

The Veil is Torn

MATTHEW 27:51

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;

INFORMATION

The temple was divided into three sections with the innermost section being known as the “Holy of Holies.” This section was separated from the other inner section by a curtain that was as much as 4 inches thick (we don’t know exactly how thick, but historical accounts and Jewish writings indicate 4” is a reasonable measure). This was not a wedding dress veil, it was a heavy, imposing curtain that was a significant obstacle to entering the Holy of Holies. The Ark of the Covenant was kept in the Holy of Holies, and God resided there. The early temple was known as the Shekinah Glory. The veil signified a separation between man and God. The high priest was the only man who could ever enter the Holy of Holies, and he only entered this room once a year to give a yearly offering. Regular Israelites did not have access to this room.

When Christ died, this heavy curtain was ripped from top to bottom (Heaven to Earth) and signified that we now have access to the Holy of Holies. The barrier between God and us has been removed!

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

Sometimes when reading the Bible, we can easily overlook key verses. Without much knowledge of the veil of the temple, we can miss out on one of the great truths of the gospels. We should endeavor to read the Bible in its entirety even when we don’t fully comprehend what we are reading. Even a minor improvement in our understanding can be a great blessing to us. Of course we should also be constantly reminded that we do, indeed, have access to God through Jesus. We can enter the Holy of Holies because God provided a way!

Additional Thoughts

Hebrews chapter 9 expounds upon the meaning of Jesus death resulting in the veil being torn. Here it is:

Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary. 2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. 3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all; 4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; 5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly. 6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. 7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people: 8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: 9 Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; 10 Which stood only in meats and drinks, and divers washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. 11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 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. 13 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: 14 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? 15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance. 16 For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. 17 For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth. 18 Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. 19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. 23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.