**The Crimson (Tola) Worm**

(Excerpted with minor additions)

By Lori Pagel

God has woven a scarlet or Crimson thread using this remarkable little worm to tell the story of the cross with its life.

There is a worm hidden in the Scriptures so deep that you can only find it by looking up the Greek and Hebrew meaning for "worm", "scarlet", or "crimson".

I was thinking about the verse in the Bible one day that says "*the worm dieth not*" (Mar. 9:44, 46, 48 [KJV]) and was wondering what that meant. Many times I will look words up in the Greek or Hebrew to see if I can get a greater understanding for the verse.

Well, I was surprised to find out that the word "worm" has two different meanings in the Bible. One is about the worms we see every day, and the other is the Crimsom Worm. I had never heard about this before and I have been a Christian for 57 years. Once I started researching it I found there are many things written about it on the internet but nothing in book form telling this story and giving the references in the Bible. I gave a presentation to the ministers in our Division and they liked it so much they wanted me to give them a copy of it. Out of about 30 or pastor's and their wives, only one woman had heard anything about this and when I talk to people about it very few know anything about it (and once it was published every minister received a copy). I decided to write down what I knew in a book and help others to become acquainted with this wonderful story.

1. Hebrew word #8438 "*tola* or *crimson worm*" tôlâ‛ tôlê‛âh tôla‛ath tôla‛ath*to-law',* *to-lay-aw',* *(3,4)* *to-lah'-ath*

From H3216; a *maggot* (as *voracious*); specifically (often with ellipsis of H8144) the crimson *grub*, but used only (in this connection) of the color from it, and cloths dyed therewith: - crimson, scarlet, worm.

2. Hebrew word # 7415 "*maggot*",rimmâh, *rim-maw'*

From H7426 in the sense of *breeding* (compare H7311); a *maggot* (as rapidly *bred*), literally or figuratively: - worm.

*But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people.*

*All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,*

*"Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him."* (Psalm 22:6-8 [NASB])

This is a prophecy of the Messiah and here we see that Jesus called Himself a "worm". In the Hebrew this is the "Tolah" worm or Crimson Worm; in Latin it is the "Coccus Illicus" that climbs into the Hermes Oak, and dies for its children; staining the tree red for three days. The word "finished" in the original Greek means "paid in full". "We owed a debt we could never pay" and Jesus "paid a debt He didn't owe" for us. Sin no longer has dominion over us if we accept His sacrifice for us. (Rom. 6:14)

"... the crushed *ìcoccus ilicisî* contains a chemical that is an anti-bacterial agent which is why it was used in 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.* (Lev 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*. (Lev. 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, the worm *coccus ilicis*, was necessary to make one clean, which is symbolic of the blood of Jesus removing the sin of disease and death from us.

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised [crushed] for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* (Isa. 53:5, Heb 9:13-14)."

<http://www.thecrimsonworm.com/>