

## **DON'T PUT THE CURTAIN BACK UP!**

*Mat 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.*

*Mat 27:51 Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*

*Mat 27:52 and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised;*

The death of our Lord Jesus Christ was an earth shaking event! With a shout Jesus died and the earth shook with God's power. This shout of Jesus reverberated and shook the Earth! Matthew does not tell us what Jesus shouted but we know what He shouted because the Gospel of John tells us what it was.

*Joh 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.*

What did Jesus shout that reverberated so strong that the earth shook and the rocks were split? It was, "**IT IS FINISHED!**" This statement begs the question, "What was finished? Here in Matthew 27 we see in verse 51 that it was connected with the veil of the temple. Once Jesus shouted it is finished and died it says the veil in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The veil of the temple was a thick curtain that separated the holy place and the holy of holies. The priests could freely come and go to the holy place but only the High Priest could come once a year into the holy of holies. This was the abode of God Himself. If anyone but the High priest came into this area they died. Even the High Priest would die if he did not come with the proper blood sacrifice at the proper time. What separated man and God was the veil. Likenesses of angels were sown onto it. **This veil represented the Law of the Old Testament.**

*Act 7:53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."*

The Law was delivered by angels. That is why this veil that represented the Law had pictures of angels on it. This veil showed that it is the demands of the Law and our inability to keep it is what separated us from God.

*Heb 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,*

*Heb 10:20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh,*

Here we see that the veil of the temple represented the body of Jesus Christ. The Law of the Old Testament was just a shadow. To have a shadow you must have an object that casts the shadow. What object cast the shadow of the Old Testament Law?

*Col 2:16 Then do not let anyone judge you in eating, or in drinking, or in part of a feast, or of a new moon, or of sabbaths,*

*Col 2:17 which are a shadow of coming things, but the **body of Christ.***

What cast the shadow of the Old Testament shadow was the body of Christ. Jesus Christ is the essence of the Law of God. The Mosaic Law was but a shadow of Jesus. The veil of the temple represented God's perfect standard found in the Law and is fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. When Jesus died He shouted, "It is finished!" He was referring to the Old Testament law was finished. This word "finished" in Greek means completed, satisfied, and it also meant to pay a debt fully. Jesus fulfilled the law. He completed it and satisfied its holy standards for us. Jesus fully paid all our debts we owed from breaking the Law of God. Jesus said it was finished. The Greek tense of this verb means it has forever been finished and satisfied! To show this, the veil of the temple was torn in two. It is interesting to note that the veil was torn from the TOP to the BOTTOM and not bottom to the top. This means God was the one who tore it. God in the person of Jesus Christ fulfilled all His own holy standards for us! God cleared the way for us to come to Him and receive freely from Him.

Once this veil was torn it says that the earth shook. When God gave the Law on Mt. Sinai He shook the earth and the rocks were split. **God gave the Law to shake up man by revealing sin and its bondage. When Jesus died on the cross He shouted to shake us**

**free!** Lastly it says that the graves were open and God's people came forth. The Law brought death. It was called the ministry of death. (2 Cor. 3:7) But Jesus death for us gave us life and opened up the graves for us to live forever!

Jesus death tore the veil of the Law in two. We no longer must strive to earn or deserve God's blessing. We are free from having to qualify ourselves to partake of the blessings of God. The Law was man trying to become qualified to partake of God's blessings. Grace is the unmerited favor of God that comes to us because Christ's perfect life, sacrifice, and death which qualifies us for all the blessings of God.

***Col 1:12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.***

God has forever fulfilled the Law for us. The veil is removed and we have free access to the throne of grace to receive our inheritance from our loving Father. What keeps so many Christians from the blessings of God is not that they fail to deserve them, but that they try to earn them and deserve them by their performance. So often our focus is on our own life on why God should bless and give to us. This is what frustrates the grace of God. Instead of focusing on our life we should focus on His death! It was his death and His fulfilling the Law for us that we have free access to God and to His provisions. Jesus has removed the curtain for us! Do not put the curtain back up! Come to God with your focus on the death of Christ for you and freely receive what you need and what Jesus died to give you. The One you are asking from is the One who has qualified you to receive! Thank God the curtain has been removed. Don't put it back up!