

MARK 15:33-41 "THE WORK IS DONE"

~ Thomas Paine "What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value."

May we never discuss or remember Christ's agony in a disinterested way.

His physical sufferings have always been, and will remain, a window through which we see his heart - the heart of God.

Jesus drained the cup of God's wrath bone dry, leaving not a drop for us to drink

HOURS OF LIMITLESS PAIN, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain where tissue is torn from His lacerated back as He moves up and down against the rough timber.

The Cross reveals the love of God as nothing else in the universe could!

PRAY

Join with me now in verse 33 of Mark's gospel chapter 15. Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. Noon day... Sun was at it's peak... but no, for darkness engulfed the Cross at mid-day and remained for 3 horrible hours. The original language implies this darkness came suddenly... and there was no doubt it was a supernatural occurrence.

Phlegon, Roman historian: "In the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad, there was an extraordinary eclipse of the sun: at the sixth hour, the day turned into dark night, so that the stars in heaven were seen; and there was an earthquake." (cited in Clarke)

This is especially remarkable because during a full moon - which Passover was always held at - a natural eclipse of the sun is impossible. This was an extraordinary miracle in the heavens.

Why the darkness? I love what Hughes points out.

First is was a **SIGN OF MOURNING**... Amos prophesied there would be darkness at the time of the Day of the Lord, saying, "*That I will make the sun go down at noon, And I will darken the earth in broad daylight;... I will make it like mourning for an only son.*" Amos 8:9-10

In concert with mourning... it signified the **CURSE OF GOD** During the Exodus, God sent a plague of darkness spread over the land **before the Passover lamb was slain. Now before the death of the ultimate Passover Lamb... the "Lamb of God" there again was darkness. God's judgment was being poured out in a midday night.**

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

1 Peter 2:24 *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.*

2 Cor. 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. **The Living Bible adds some beautiful insight...** *21 For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!*

Wave after wave of the world's sin was poured over Christ's sinless soul. Again and again during those three hours His soul recoiled and convulsed as all of the lies of civilization, the murders of a thousand "Killing Fields," the whorings of the world's armies, and the noxious brew of hatreds jealousies, and pride were poured on His purity. Finally He became a curse: **Galatians 3 13** *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree").*

This black silence goes on for one hour, then two. Wave upon wave comes upon our Sweet Savor. He who had never known a millisecond of separation from the Father and the Holy Spirit is alone. "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Courson... "I believe Jesus' cry is kept in the original Aramaic, His native tongue on earth, in order to show the intensity of His cry. Leprosy didn't intimidate Him; storms didn't frighten Him; armies didn't faze Him. The only thing that terrified our Lord was being out of fellowship with His Father. And when He who knew no sin became sin for us, that is exactly what happened."

Should it not terrify you to be out of fellowship with God. May your sins never callous you that you don't care anymore . . . nothing should matter more than your relationship with God.. NOTHING!

NUGGET ALERT ... The 9th book in the Bible is 1 Samuel. It concludes with the death of Saul and 2 Samuel starts with the rule of King David who is a picture of Jesus Christ.

Hebrew word for 9th... teshu'ah: rescue... deliverance, help, safety, salvation victory

Another nugget alert... Exodus 12 verse 8 told

them to roast the lamb on a stick. What is interesting about this is how they placed the sticks in the lamb. After gutting the animal they would impale it from head to tail with the main stick, but then they would place another smaller stick horizontally into the chest cavity to hold it open, (because they were not allowed to break any of it's bones) thus forming a cross. They then took the entrails and wrapped them around the head of the lamb forming a crown, pronouncing it "The crowned sacrifice".

35 Some of those who stood by, when they heard *that*, said, "Look, He is calling for Elijah!" 36 Then someone ran and filled a sponge full of sour wine, put *it* on a reed, and offered *it* to Him to drink, saying, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to take Him down." **Their offering of the wine was to prolong His life to see if Elijah would indeed come.**

Let's step back... take a deep breath and see God's plan of redemption.

Adam sinned... paradise was lost... MANKIND ALREADY IS CRYING OUT FOR A REDEEMER. God already had a plan to bring one... His Son...

HERE'S THE BIGGY! Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; a prophetic proclamation of Jesus Christ the Messiah. As far back as the second century this became known as the "first gospel" the **prot evangelium. Satan's one goal STOP THE SEED**

First let us note that when **Jewish scholars** in 250 B.C. (so 250 years before the birth of Christ) translated the Bible from Hebrew into Greek

(Septuagint) they interpreted the word "SEED" as a single individual.

Later Jewish scholars gave it further meaning when they said...

1. This was an individual
2. Always denotes a specific descendent of specific people
3. Will always be masculine

So some specific individual with a unique and specific blood line or descent who will be a male is going to engage in battle with Satan and **smash his face. Satan's one goal... stop this seed from being born!**

Fallen Adam did one thing right... he listened well to God's words to His wife.

So Adam Names his wife "EVE", "LIFE". **Hope wells within this fallen pair.**

**God gives them "CAIN" Could this be the seed?
GOD GIVES THEM "ABEL" HOPE IS ABOUNDING!**

BUT SATAN IS AFOOT! Sin was crouching at the door of our very first born of Adam and Eve. Cain went the "way of Cain" and answered. Cain murders his brother Abel . . .

As life faded from Abel's eyes so did the hope of the seed that would crush Satan's head. Satan thinks he was an early victory.

As God's word says, Hope deferred makes the heart sick (proverbs 13:12) **Cainite civilization went from bad to worse.**

God always has a plan! **God's grace again** Genesis 4 verse 25, And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him **Seth**, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."

*So, again Satan yells the words of the famous villain Snidely Whiplash,
"Curses, foiled again"*

*Salting the wound, God adds Enosh and at this time people began to call upon the name of the Lord...Oh yes, one day a seed, a child would come from Seth's descendants who would **smash Satan's face.***

GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION ENCODED IN THE GENEALOGY Of Genesis chapter 5.

Adam, Seth, Enosh, Kenan, Mahalalel, Jared, Encoch, Methuselah, Lamech and Noah all listed in Genesis chapter 5... *Putting their names together in their Hebrew meanings we get the **gospel in Genesis...*** Man appointed mortal sorrow the blessed God shall come down teaching His death shall bring the despairing rest.

SATAN IS TWISTED IN HIS RELENTLESS ATTEMPTS TO STOP THIS SEED.

FOR A DETAILED STUDY ON SATAN'S ATTEMPTS TO "STOP THE SEED" REFER TO STUDY NOTES ON [GENESIS CHAPTER 10.](#)

Oh Satan's attacks seeking to stop the seed would continue

- Abraham passing Sarah off as his sister the only means of fulfilling the Prophecy. He did it twice. **Satan, "Curses, foiled again"** Missed it by that much!
- Famine in Genesis 50
- Destruction of the male line in Exodus 1 **Moses was placed in a ark (box) and went down river. Satan, "Curses, foiled again"**
- Pharaoh's pursuit of the Israelites in Exodus 14

Multiple Attacks on David's Line

New Testament attempts

- Joseph's fears: Matthew 1
- Herod's killing of all babies: Matthew 2
- The Cross! Satan thought he had won, **"Curses, foiled again"**

For as God had promised thousands of years ago in the garden **Genesis 3:15 . . .** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

The sovereignty of God in His preservation of the Messianic line is astounding

This is so incredibly awesome God's plan rehearsed during every Passover... The plan fulfilled to the T. Established in Exodus and was so powerful *God changes the way time is calculated. Reversal of the civil and religious calendar. 7th month becomes the first!*

37 And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, and breathed His last.

THE PASSOVER LAMB was tied to the altar and at the time of death the High Priest would pronounce "It is finished" in front of the multitude that was gathered for the ceremony.

Jesus at that exact moment makes the declaration...

IT IS FINISHED "te-tel-es-sty" ID "Paid in Full."

WHAT IS FINISHED? As the JFB declares *"The Law is fulfilled as never before, nor since, in His "obedience unto death, even the death of the cross"; Messianic prophecy is accomplished; Redemption is completed; "He hath finished the transgression, and made reconciliation for iniquity, and brought in everlasting righteousness, and sealed up the vision and prophecy, and anointed a holy of holies"; He has inaugurated the kingdom of God and given birth to a new world."*

The work had been done, redemption had been won... The war was over without a fight IT IS FINISHED "Paid in Full."

[Colossians 2:14](#) "having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross."

[Hebrews 12:2](#) "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

VERSE 38 Then the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. **MATTHEW ADDS SOME RADICAL HAPPENINGS ...** Matthew 27 verse **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.*

THE VEIL OF SEPARATION A thick curtain separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place.

The word "**VEIL**" in Hebrew means a screen, **divider or separator** that hides. What was this curtain hiding? *Essentially, it was shielding a holy God from sinful man.* Whoever entered into the Holy of Holies was entering the very presence of God. **In fact, anyone except the high priest who entered the Holy of Holies would die.** Even the high priest, God's chosen mediator with His people, could only pass through the veil and enter this sacred dwelling once a year, **on a prescribed day called the Day of Atonement.**

The picture of the veil was that of a **barrier between man and God**, showing man that the holiness of God was a serious matter. **God's eyes are too pure to look on evil and He can tolerate no sin** **Habakkuk 1:13** *You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness.*

The veil was a barrier to make sure that man could not **carelessly** and **irreverently** enter into God's awesome presence. Even as the high priest entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, he had to make some meticulous preparations:

He had to wash himself, put on special clothing, bring burning incense to let the smoke cover his eyes from a direct view of God,

he sprinkled blood from a **bull** onto the atonement cover for **his and his household's sins**, then sprinkled blood from a **goat** for all the **sins of Israel**. God promised that when He saw the blood, it would cover over man's sin.

Hebrews 9:7 *"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"*

SO THE PRESENCE OF GOD REMAINED SHIELDED FROM MAN BEHIND A THICK CURTAIN DURING THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL.

Jesus' death and resurrection changed everything!

EVERYTHING! When He died, the curtain in the Jerusalem temple was torn in half, from the top to the bottom.

TOO HIGH and **TOO THICK** for a mere mortal man to have torn it. (The Jerusalem temple had a curtain that was about

60 feet in height, ceiling in sanctuary is 28 feet to top... 2x +

30 feet in width... 4 inches thick

Furthermore, it was torn from top down, meaning this act must have come from above.

As the veil was torn, the **Holy of Holies** was exposed.

High Priest had to wash himself, Now we must be washed in the blood of Christ

put on special clothing, We are now clothed in the Righteousness of Jesus

BRING BLOOD WITH HIM TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR SINS. WE ARE COVERED IN THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB

The torn veil illustrated Jesus' body broken for us, opening the way for us to come to God. As Jesus cried out "It is finished!" on the cross, He was indeed proclaiming that God's redemptive plan was now complete. The age of animal offerings was over. The ultimate offering had been sacrificed.

The people coming out of the graves . . . Death is dead!

Hebrews 6:19-20 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil,²⁰ where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 10:19-22 *"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body ...let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith."*

39 So when the centurion, who stood opposite Him, saw that He cried out like this and breathed His last, he said, "Truly this Man was the Son of God!" **This centurion saw many people crucified before; yet there was something so remarkable about Jesus that he said something about Jesus that He could say about no one else. He still did not get it . . . for Truly this man IS the Son of God! Not was!**

40 There were also women looking on from afar, among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the Less and of Joses, and Salome, **41** who also followed Him and ministered to Him when He was in Galilee, and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem. *Interestingly enough we never see women reject, mock and throw down hatred towards Jesus... they may have we just never read of it!*

Stedmen writes . . . Someone has called our present generation "Saturday's children" and it is an apt term. Our great American cities are, for the most part teeming with pools of human misery where people live out their days in a kind of ritual dance toward death with hope or illusion. In the midst of an increasingly godless world, despair grips people's hearts everywhere. Hopelessness and meaninglessness come crushing in on us from every side.

Without the resurrection, we are Saturday's children! 1 Cor. 15
 17-19 And if Christ is not risen, your faith *is* futile; you are still in your sins!
 18 Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in
 this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.

The sacred as sacrifice... The mortal reborn immortal

The fulfillment of a promise... What the resurrection means

Though we may run... He pursues

Though we may betray... He is faithful

The judge of my soul... Has become the love of my soul

What was the pain of my suffering... Has become the joy of His suffering

This Creator who knows my sin... Is now Savior who calls me friend

No longer etched on two stones... His law now written in our hearts

We no longer live by rule keeping... We now are guided by spirit – leading

Death defeated... Hope restored... Life renewed

Summoned as heirs... To live humbly in the knowledge

I am bought with a price... I am crucified with Christ

Once condemned by mosaic law... Now commissioned by Christ's love

To end religion... Preach redemption... Of sins forgiven

For Christ has risen... This is what the resurrection means!

Oh yes dear Church for us this is a ^{bb}Happy Day^{qq}