

## The Two Thieves and Yahushua by Rabbi Simon Altaf

7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011

Today is Simcha Torah and we rejoice that we are able to celebrate this in some small way.

We are presented a picture of the two thieves in the Besorah (Good News) which we are going to examine today.

**Mattityahu 27:38** Then were there two thieves hung with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.

Why even both to look at the two thieves?

**Ignorance** – One of the key things that our people are dying from is ignorance.

Ignorance is the biggest weapon that Satan uses against us. When we are ignorant we are helpless but when we have the right knowledge we have the power of Elohim that helps us.

Iyob said this about the wicked:

Iyob 21:14 Therefore they say to El (The Power), Depart from us; for we desire not the knowledge of your ways.<sup>1</sup>

But what knowledge is this that the wicked do not desire?

Hoshea 4:6 My people have perished for lack of knowledge: because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you, from being a kohen (priest) to me: seeing you have forgotten the Torah of your Elohim, I will also forget your sons.

Seeing our people who rejected torah were also rejected by YHWH so the knowledge that YHWH speaks about here is the Torah. Hence why the Ruach Ha Kadosh The Holy Spirit of Abba YHWH teaches us the following:

**Mishle 1:7** The fear of אלהים is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

If we have no fear of YHWH then what do we work and live for?

So in order to remove ignorance and acquire the knowledge and wisdom that Melek Yahushua desires for us we must study these things out. The whole world especially the Christian world is teaching that Yahushua died on a cross but the testimony of the gospel contradicts that which they speak.

Yahushua was hung on a tree?

---

<sup>1</sup> These wicked ones do not care about YHWH or His Torah.

**Acts 5:30** The Elohim of our ahvot (fathers) raised up יְהוֹשֻׁעַ, whom you seized and killed by hanging on an etz (tree).

**Mattityahu 27:42** He saved others; himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Y'sra'el, let Him now come down from the etz (tree), and we will believe him.

Why a living tree and not a wooden cross.

The Torah never commanded to hang people on crosses. This was a Phoenician practice that Rome copied later.

The Torah commands to hang people on living trees.

**Joshua 8:29** And the king of Ai he hanged on a etz (tree) until evening: and as soon as the sun was down, Yahoshua commanded that they should take his carcass down from the etz (tree), and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remains to this day.

Why hung on a tree? He would be facing the holy of holies and hung on a tree for defying G-d which is really blasphemy.

One needs to understand why a living tree. The cross that is paraded in Churches and its steeples is the sign of Tammuz so who was Tammuz and does it really matter if it's a cross or living tree?

Can you tell me where Yahushua was hung?

Yahushua was hung on a living tree on the Mount of Olives where also the two thieves were hung on his right and left. We will come to that shortly.

Can anyone tell me where do we find Tammuz in the Bible?

Let me give you a clue in Beresheet (Genesis) 10:9 we find his father Nimrod mentioned.

So where is Tammuz explicitly mentioned?

Did you know that Tammuz is also the name of a month the Yahudim adopted after their exile from Babylon.

In Ezekiel 8:14.

Tammuz was the son of Nimrod who was born after with the marriage to Nimrod's mother called Semiramis. She later came to be called Astartis or Easter in the modern sense. The bible gives her the name of Asherah clearly a female name.

Her son Tammuz was killed by a pig so they had hoped he would come back to life but of course he would not. Just believing in anything does not mean its true or if billions of people believe in something it is not automatically true. The majority are

never right. Look billions of Muslims believe Muhammad can save them through his religion of Islam but just because 1.6 billion people believe this does not make it true.

**Exodus 34:13** But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their Asherah<sup>2</sup> poles.

YHWH condemned the worship of Asherah or Easter was a wicked abomination.

YHWH condemned this worship of Tammuz in the prophets. Look up Ezek 8:14.

**Ezek 8:14** Then he brought me to the door of the gate of **אֲשֵׁרָה**'s house which was toward the north; and, behold, there sat women weeping for Tammuz.

Who were these women?

These were Temple prostitutes crying during the 40 days fast declared by Semaramis for the death of her son Tammuz.

This is where the forty day fast came into Rome from. Those of you who believe the fast of Rome came from the fast of the Messiah is simply not true. The Roman religion is a mixture of paganism and Christianity.

It has nothing to do with the fast or absence of eating that the Messiah did or Moses for that matter. Rome enveloped everything from Babylon and included it in its worship.

Note the religion that was taken by Rome came out of Africa or West Africa to be more precise. Nimrod was from the regions of Cush that is modern day Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia etc.

Nimrod's brother Raamah ruled regions in the south or what is today referred to as eastern Africa. He went up to rule in the North which was the region of Eastern Turkey from where he spread to Iraq conquering down southwards. Why? This was so he could bring the border down to the south where his brother ruled.

Coming back to the two thieves what is so important about them?

If I present bad information to you as has the Church then they were nothing but common thieves or robbers since that is the common perception but this is an entirely false picture.

Were they on the same tree?

Yes, how?

Have you seen in movies where the Roman soldiers come to Yahushua to break his legs before going on to the thief but this is not the accurate picture of the gospels?

---

<sup>2</sup> YHWH hates Asherah the fertility deity, yet many Christians foolishly call Passover, the feast name of Easter which is the name of Asherah or Ishtarte. Calling it Easter is nothing short of an abomination before YHWH.

**John 19:32-33** Then came the soldiers, and broke the **legs of the first**, and of the **next one which was impaled** with him. **33** But when they came to **יְהוֹשֻׁעַ**, and saw that he was dead already, they did not break his legs.

Notice the soldiers broke the legs of the first robber then came to the next one; this could only happen if they were on the same tree. If they were hung separately on separate Trees or crosses as they show in films then while walking the soldiers would break the legs of the first then come across next to Yahushua but the text says this is not how it happened. This shows us the mystery that both these men drash allegoric of the two sons of Israel the two houses and the two brides depicted on the same Tree. One was the likeness of Efrayim who did not curse Yahushua, while the other was Judah cursing Him. (Note today those who call themselves Jews curse Yahushua)

So were the two thieves really thieves as many have believed?

The two key passages are here that tell us that they were not thieves but believers.

**Luke 23:39-40** And one of the criminals which were hanged railed on him, saying, if you be the Messiah, save yourself and us.

These were freedom fighters fighting Rome. All freedom fighters in those days were labelled thieves because they were seen to be acting against the government's interests. What government? The pagan government of Rome.

These two men were seeking the Messiah.

**40** But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Do you not **fear** Elohim, seeing you are in the same condemnation?

How do we know?

Why would he say if You are the Messiah SAVE us. These people were Galilean freedom fighters and were fighting to remove Rome's government. When they were caught they were hung in this manner. In verse 40 we are told one thief says to the other "Do you not **FEAR** Elohim." Why would thieves fear Elohim? This is clear evidence that these were not thieves in the ordinary sense of the words. As all the misinformation the church has been teaching this is one of the classics.

**John 19:7** The Yahudim (Hebrew people) answered him, we have the Torah, and by the Torah he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of Elohim.<sup>3</sup>

The Yahudi reference the law from the Torah as I stated earlier. You cannot hang people on crosses but living trees that is the command.

If the king of France had made a statute that criminals should be beheaded by the guillotine then can an officer of the king go against the king and just hang someone instead? No. Likewise the law of the Yahud was to hang on trees according to the Torah.

---

<sup>3</sup> They applied the law of blasphemy in the Torah to make Him YHWH. See Lev 24:16.

**John 19:18** Where they impaled him, and two others with him, on either side one, and יהושע in the midst.

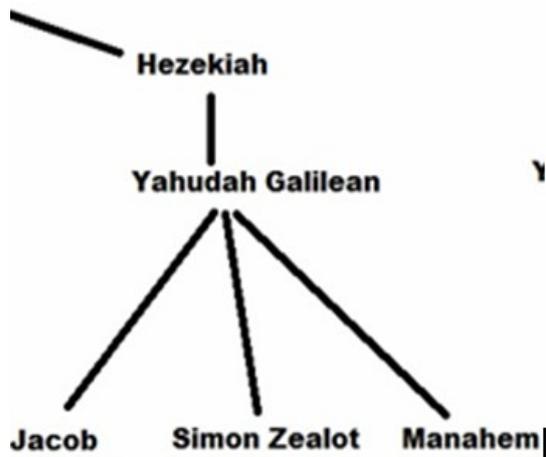
They were all impaled on the same tree together not on separate crosses as you see in films. It was a tree with a cross bar on it and not a cross. The cross is a Babylonian symbol and the very word cross was not found in the Renewed Covenant writings prior to the 4th century AD as it was a forced word into the text to justify a pagan symbol of Tammuz.

Why Galilean freedom fighters?

The revolt against Rome started in Galilee. The Galileans were famous both for knowledge of the Torah and for wanting to remove Rome. The Galileans were feared by Rome. There is a man mentioned in the New Testament called Judah of Galil who was a great freedom fighter but was murdered by Rome. Act 5:37.

Galileans also had a different accent to speak Hebrew than the Judeans.

**Mattityahu 26:73** And after a while came to him they that stood by, and said to Kefa (Peter), Surely you also are one of them; for your accent gives you away.



What further evidence do we have of this?

**Luke 13:1-5** There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pelatoos had mingled with their sacrifices.<sup>4</sup> **2** And יהושע answering said to them, do you suppose that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered such things? **3** I tell you, No: but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish. **4** Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them, do you think that they were worst sinners than all men that dwelt in Yerushalim?

---

<sup>4</sup> Josephus the historian notes an event where many Galileans were murdered by Pilate. This man Judas of Galilee, see Act 5:37 who tried to draw away some of the Hebrew people from the Roman government, and told them it was not lawful to give taxes to Caesar; at which Pilate being enraged, sent a band of soldiers, and murdered them all.

**5** I tell you, No: but, except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13-1-3 is clear that the Galileans fighters were not seen as sinners.

In the first century CE there was a belief that if you have suffered an illness then you will die for it as that is some kind of penalty for your sins.