

## WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

April 15, 2020

***"And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost. And the veil of the temple was rent in twain from top to bottom." (Mark 15:37-38)***

There were three entrances into the tabernacle, and subsequently in the temple. The third of these was the "veil" that separated the Holy Place, wherein the priest ministered, from the Holy of Holies, the Ark of the Covenant resided...the place where God met with man.

The word "veil" means to hide or to cover. During the wilderness march it was used to cover the ark when the Israelites traveled. Then it would be hung in the tabernacle while they were encamped. Whether on the wilderness march or when it was in place in the tabernacle, it protected the holiness of God from the profanity of man. It stood as a barrier between man and God's presence.

It was made of fine-twined linen, in which were sewed cherubim of gold. It was dyed blue, purple and scarlet. When the Temple of Solomon was erected, the veil took up its permanent place there, only it was larger and even more elaborate.

The historian Flavius Josephus states that the veil would be renewed and added to each year and that by the time of Jesus the veil was approximately four inches thick. Josephus further remarks that, at one point, horses were tied to each end of the veil and they could not tear it apart.

So here we have a brief explanation of the veil's construction, appearance and purpose. Let's now consider the significance of it being rent asunder at the death of Christ. What was the message contained in that event and what does it mean to us today?

Our first and correct response is that this event signifies that the way to God's presence was made available through the death of Jesus. The barrier between God and man has now been removed by the work of the Cross. But is that the extent of the revelation? Is there nothing deeper that we might have a fuller understanding? Yes, there is.

We have recently spoken of types and figures in the Bible. The veil is one of them. The veil not only represents a barrier between man and God, more fully, the veil was a type, or symbol, of the humanity of Christ. The writer to the Hebrews made this evident: **"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh."** Hebrews 10:29 *(Emphasis mine...please note that the elements of the Lord's Supper are represented in this verse.)*

The veil stood silently for hundreds of years reminding man that God would be manifest in human flesh. (See *1 Tim. 3:16*) The veil was a prophetic picture-parable of the humanity of Christ.

As long as the veil hung in its place, it separated God from man. As long as Jesus walked the earth, He separated God and man. His perfect life, holy and harmless, condemned man. His life revealed the awful chasm and the deep abyss that stood between God and man. If the life of Christ is the only life that is acceptable to God, then we are horribly lost and woefully undone. His spotless life only mirrors our imperfections; His teachings merely reveal how far short we've come.

The life of Jesus can never save us, it only further condemns us. That spotless humanity must be rent on the cross if man is to be saved. His perfection crucified for our imperfection. When Jesus expired, the veil was rent, telling out in a symbolic way that the way to God was now open, and it required nothing short of the death of Christ.

Thus, the purpose of the incarnation is revealed. Jesus did not come in human flesh to set us an example, or to teach us about God, or to propound a system of ethics. He did all that and more, but the primary purpose of His coming in human form was to offer that body as a sacrifice for the sins of the world.

All we need know for salvation is that we are sinners and Jesus is the only Savior. But when we dig deeper into the Word, it is then we begin to realize the fullness and the richness of our redemption.

There was a rubber wristband that was popular a few years back that read WWJD... what would Jesus do; a reminder to us to live as disciples.

I would propose another...LWJD... LOOK WHAT JESUS DID; a reminder to us of the price paid that we might be disciples!