

Matthew 27:50-56 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. (51) Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, (52) and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; (53) and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many. (54) So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!" (55) And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, (56) among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

Scripture Reading: Exodus 25:1-26:34

Confession of Sin: Psalm 32:1-5

Sermon: When Jesus Christ Died Matthew 27:50-56

Benediction: Hebrews 10:19-23

- I. Jesus Christ Died (50)
 - A. Death
 - B. He died of His own free will by dismissing His spirit
 1. crucifixion normally produces death over a much longer period of time---days instead of hours
 2. No other person has the power to do this
 3. But Jesus Christ has this powerJohn 10:17-18 "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. (18) No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."
 - C. There were witnesses to the fact
 1. witnesses to His resurrection are named
 2. here witnesses to His death are named, all women
 - D. This is of first importance
1 Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,
 1. His death was enough, in one act, to pay the penalty for all our sins
 2. If we had to die for our own sins, one death would not be enough; we have to die eternally
- II. When Jesus Christ Died, the Way to God Was Opened (51)
 - A. a word about the tabernacle, temple, modest second temple, Herod's remodeling; same function, same significance
 - B. the way to God had been closed since the time of Adam's sin
 1. physical exclusion represented spiritual separation because of sin
 - C. no surprise that when God ordained tabernacle, the way to His presence was curtained off to symbolize man's separation from God because of Sin
 1. high priest entered once a year

- D. When Jesus Christ Died, The Final Sacrifice for Sin Was Offered
 - 1. not needing blood shed for Himself
 - 2. sacrificing His own blood
- E. He opens the way in His own flesh
 - 1. see Hebrews 9:6-9
 - 2. see Hebrews 10:19-22
 - 3. this is, in words, what God was communicating when He tore the veil in two from top to bottom
- F. He is the way into the holiest place; there is passage in Him, through Him
- G. APPLICATION: Al Martin Warning: every corruption of the gospel is a variation on the idea that God did not quite divide it completely, and we must finish it;
- H. APPLICATION: This rending of the veil was one of the main ways God communicated that the Old Covenant was cancelled.
 - 1. see how communicated
 - a. gave prophecy in the OT that the OT was old, that he had found fault with the members of it
 - b. Christ said he was leaving the temple desolate
 - c. Christ said the temple would be utterly destroyed
 - d. Christ instituted a new covenant in His blood
 - e. God tore the veil in two
 - f. Christ declared that all foods may be eaten
 - g. God brought gentiles into His church without their being circumcised
 - h. God inspired the author of Hebrews to write that the OT, obsolete, was about to vanish away
 - i. Christ caused the temple to be utterly destroyed
 - 2. think that no one now is in that old covenant
 - a. a person thinking he should still act as in that covenant is weak in conscience
 - i. not to be admired for piety
 - ii. to be loved patiently
- I. APPLICATION: Do not fall for any of the false doctrine about rebuilding the temple.
 - 1. If ever the temple is rebuilt which God tore down
 - 2. If every the veil is remade which God tore apart
 - 3.

III. When Jesus Christ Died, Victory Over Death Was Secured (51)

- A. a miraculous earthquake; graves were not holes dug down into the dirt, but dug into the rocks
- B. What was being shown
 - 1. ever since Adam death has had a sting to it 1 Cor 15:55-57
 - a. people like to think of death as taking one to peace and rest; this is true for Christians, but not for our race
 - b. but people worry, fear what will happen after death; God will have some power over their destiny; and will be displeased with them for their sin; death therefore has a sting to it, which is sin
 - 2. sin has a strength to it, which is the law of God
 - a. His character is the standard for our morality
 - b. everyone has sinned

3. since Christ died for those believing in Him, they no longer are counted as deserving punishment; sin has therefore lost its power, and thus death has lost its sting
- C. This was such an earth-shattering event, that God caused the earth to shatter to signify what had happened, that the power of death and the grave to hold people was broken
- D. APPLICATION: If you are not in Christ, sin does have power over you
1. you surely will be taken to eternal punishment
 2. if you fear death, you are feeling the sting of death
 3. when you trust in Jesus Christ, the power of sin is broken, and the sting of death removed
- E. APPLICATION: If you do trust in Christ, have no fear of death!
1. He will give you strength for the painful trial that leads to your death
 2. He will provide for those you leave behind
 3. There is no sting at death, only paradise with the Lord Jesus
- IV. When Jesus Christ Died, the Salvation of the Gentiles Was Begun (54)
- A. Roman soldiers
1. Centurian---like a sergeant or captain
 2. not he only, but the others with him, also
 3. they had both seen and heard the gospel of Jesus Christ
 4. having seen and heard it all, they professed that Jesus was the Son of God
 - a. that idea had been mocked in their hearing
 5. in another gospel, the centurian said, "Surely this was a righteous man." Luke 23:47
- B. Salvation is not for the Jews only, but for the gentiles as gentiles
- C. Don't you believe, also, that Jesus Christ really is
1. the Son of God
 2. a righteous man
 3. that He has taken the sins of sinners upon Himself

Hebrews 10:19-22 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, (20) by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, (21) and having a High Priest over the house of God, (22) let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Hebrews 9:6-8 Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. (7) But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance; (8) the Holy Spirit indicating this, that the way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest while the first tabernacle was still standing.

Martin:

Stresses that He is dead.

God then "speaks" in the language of miracles.

1. What is the form of the message? The veil of the temple was torn in the middle from top to bottom
2. What is the meaning, the heart of the message? Because My Son has drunk the cup of My wrath, the way into My presence is now open
3. What is the application to us of the message?
 - a. The rending of the veil was the first and central act in the dismantling of the whole system, because the entrance of the high priest into the holy of holies once a year for atonement was the center point of it all; He would culminate it in the destruction of the temple in A.D. 70; "now it has indeed vanished"; let no one revert!
 - b. You need nothing but the virtue of the death of Christ to be reconciled to God
 - c. Every corruption of the gospel is a variation on the idea that God did not quite divide it completely, and we must finish it; Martin ridicules the idea of God wanting the temple rebuilt and the curtain re-hung; The temple "will never be reconstructed with God's favor." Acts 6:7 "a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith"

Spurgeon:

The separating sin and the separating ordinance are taken away.

Mahan:

The ordinance of the human priesthood was abolished.

It was a heavy, thick veil.

-This whole tabernacle system is finished; completely done away with. The Mosaic covenant is over.

-The ordinances of the earthly priesthood are finished.

-The Holy of Holies was broken up; now we meet God in Christ.

-Hebrews 10:19 The way to the throne of God is open to every believer.

-Separating sin is removed (sin represented that separation); God put that veil up there to point our attention to the separation our sin had produced.

What has this torn veil given to us?

-boldness to enter the holiest

DeJong:

"Marks the end of the sacrificial system."

"The end of Judaism. The effective end of the Jewish religion."

Signs are to point people to something. "Powerful gospel instruments."

Earthquake

Ezek 38 and other OT references to earthquakes when God comes down to bring judgment on the wicked

"This is God's wrath against the evil-doing in Israel."

Opening of Graves

Calvin, Carson come to same conclusion: When Jesus died, the tombs were opened in the great earthquake, then the saints rose after Jesus.

Savastio:

"The temple was a symbolic place."

The way into the holy place is now open forever.

Jones:

In the old covenant, the people had to stay away.

Fortner:

The cherubim on the veil represented the cherub guarding the way to the Garden of Eden.

The veil was 18" thick and 60' high

JFB:

the physical creation thus sublimely proclaiming, at the bidding of its Maker, the *concussion* which at that moment was taking place in the moral world at the most critical moment of its history.

On Hebrews 10:19-20

Gill:

Heaven was symbolically shut by the sin of man, when he was drove out of the garden of Eden; it was typically opened by the entrance of the high priest into the holy of holies, on the day of atonement; Christ has in person entered into it by his blood, and opened the way for his people; and believers in him may "enter" now, and they do, when they exercise grace on him, who is there, and when they come and present their prayers and praises to God by him; and they have now an actual right to enter into the place itself, and will hereafter enter in person; and the manner of their present entrance is, "with boldness," which signified their right unto it

the human nature of Christ, through which the way to heaven is opened, renewed, and consecrated, is compared to the veil of the tabernacle

RWP

"meaning the flesh of Christ, his humanity"

Wesley:

As by rending the veil in the temple, the holy of holies became visible and accessible; so by wounding the body of Christ, the God of heaven was manifested, and the way to heaven opened.

Clarke:

"we must approach the throne through the mediation of Christ, and through his sacrificial death"

Barnes:

"the holy place was rendered accessible by withdrawing the veil, and that heaven was rendered accessible through the slain body of Jesus"

v. When Jesus Christ Died, A World-Shaking Change Took Place

vi. When Jesus Christ Died, Eternal Life Was Secured

vii. When Jesus Christ Died, The Salvation of the Gentiles Was Initiated