

## **DARKNESS vs. A DEEPER DARKNESS**

**TEXT: *Matthew 27:45: Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.***

From nine till noon the usual degree of light was present so that there was time enough for our Lord's adversaries to behold and insult His sufferings. There would be no mistake about the fact that Jesus was really nailed to the cross, for He was crucified in broad daylight. We are fully assured it was Jesus of Nazareth, for both friends and foes were eyewitnesses of His agonies.

For three long hours, the crowd sat down and watched Him on the cross. I feel thankful for those three hours of light, else the enemies of our faith would have questioned whether indeed the blessed body of our Master was nailed to the tree. They would have started fancies, as many as the bats and owls which haunt the darkness. Where would have been the witness of this solemn scene if the sun had been hidden from morn till night? Three hours of light gave opportunity for inspection and witness bearing, and we see the wisdom which did not allow it to close too soon.



Never forget — this miracle of the closing of the eye of day at high noon was performed by our Lord in His weakness. He had walked on the sea, raised the dead, and healed the sick in the days of His strength. But now, He has come to His lowest; the fever is on Him. He is faint and thirsty. He hangs on the borders of desolation. Yet – He has power to darken the sun at noon. He is still the Creator of all things, and He upholds all things by the Word of His power.

He died on the cross, not at a stake, as the Jehovah Witnesses say. He died on the tree.

***1 Peter 2:24: Who His Own Self bare our sins in His Own Body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.***

Jesus prophesied:

***John 3:14: And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:***

***John 8:28: Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things.***

***John 12:32: And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me.***

***John 12:34: The people answered Him, We have heard out of the Law that Christ abideth for ever: and how sayest Thou, The Son of man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of man?***

If He can do this in His weakness, what is He not able to do in His strength? Fail not to remember that this power was displayed in a sphere in which He did not usually put forth His might. The sphere of Christ is that of reaching souls thru many manifestations of His power — not that of darkness — making and working judgment which are His left-handed deeds.

**Since our Lord can make the sun go down at noon as He dies, what glory may we expect now that He lives forever to be the Light of the City of God?**

The grandest hour of history had almost gone unheeded when suddenly night hastened from her chambers and business. The plough and the workers in the field when men are busiest suddenly halts — the whole caravan of life. Those who had insulted the majesty of Jesus were paralyzed with fear. Others smote their breasts and exclaimed “*Truly, this was the Son of God.*”

Since the world began, was it not heard that at high noon there should be darkness over all the land! It was not of the order of nature altogether. There was no possibility of an eclipse of the sun at this time of the full moon. Therefore, it was not possible that the darkening of the sun could have ever been a total eclipse of the sun — a thing incredible.



I must confess that I have never read the story of our Master's death, knowing as I do something of bodily pain, without deep anguish. Crucifixion is a death worthy to have been invented by devils. The pain it involved cannot be measurable. I will not torture you by describing it. Jesus must die. There can be no deliverance. But the scoffers must be silenced — and most effectually their mouths were closed by the dense darkness which shut them in.

**That darkness was a sacred concealment of the blessed Author of the Universe. Thus, He was sheltered in the hour of misery which was too awful for even wicked eyes to gaze so rudely upon while He was being broken beneath the iron rod of divine wrath, on our behalf. It was fitting that God should cover Him so that none should see all He did and all He bore when He was made sin for us — He, who knew no sin.**

God veiled the cross in darkness. Much of its deeper meaning is herein contained: not that God would not have us know; but we have not the capacity to receive God manifest in flesh, the mystery of godliness.

Darkness is the symbol of the wrath of God which fell on those who slew His only begotten Son. God was angry – and His frown removed the light of day. Well, might He be angry when sin was murdering His only Son? This putting to death the Light of the World brought men into darkness . . . a true type of the condition of their hearts - - ignorant, blinded, bewildered. They loved darkness rather than light, because of their deeds.

In darkness, they do not repent, but rather go on to reject the God's Deliverer — Jesus Christ.

Have you ever felt a deep horror for your own sins? Have you ever seen sin in the light of the Love of God?

They only know in a measure what Christ went thru in Gethsemane and at Calvary who have known Christ in the fellowship of His sufferings. Jesus bore the equivalent of Hell and God must hide His face for He cannot look upon sin.

It was also this darkness that Christ was battling against. The powers of darkness of which satan is the head; with the darkness of human depravity and enmity inflicted by satan! And this darkness shows it was not right that all the world should go on, unheeding the death of their Creator.

If He suffers – then the whole creation must groan and travail together as Paul tells us in:

***Romans 8:21-23:***

***21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.***

**And this darkness shows it was not right that all the world should go on, unheeding the death of their Creator.**

***22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.***

***23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.***

The sin that darkened Christ and made Him hang upon the cross is darkening you who do not believe in Him. You will live in the darkness and die in it, unless you get to Him Who only is the Light of the world. You must abide in darkness except Christ give you light, for He is the true Light which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

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