

# THE DAY THE LIGHTS WENT OUT

## MATT. 27:45-46

Matthew 27:45-46 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?" (NASB)

### I. The darkest day in world history. The Eternal Light was in darkness. verse 45

- A. He was on the cross for three hours before darkness fell in. He was crucified at 9 AM. **Mark 15:25** And it was the third hour when they crucified Him. (NASB)
- B. Was this a natural solar eclipse as Luke suggests? **Luke 23:44-45** And it was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, 45 the sun being obscured; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. (NASB)
- C. Several reasons why not:
1. Passover's usually had a full moon. Every Jewish month began with a new moon. **Leviticus 23:5** 'In the first month, on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight is the LORD's Passover. (NASB)
  2. Passover was two weeks after the new moon. **Matthew 26:17** ... "Where do You want us to prepare for You to eat the Passover?"
  3. Yes, four hours are consumed in the duration of an eclipse, but only some 9 minutes of that time are used up in TOTAL eclipse.
  4. God was there! He really was, you know. **Matthew 27:51-53** 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. **Romans 8:22** For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (NASB)
- D. Did the darkness cover the entire earth. **Luke 23:45** the sun being obscured...
- E. An interesting observation is that there does seem to be a direct prophesy connected with this phenomena. See, Amos 8:9.
- F. Some say this blackout occurred so as to screen out the last tormented hours of Jesus' life, but: **Romans 3:25** whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. [This was] to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; (NASB)
- G. This darkness is suggestive of the outer darkness of endless separation of the lost. What Jesus felt in His 3 hours of darkness is what the lost will feel for eternity. **Matthew 8:12** but the sons of the kingdom shall be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. " (NASB) **Matthew 22:13** "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' (NASB) **Matthew 25:30** "And cast out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (NASB) **2 Peter 2:17** These are springs without water, and mists driven by a storm, for whom the black darkness has been reserved. (NASB)

**Jude 12-13** These men are those who are hidden reefs in your love feasts when they feast with you without fear, caring for themselves; clouds without water, carried along by winds; autumn trees without fruit, doubly dead, uprooted; 13 wild waves of the sea, casting up their own shame like foam; wandering stars, for whom the black darkness has been reserved forever. (NASB)

**2 Thessalonians 1:9** And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (NASB)

## II. Stricken, smitten of God and afflicted... Isaiah 53:4. verse 46

- A. He hung there 6 long hours, the longest in history. **Matthew 27:45** Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. (NASB)
- B. Psalms 22:1 ...My God, My God, why... was not coincidental, but intentional and revealing.
  1. David did more than just prophesy the 22nd Psalm.
  2. It was not the cry of personal guilt or a rejection of the cross by the Father.
  3. His unique unity of mind, purpose, and nature with the Father was not interrupted [John 10:30].
  4. Only He who has fully experienced the partnership of equality with God can know what it means to suffer its loss by being so completely forsaken by Him.
  5. He completely shared our humanity [Heb. 2:14; 4:15].
  6. He really felt the intensely depressing loneliness all of us feel at such an hour, and this cry gives appropriate words to His pain.
  7. As Man at His weakest, stripped of any help unavailable to any other man, He defeated Satan and all he could hurl at Him in his last supreme effort. **2 Corinthians 13:4** For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we shall live with Him because of the power of God [directed] toward you.
8. He also condemned yielding to sin while being abandoned by God. **Romans 8:3** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God [did:] sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and [as an offering] for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, (NASB)
9. THIS man must have felt the awesome loneliness and isolation of the sinner, not through any fault of His own, but because He deliberately chose to be the sin-bearer of the entire human race [Isa. 53:6; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 5:6ff.; 2 Cor. 5:15, 21; Gal. 2:20; 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:6; Titus 2:14; Heb. 9:12, 26, 28; 10:10; 1 Peter 1:19].
10. God cannot look upon evil. **Habakkuk 1:13** [Thine] eyes are too pure to approve evil, And Thou canst not look on wickedness [with favor.]...
11. Nothing could remove the sin Jesus bore, except His own death.
12. He underwent the ultimate horror of separation from God that we might not have to.

**Isaiah 53:4-6, 10** Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being [fell] upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. 6 All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. 10 But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting [Him] to grief; If He would render Himself [as] a guilt offering, He will see [His] offspring, He will prolong [His] days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand. (NASB)
- C. The ninth hour was the hour of the second daily sacrifice [Acts 3:1]. No small coincidence, indeed.