *“Where their skōlēx dies not, and the fire is not quenched.”*

Acts 12:23 – *“Because Herod did not give the glory to God, an angel of Yahweh immediately caused him to become sick, and he was eaten by skōlēx and died.”*

The Color Scarlet

Scarlet in Hebrew

Scarlet –**Shânîy** [שָׁנִי H8144]

I. crimson:—properly the insect or its color

II. stuff dyed with it:—crimson, scarlet (thread)

Exodus 26:1, 31, 36 – *“Moreover thou shall make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and **scarlet**: with cherubim of cunning work shall thou make them. ... And thou shall make a veil of blue, and purple, and **scarlet**, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubim shall it be made: ... And thou shall make an hanging for the door of the tent, of blue, and purple, and **scarlet**, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework.”*

Exodus 27:16 – *“And for the gate of the court shall be an hanging of twenty cubits, of blue, and purple, and **scarlet**, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework: and their pillars shall be four, and their sockets four.”*

Leviticus 14:52 – *“And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird, and with the running water, and with the living bird, and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop, and with the **scarlet** string.”*

The Color Scarlet

Scarlet in Greek

Crimson – Kokkinos [κόκκινος G2847] from [κόκκος G2848]

I. crimson colored:—scarlet

Matthew 27:14 – *“They stripped Him and put a **scarlet** robe on Him.”*

Matthew 27:31 – *“After mocking him, they stripped him of the **scarlet** robe and put his own clothes on him.”*

Hebrews 9:19 – *“When Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and **scarlet** wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people.”*

Revelation 17:3-4 – *“And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a **scarlet** beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. The woman was clothed in purple and **scarlet**.”*

The Prophecy of the Messiah



Breaking News

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Psalm 22:6-8 – “*But I am a worm (Tolê’âh ^{H8439b}) and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ‘He trusts in Yahweh,’ they say, ‘Let Yahweh rescue him. Let him deliver Him, since He delights in Him’.*”

What does a little worm have to do with Yeshua, Calvary, and Yahweh’s plan for Salvation?

Let's find out:

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34 – “At about three, Yeshua uttered a loud cry, “*Eli! Eli! L'mah sh'vaktani?*” This utterance means My God! My God! Why have you deserted me?

Psalm 22 is a prophecy of the Messiah which Yeshua quoted while being crucified. In Psalm 22 we see that the Messiah is called a “**worm**”.

In Hebrew this is the **Tolê'âh**^{H8439b} worm; in Latin the “Coccus Ilicus”; in Arabic “Kirmizi”; and in English, Crimson.

This worm climbs into the Hermes Oak and gives its life so that its children can live; staining the tree red for three days.



The female tola'ah attached to a branch.

The Prophecy of the Messiah

When the female Tolâ is ready to lay her eggs she climbs into her preferred Hermes Oak tree, attaches herself to the tree, and builds a hard red shell around herself.

She then lays her eggs inside this crimson shell, and keeps the eggs under her body to protect them.

After hatching the baby worms feed on the body of the mother for three days, during which the mother worm oozes a bright crimson red fluid.

This red fluid covers and permanently stains the young worms, as well as staining the tree to which the mother worm is attached.



Freshly gathered tola'ot. The red "filling" are the eggs.

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Isaiah 1:18 *“Come now, and let us reason together, says Yahweh: though your sins be as scarlet [shânîy] they shall be as white as snow [sheleg]; though they be red like crimson [tolâ], they shall be white as wool [tsemer].”*

After three days the young worms are ready to leave the shell. The mother is still attached to the shell and to the tree and she dies so that she can birth a family.

On day four the mother worm’s tail pulls up to her head into a heart shape, and the heart shaped body turns into a white wax.

The wax looks like a little patch of wool on the side of the tree and begins to flake off and drop to the ground like a patch of white snow.



A magnified photograph of the tola'at shani.
(photograph courtesy of Zohar Amar)

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Isaiah 53:5 – *“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was beaten for our iniquities: the punishment for our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*

Hebrews 9:13-14 – *“If the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Yeshua purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

The word “finished” in the original Greek means “paid in full”.

“We owed a debt we could never pay”.

Yeshua “paid a debt he didn't owe” for us.

Sin no longer has dominion over us if we accept his sacrifice for us (**Romans 6:14**).

The Prophecy of the Messiah

Hebrews 9:22 *“And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.”*

- The mother Crimson worm willingly climbs onto a tree to die to birth a family.
- Yeshua willingly went to the cross to die so that we can live eternally with Him as His family.
- The baby worms are covered with the red fluid of the dying mother worm.
- We are covered with the red blood of Yeshua and are washed as white as snow.

The Uses of the Coccus Ilicis

The crushed coccus ilicis contains a chemical that is an anti-bacterial agent which is why it was used in the Older Covenant for two types of purification ceremonies:

1. When there was a plague, scarlet was included in the purification of the house. *“And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird, and with the running water, and with the living bird, and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop, and with the scarlet.”* (**Leviticus 14:52**).
2. The scarlet worm was also used in the formula with the ashes of the red heifer. *“And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.”* (**Leviticus 19:6**) These ashes were used to cleanse a person when they came into contact with a dead body (a host for bacteria). This crimson or scarlet item, the worm coccus ilicis, was necessary to make one clean, which is symbolic of the blood of Yeshua removing the sin of disease and death from us.

The Uses of the Coccus Ilicis

The coccus ilicis was also essential to the building of the Wilderness Tabernacle:

The tabernacle curtains and coverings were woven from threads dyed scarlet by the secretions of the tolâ worm: *“You are to make the tabernacle with ten sheets of finely woven linen and with blue, purple and scarlet yarn, with a design of cherubim worked into them”* (**Exodus 26:1**).

The words used for scarlet in this verse and many other verses in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers are: tolâ and shânîy!



A sample of wool previously dyed by Professor Amar, using the tola'at shani.
(photo courtesy of Zohar Amar)



Conclusions

Psalm 22:6 - "But I am a Tolê'âh, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised."

- The coccus ilicis is the Tolê'âh worm of Psalm 22 that Yeshua identifies with while being crucified.
- The coccus ilicis is the Tolê'âh worm that gives its life to give life to its children
- The coccus ilicis is the Tolê'âh worm that cleanses and covers its children, just as we are covered with the red blood of Yeshua and are washed as white as snow.
- The coccus ilicis is the Tolê'âh worm spoken of in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers which was used to dye the yarn and cloth found in the Wilderness Tabernacle.

*Y'varekh'kha Yahweh v'yishmerekha
Ya'er Yahweh panav eleikha vichunekka
Yissa Yahweh panav eleikha v'yasem l'kha shalom*

Yahweh blesses you, and keeps you;

• Yahweh makes His face shine upon you, and is gracious to you;

• Yahweh lifts up His countenance upon you, and makes you whole.