

YAIY Quick Study Sheet

Was Messiah Nailed to a Cross?

Keeping prophecy in mind, what did young Isaac carry to the altar? Genesis 22:6. Is this similar to what Yahshua bore? (John 19:17).

Note: Isaac carried bundled wood (**Strong's Concordance**, Hebrew # 6086 *ets* {ates}, meaning tree, wood, timber, stake, or plank) that would probably have looked like a single stake having been bound together, but not a double beamed cross. What Yahshua carried was a single stake (**Strong's** Greek # 4716 *stauros*, meaning stake, or upright stake ... root of # 2476 *histemi*, meaning to stand, or cause to stand, or stand up). The confusion of the cross comes from the Latin translation of the Greek word *stauros*. The Latin word *crux* was used, which does mean a double-beamed cross.



“*Stauros* NT: 4716 denotes, primarily, ‘an upright pole or stake’. On such, malefactors were nailed for execution. Both the noun and the verb *stauroo*, ‘to fasten to a stake or pole’, are originally to be distinguished from the ecclesiastical form of a two beamed ‘cross’. The shape of the latter had its origin in ancient Chaldea, and was used as the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) in that country and in adjacent lands, including Egypt. By the middle of the 3rd century A.D., the churches had either departed from, or had travestied, certain doctrines of the Christian faith. In order to increase the prestige of the apostate ecclesiastical system, pagans were received into the churches apart from regeneration by faith, and were largely permitted to retain their pagan signs and symbols. Hence the Tau or T, in its most frequent form, with the cross-piece lowered, was adopted to stand for the “cross” of [Messiah].” ***Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words***.

Do any examples of impalement (i.e., death by placing an individual upon a stake or plank) exist in the Old Testament? (See Ezra 6:11.)

Note: The word “timber” in Ezra 6:11 is **Strong's** Aramaic/Hebrew # 636 *a* {aw}, meaning wood, beam, or timber. It is possible this is referring to wood being used to build a gallows. It is also possible, that it is referring to an upright stake with which to hang an individual with nails and situating the stake with its victim impaled upon it into a shallow hole which to keep the beam in an upright position. Either would be a terrible death ... but the latter – a

lengthy and humiliating death – even more so, like the one our Savior suffered on His torture stake.

Are people who wear crosses, as a symbol of faith, doing what is right in Yahweh's sight? (See Exodus 20:3-6 and Deuteronomy 5:7-10.) (Note well: “In the Egyptian churches the cross was a pagan symbol of life, borrowed by the Christians, and interpreted in the pagan manner.” (See ***Encyclopedia Britannica***, 11th Cambridge edition, Volume 14, page 273, and ***The Companion Bible***, Appendix 162, by E.W. Bullinger.)

We conclude, therefore, the “cross” is of pagan origin. In Ezekiel 8:12-16, we read certain “worshippers” at the Temple of Yahweh, their faces to the rising sun probably pleading with Estarte (Ishtar) for Tammuz's rebirth. Perhaps they were even wearing, or holding up, Tammuz's symbol of the cross to this pagan goddess Estarte. Does their pagan observance sound similar to an Easter Sunrise Service? What does Yahweh say about such worship? (Deut. 12:30-32).

During the wilderness sojourning, the people complained of their estate and spoke against Yahweh and Moses (Num. 21:5). Yahweh sent fiery serpents among them, and many died. But with acknowledgment of their sin and Moses' intercession, Yahweh directed Moses to make a brass serpent and fix it upon a pole – not a cross – so that whoever had been bitten might look upon the pole and be healed (Num. 21:8-9). The healing property assigned to the people's looking upon this pole may be thought a representation of Yahshua Who, being lifted up, upon a stake, would draw all men to Himself (John 12:32).

However, just as the people had worshiped the calf of gold in Exodus, chapter 32, their descendants began burning incense to this brazen serpent-on-a-pole, so that King Hezekiah in removing the high places and cutting down the groves (images), also broke into pieces the brazen serpent Moses had made (2 Kings 18:1-4).

Yahweh's people today have an advantage in that the Spirit dwells within, which helps each to overcome and not to become affixed on objects on earth, but rather to fix their attention on the unseen things above.