



Tole'ah תּוֹלְעָה This image appears to show a female **scarlet worm** (*Kermes ilicis*), also known as a crimson worm, attached to a branch.

- **Biblical Connection:** This insect is often cited in discussions of Psalm 22:6, where the Hebrew word *tola'ath* refers specifically to this scarlet worm.
- **Life Cycle:** The female attaches herself permanently to a tree or piece of wood to lay her eggs.
- **Dye Production:** Historically, these insects were crushed to produce a valuable crimson or scarlet dye.

- **Appearance:** The female develops a hard, shell-like body and is often covered in a white, waxy substance during the egg-laying process.

In **Tehillim Perek 22**—a messianic prophecy Yeshua quoted on the Execution stake—we read these striking words:

“I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.” (Psalm 22:6)

The Hebrew word used here is **Tole‘ah** תולעה, a specific **scarlet worm** known in the ancient world. The female **Tole‘ah** attaches herself to a piece of wood to give birth. As she does, her body is crushed, staining the wood and her offspring with a deep crimson dye

that covers and protects them.

Afterward, the ima dies—but her young live, sustained by what she has given. In time, what remains turns white.

Navi Yeshayahu later echoes this imagery:

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.” (Yeshayahu 1:18)

On the execution stake, Yeshua poured out His life so that others might live.

His **blood** brings cleansing, and His sacrifice brings new life. What was once stained by sin is made white through Him.

Long before execution stake, HaShem embedded the **GoodNews of Salvation**

into creation itself. The worm wasn't random. It was prophetic.

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