

THE TORN VEIL

Introduction

- 1) **Mark 15:37-38; Matthew 27:51; Luke 23:45** – when Jesus died, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom
- 2) This seemingly small detail has great significance concerning the sacrifice of Jesus, the Old Testament tabernacle/temple system, and the salvation of man

I) **The Veil of the Tabernacle/Temple**

A) ***Exodus 26:31-36; 2 Chronicles 3:14***

- 1) Was a divider between the holy place and the Most Holy place
 - a) Veil was about 60 ft high, 30 ft wide, and four inches thick
- 2) The Ark of the Testimony/Covenant placed “behind the veil”
- 3) Other items placed “outside the veil” (Ex. 27:20-21)

B) ***Exodus 40:3, 21***

- 1) Ark of Testimony would be “partitioned” [screened] off by the veil

C) ***Leviticus 16:2, 11-16***

- 1) High Priest went “inside the veil” with incense and the blood of a bull and goat only on the day of Atonement (once a year)

D) Purpose of veil

- 1) Conceal the Most Holy place [Holy of Holies], and forbid sinful men to enter the Divine Presence and have immediate access to God

II) **Veil Torn**

A) ***In two from top to bottom*** – supernatural act of God, not man

B) ***The Most Holy Place opened and revealed for all to see***

- 1) Removal of the “divider” – no more restriction of sight or access

C) ***Happened when Jesus died on the cross***

- 1) Not a coincidence – Jesus’ death provided for us a new and better way into the Presence of God

III) **A New and Living Way**

A) ***Hebrews 9:1-10, 11-12, 23-26***

- 1) “*The way into the Holiest of All was not yet made manifest*” in the days of the old tabernacle/temple – veil prevented sinful men direct access to the presence of God
- 2) “*But Christ came*” and entered the Most Holy Place in the heavenly tabernacle once for all to appear in the presence of God for us with His own blood to obtain eternal redemption

B) ***Hebrews 10:19-22***

- 1) We are now able to boldly “*enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh*”
 - a) Only through the Christ and His sacrifice can man come to God today (Jn. 3:16)
- 2) We can “*draw near with a true heart*” sanctified and purified for the presence of God

C) ***Hebrews 6:18-20***

- 1) Our “*hope we have as an anchor of the soul...which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus...*”
- 2) Our hope is anchored in heaven, where we have our treasure, citizenship, and inheritance
- 3) Christ is our “forerunner,” meaning He went in advance to heaven where we follow

Conclusion

The veil of the temple was torn in two, providing access through Christ to divine salvation, grace to help in time of need, and the hope of heaven. The “ark of the covenant” can now be seen in God’s temple (Rev. 11:19). Christ is the way, the truth, and the life! Follow Him today!