

April 15, 2023

The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how He died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"—Mark 15:38–39 (NIV)

Friday had come. It was the day the chosen lamb had to be sacrificed. The time was 3:00 p.m. The time of sacrifice had come. The shofar in the temple sounded out, but this day was unlike any other Friday in the history of history. It was dark as night. There were rumblings of thunder. The ground was shaking.

The people who had been watching the Crucifixion of Jesus began to tremble. This was no ordinary crucifixion. Something had changed. You could feel it in the air. You could see it on the faces of the Roman soldiers who had witnessed the event. And then it happened. Jesus cried out to the Father and bowed His head and died. At the time of the sacrifice in the temple, it happened—and everything changed immediately. The veil was torn! The veil that separated man from God. The veil that had said to the priests, "You can go no farther. This place is holy. This place is inhabited by God alone. But not any longer. God has spoken. He has done it. He has paid a debt that He did not owe! He has sacrificed the spotless, blameless, perfect Lamb of God, Jesus."

His blood has covered us. He has cleansed us. To the heavenly Father, we are now clean and purified, made new and whole, acceptable in His sight. When He looks at you and me, He sees us through the blood of Jesus. We are now justified. The wall that was built when Adam sinned has been ripped in two—from God to you—so that you can now come in and have a relationship with the Father:

O, praise the Name of Jesus!

O, sing of His mercy and His grace!

O shout unto the Lord all of you who have witnessed His mercy!

The Lamb has made us a way! (Rod Compton)

Oh heavenly Father, thank You that You were willing—because of Your great love—to invite us into Your presence. You made a way when there seemed to be no way. You tore down the veil. You called out to us. You paid the price for us! How can we ever be the same? I pray we never will again. In Jesus's name, amen.