

## **Remembering the Words of Christ on the Cross: The Words of Separation and Anguish**

- I. Introduction:
  - a. (**Matt 27:45-46**) “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”
    - i. The worst of all suffering
    - ii. Prophesied by David
      - 1. (**Psalms 22**)
- II. The Darkness that lead up to these words
  - a. (**Luke 23:44-45**) “And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.”
    - i. From noon to 3 pm
  - b. Not just a natural occurrence of a solar eclipse
    - i. During this date it would be impossible for an eclipse to occur naturally
    - ii. Each Jewish month started on the new moon
      - 1. “The reason for the connection between the month and the moon is that the beginning of a month was marked by a new moon.” (Illustrated Dictionary of the Bible, Calendar, pg. 200, Thomas Nelson Publishers)
    - iii. The Passover was on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the month
      - 1. (**Lev 23:5**) “In the fourteenth day of the first month at even is the Lord's Passover”
    - iv. 14 days after a new moon is a full moon
      - 1. “About seven days later, the moon is on the side of Earth opposite the sun. The entire sunlit side of the moon is now visible. This phase is called a full moon.” (World Book 2004 Encyclopedia)
    - v. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon is in between the Sun and the Earth
      - 1. “Solar eclipses occur when the moon's shadow sweeps across the face of the earth.” (World Book 2004 Encyclopedia)
      - 2. Therefore, a solar eclipse can not occur during a full moon
    - vi. A solar eclipse does not last three hours
      - 1. “The period when the sun is totally darkened may be as long as 7 minutes 40 seconds, but it averages about 21/2 minutes.” (World Book 2004 Encyclopedia)
  - c. This was a supernatural event
  - d. External accounts of the darkening of the world
    - i. (**Tertullian, The Apology, Chapter 21**) “In the same hour, too, the light of day was withdrawn, when the sun at the very time was

in his meridian blaze. Those who were not aware that this had been predicted about Christ, no doubt thought it an eclipse. **You yourselves have the account of the world-portent still in your archives.**” (Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 3)

1. Tertullian appealed to Roman Rulers (**Chapter 1**); and it is certain Tertullian would not have made such an appeal to Roman records if it had not been true.
- ii. “Now to this question, although we are able to show the striking and miraculous character of the events which befell Him, yet from what other source can we furnish an answer than from the Gospel narratives, which state that "there was an earthquake, and that the rocks were split asunder, and the tombs opened, and the veil of the temple rent in twain from top to bottom, and that darkness prevailed in the day-time, the sun failing to give light?... . . .And with regard to the eclipse in the time of Tiberius Caesar, in whose reign Jesus appears to have been crucified, and the great earthquakes which then took place, Phlegon too, I think, has written in the thirteenth or fourteenth book of his Chronicles." Origen, Against Celcus, Book 2, Chapter 33) (from Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume 4)

1. Origen points to heathen writers to attest to the reality of this phenomenon

- III. At the close of the darkness Jesus asked his Father, ‘Why did you forsake me?’
- a. Young’s Translation: “My God, my God, why didst Thou forsake me?”
    - i. The verb "forsaken" is not in the perfect tense – Aorist
      1. Implies that during the three hours of darkness Christ had been in silence enduring this utter desolation.
  - b. Jesus did not ask this because he didn’t know. He knew the answer and he knew that this was going to happen before hand – He was God (**John 1:1**).
    - i. (**1 John 3:8**) “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”
      1. The Son of God knew very well what he had to endure
    - ii. (**Luke 22:42**) “Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”
      1. He prayed for the removal of this cup of suffering
  - c. It was a declaration to mankind. He spoke it for man’s benefit
    - i. A Declaration of What is Happening
    - ii. A warning of Hell
  - d. The Darkness – What was it?
    - i. God is the Father of lights
      1. (**James 1:17**) “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the **Father of lights**, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”
    - ii. Darkness is representative of Hell – Separation from the Light

1. (**Matt 22:13**) “Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into **outer darkness**; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
  2. (**Matt 25:30**) “And cast ye the unprofitable servant into **outer darkness**: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”
  3. (**2 Peter 2:17**) “These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom **the mist of darkness** is reserved for ever.”
  4. (**Jude 13**) “Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the **blackness of darkness** for ever.”
- iii. The Darkness that covered the Earth was symbolic of God turning away from the sin that was placed on His Son
1. (**2 Cor 5:21**) “For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”
- e. Why would God ‘separate’ Himself from His Son?
- i. Righteous Judgment of God required there to be a separation
    1. (**Isa 59:2**) “But your iniquities have **separated** between you and your God, and your sins **have hid his face** from you, that he will not hear.”
    2. (**Prov 15:29**) “The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.”
      - a. That is the punishment of sin
    3. This is the ultimate and eternal punishment for sin at Judgment
      - a. Second Death
        - i. Physical Death
          1. (**James 2:26**) “The body without the spirit is dead”
        - ii. Spiritual Death
          1. Separation from God
          2. (**1 Tim 5:6**) “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.”
        - iii. Second Death is the complete Separation from God – From all things that radiate from God
      - b. (**Rev 20:14-15**) “And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”
      - c. (**Rev 21:8**) “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have

their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

- d. **(2 Thess 1:7-9)** “And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with **everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord**, and from the glory of his power.”

ii. Jesus was a propitiation for our sins

1. **(Rom 3:25)** “Whom God hath set forth to be a **propitiation** through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”
2. **(1 John 2:2)** “And he is the **propitiation** for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
3. **(1 John 4:10)** “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the **propitiation** for our sins.”
  - a. Propitiation – “to make amends for”
  - b. Christ was sent to make amends for our transgressions to God
    - i. God didn’t just forget our transgressions – His legal wrath was spent – not withdrawn

iii. In being the perfect sacrifice, Jesus had to endure the legal wrath of God – That included spiritual separation!

1. **(Rom 6:23)** “For the wages of sin is death.”
2. He Paid that Wage
  - a. **(Heb 9:12)** “Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having **obtained eternal redemption** for us.”

iv. Jesus Christ was the ultimate Sacrifice for our sins

1. **(Heb 9:13-14)** “For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”
2. **(Heb 10:10)** “By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
  - a. The only sacrifice we need – sufficient to take away the sin of the world
    - i. **(John 1:29)** “...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.”

- f. He became our substitute
  - i. **(Isa 53:3-5)** “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, **smitten of God**, and afflicted. But he was **wounded** for our **transgressions**, he was **bruised** for our **iniquities**: the **chastisement** of our peace was **upon him**; and with his **stripes we are healed.**”
  - ii. **(1 Peter 2:24)** “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”

#### IV. A Warning for Us All

- a. Jesus suffering on the Cross is a glimpse at the punishment of Hell
  - i. Physical agony – “Gnashing of Teeth” “Everlasting Destruction”
  - ii. Spiritual agony – “Outer Darkness” “From the Presence of the Lord”
- b. Which will you hear God say:
  - i. “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.” **(Matt 25:21)**
  - ii. “Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” **(Matt 25:41)**