

Message #99**Matthew 27:45-56**

Dr. Stanley Toussaint said Matthew's account of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ features four very unique things: 1) It features a precise fulfillment of prophecy; 2) It features Jesus Christ receiving extreme mockery; 3) It features a superscription that identifies Christ as King of the Jews; 4) It features the fact that Jesus Christ voluntarily laid down His own life; no one took it from Him (Toussaint, pp. 312-313).

JESUS CHRIST WAS THE DIVINE KING IN HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS AND THE SPECIFIC EVENTS THAT OCCURRED AT HIS DEATH PROVE IT.

EVENT #1 – The earth's darkness. 27:45

Mark informs us that Jesus Christ was crucified the third hour (Mark 15:25), which means He was crucified somewhere around 9 AM. Darkness covered "all" the earth or land from the 6th hour (noon) to the 9th hour (3 PM). Now the phrase "upon all the earth" is constructed in such a way that it refers to land which is specific.

EVENT #2 – The King's cry. 27:46

Now this cry is critical because it explains the darkness. Furthermore, we may notice that twice in this context we read Jesus "cried out with a loud voice" (v. 46, 50). This is important for it tells us that there was no sign of any exhaustion which led to His death. Jesus was in complete control of everything He was doing and saying.

Christ's cry is a fulfillment of prophecy, specifically Psalm 22:1. The cry is given in Hebrew. The reason for the darkness and the cry is because Jesus had never known one second when He had any separation from God the Father. There was no blemish in Him. There was no sin in Him. He had never before been separated from His Father.

This was the very moment when Jesus actually was the sin offering in the mind of the Father. This was the very moment that He was drinking the cup of God's judgment. This was the moment when the Just had died for the unjust that He might bring us to God (John 1:29; Rom. 5:8; II Cor. 5:21; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18).

EVENT #3 – The crowd's response. 27:47

This is significant because this immediately connects their thinking to O.T. Messianic predictions concerning Elijah. Deep inside these people knew who was dying.

EVENT #4 – The King's drink. 27:48

It is possible that because some people thought Jesus was trying to say Elijah rather than Eli, they figured He was slurring His speech because He needed a drink.

EVENT #5 – The crowd’s response. **27:49**

Some were still mocking Christ and said let’s see if Elijah will come and save Him.

EVENT #6 – The King’s death. **27:50**

Never is Jesus more in charge than at this moment. Carefully notice He cries with a loud voice. He is not struggling to live. This is a moment He determined Himself and He “yielded up His spirit.” No one took Christ’s life from Him (John 19:11, 15, 17-18). Jesus was always in complete control of His life and in complete control of His moment of death.

EVENT #7 – The divine signs. **27:51-53**

There are series of signs which happened which clearly establish that the One who just died was, in fact, the King of Kings, the Savior of the world.

(Sign #1) - The veil of the temple was orn in two. **27:51a**

The veil was a large curtain which separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place and the rest of the temple. The veil was a sign that it was impossible for man to approach God. The veil was torn in two from top to bottom, making approach possible. This is important for it shows that God was the one who was opening up heaven to man. This comes from heaven-down, not man-up. God was showing that through the death of Christ, sinful men on earth could now have access to Holy God in heaven (Heb. 9:2-3). Apparently this event prompted many priests in Jerusalem to eventually believe (Acts 6:7).

(Sign #2) - The earth shook. **27:51b**

These next signs are very peculiar to Matthew, and are designed to show that Jesus Christ was the King of Kings. What was happening to Jesus Christ was literally an earth-shaking event.

(Sign #3) - The rocks split. **27:51c**

(Sign #4) - The tombs opened. **27:52-53**

EVENT #8 – The soldier’s response. **27:54**

Now keep in mind that the centurion and the soldiers are Gentile heathens. Many soldier’s came to the right conclusion—they identified Jesus as “the Son of God.” It is possible that many of the soldier’s believed on the Lord at this point. This is important for it was foreshadowing the fact that heathen Gentiles would be the first to really get into a right relationship with God. Israel’s house was left desolate, but Gentile heathens would respond.

EVENT #9 – The women’s presence. **27:55-56**

Jesus Christ proved He was the King in His life and He proved He was King in His death.