

The Mark of the Lord

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Ezekiel 9:1-11

Then I heard him call out in a loud voice, "Bring the guards of the city here, each with a weapon in his hand." And I saw six men coming from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with a deadly weapon in his hand. With them was a man clothed in linen who had a writing kit at his side. They came in and stood beside the bronze altar.

Now the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the cherubim, where it had been, and moved to the threshold of the temple. Then the Lord called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side and said to him, "Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it."

As I listened, he said to the others, "Follow him through the city and kill, without showing pity or compassion. Slaughter old men, young men and maidens, women and children, but do not touch anyone who has the mark. Begin at the sanctuary. So they began with the elders who were in front of the temple.

Then he said to them, "Defile the temple and fill the courts with the slain. Go!" So they went out and began killing throughout the city. While they were killing and I was left alone, I fell facedown, crying out, "Ah, Sovereign Lord! Are you going to destroy the entire remnant of Israel in this outpouring of your wrath on Jerusalem?"

He answered me, "The sin of the house of Israel and Judah is exceedingly great; the land is full of bloodshed and the city is full of injustice. They said, 'The Lord has forsaken the land; the Lord does not see.' So I will not look on them with pity or spare them, but I will bring down on their own heads what they have done."

Then the man in linen with the writing kit at his side brought back word, saying, "I have done as you commanded." [NIV]

The word translated "mark" here is Strong's H8520 – tav. It is the last letter in the Hebrew alphabet and is typically written as a cross. Even in this time the cross was used by God as a symbol of righteousness.

(It is only used one other time in scripture in *Job 31:35a Oh, that I had one to hear me! Behold, here is my signature; let the Almighty answer me! [NIV]* Here it is translated "signature." Although it seems even here that Job is calling on the Lord to observe his seal of righteousness as an answer to Job's enemy's accusations.)

In verse 5 God sends out men to kill all who do not have the mark, and they started in the sanctuary. This is prophetic that the Jewish people (actually the whole vine) shall be saved by accepting the cross.

Jesus gives life. There are two Greek words for life:

Strong's G2222, "zoe" means physical or spiritual life.

Strong's G 5590, "psyche" means life, soul, heart, the eternal part of the inner person.

Mark 6:13 "And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them."

"Sick" here is Strong's G732, "arrostos" and it is derived from Strong's G778 and 779.

Strong's G778, "askeo" means to strive, to do one's best, to exercise. This word's root is G828, "augustos" which means reverent, holy. This from G880 "aphonos" meaning silent, mute, without speech, without meaning, dumb, with no significance.

Strong's G779, "askos" means wineskin, leather bag holding wine.

So we see here that "sick" includes those doing their best without God's help, exercising but accomplishing little. It also includes those who need a new wineskin.

I believe the disciples understood this and they knew from Jesus' instructions to anoint the forehead with oil in the shape of the cross. This symbolizes and acknowledges that Jesus is doing the healing, and that we agree with that fact. We need to be doing this.