

## "IT IS FINISHED !"

**Mt. 27:50**

**Introduction:** The great shout of triumph and the yielding up of Jesus' spirit brought about some astonishing things. Before looking at some of these events, let us remember some things that surround those words:

- Those words were the shout of victorious purpose. Christ had completed His work, mission, and task. He was not crying the cry of a defeated martyr. He was crying the cry of a victorious conqueror.
- He willingly yielded and gave up His spirit. Always remember that Jesus died **willingly**. He willingly came to this moment of yielding and giving up His spirit unto death.
- He died at the ninth hour (3:00) The very hour when the priests began to make the evening offering of the Passover Lamb. While the priests were going about sacrificing the symbolic lamb for the people, the true Lamb of God was being sacrificed for the people's sins outside the city walls.

Upon His cry "***It is finished !***" some astonishing things happened:

### **1. The great veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom.**

- The veil surrounded the ark of the covenant which symbolized the very presence of God Himself.
  - It was huge and beautiful, made of the very finest materials, sixty or more feet high, several inches thick.
- The veil was torn from top to bottom. Done by God, Himself. Direct access to God was now open.
  - It was the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. Only the High Priest could enter and only one day a year.
- With the veil rent, even gone, through the body of Christ, any man can enter the presence of God, at any time, any place and pray.

### **2. There was a terrifying earthquake.**

- The earth quaked under the weight of the sin placed upon its' designer and creator.
- The earth quaked and threw its' rocks to reveal the fatal blow to Satan's domain and reign.
- The earth quaked to awaken and wait for the glorious day of redemption when Christ returns.

### **3. Many Saints were resurrected.**

- The graves were opened during the terrifying earthquake, but the bodies did not arise until after Jesus' resurrection (27:52) for Jesus had to be the first to rise from the dead - the first never to die again. Their resurrection shows at least two things:
  - The sting is now taken from death, the power of death is now broken.
  - Believers shall arise and be recognized and know one another.

### **4. Jesus descended unto hell.**

- He went and preached unto the spirits in prison said Peter (1Pet. 3:19), confronting the lost in hell and proclaiming that the way of the righteous was now vindicated.
- Paul said that "***when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive..but He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth..***" (Eph. 4:8-10). Christ conquered all the enemies of man and set man free to arise and live forever in the presence of God.

**5. The Centurion and others confessed that: "Truly this was the Son of God."**

- Nobody could fully understand all that had happened, but they knew that Jesus had claimed to be the Son of God and in witnessing His words, His behavior on the Cross, and all the astonishing events surrounding His death (darkness, earthquake, winds). They then believed His claim to be true.

**"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. FOR WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND WITH THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION." (Ro. 10:9-10)**

- The magnetic power of the cross had already begun its' work.  
**"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." (Jn. 12:32)**
- Truly believing the claim of Christ to be the Son of God is what it takes to be saved.

**6. The courage and love of the women.**

- Many women were there. The men fled, but many women came, stayed and demonstrated courage.
- Some stood at the very foot of the cross, and some stood far off.
- Their love ran deep and their devotion and courage clear.
- They triumphed over fear. They did not fear the enemies of Christ. They triumphed simply because **they loved more than they feared!**