

The Day YAHSHUA Died (Part 2)
(Matt. 27:45-63)

For three hours Jerusalem experienced spiritual and physical darkness while her Messiah was hung on the tree at their request. Spiritual darkness because it was blind to the truth of Whom YAHSHUA was and physical because she had rejected her own Messiah. That was just a shadow of what was to come to her a few years later. Jerusalem had closed her ears to the cry of her Messiah inviting her to repentance and acceptance of Him by saying, Would that you had known personally, even at least in this your day, the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes... O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who continue to kill the prophets and to stone those who are sent to you! How often I have desired and yearned to gather your children together, as a hen her young under her wings, but would not! Behold, your house is forsaken! And I tell you, you will not see Me again until the time comes when you shall say, Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord (Luke 13:34-35)! On the way to His crucifixion He continued to prophesy Jerusalem's fate. He said to the women who bewailed and lamented for Him, Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming during which they will say, Blessed are the barren and the wombs that have not borne, and the breasts that have never nursed . . . if they do these things when the timber is green what will happen when it is dry (Luke 23:28-29,31)?

Weak and beaten, YAHSHUA could hardly walk much less go up a hill carrying the cross- mine and yours to the location where they were to crucify Him. In a moment of mercy the Roman soldiers forced a passerby called Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus, who was coming from the field, to carry His cross. (Mark 15:230). Cyrene was located on the continent of Africa in what is now Libya. It is nearly 900 miles from Jerusalem. It is thought that he was a Cyrenean Jew who had come to Jerusalem for Passover Feast. Since the names of his sons' names were included in the Gospel of Mark, it is believed that they became part of the early Christian community. Simon's carrying of the cross was well fitted in representing the responsibility we have to carry our cross daily to follow YAHSHUA. This very small part he took in the punishment of His Savior changed His life and the lives of his sons. At the arrival of the place called Calvary, perhaps Simon whispered to YAHSHUA thank you and remained there with a change of heart toward His Messiah.

At YAHSHUA'S last cry when He gave up His spirit, the first thing that happened was the curtain of the sanctuary of the temple being torn in two from top to bottom (Matt. 27:51). This curtain was a thick material used to separate the Holy of Holies from the Holy place. That was the very presence of God in the midst of men. No one was allowed in His presence but the high priest once a year to intercede for the people. That was Emmanuel- God with men. At YAHSHUA'S last cry, all was finished that He had come to do including the accessibility to the presence of God to men from that day forth. There would be no more need for any other sacrifice. That moment YAHSHUA united God to men with His love which had been poured for all. That moment He welcomed all to come to the presence of His Father and be saved. We were given full freedom and confidence to enter into the Holy of Holies. Our Savior became our High Priest. Having our hearts sprinkled and purified from a guilty conscience and our bodies cleansed with pure water,

let's seize and hold fast and retain without wavering, the hope we cherish and confess and our acknowledgement of it, for He Who promised is faithful to His word (Heb. 10:22-23). When He died, the earth felt its impact; as a result it quaked as if shocked with the death of its Creator. It shook out of control, causing the rocks to split and tombs of the saints to be opened. His power touched the dead saints to life in a type of the first resurrection, when the dead in Christ will be resurrected in the first resurrection at His first event.

Longinus, the centurion who crucified the Lord was serving under the command of the Governor of Judea, Pontius Pilate. He and his soldiers under his authority had flogged Him and inflicted emotion and physical abuses on Him. They struck His head with a staff, they spat on Him and kept bowing their knees in homage to Him. And when they had [finished] making sport of Him, they took the purple robe off of Him and put His own clothes on Him and they led Him out to crucify Him (Mark 13:18-20). A centurion was a soldier of soldiers. He was the backbone of the Roman army. They were proud and arrogant men with a deep zeal for Rome. That day when they killed YAHSHUA however was a day of reckoning. Thinking Him to be just another man, supposedly a criminal, they abuse of their power against Him not knowing Whom they were dealing with, until darkness enveloped the land for three hours, and the earth quaked. They, as witnesses, trembled terribly and were frightened and filled with awe and came to recognize that that Man Who they had mistreated and made fun of, was truly the Son of God! They were the only ones who perceived the truth in light of all that had happened. They witnessed the resurrection of the Lord also, and in spite of the Jewish authorities sealing their lips with lies on it, they spread the news. Tradition says that Longinus remained faithful to the Lord. Perhaps he lost his rank and position as a soldier of Rome.

The day YAHSHUA died earth cried and trembled; the sun refused to shine. YAHSHUA, the Son of God, the Living Word through Whom all things were created, was and is the substance of life. Without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being. In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men (John 1:3-4). In His death life sprang up to men as a seed after it dies. No one could take away the substance of His life, for He is Life and life giver. No one could stop Him from bringing Himself back to life; He is the author of life. Earth suffered a nervous breakdown and its foundation shook at the moment He gave up His spirit; however many went their way untouched by what they had witnessed. Spiritually blind and deaf they could not see to perceive neither hear to be able to associate what they had seen and heard with the fact that YAHSHUA was the Son of God! They all returned home beating their breasts, which is an expression and not an action, of grief, disappointment and woe.

The doom and gloom of the day that YAHSHUA died noticed in nature was replaced with joy on the third day of His death, for God would not allow His Son's body to undergo putrefaction and dissolution of the grave (Psalm 16: 10). On the third day the horizon shouted with celebration in multi colors as the sun shone brighter and brighter, as the day arose in the east. Death could not keep Him down; and someday the sting of death will be no more for all who have accepted YAHSHUA as their Savior and Lord, as He told His disciples, Because I live, you will live also (John 14:19).