

The Events Immediately Following the Death of the Lord Jesus

Matt. 27:51-61; Mk.15:38-47; Lk.23:47-56; Jn.19:31-42

I. The Glory of the Lord Jesus' Completed Work of Redemption

A. As seen in "...*the veil of the temple (that) was torn in two from the top to the bottom...*" Matt.27:51

1. The O.T. description of the original veil, Ex.26:31-33
 - a. It was a veil made of 4 kinds of fabric (or cords) – of blue, purple, scarlet, and fine twined linen.
 - b. It was a veil that had cherubim embroidered on it.
 - c. It was a divider between the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies
2. The time when this thick veil in the temple was torn into 2 pieces – the time of the evening sacrifice (Jn. Gill)
3. The meaning of this miraculous event.
 - a. That the O.T. shadows of the ceremonial law had been fulfilled, Heb.9:11, 12, 24-28; 10:19-23
 - b. The plain statement of this meaning – "*For through Him we both (Jews and Gentiles) have access by one Spirit to the Father.*" Eph.2:18

B. As seen in "...*the graves (that) were opened...*" 27:52

1. He, who was about to be put into a grave, opened many of the graves where the bodies of departed saints (believers) were buried.
2. The meaning of this miraculous event
 - a. That the Lord Jesus did not die nor rise again in a private capacity, but in order that eternal life might be secured and imparted to all believers
 - b. That the church might be encouraged and strengthened in their blessed hope – signifying the Lord Jesus' victory over death and guaranteeing the certainty of the final redemption of His redeemed people's bodies

II. The Declaration of the Lord Jesus' Deity by the Unconverted

A. By the Roman centurion, 27:54; Lk.23:47

1. The centurion was convinced by:
 - a. The miraculous signs which he had observed; namely, the earthquake (27:54), the rocks being torn apart (27:51), and the unusual darkness (27:45)
 - b. The last words of the Lord Jesus – "...*Father into Your hands I commit My spirit...*" (Lk.23:46 > Mt.27:50)

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- 1) Words which manifested strength
 - 2) Words which manifested loyalty
2. This centurion was convinced THAT the Lord Jesus was no ordinary man, that He was highly favored and beloved of God, a righteous man innocent of the crimes with which He had been charged
 3. Nevertheless, this centurion's fear of God was not a godly fear that leads to salvation, but a fearful dread of judgment
- B. By "...*the whole crowd*..." Lk.23:48
1. Here both Jews and Gentles are heavy-hearted, self-condemned, and ill at ease
 2. The multitude "...*beat their breasts*..." expresses the dread of punishment for a public crime; expresses the guilt they felt for being a part of an unjust and shocking murder
 3. Again such remorse should not be mistaken for Biblical repentance, which not only is sorrow for sin committed, but also a hating and forsaking of sin because it is displeasing to God and a turning unto God with a full purpose and endeavor after new obedience
 4. The lamentation which we see of "...*the whole crowd*..." was of no avail, unless it was the commencement or preparation of true repentance c.f. Acts 2:23, 36 – 38, 41

III. The Amazing Love of the Lord Jesus' Disciples for the Lord Jesus, 27:55-61

- A. By "disciple" I am not referring exclusively to the 12 apostles chosen by the Lord Jesus at the beginning of His gospel preaching ministry. By "disciple" I am referring to all those who professed and manifested faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- B. The "...*many women*..." 27:55, 56
1. Here is a severe reproof unto the 11 faithful disciples who had so boldly and proudly declared their strong commitment to the Lord Jesus c.f. Mt.26:33, 35; Lk.22:33
 2. Though the weaker gender (I Pet.3:7), the women were present throughout the Lord Jesus' crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection c.f. I Cor.1:27b, 29
- C. Joseph of Arimathea, 27:57-61
1. Was also "...*a disciple of Jesus*..." 27:57
 2. The highest commendation bestowed upon Joseph of Arimathea, is recorded in Mark's gospel (15:43) – "...*who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God*." (also in Lk.23:51)

IV. Applications

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