



Torn to Teach Good News
June 9, 2019
Mark 15:6-15, 25-26, 33-39

“And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom” (Mark 15:38).

The curtain in the temple was hanged in front of the Holy of Holies or Most Holy Place to keep everyone out except the High Priest, who could only enter once a year on the Day of Atonement. The curtain kept the Holy of Holies in total darkness, except when the High Priest entered to offer blood sacrifices for himself, his family, and the people to restore a right relationship between the LORD and His people. In King Solomon’s temple, the Holy of Holies was a cubed room about 30 feet in length, width, and height, and contained the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the Ten Commandments written in stone. Only the High Priest could meet with the LORD, who met him from the mercy seat above the Ark. The Ark of the Covenant disappeared with the destruction of the temple by the Babylonians in BC 587. In the time of Jesus, the temple built by King Herod did not contain the Ark or the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. When Jesus died on the cross as the sacrifice for the sins of the world, the temple curtain was torn in two from top to bottom, much like we might tear an old rag, but it was 30 feet tall. After Jesus’ death on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, the Day of Atonement and the temple curtain were no longer needed. After Jesus rose from the dead, He became High Priest in heaven where He now prays for all His followers. Therefore, anyone who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior can come into the presence of the LORD in prayer.

Thinking Further

1. Who was Barabbas and what had he done?
2. How did Pilate refer to Jesus?
3. Why do you think the religious leaders may have envied Jesus, as Pilate thought?
4. What did Pilate ask the crowd that made them shout even more, “Crucify him”?
5. What did the Centurion think about Jesus? Why do you think he thought this?