

The Hope of the Passion

Isaiah 53:5: "But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him. and with His stripes we are healed".

It is Easter, that traditional time for a holiday period of church goes and a relaxation. Yet thousands of years ago, it was a time of suffering when humanity and divided intersected, with humanity buried and divinity resurrected. The Passion has physical, mental and spiritual significance. He was literally wounded: a contused wound as produced by a blunt object, the slap in the face, and the knock on the head; a lacerated wound as produced by the tips of bone and metal in the scourging whip, that tore the flesh apart by bits, live flesh scattered everywhere; the penetrating wound of the four inch deep crown of thorns in his head; the perforating wound or puncture caused by the sharp piercing of the sword in his side, and the long, spiked nails driven between the bones, along with the abrasive wounds of handling, brought immense and intense physical pain, that was deeply felt, all without the effects of numbing vinegar. He was literally wounded for our transgressions. The crushing bruising of mental torture, both before and during the physical ordeal added to the full meaning of the text, for He who had once ascended on high was now made to feel debased, and in His humanity cried out "Oh God, why have you forsaken me"?

And so it is with us, when sometimes wounded physically and mentally, we think that God has forsaken us. Yet he was punished and chastised so that peace could be ours. It is always how the story ends that makes the day, and not how it begins.

Ironically, it's the same wounds of the Passion that bring spiritual holiness, because with His stripes or weals, we are healed and are being healed. It is not the death of Jesus that is as important as is His resurrection, for that is where the hope comes to day. The seed dies so that it can grow again. As Jesus died on the cross in human form, we are also to die to sin, to be crucified, to suffer affliction and wounds and bruises from friends and foe, to give up the human spirit, so that we can rise again, one day when He comes, by the divine command. This then is the full meaning and significance of the Passion. In this world, we may be misunderstood and mistreated by those close and near, yet we have this hope that burns within our hearts, hope in the coming of the Lord. May the Passion of Christ give us a faith in the coming of the Lord. <https://youtu.be/KveCBAqCO6E>