



A light to my path. Psalm 119:105

The Stripe!

In a Roman garrison courtyard, Jesus stripped to his loincloth and faced a blood stained whipping post. They tied his hands high to stretch his back. Maximus, a six feet one-inch tall Roman soldier with arms and a right hand like a bronze club, shook a flagrum, causing it to rattle. A wooden handle and four short leather straps embedded with sharp pieces of bone, nails, and sharp metal comprised the flagrum.

Maximus swung the flagrum toward Jesus. The straps contacted his face precisely on the nose, mouth, chin, and right ear. A quick pull back shredded the nose, lips, chin, right cheek, and ear, scattering flesh and blood. Repeated lashes tore away the nose, revealed teeth, chin bone and cheekbone, and the ear was gone. Over forty lashes on Jesus' back removed flesh, revealing his spine and ribs. Now, the lungs, top of the liver and pancreas were visible (Isaiah 52:14, NKJV).

God the Father prepared a body for the Son to endure the beating and strength to complete His work. (Hebrews 10:5, John 19:30).

Baculus, the centurion, stopped the beating. Maximus said to him, "He will not die! He will not stay down!" Both men walked to Aurelius, who kept a tally of the lashes. His face and the tally

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parchment showed splatters of flesh and blood. Tears fell from his eyes as he said, "My left eye was blind in a battle. Now, it sees.!"

Maximus raised his blood-splatted left arm to wipe sweat from his forehead. Baculus exclaimed, "Maximus, look you have a left hand!" Maximus looked at his restored hand in bewilderment; he lost it in a battle, then said, "How can this happen?" Baculus replied, "This Jesus has to be the Son of God! No one can take his life! In all the Roman Empire, there is no god who has done such things. This man must be the Son of God!"

Beloved, Jesus took the stripes from the flagrum for us. His beating has healed and made us whole. We only need to believe it and call it forth (Isaiah 53:5, Proverbs 20:30, Mark 11:22-24).
Shalom!!

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