

Mt 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. **51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;** **52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose,** **53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many.** **54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.**

What happened when Jesus died upon the Cross? The first thing we notice is that Jesus "***yielded up the ghost.***" This shows the difference in Jesus incarnate and mortal man, how? Mortal man dies by God taking his breathe and life away. Jesus yielded up his life. Scripture tells us in: ***Lu 23:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."*** Jesus commanded his spirit to return to his Father in heaven.

Commend is from the Greek word ***paratithemi*** (pronounced; par-at-ith'-ay-mee) and means; *to place alongside, present food or truth; to deposit (as a trust or for protection): commit (the keeping of), put forth, set before.* This demonstrates; though Jesus was incarnate; he still retained his deity, his Godhead power. We know this is true because Jesus tells us in: ***Joh 10:17-18; 17 "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."*** Man does not have the power to lay down his mortal life and then raise it up into immortality. Mortal man cannot send his spirit to heaven, nor keep it from going into eternal damnation. This is only accomplished by the divine power of God, at his own choosing. A good lesson for us here; as Jesus willingly gave his all in mortality, we should be willing to give our all to God while we are living here.

Next we see; "***And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom;***" From "***the top to the bottom***" indicates to us; the power to rend the veil was from above, the top, which indicates to us a heavenly power. This veil was the curtain that hung around the holiest of holy place, and hid the things therein from the eyes of all, except those of the High Priest, who entered once a year to make atonement for all of God's people Israel. Inside this holiest place was the mercy seat, which is a picture, of the heart of God forgiving his people of their sins and communing with them. How was this accomplished? It was accomplished by the blood sacrifice, of the mortal body of Christ on the cross.

This veil then is a picture of the incarnate body of Christ. I had never considered this picture of Jesus being represented by the veil, until Vernon McGee mentioned it. Though he gave no details, God opened a window of understanding for me, which I wish to share with you. How, you ask, can this be? Let's look at some scripture teachings and see. Who did the religious leaders of Israel not recognize? It was Jesus incarnate. They did not see that he was indeed the Son of the Living God of Israel. They could not see past the veil of flesh, his natural body, and see that he was the mercy seat for God's people. They saw only a carnal man, who was taking away from them; their power to be in control of themselves and the people Israel.

This is the same reason, that even today; the world does not see the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ. They only see the outer workings of the ritual of religion. They do not see into the heart of the matter. Israel's leadership was caught up in the ritual of religion, and they lost sight of the true meaning of the sacrificial law service. Organized religion today has the same problem. They see a ritual of religious practice, as the means of salvation, as a means of controlling people, as a means of extorting money from people, and a means of demonstrating their great earthly powers. These rituals are not the "**salvation by grace**" which the bible teaches. They are "thus saith man" and are rooted in the work of satan to deceive people away from the truth of God.

What significance does the veil being rent in twain have to God's people today? It is the picture of Christ incarnate suffering upon the cross, giving up his life thereon, and the veil being rent, so that God's people see the heart of God. The rending of the veil was like opening a door. What did Jesus tell us of himself while here upon the earth? He said in: **Joh 10:7-9; 7 "Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture."** Christ' giving up his life on the cross, opened the door to the mercy seat, for all of those that God the Father gave to God the Son to save. Do you see? just as Christ had power to lay down his life and take it up again; so he had power to open the closed door, for the revelation of the mercy seat, that born again sinners might see the heart of God, in choosing them for redemption from sin?

Now, we see; the door was indeed opened, the veil was rent from the top to the bottom, by the power of God. God the Father sent God the Son, from the top, to rend the veil. Jesus incarnate, at the bottom, is the completion of the veil rending. Christ only can open the door effectual to those given him of the Father. He is the door, he is the way, he is the truth, and he is the life, of all of God's chosen people. We see the veil rent from top to bottom by Jesus Christ descending to earth and putting on mortality. It is his mortality that blinded the eyes of the religious leaders. They could not see past the veil of his flesh. The same is true for those who are yet dead in sins and have not been born again.

Having accomplished the work the Father gave him to do; he commanded his spirit back to the eternal heaven from whence he came. He came from above to rend the veil, between an offended God and offending man, and open an effectual door of salvation by grace to lost and ruined sinners. He came and established the church of Salvation by Grace, and opened the scriptures; to the revelation that he was indeed the Christ, and thus began the preaching of the gospel of Jesus, the Christ.

"and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; 52 And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, 53 And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." These were all natural occurrences on earth, which happened when the mortal body of Christ, died upon the cross. These words give us a beautiful picture of how Salvation by Grace works on earth today.

We remember the words of Paul in: **Ro 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"** Do you realize that in mortality we are in the body of death? The deliverance from this body of death, mortality, is the putting on of Christ in being born again. When we are born again we are given eternal life. Do you see, being born again and being given eyes that see; we see that without the remission of sins granted to us through Jesus Christ, we are lost and forever doomed to

the eternal death in the lake of fire? When we see this, our mortal body begins to quake (the earth), the rock of our hardened hearts is rent, the body of flesh (the grave) is opened, and the Holy Spirit enters into the newly created heart of flesh. This new born creature is now able to rise up and enter into the holy city to be seen of men.

"and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many." The holy city spoken of in this text is Jerusalem. The holy city, here on earth, is represented by the church of Jesus Christ, our land of promise here in time. We have then, a picture of the born again sinner joining the visible church that Christ established when he was upon the earth. After all, I ask you this question: why would Christ establish a church on earth for his people to live in, if they are not going to enter into it? It is your born again duty, as a born again Christian, to enter into the church on earth, and to be actively participating in the worship of God. It would be pointless to establish the church and not have any occupants in it. Our occupancy, of the church here, is emblematic of our eternal hope, of being resurrected into immortality in the New Jerusalem, our eternal Holy City.

Lastly, the born again heart of flesh is immortal, and is picturesque of the last resurrection, seen in: **1Th 4:14-18; 14 "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words."**

As we consider all these things, revealed to us by the Holy Spirit; we understand the emblematic picture, of the veil of the temple being representative of the mortal body of Christ. Aren't you glad; the veil was rent; to provide the door, by which we may enter into our eternal rest? Praise the Lord for Salvation by Grace and Eternal Life, from our risen, and exalted, Saviour and Lord Jesus, the Christ! Hallelujah! Amen!

10 7s. Love of Jesus.

- 1 LOVE divine, how sweet the sound; May the theme on earth abound; May the hearts of saints below, With the sacred rapture glow.
- 2 Love amazing, large, and free, Love unknown, to think on me; Let that love upon me shine, Saviour, with its beams divine.
- 3 Better than earth's gilded toys, Or an age of carnal joys; Better far than Ophir's gold, Love that never can be told.
- 4 Better than this life of mine, Saviour, is thy love divine; Drop the veil, and let me see, Rivers of this love in thee.
- 5 While in Mesech's tents I stay, Love divine shall tune my lay; When I soar to bliss above, Still I'll praise a Saviour's love.