Three supernatural signs: What happened after the death of Christ

Gerrid Setzer · November 27, 2026



Matthew 27:50–53

> 50 And Jesus, having again cried with a loud voice, gave up the ghost. 51 And lo, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom, and the earth was shaken, and the rocks were torn, 52 and the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints fallen asleep arose, 53 and going out of the tombs after his arising, entered into the holy city and appeared unto many.

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But Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up the ghost. And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks cracked, and the tombs were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised up; and they came out of the tombs after he had been raised, and

went into the holy city and appeared to many. Matthew 27:50-53

When people are crucified, their strength dwindles noticeably, and they eventually die in agony. But the Lord Jesus was able to cry out with a loud voice immediately before His death, and then He gave up His spirit in His own power. This supernatural death was followed by three supernatural signs, in which God touched things on which man does not lay his hand.

Firstly, the curtain of the temple, which separated the sanctuary from the Holy of Holies, was torn from top to bottom by the hand of God. On the one hand, this curtain is a picture of the body of Jesus (Heb 10:20). On the other hand, it indicates that the way into the presence of God had not yet been revealed at the time of the law (Heb 9:8). The tearing of this curtain made it clear that the believer can now approach God with boldness.

Secondly, the earth shook, and the rocks cracked. This indicates that the first creation will one day be transformed: "See to it that you do not reject him who speaks! ... whose voice then shook the earth; but now he has promised and said: 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens'" (Heb 12:25, 26). The Lord Jesus will roll up this creation like a mantle and bring forth a new earth and a new heaven in which righteousness dwells.

Thirdly, some tombs were opened after Jesus died on the cross. This shows that death was defeated by his death. The resurrection of the saints who rested in these tombs only took place after the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, who is the "firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Cor 15:20, 23). This resurrection of the believers was a pledge and a foretaste of the mighty resurrection to glory that will take place at the coming of the Lord Jesus.

The natural man cannot approach a holy God; he lives in a creation characterized by sin, from which death will tear him out. But the atoning death of the Lord Jesus on the cross changes everything: believers draw near to God on the new and living way, they rejoice in the promise that there will one day be a new earth and a new heaven, and they know that death will be swallowed up in victory when mortality will soon put on immortality (Heb. 10:19, 20; 2 Pet. 3:13; 1 Cor. 15:54)

How tremendous are the consequences of what Christ accomplished on the cross! God has given an impressive testimony of these consequences through three signs.

Source https://thebiblestudy.site/article/signs-after-jesus-death/