

Message: "Revelation's Interruptive Nature"

Scripture: John 20:1-18

20Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Most of you know that my wife Terri and I have been gone on vacation to Costa Rica; you know this, because this is a trip which you gave to us as a wonderful, amazing gift. It was a tremendous gift, for which we thank you all very much. But you do know what this means, don't you? You know what you're in for, right? A trip like that, a trip of a lifetime kind of thing, is the kind of thing that fills sermons with illustrations and analogies and experiences galore, so be prepared to hear a ton about Costa Rica in the months and years ahead! (no, not really, but I cannot guarantee it won't pop up from time to time!). It was a fantastic trip, and Terri and I thank you so very much for the gift you gave us.

But I did, today, want to share with you one particular experience that I believe is quite relevant to the day we find ourselves meeting here and now, Easter day, that is.

So there I was, in Costa Rica, in an amazing house on an amazing mountaintop surrounded by amazing flora and amazing trees filled with amazing birds and amazing wildlife, with an amazing view of an amazing valley leading to an amazing beach with an amazing ocean scene to round it all up. Did I mention our trip was amazing? There I was, taking it all in – and instantly, it was gone. Vanished. I couldn't see any of that beauty for the pain I felt stabbing me in my left foot. I jumped up from what was obviously an insect sting, and noticed a decent sized wasp crawling away from where my foot had been resting while I was taking in the view. It must have wandered under my foot seeking shade or protection, not knowing that the shade was provided by something that might easily crush it; and so, when I stepped down a little, its defenses were automatic – it stung the bottom of my foot.

Not a good place to get stung, is it? Anyone who has been stung there knows how sensitive feet bottoms are. But it's especially not a good place to get stung by what is called a "warrior wasp" (yes, I looked it up on the internet, finding it on a website entitled "**Ranking the Pain of Stinging Insects, From 'Spicy' to 'Shockingly Electric'**")

Remembering one passionate entomologist who poetically described and classified more than 70 species' painful stings.

BY [LAUREN YOUNG](#) APRIL 24, 2016 *UPDATED: APRIL 24, 2023*

I found the description of the sting's effect quite accurate:

Hello hath no fury like the sting of a warrior wasp.

It hurt so bad for so long that I could think of nothing else, that I could see or hear nothing else, I was distracted beyond what was around me to an intense focus on the pain of that sting, wondering if it would be less painful if I cut my foot off, or if I hit my other foot with a hammer to draw my attention away from the stung foot, or if I took an emergency ride to whatever hospital was around to be given a shot of something to ease the pain (although that really turned me off in terms of getting another sting from the needle!) – soaking it in ice, elevating my foot, eating copious amounts of chocolate.....anything to deal with the pain.

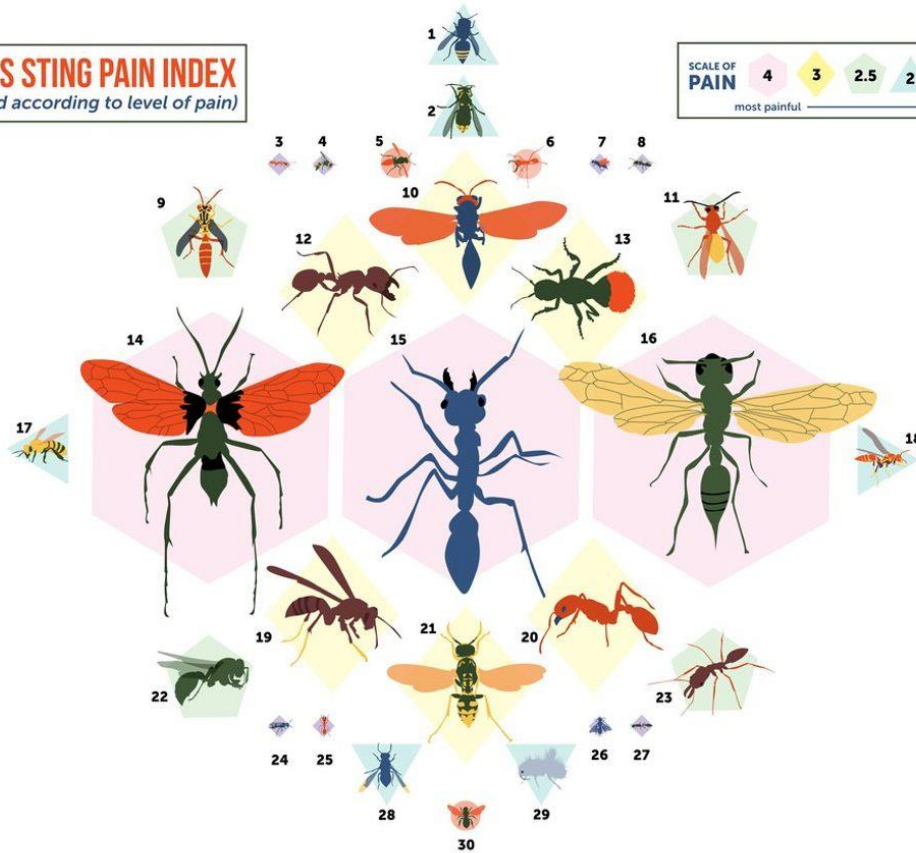
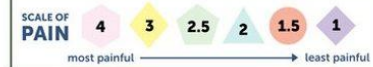
But the advice on several websites was the same – wait it out; there's really nothing that will take the pain away, but there's no need to do anything heroic; in time, the pain will disperse. This particular sting, they said, had a duration of 300 minutes of pain, or five hours; they were right on with that calculation, for I counted every minute (Terri can attest to this by the amount of my complaining, which was probably a complaint a minute!). They also said there were no lingering effects, no long-term problems anticipated with this particular sting. And guess what? The next morning, that sting had disappeared, at least to the extent that I could once again take in the wondrous view, with hardly any complaining.

I believe it is the same kind of experience we all have at times, when something powerfully painful interrupts our hope-filled lives, the stings that shock us out of normalcy – the trauma of illness, the jolt of injury, the anguish of relationship severance, the loss of employment, the breakage of trust, the violation of crime, the betrayal of friends, the attacks by enemies.....the list is very long of the things that can and do traumatize life, that hit us so hard that we can see little else; our full attention is given to the sting of the offense; our minds easily become darkened by the thought that this pain will never end, that it will be our undoing, that the hopes we had for life have been dashed upon the rocks of circumstance or condition; our hearts grow heavy with the pain of it all, especially with the absence of immediate relief.

Thus was it long ago in that scene replayed this time every year, when the sting of the cross entered human history. It was an unexpected sting even though hints of its prediction saturated prophecy and sacred text.

# SCHMIDT'S STING PAIN INDEX

(Insects scaled according to level of pain)



1. **Honey Wasp** - *Brachygastra mellifica*  
"Spicy, blistering. A cotton swab dipped in habanero sauce has been pushed up your nose."
2. **Baldfaced Hornet** - *Dolichovespula maculata*  
"Rich, hearty, slightly crunchy. Similar to getting your hand mashed in a revolving door."
3. **Indian Jumping Ant** - *Harpegnathos saltator*  
"Ah, that wonderful wake-up feeling, like coffee but oh so bitter."
4. **Water-Walking Wasp** - *Euodynerus crypticus*  
"Clever but trivial? A little like magic in that you cannot quite figure out the difference between pain and illusion."
5. **Ferocious Polybia Wasp** - *Polybia rejecta*  
"Like a trick gone wrong. Your posterior is a target for a BB gun. Bull's-eye, over and over."
6. **Suturing Army Ant** - *Eciton burchellii*  
"A cut on your elbow, stitched with a rusty needle."
7. **Iridescent Cockroach Hunter** - *Chlorion cyaneum*  
"Itchy with a hint of sharpness. A single stinging nettle pricked your hand."
8. **Asian Needle Ant** - *Brachyponera chinensis*  
"Nightfall following a day at the beach. You forgot the sunscreen. Your burned nose lets you know."
9. **Yellow Fire Wasp** - *Agelais myrmecophila*  
"An odd, distressing pain. Tiny blowtorches kiss your arms and legs."
10. **Red-Headed Paper Wasp** - *Polistes erythrocephalus*  
"Immediate, irrationally intense, and unrelenting. This is the closest you will come to seeing the blue of a flame from within the fire."
11. **Nocturnal Hornet** - *Provespa sp.*  
"Rude, insulting. An ember from your campfire is glued to your forearm."
12. **Florida Harvester Ant** - *Pogonomyrmex badius*  
"Bold and unrelenting. Somebody is using a power drill to excavate your ingrown toenail."
13. **Velvet Ant** - *Dasymutilla klugii*  
"Explosive and long lasting, you sound insane as you scream. Hot oil from the deep fryer spilling all over your entire hand."
14. **Tarantula Hawk** - *Pepsis spp.*  
"Blinding, fierce, shockingly electric. A running hair dryer has been dropped into your bubble bath. A bolt out of the heavens. Lie down and scream."
15. **Bullet Ant** - *Paraponera clavata*  
"Pure, intense, brilliant pain. Like walking over flaming charcoal with a 3-inch nail embedded in your heel."
16. **Warrior Wasp** - *Synoeca septentrionalis*  
"Torture. You are chained in the flow of an active volcano. Why did I start this list?"
17. **Western Honey Bee** - *Apis mellifera*  
"Burning, corrosive, but you can handle it. A flaming match head lands on your arm and is quenched first with lye and then sulfuric acid."
18. **Unstable Paper Wasp** - *Polistes instabilis*  
"Like a dinner guest who stays much too long, the pain drones on. A hot Dutch oven lands on your hand and you can't get it off."
19. **Red Paper Wasp** - *Polistes canadensis*  
"Caustic and burning. Distinctly bitter aftertaste. Like spilling a beaker of hydrochloric acid on a paper cut."
20. **Maricopa Harvester Ant** - *Pogonomyrmex maricopa*  
"After eight unrelenting hours of drilling into that ingrown tonetail, you find the drill is wedged in the toe."
21. **Giant Paper Wasp** - *Megapolistes sp.*  
"There are gods, and they do throw thunderbolts. Poseidon has rammed his trident into your breast."
22. **Fierce Black Polybia Wasp** - *Polybia simillima*  
"A ritual gone wrong, Satanic. The gas lamp in the old church explodes in your face when you light it."
23. **Trap-Jaw Ant** - *Odontomachus spp.*  
"Instantaneous and excruciating. A rat trap snaps your index fingernail."
24. **Little Wasp** - *Polybia occidentalis*  
"Sharp meets spice. A slender cactus spine brushed a buffalo wing before it poked your arm."
25. **Red Fire Ant** - *Solenopsis invicta*  
"Sharp, sudden, mildly alarming. Like walking across a shag carpet and reaching for the light switch."
26. **Sweat Bees** - *Lasioglossum spp.*  
"Light and ephemeral, almost fruity. A tiny spark has singed a single hair on your arm."
27. **Slender Twig Ant** - *Tetraponera sp.*  
"A skinny bully's punch. It's too weak to hurt but you suspect a cheap trick might be coming."
28. **Artistic Wasp** - *Parachartergus fraternus*  
"Pure, then messy, then corrosive. Love and marriage followed by divorce."
29. **Glorious Velvet Ant** - *Dasymutilla gloriosa*  
"Instantaneous, like the surprise of being stabbed. Is this what shrapnel feels like?"
30. **Giant Sweat Bee** - *Dieunomia heteropoda*  
"Size matters but it isn't everything. A silver tablespoon drops squarely onto your big toenail, sending you hopping."