Matthew 27:45-56

- **Resurrection of the King - Matthew 26-28**
  - The Crucifixion…
    - Jesus was SCROUGED - and sent to the PRAETORIUM…
    - The Roman soldiers put a RED robe on Him - and a CROWN of thorns…
    - They MOCKED Him - beat Him - then sent Him to be CRUCIFIED on GOLGOTHA [skull]
    - There beside the main road - He was NAILED to a tree between TWO thieves…
    - The soldiers gambled for His clothes as He hung dying…
    - But Jesus was NOT bitter - instead He asked the Father to FORGIVE them - **Luke 22:34**
  - The Choice…
    - The crowds who passed by MOCKED - He said he could rebuild the TEMPLE in THREE days…
    - The leaders MOCKED - He saved others but CANNOT save Himself…
    - The thieves MOCKED - if You are the CHRIST save Yourself and US…
    - But ONE of them had a change of heart [forgive them] - and asked to be REMEMBERED!
    - **Luke 23:43** - "[Ἀμήν] I say to you today you will be with Me in Paradise."
- **1st - Darkness… vs. 45-49**
  - 1st - Light of the world… vs. 45
    - Dark hour…
      - Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land!
      - Jesus was CRUCIFIED at 9am on a Thursday - **Mark 15:25**
      - From 12pm to 3pm the WHOLE [πᾶς] earth [τὴν γῆν] was DARK!
      - There is a lot of SPECULATION about what caused this DARKNESS…
      - Some say it could have been CLOUDS - others argue for an ECLIPSE…
      - Neither would explain how the WHOLE world went DARK…
      - But since Jesus is the LIGHT of the world - when He died the LIGHT went out!
      - **John 8:12** – "Jesus spoke to them again saying: I am the light of the world."
    - Victory…
      - In this DARK hour - it appeared the ENEMY was victorious…
      - Satan no doubt was rejoicing - because he thought killing Jesus meant he WON!
      - **I Corinthians 1:8** - "[But] none of the rulers of this age [understood the plan]. For had they know they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."
      - Although this was the DARKEST hour in history – it was all a part of the PLAN of God…
      - And He would follow up this DARK day - with our salvation!
      - Times are often the most DIFFICULT - just before God does the most AMAZING work…
      - That is why we must NEVER lose hope – even if we cannot SEE it - God is WORKING….
      - We just need to REMEMBER - it is always the DARKEST just before the DAWN!
  - 2nd - Forsaken… vs. 46
    - Aramaic…
      - About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice saying:
      - Eli - Eli lama sabachthani? That is: My God - My God why have You forsaken Me?
      - Around [περί] 3pm - just before His death…
      - Jesus CRIED [ἀναβοάω] out to the FATHER with a LOUD [μέγας] voice…
      - ELI [2 - [אֵלִי x for emphasis - the Aramaic word for My [י] God [אֵל]
      - LAMA - the Aramaic - to [לְ] what [מָא] - or for what reason…
      - SABACHTHANI - the Aramaic [שְׁבַק] - did You [תַּ] LEAVE [perfect] Me [נִי]

- This saying of Jesus is ONLY recorded in Matthew and Mark [Ελωι] - **Mark 15:34**
- Jesus spoke them in ARAMAIC [similar to Hebrew] - the language of the Babylon…
- Because although the Bible is written in GREEK - most Jews spoke ARAMAIC [captivity]!

▪ Separation…
- For the first time in Eternity – the FATHER and the SON were separated…
- Jesus who had never SINNED – now bore every SIN of every person...
- The FATHER forsook the SON – because He carried the SIN of the whole world!
- **II Corinthians 5:21** – "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us - that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."
- Sin SEPARATES – because God is LIGHT and there can be no DARKNESS in Him – **I John 1:5**
- When we choose to SIN – we are choosing to SEPARATE ourselves from God...
- SIN keeps us from wanting to read our Bible – go to church – fellowship with believers...
- SIN will keep us from growing in the LORD – but the LORD keeps us from SIN!

▪ Prophecy…
- **Psalm 22:1** - "My God - My God - why have You forsaken Me!"
- When Jesus was on the CROSS He was alone - NO one stood with Him...
- He felt like He was a worm - something that no one cared about!
- **Psalm 22:6** – "I am a worm and no man. A reproach of men!"
- WORM [תּוֹלָע] - a small worm used to create RED dye…
- A WORM [תּוֹלָע] that in order to give life - attaches itself to a tree…
- It dies as it gives birth staining the tree in a RED stain…
- After its death - the RED stain becomes WHITE as snow and falls off the tree!
- Jesus allowed Himself to be nailed to a tree - stained it with His blood...
- After His death - He took the RED stain of our sin and made it WHITE as snow!
- **Isaiah 1:18** - "Though your sins are like scarlet [תּוֹלָע] they shall be as white as snow."

o 3rd - Not Elijah… vs. 47/49

▪ Bad interpretation…
- Some of those who stood there when they heard that said: This Man is calling for Elijah.
- The rest said: Let Him alone. let us see if Elijah will come to save Him!
- Some [τις] of the CROWD who heard what Jesus said…
- MISTOOK [imperfect] Him for calling [φωνέω] out to ELIJAH [the prophet]
- They assumed Jesus was using ELI [אֵלִי] - as an abbreviation for ELIJAH…
- Others [λοιπός] in the CROWD insisted [imperative] Jesus be LEFT alone…
- They wanted to see IF [εἰ] ELIJAH would come [indicative] and save Him!

▪ Be careful…
- ELIJAH is considered the greatest of all the PROPHETS…
- He faced off against the 450 prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel - **I King 18:40**
- He was one of TWO men in the Bible to NEVER die [chariot of fire] - **II Kings 2:11**
- And was prophesied to come back before the Messiah returns [John the Baptist] - **Malachi 4:5**
- Therefore to this day Israel is still looking for Elijah to COME [fourth cup of Seder]
- And He is assumed to be one of the TWO witnesses in the TRIBULATION - **Revelation 11:3**
- But Jesus was NOT calling out to ELIJAH - He was calling out to God [אֵלִי]
- All of this came from MISINTERPRETING one single WORD…
- This is why it is so important to be a GOOD student of the Bible…
- It is easy to MISINTERPRET a verse if we are NOT careful!
- **II Timothy 2:15 -** "Study to show yourself approved… rightly dividing the word of truth."

o 4th - I Thirst… vs. 48

- Compassion…
  - Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge.
  - Filled it with sour wine and put it on a reed and offered it to Him to drink!
  - ONE person responded to Jesus CRYING out…
  - They IMMEDIATELY ran and grabbed a sponge and filled it with VINEGAR [sour wine]
  - They put it on a STICK so that Jesus could DRINK [imperfect] from it!
- Broken Heart…
  - If we are wondering why give Him VINEGAR when He was carrying out for God [אֵלִי]
  - We get the answer in the parallel account in the book John!
  - **John 19:28** - "Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished… said: I thirst!"
  - Jesus THIRST was a result of His physical condition…
  - His scourging and crucifixion put Him in [hypovolemic] shock from massive loss of blood…
  - His heart would have raced to pump blood that was NOT there…
  - His kidneys would have begun to shut down to preserve body fluids…
  - Causing Him to experience extreme THIRST as the body tried to replenish lost fluids…
  - Leading to a rapid heartbeat causing fluid to build up around His heart [pericardial effusion]
  - That shortly would lead to heart failure – Jesus died of a broken heart!

- **2ND - DEATH OF JESUS… VS. 50-56**
  - 1st - It is Finished… vs. 50
    - Final words…
      - Jesus cried out again with a loud voice!
      - Jesus gave one FINAL loud [μέγας] cry [κράζω]
      - **John 19:30** - "He said: it is finished!"
      - FINISHED – from the root [τέλος] – to COMPLETE or bring to an END…
      - [Perfect] – the work of REDEMPTION was completed ONCE and for ALL…
      - [Passive] – there is NOTHING we had to do – Jesus did it ALL…
      - [Indicative] – there is no question that it is TRUE – the price was paid for EVERYONE!
    - Sent away…
      - [He] yielded up His spirit!
      - Jesus did NOT die - He [active] sent away [ἀφίημι] His Spirit [τὸ πνεῦμα]
      - Because NO one could take His life - He CHOSE to lay it down…
      - And He also had the POWER to take it back again!
      - **John 10:18** - "No one takes [My life] from Me but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it again."
      - Jesus did NOT come to HEAL us - make us RICH - or tell us how to have BETTER lives…
      - Jesus came to DIE – because it was the ONLY way to save us from our SIN!
      - People are always trying to ADD to the work of the CROSS…
      - Telling us we MUST go to church - be good - obey the commandments…
      - Yet when Jesus said - it is FINISHED – He meant it…
      - It does NOT matter who we are – what we have done…
      - How many mistakes we have made – if we messed up TEN years ago – or TODAY…
      - The work of the CROSS was COMPLETE – it took care of EVERYTHING!
  - 2nd - The Veil… vs. 51
    - Top down…
      - Behold the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom!
      - BEHOLD [ἰδού] - we are COMMANDED [imperative] to look…
      - The moment Jesus DIED - the VEIL of the TEMPLE was TORN [passive] - from the TOP down…
      - The TEMPLE was divided inside into TWO parts…

- The HOLY [הַקֹּדֶשׁ] - was the FIRST room where ONLY the priest were allowed…
- And the HOLY of HOLIES [קֹדֶשׁ הַקָּדָשִׁים] - the inner room with the Ark of the Covenant…
- The VEIL was a TEN centimeter thick cloth - separating the HOLY from the HOLY of HOLIES!

▪ Separation…
- Only the High priest could enter the HOLY of HOLIES – Day of Atonement - **Leviticus 16**
- He would enter with the BELLS on his robe – if they stopped it meant he was DEAD...
- Tradition tells us he would have a ROPE around his foot - to drag him out...
- The reason was to show the SEPARATION between God and man - **Hebrews 9:7-8**
- But because Jesus DIED for our sin – we have ACCESS to the presence of God...
- There is no longer a SEPARATION between God and man…
- We can now boldly enter the very throne room of God – the Holiest of All!
- **Hebrews 4:16** – "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

▪ Repaired…
- Tradition says that not long after – the Jewish leaders sewed the VEIL back up...
- God had OPENED up the way – men wanted to CLOSE it again…
- They would rather have RELIGION – than a true RELATIONSHIP with God!
- Men love religion because it puts salvation in their hands...
- But Religion cannot get us to heaven – on the contrary it keep us from God...
- It is like putting the Veil that Jesus tore down back up again!

o 3rd - The Saints… vs. 51-53

▪ Open graves…
- The earth quaked and the rocks were split.
- The graves were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised.
- Coming out of the graves after His resurrection - went into the holy city appeared to many!
- Along with the torn VEIL - the EARTH [ἡ γῆ] shook [σείω]
- The GRAVES of MANY [πολύς] of the SAINTS [ἅγιος] opened up [passive]
- Those who had fallen SLEEP [κοιμάω] - a euphemism for believers who have DIED…
- Were RESURRECTED - came out of their graves AFTER Jesus was raised [He was FIRST]
- They went into Jerusalem [Holy city] - and appeared to MANY [πολύς] people!
- The suggestion is Old Testament saints who were buried in Jerusalem…
- King David - King Hezekiah - the Prophet Isaiah - and others…
- Were all walking around Jerusalem in their GLORIFIED bodies AFTER Jesus Resurrection!

▪ Paradise…
- When Old Testament saints DIED they did NOT go to heaven - their SIN was NOT yet paid…
- In the center of the EARTH - there are TWO compartments…
- One a place of COMFORT - for those who DIED in faith [paradise]
- The other a place of TORMENT - for those who REJECT God [hell]
- When Jesus died on the CROSS - He descended into the GRAVE [שְׁאוֹל] - **Ephesians 4:9**
- He went down to Abrahams Bosom [παράδεισος] - **Luke 16:22**
- There He shared the GOOD news to all who had died in FAITH - **Isaiah 61:1**
- Then He set the CAPTIVES free - because the price for SIN had been paid…
- At which point the earth SHOOK - because the GRAVE could NOT hold the SAINTS!
- **I Corinthians 15:55-57** – "O death where is your victory? How we thank God who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord!" [NLT]
- The Gospel message is NOT just about the DEATH of Jesus…
- They KEY to the Gospel is that there is also a RESURRECTION…
- It is the PROOF that there is DEATH is NOT the end…

- We have the confidence that one day we also we overcome the GRAVE!
- **II Corinthians 5:1** - "We know that if our earthly house - this tent is destroyed - we have a building from God - a house not made with hands eternal in the heavens."

o 4th - The Soldiers… vs. 54
- Fearful…
  - 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!
  - The CENTURION and the SOLDIERS who were guarding Jesus…
  - Saw the sky grow DARK and the earth QUAKE - and were very AFRAID…
  - They were the ONES who had crucified Jesus - and were questioning their life choices…
  - They said: it is TRUE [ἀληθής] that Jesus was [imperfect] - A son of A god [no article]!
  - The soldiers were AMAZED by seeing the DARKENED sky and EARTHQUAKE...
  - But they did NOT necessarily believe that Jesus was God – who died for their sins!
- Emotional…
  - **James 2:19** - "Even the demons believe - and tremble."
  - DEMONS [δαιμόνιον] believe there is a God - and they have an emotional response to Him…
  - Like the SOLDIERS - they TREMBLE in His presence…
  - But it goes without saying that DEMONS will NOT be saved!
  - Just because we attend a moving worship service - that makes us FEEL closer to God…
  - Or we ENJOY coming to church – but do NOT change our heart…
  - Those EMOTION do NOT bring clarity to TRUTH – they often conceals it…
  - The ONLY way to be SAVED is to CHOSE to put our FAITH in Jesus!

o 5th - The Women… vs. 55-56
- Looking on…
  - Many women who followed Jesus from Galilee ministering to Him were looking on from afar.
  - Among whom were Mary Magdalene - Mary the mother of James and Joses.
  - And the mother of Zebedee sons!
  - There was also a group of WOMEN who were watching the CRUCIFIXION from AFAR…
  - Mary the mother of Jesus was there to see her son die – **John 19:25**
  - Mary Magdalene [Jesus cast SEVEN demons out of her] – **Luke 8:2**
  - Mary the mother of James and Jose [perhaps the sister of Mary] – **John 19:25**
  - Salome the mother of James and John [Sons of Thunder] – **Mark 15:40**
  - The Apostle John was also there – **John 19:26**
- Faith…
  - These WOMEN and John saw the same thing as the SOLDIERS…
  - But they had a very different RESPONSE - they did NOT fear - they had HOPE…
  - They heard the WORD of God - and had a sliver of FAITH…
  - Maybe - just maybe - THREE days later Jesus would be BACK!
  - **Mark 8:31** - "The Son of Man must… be killed - and after three days rise again."