

The Gospel of Luke

Statements at the Death of Jesus Christ

Luke 23:44-49

1. A Statement from the Father: Judgment and Satisfaction (vs.44-45)
The death of Jesus was preceded by three hours of supernatural darkness, the tearing of the veil in the temple, and a violent earthquake (Mt. 27:51).
 - A. Both God's terrifying presence (Gn. 15:12; Ex. 19:16) and His active judgment are often accompanied darkness and earthquakes (Jl. 2:31; Am. 8:9; Zp. 1:14-15; cf. Ps. 18:6-7, Na. 1:3-5). God's judgment was being poured out upon His Son for the forgiveness of sins (Is. 53:10-11).
 - B. The veil in the temple was to separate the most holy place where only the high priest could enter once annually (Lv. 16:2, 29-30) from the rest of the holy place where only priests would enter daily to perform sacred worship. The veil was torn from top to bottom (Mt. 27:51; Mk. 15:38) in a dramatic statement that there was a new way to come before God (Hb. 10:19-25).
2. A Statement from the Son: Confidence and Control (v.46)
All three synoptic gospels indicate that Jesus' death was preceded by a loud cry (cf. Mt. 27:50; Mk. 15:37). The two thieves had to have their legs broken in order for them to die before the sabbath (Jn. 19:31-37). Jesus' loud cry indicated that He did not succumb to death but that He died when He chose (Jn. 10:17).
3. Statements from some Observers (vs.47-49)
 - A. A Centurion: Conversion (v.47)
The Centurion and his soldiers had front-row seats to all that had transpired at the crucifixion of Jesus (Lk. 23:26ff) and most likely both His arrest in the garden (Jn. 18:3-13) and His examination before Pilate (Lk. 23:1-7, 13-25). Their reaction were of fear (Mt. 27:54), of understanding (Lk. 23:47), and of faith (Mk. 15:39; cf. Lk. 23:34).
 - B. The Crowds: Conviction (v.48)
Having taken responsibility for Jesus' blood upon themselves (Mt. 27:25), they had witnessed all that had transpired and were in a state of mournful repentance (cf. Lk. 18:13).
 - C. His Companions: Constancy (v.49)
While most others had deserted Jesus, even for a time, there was a small group who stayed with Him during His final hours (Jn. 19:25-27).