

# THE TRUTH ABOUT TATTOOS

By Sholiach-Apostle Rabbi Moshe Yoseph Koniuchowsky



Taught Live at B'nai Yahshua Synagogue of Broward County March 7, 2009

Open with NBA example- **National Tattoo Association**. The focus is off of the players' ability and onto his decorations. The tattoos glare for your attention. The game is supposed to be a place where the players' ability alone attracts attention. Compare LeBron James and Dwayne Wade. Kareem Jabbar Bill Russell or Michael Beasley.

Tattooing is a COMMON link in almost ALL pagan practices known to men!!! It has no place on the flesh of a believer, unless you desire to be marked as a pagan denier of Yahshua. I hope this message does NOT condemn anyone, but merely strongly convicts into immediate, loving and decisive action in behalf of YHWH's children. **Use this admonition to consider tattoo reversal. It may be more important to you than other things you have mistakenly prioritized over and above this issue. Like drinking lots of green tea. That cannot keep you out of the kingdom.**

You will find many different reasons why people have gotten tattooed. Here are just a few reasons. Some say that in Borneo tattoos were used to ward off harm and disease. In the Polynesian culture, some say tattoos are a rite of passage into manhood. Some American Indians believed that "war paint" protected them in battle. Some say that there are those in Burma today who believe that a tattoo over the heart can stop bullets. I've read that to some Samoans the tattoo is a show of respect for the elohim-quality within themselves or evidence that you can bear pain. **Some cultures believed that tattoos would give them magical power. Other cultures even believed that tattoos would help them gain admittance into the afterworld. And then, of course, in the bible there are instances of people who were tattooed to worship their false elohim or to honor the dead.**

And what about right here in America? Well, some merchant sailors in times past wore tattoos as a "good luck charm" against the possibility of drowning at sea. And we have all seen traditional American tattoos. **These tattoos were and still are often a sign of rebellion: tattoos of skulls, flames, lewd women, snakes. Then there have always been the tattoos that pay homage to dead loved ones, or tattoos that show one's gang affiliation.**

Yes, tattoos mean and have meant a lot of things to a lot of different people. Superstition. Pagan worship or beliefs. Power. Strength. Rebelliousness. Love. Tattoos have become so common that many folks say, "What's the big deal? It is just an outward expression of an inner feeling, desire, belief, or mood."

Yet the truth is that it is disgusting and an attack on the Creator Himself. It shouts out to YHWH with arrogance and accusation- **'I do not and will not accept your perfect creation design of my body!!!! I want to be the DESIGNER in your stead. The deification of man and elevation of humanism!'**

Moreover it accuses YHWH's creation as not being fearfully and wonderfully made as Psalm 139 teaches us; rather by designing your own body's surface it ipso facto accuses YHWH of being imperfect designer. It is a manifestation of the pride of life that can believe that YHWH did not do an adequate job on my skin, to accurately portray my personality.

It is a clear and forbidden pagan practice called an abomination throughout Scripture!

Gen 4: 15 And יהוה said to him, *Therefore whoever kills Qayin, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold.* **And יהוה set a mark upon Qayin**, lest any finding him should kill him.

A tattooed or marked body is a sign of the carrier being under protection for divine judgment.

Shemot/Exod. 20:25 *And if you will make Me an altar of stone, you shall not build it of cut stone: for if you lift up your tool upon it, you have polluted it. See.....Exod. 23:24,*

**Det./Devarim 7: 25** The graven images of their elohim shall you burn with fire: you shall not desire the silver, or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared with it: for it is an abomination to יהוה your Elohim.

YHWH is saying in that verse to not only destroy these places, practices and devices, **but then emphasizes, basically, that ye shall not try to recycle these things in ANY kind of worship to your YHWH. Don't reuse the wood. Don't reuse the silver or gold. Don't emulate or copy the heathens' style of worship. Touch none of it! Why would you even want to offer to YHWH something that the pagan nations offered to their false elohim? YHWH's word could not be any plainer than that!**

Not only does YHWH tell us not to follow the heathens' practices; YHWH doesn't want us even inquiring about what they did, or how they did it, because He knows that we would try to emulate them. Devarim/Deuteronomy 12:29-30, "When YHWH thy Elohim shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; **take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them**, after that they be destroyed from before thee; **and that thou inquire not after their elohim, saying, How did these nations serve their elohim? Even so will I do likewise.**" We can't say, "Good idea. I'm going to do that too, but to honor my YHWH."

What was one of the ways heathens worshipped, paid homage to, and served their elohim? By getting tattoos. What does YHWH's word tell us NOT to do? Serve or worship Him by doing those things that the heathen people did or do. Again, YHWH's word could not be any plainer than that. And if you still didn't catch the point I'm trying to make, here is one more verse before we move on: 1 Corinthians 10:20a-21, "I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of YHWH, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of YHWH's table, and of the table of devils."

For those who say, "But these crosses on my arms have spiritual significance," I say YHWH's word shows us that you cannot put "new wine" into old wine SKINS. You cannot take a practice that has been embraced by heathens and condemned by YHWH and turn it into something that is "honoring" YHWH. If you take a pig and put him in a tuxedo, all you have is a dressed-up pig!

And you cannot say, "Well, I know that piercings carry a sexual connotation or a heathen connotation, but that's not what I mean by it." Or "I know that tattoos originated in pagan traditions and that a lot of satanic people embrace them, but that's not what I mean by it." Friend, if that's what it means to YHWH, who cares what you mean by it? Is your opinion or impression or intent greater or more important than YHWH's? YHWH's word has this to say to you: Yeshayahu/Isaiah 5:20, "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

And if you say, "But those pagans were *worshipping* false elohim and idols and images. My tattoos are a symbol of my faith in the Only True YHWH," please read this part very carefully. **YHWH does not want us to be into ANY symbolism or effigies or images. Not even images that supposedly represent Him!**

Exodus 20:4, "Thou shalt not make unto thee ANY graven image, or ANY likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:"

Deuteronomy 27:15: "Cursed be the man that maketh ANY graven or molten image, an abomination unto YHWH, the work of the hands of the craftsman, and putteth it in a secret place [rear end?]. And all the people shall answer and say, Amen."

**Romans 1:23: "And changed the glory of the incorruptible YHWH into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things."**

**Friend, what is a tattoo but an "engraving" on your flesh? The second definition of the word "engrave" is: to picture or represent by incisions. To imprint; to impress deeply; to infix. Whether an image is carved in a tree or engraved on your arm, YHWH commands us not to turn His glory into ANY symbolic images or engravings.**

And if you are still arguing, "But I'm not *worshipping* the image engraved on my arm," you are still missing the point. Yes, YHWH does not want us to worship images, but YHWH's word is clear that YHWH also does not want us reducing His glory to any kind of likeness. YHWH specifically spoke to His people through burning bushes and in the fire, et cetera, because He knew that sinful man would want to limit his glory to a "look." YHWH has given us verse after verse telling us this ought not to be.

Here is yet another verse AGAINST us using symbolism and images to represent YHWH. Please read it carefully: Devarim/Deuteronomy 4:15-18, "Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that YHWH spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: **lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any beast that is on the earth...**"

And here is a similar verse in the Renewed Covenant: Maaseh Shlichim/Acts 17:29, "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of YHWH, we ought not to think that Elohim is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."

Then I've also heard people who say, "Getting my tattoo (or piercing) was painful, and it symbolizes for me the pain Moshiach endured." Listen, YHWH endured the shame of the cross. He was falsely accused, mocked, scourged, hated, crucified, **and pierced**. There was nothing hip, cool, trendy, or desirous about it. Don't trivialize Moshiach's suffering and pain and crucifixion by believing that your vainglorious piercing or "statement" cross tattoo has anything to do with what Yahshua endured for the sins of the world. **Yahshua was pierced taking and carrying the sin for those who have PIERCED themselves with pagan images on their flesh! He had to bleed for that sin! So please do not attempt to justify something outlined as an abomination.**

As Nazarene Yisraelites, we should not crave that man *sees* how committed we are through our religious symbols, et cetera, adorned and tattooed on our arms or necks. **Yes, there are some ornaments that we should wear in our bodies, but they have nothing to do with tattoos or piercings. What ornaments are those? Keefa Alef/1 Peter 3:4, "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of YHWH of great price." If YHWH wanted us to physically wear something special to signify our allegiance to Him, don't you think He would have told us that in His word?**

No outward is cutting allowed...even of an altar.....Idolatrous altars and groves were destroyed and cut down. They were not "revamped" and put to Nazarene Yisraelite use. The ways of Egypt (the world) were and are an abomination to YHWH. Here are some verses to illustrate this point:

Wayiqra/Lev. 19:28 **You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor print any tattoo marks upon you: I am** יהוה.

*Lev 25:1-6 They shall not make baldness upon their head, neither shall they fully shave off the peyot of their beard, nor make any cuttings in their flesh.*

*6 They shall be kidushim to their Elohim, and not defile the Name of their Elohim: for the offerings of יהוה made by fire, and the lechem of their Elohim, they do offer: therefore they shall be kadosh.*

**In order to live kadosh, one must not allow their flesh to be cut in order to portray an image of any kind.**

Yochanan/Moshe Mark 5:55 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, **and cutting himself with stones.**

**Cutting, or habitually scratching the flesh, is a demonic manifestation.**

Luka/Luke 22

50 And one of them smote the eved of the Kohen HaGadol, and cut off his right ear.

51 And יהושע answered and said, **Enough already. And He touched the ear of the one who was struck, and healed him.**

**Yahshua's will and desire is to heal those whose flesh has been unscripturally marked by any form of willful or ignorant cutting.**

*Rev 13:16* 16 And he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, **to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:**

**The end time mark of the Islamic beast, or the name of Allah is a tattoo inscribed into/ONTO the flesh of all those who have sworn ANY kind of allegiance to Allah/s.a.tan.**

*Rev 16:2* And the first went, and poured out his bowl upon the olam; and **there fell severe and malignant sores upon the men who had the mark of the beast, and upon them who worshipped his image.**

**Those with tattoos, or marked bodies have a higher rate of skin cancer and disease. Why? The original design has been altered and thus is more susceptible to outside attack.**

**Close # 1-Cointyah Alef-1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:**

16 Know you not that you are the Beit HaMikdash of יהוה, and that the Ruach of יהוה dwells in you?

**17 If any man defiles the Beit HaMikdash of יהוה, him shall יהוה destroy; for the Beit HaMikdash of יהוה is kadosh, which you are.**

**A serious warning to those who can, but do not prioritize tattoo removal, or who insist on going ahead with their tattoos, regardless of what YHWH has to say about it.**

**Close # 2- Still insist on getting, or keeping your piercing? Please do not tell anyone that you have not been warned!**

**Here's the only kind of flesh piercing that YHWH allows...ready? Read Ivrin/Hebrews 4:12.**