



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## The King's Triumphant End!

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### Matthew 27:45-53

*“Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. 46) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?’ that is, ‘MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?’ 47) And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, ‘This man is calling for Elijah.’ 48) And immediately one of them ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink. 49) But the rest of them said, ‘Let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him.’ 50) And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. 51) And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split, 52) and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; 53) and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they entered the holy city and appeared to many.” (NASB)*

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“NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE IS THE MEANING OF THE CROSS DELINEATED MORE POWERFULLY THAN IN MATTHEW 27:45-53, WHICH RECORDS SIX MIRACLES THAT FORM ALMIGHTY GOD'S OWN COMMENTARY

ON THE MEANING OF THE CROSS.”

JOHN MACARTHUR

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Why was there darkness over “*all the land*” for His final three hours on the cross? How is it possible that Jesus as God could be forsaken by God Himself? What was the significance of God’s abandonment of His Son? Were these people still mocking Jesus even after experiencing three hours of supernatural darkness? What did Jesus “finish” on the cross?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > MARCH 9: PASTOR RANDY GILBERT PASTOR OF FAITH LANDMARKS MINISTRIES
- > APRIL 18-20: MATTHEW 27:54-56 RESPONSES TO THE DEATH OF CHRIST THE KING

By the time Jesus Christ was crucified, the Romans had crucified over 30,000 men in the region of Israel alone and many thousands more would follow, particularly in the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD. What made Jesus different from them all was that “*He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities*” (Isaiah 53:5). His death was prophesied as the solution to the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15). On that same mountain Abraham had been willing to offer his son, Isaac, as a picture of God’s sacrifice of His own Son (Gen. 22:1-18). In the first three hours on the cross as they mocked Him, Jesus had repeated the words, “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*” (Luke 23:34). He had also provided salvation by grace alone to the repentant criminal hanging with Him, “*Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise*” (23:43). Then He had honored His mother by securing her care, “*Woman, behold, your son!*” and to John, “*Behold your mother!*” (John 19:26-27). Yet the real work of the cross would not have been complete and Jesus would have only died as a martyr if the second three hours of His greatest agony on the cross had not been accomplished!

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“THE DEEPEST AGONY HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED.”

ARNO GABEILEIN

### I. FORSAKEN IN DARKNESS MT. 27:45-46

Though almost all the writers agree that this could not have been an eclipse, Burton Coffman says it best: “The sun itself is but a vast nuclear fire, a sustained and continuing reaction in which the sun’s mass is being

### BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30AM –PRAYER FOR OUR LEADERS – GAB 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR WEST CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 12:00NOON –BIBLE STUDY – WYTESTONE PLAZA AT 8<sup>TH</sup> & MAIN 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

# Virginia

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reduced at a rate of four million tons per second. That, of course is over fourteen billion tons an hour! God halted the reaction for three hours during the crucifixion.” He goes on to quote the report of Jesus by Pilate to Tiberius, Emperor of Rome: “And when he had been crucified, there was darkness over the whole earth, the sun having been completely hidden, and the heaven appearing dark, so that the stars appeared, but had at the same time their brightness darkened, as I suppose your reverence is not ignorant of, because in all the world they lighted lamps from the sixth hour until evening. And the moon, being like blood, did not shine the whole night, and yet she happened to be at the full.”<sup>1</sup> Amos had predicted it hundreds of years earlier, “*It will come about in that day, declares the Lord God, that I shall make the sun go down at noon, and make the earth dark in broad daylight*” (8:9). As the infinite Son of God nears His capacity for suffering the infinite wrath of God upon sin, He cries out what has been the greatest agony of His soul for the last three hours! In crying out, “*My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?*” (Ps. 22:1), He defines the meaning of the darkness. He suffers God’s abandonment, the constant fire raging in His nerves, and “*outer darkness,*” all of which comprise the torments of Hell (Mt. 22:13, Lk. 16:24). It is here that Jesus pays the infinite price for our salvation!

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**“TO BE DESERTED OF HIS GOD WAS THE CLIMAX OF CHRIST’S GRIEF, THE QUINTESSENCE OF HIS SORROW.”**  
C. H. SPURGEON

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### II. FULFILLMENT IN DRINK MT. 27:47-49

In spite of the utter darkness supernaturally surrounding them for the last three hours, the mockers twist the words “*ELI, ELI.*” “*And some of those who were standing there, when they heard it, began saying, ‘This man is calling for*

*Elijah.*” In the midst of His unfathomable agony, Jesus’ only concentration was to fulfill the will of God and the Word of God. “*After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I am thirsty’*” (Jn. 19:28, Ps. 22:15, 69:21). It is probably the Centurion who later believed that, “*ran, and taking a sponge, he filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed, and gave Him a drink*” (27:48). The merciless mockers objected and literally continued to say, “*Leave, let us see if Elijah is coming to save Him!*”

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**“THEY SEEM TO HAVE AMUSED THEMSELVES WITH THE THOUGHT THAT THIS PRETENDED MESSIAH WAS IN HIS HELPLESS EXTREMITY CALLING ON THE PREDICTED FORERUNNER OF THE MESSIAH TO COME AND HELP HIM.”**  
JOHN BROADUS

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### III. FINISHED IN DEATH MT. 27:50-53

Jesus, his throat refreshed by the liquid, triumphantly shouted with a loud voice, “*It is finished!*” (Jn. 19:30). This is the same word as “*perfect*” in Mt. 5:48 and He had just perfected God’s love for His enemies! “*And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.*” *And having said this, He breathed His last*” (Lk. 23:46). “*And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, and the earth shook; and the rocks were split, and the tombs were opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised*” (27:51-52). The hand of God works these mighty miracles of verification to show 1) that any hindrance of a veil into the presence of God had been removed and priests were no longer necessary, 2) that the earth was also paying tribute to the King and initiating His new covenant, 3) there was a new life in Jesus Christ through His sacrifice.

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<sup>1</sup> Burton Coffman, “Matthew, Chapter 27, Coffman’s Commentary of the New Testament on StudyLight.org,” <http://www.studyLight.org/com/bcc/view.cgi?book=mt&chapter=027> (accessed December 13, 2010), 19.

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#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Are you quick to forgive others as Jesus Christ exemplified upon the cross?
- 2) Have you viewed your sin in the light of the infinite suffering of Jesus to pay for your salvation?
- 3) How are you being perfected in loving your enemies as Jesus first taught and then accomplished upon the cross?