

Context

- 1] Jesus allowed Himself to be captured by the Jewish authorities and put to death by the Romans.
- 2] He is crucified between two criminals – one mocks Him but the other believes in Jesus and is promised – ‘today you will be with me in paradise’.

44 And it was about the sixth hour.

At day break, 6 am – the beginning of the first hour, Jesus was tried before the Sanhedrin / Jewish court (23:66) then in quick succession He was taken to Pilate, then to Herod, ruler of Galilee who was in Jerusalem, then back to Pilate where He was sentenced to death then led out and crucified – and all well before the sixth hour 12 noon.

Nb the amazing speed -24 hrs earlier the crowds had hung on His words.

... and there was a darkness over all the earth until the 9th hour,

Nb God separated the light from the darkness (Gen 1:4) God is light. In Him is no darkness at all (1 Jn 1:5)

Darkness (Job 3:4 + 29 others!)

Ninth hour - the Temple hour of prayer (Acts 3:1; 10:3)

God is prepared to remove Himself from His creatures

45 While the sun's light failed

nb Not an eclipse (impossible at Passover - full moon)

This must have been pitch black – no light at all, can't see past the end of your nose, - terrifying

And the curtain of the temple was torn in two

In the Temple there was a 30ft-high curtain separating the ‘Most Holy Place’, where God’s presence was manifest, from the rest of the temple, signifying the separation of God’s presence from sinful mankind (Exodus 26:33). Only the high priest could enter, and only once a year, on the day of atonement (Leviticus 16:2,3,29,30).

Cf Jesus opened the way to God: (Heb 9:7-8; 10:19-22)

**GRACE - “Through Jesus’ crucifixion, the barrier between God and man was removed”*

46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice,

cf loud voice – protest of demoniacs (4:33; 8:28) - praise of God (17:15; 19:37)

nb expresses emotion with the intention that all should hear.

JESUS wants all to see (and follow) His submission to the Father

Listen to Jesus ‘loud voice’

Follow Jesus’ example – entrust the Father with your life

said, "Father,

cf “Father” (by Jesus) (11:2; 22:42; 23:34)

... into your hands I commit my spirit!"

Nb ‘into your hands I commit my spirit, you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God’ (Psalm 31:5)

Nb this was a nightly prayer of a Jewish mother with her children

Cf Stephen 1st Christian while He was being put to death - “Lord Jesus receive my spirit” (Acts 7:59)

And having said this he breathed his last.

Greek exepneusen, not the normal word for dying,

Nb a bodily description – The body had ceased – but not His spirit

47 Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, "Certainly this man was innocent!"

nb Senior soldier, over 100 men, in charge of execution – a major event

Innocent = righteous cf vs 50. (Rmns 5:19)

Luke was a travelling companion of Paul. He used key word like 'righteous in the same way

Nb Praise (lit. glorify God) of the angels (2:14)

Cf He who knew no sin was made to be sin for us so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor 5:21)

Look at the crucifixion and give glory to God

Confess that Jesus is the righteous one – we are guilty

48 all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts.

Nb a sign of grief.

Cf the crowds (23:4)

*48 'crowds' of the 3000 at Pentecost (Acts 2:41) - many of the same people?
beating their breasts (Nab 2:7) – a sign of grief, remorse*

48 note the terror due to the darkness / the absence of God

Repent at the 'sight' / the reality of the crucifixion

49 And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

Nb lit 'all the (ones) known to Him' – i.e. widest group of disciples?

Cf The women who had followed Him from Galilee (23:55)

Cf (the twelve ..also some women .. who provided for them out of their means (8:2,3)

49 All His followers - Watch these things

Conclusion

1] How do you view the crucifixion – as an interest story or a reality that would cause you 'to beat your breast.'

2] If it appals you, then recognise your guilt and receive His innocence and stand tall!

MP *And the curtain of the Temple was torn in two (45)*

KV *Through Jesus' crucifixion, the barrier between God and man was removed.*

Surprise?

47 Why did the Roman soldier praise (glorify) God?

the Roman soldier praised (glorified) God as He believed Jesus was the King

Summary

It went dark everywhere between the 6th and 9th hour as the sun failed. The Temple curtain was torn in two. Jesus yielded Himself to the Father in death. The centurion expressed belief in Jesus and His righteousness. The previously hostile crowd went home repenting. His followers and the women from Galilee watched from a safe distance.