

Doubtless Living!

THE GOSPEL OF
LUKE
That you may have certainty!

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Ultimate Trust

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ULTIMATE TRUST

JESUS TRUSTS HIS SPIRIT INTO THE HANDS OF GOD THE FATHER

Luke 23:44-49

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The Death of Jesus

Luke 23:44-49

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, ⁴⁵because the sun's light failed. The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle. ⁴⁶And Jesus called out with a loud voice, **"Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit."** Saying this, he breathed his last.

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what happened, he began to glorify God, saying, "This man really was righteous!" ⁴⁸All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests. ⁴⁹But all who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.

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⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three, ⁴⁵because the sun's light failed.

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FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS

➤ Five dramatic events that marked Jesus' final three hours on the cross:

1. Darkness Fell Over the Whole Land

- ❖ The Jewish people understood that supernatural darkness was associated with divine judgment.
- ❖ The darkness was not caused by the absence of God, but rather by His presence in full judgment, vengeance, and fury.
- ❖ **Infinite wrath moved by infinite righteousness released infinite punishment on the Son.**
- ❖ Because He is infinite, in just three hours He was able to absorb all the punishment of eternal hell for all who will ever believe.

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FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS

1. Darkness Fell Over the Whole Land

- ❖ He bore in His own body our sins (1 Peter 2:24),
- ❖ He who knew no sin was made sin for us (2 Cor. 5:21),
- ❖ He was wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities (Isa. 53:5), and
- ❖ He was made a curse for us (Gal. 3:13).

This was the cup that He pleaded with the Father in Gethsemane to remove, if possible.

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⁴⁵because the sun's light failed.

FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS

1. Darkness Fell Over the Whole Land

- ❖ Jesus' cry "*Eli, eli, lama sabachthani?*" reveals that God the Father did not immediately comfort Jesus when the darkness lifted.
 - The doubled phrase "My God, My God" is an expression of affection mingled with disappointment.

God was there in the fury of judgment; why was He absent in comfort?

⁴⁴It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three,
⁴⁵because the sun's light failed.

FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS

1. Darkness Fell Over the Whole Land

- ❖ While hell involves the full fury of God's personal presence to punish, He will never be there to comfort, show sympathy, or bring relief.

If Jesus was to endure the full suffering of hell, it had to involve both the punishment of God and the absence of His comfort.

45...The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle.

FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS

2. The Temple Veil Torn Asunder

- ❖ This sign happened immediately after the lifting of the darkness.
- ❖ God ripped the curtain, separating it from the Holy of Holies, from top to bottom.

Jesus had predicted the temple's physical destruction; God's tearing of the veil symbolized its spiritual destruction.

45...The curtain of the sanctuary was split down the middle.

FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS

2. The Temple Veil Torn Asunder

- ❖ The atonement was complete; access to God was opened, and the New Covenant was ratified, rendering everything connected with the temple worship obsolete.

Hebrews 9:11-14

¹¹But Christ has appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come. In the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands (that is, not of this creation), ¹²he entered the most holy place once for all time, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

Matthew 27:51

"Suddenly, the curtain of the sanctuary was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth quaked, and the rocks were split."

FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS**3. A Powerful Earthquake**

- ❖ Like darkness, earthquakes are frequently associated with God's presence in the Old Testament.
 - **Psalm 18:7** – *"Then the earth shook and quaked; the foundations of the mountains trembled; they shook because he burned with anger."*
 - **Nahum 1:5** – *"The mountains quake before him, and the hills melt; the earth trembles at his presence— the world and all who live in it."*

Matthew 27:52-53

⁵²The tombs were also opened and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised. ⁵³And they came out of the tombs after his resurrection, entered the holy city, and appeared to many.

FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS**4. Tombs Opened, Dead Raised**

- ❖ One result of the earthquake was the fourth event during those final three hours: *"The tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised."*
- ❖ They did not appear until after Christ's resurrection, since He is *"the first fruits of those who are asleep"* ([1 Cor. 15:20](#)).

⁴⁶And Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." Saying this, he breathed his last.

FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS

5. Jesus' Words from the Cross

- ❖ "After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, 'I am thirsty'" (John 19:28).
- ❖ He wouldn't drink anything all the way through His ordeal on the cross, so that He would fully experience God's wrath, but now in the calm aftermath, after His work of sin-bearing was over, He said simply "I am thirsty."

⁴⁶And Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit." Saying this, he breathed his last.

FIVE DRAMATIC EVENTS

5. Jesus' Words from the Cross

- ❖ "When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished.**" Then bowing his head, he gave up his spirit." (John 19:30)
- ❖ Jesus voluntarily gave up His life, "**Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit,**" signifying that communion with the Father had been restored.
- ❖ Since the work of redemption was now finished, **Jesus breathed His last.**

⁴⁷When the centurion saw what happened, he began to glorify God, saying, “**This man really was righteous!**”

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CENTURION'S RESPONSE

- **What the centurion had observed during Jesus' trial and crucifixion left him utterly amazed.**
 - ❖ He heard Jesus pray for the forgiveness of His killers.
 - ❖ He saw the noble way He suffered, refusing pain-killing spiked wine.
 - ❖ He heard Him cry out to His Father.
 - ❖ He heard Him promise paradise to a repentant thief who had been cursing Him.
 - ❖ Then he experienced the three hours of pitch blackness and an earthquake that split rocks.
 - ❖ He heard Jesus just before He died cry with a loud voice, “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit.”

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⁴⁷When the centurion saw what happened, he began to glorify God, saying, “**This man really was righteous!**”

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CENTURION'S RESPONSE

- **They had never ever seen this type of behavior from a crucifixion victim.**
 - ❖ People who died in this torturous way usually suffered from oxygen deprivation and become incoherent long before the end.
 - ❖ They could barely breathe, let alone shout at the top of their voice.
 - ❖ But this man died His own way, on His own terms, in His own time.
 - ❖ He could not ignore reality; truly, this must be the Son of God.

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MOURNING CROWD

- The crowd, convicted by the events, now mourns Jesus' death.
 - ❖ Their emotions had run the full gamut that week, ranging from delirious joy during the triumphal entry to the extreme anger, hatred, and animosity at His trial before Pilate.
 - ❖ They asked for the murdering Barabbas to be released instead of Jesus, shouted loudly for Jesus to be crucified, and even willingly assumed responsibility for His death, crying out, "His blood shall be on us and on our children!" (Matt. 27:25).

⁴⁸All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests.

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MOURNING CROWD

- **After the dramatic events of the crucifixion, especially the darkness and the earthquake, the crowd's emotion changed again.**
 - ❖ When they saw what had taken place, they went home, beating their breasts in **a sign of grief, guilt, and fear.**
 - ❖ Fear of God's person and judgment because of their guilt in rejecting Jesus Christ.
 - ❖ These events no doubt prepared the hearts of many who were later converted on the Day of Pentecost.

⁴⁸All the crowds that had gathered for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, went home, striking their chests.

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⁴⁹But all who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, **stood at a distance, watching these things.**

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DISCIPLES WATCHING

- **One final response was exhibited by those baffled by Jesus' death—all His associates, including John and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee.**
 - ❖ Unable to bear what was happening to Jesus, they had moved from a position near the cross and they were now standing at a distance.
 - ❖ They were shocked, overcome with grief, unable to comprehend what had happened. This was not the way His story was supposed to end.
 - ❖ They were devastated—until Sunday morning, when His resurrection would forever change their lives.

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DELIBERATE DISCIPLESHIP

- Jesus is the righteous sufferer, and He expressed His ultimate trust in God the Father as He faced death on the cross.
- God's infinite wrath, moved by infinite righteousness, released infinite punishment on the Son, for our benefit.
- Because He is infinite, in just three hours, Jesus was able to absorb all the punishment of eternal hell for all who will ever believe.
- The way in which He died saved the confessing criminal, convinced the Centurion and convicted the crowd.
- **How have you responded to Jesus sacrificial death on the cross?**

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