

The Darkest Day: The Death and Burial of Christ

Matthew 27:50-66

- I. **THE MOMENTOUS SIGNS**—*unmistakable supernatural omens in the natural world*
- A. **DARKNESS** (Jeremiah 4:23, 28; Amos 8:9)—full solar eclipse from noon to 3:00 PM while Jesus was on the cross.
- B. **EARTHQUAKE** (Jer 4:24; Amos 8:8)—when Jesus died, the earth shook and rocks split
- C. **TEMPLE CURTAIN TORN** (Heb 9:8, 12, 24, 25; Heb 10:11-14)—
1. **An Act of God** ()—*It was torn from top to bottom*
 2. **The Departure of God’s Presence** (Ezek 9:3, 10:4-18)—*preparation for judgment*
 3. **The Passing of the Old Order** (Heb 9:1-10; 10:19-22)—*Christ has fulfilled it all*
 - a. **The Temple Building** (2 Sam 7:12-13; Mat 1:23; Mat 26:61; Jn 1:14; Col 1:15-19)—Jesus is the True Temple of God, God in human flesh
 - b. **The Sacrifices for Sin** (Jn 1:29; Heb 9:25-26, 10:10)—Jesus was the ultimate Sacrifice for sin.
 - c. **The Priesthood of Aaron** (Heb 10:11-14, 21)—Jesus is the ultimate Great High Priest over the house of God.
 4. **The Open Access to God** ()—unveiled intimacy; full atonement completed
- D. **OPENED TOMBS** (Dan 12:1-2)—saints resurrected; Great Resurrection to come
- II. **THE LOUD CRIES** (46-50; Heb 5:7)—
- A. **The Cry of Abandonment** (Ps 22; Heb 12:2)
1. **The Reality of Feeling** (Ps 22:1)—honest, anguished, visceral human experience
 2. **The Context of Faith**—the whole of Psalm 22
- B. **The Cry of Completion** (Lk 23:46; Jn 19:30)—“It is finished!”

III. **THE COMPANY OF WOMEN** (55, 56, 61)—*Jesus had women patrons, friends, disciples*

A. There were **many**. (Mk 15:40-41; Jn 19:25)

B. They were notably **present**.

C. They **followed** Jesus. (Jn 4:27; Lk 8:2-3, 10:39-42)—traveled with Him and the Apostles

D. They **ministered to Him**. (Lk 8:3b)—actively and financially involved in the ministry

IV. **THE QUIET FRIEND** (57-60; Isa 53:9)—**Joseph of Arimathea**

A. Jesus has **many friends** that we don't know about. (1 King 19:18; Jn 21:25)

B. Everyone has **a gift and a role**. (1 Cor 12:4-6) Joseph's moment to shine; he did what he could.

V. **THE SECURE BURIAL** (62-66)

A. **The Paranoia of Unbelief** (63)—Ironic that His enemies remember and disciples forget!

B. **The Gratuitous Guard** (65-66)—insult and obstacle become indisputable proof

1. **The Weight of the Stone**—the heavy force of nature (gravity and death)

2. **The Posting of Soldiers**—the intimidating force of human strength and weapons

3. **The Placing of a Seal**—the official human authority

“It’s Friday, but Sunday’s coming!”