

God's Miraculous Commentary on the Cross

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Matthew 28:45-53.

B. We find the meaning of the cross of Christ in Scripture. (Genesis 3:15, Psalm 23, Isaiah 53)

C. Six miracles testify to what the cross means in Matthew.

II. Supernatural darkness. (Luke 2:9-11, Mark 15:29, Luke 23, 2 Kings 20, Luke 23:45)

A. Darkness is used as a symbol of divine judgment in Scripture. (Isaiah 5; 13; Matthew 24:29; Joel 2; 2 Peter 2:4)

B. The cross is a place of divine judgment.

III. The miracle of sovereign departure. (Psalm 22)

A. God the Father turns his back on God the Son.

B. Jesus became sin for us, so God had to turn his back on him because he could not stand sin. Christ bore our sin. (Habakkuk 1:13; Isaiah 53; Romans 4; 1 Corinthians 3; 1 Peter 3; 1 John 4:10; Galatians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21)

C. Jesus was separated in terms of fellowship and communion.

D. There was some separation in incarnation (Philippians 3, John 17:5), but this was even more profound.

E. Jesus bore sin, but he never became a sinner.

IV. The miracle of Jesus voluntarily giving up his life. (John 19:30, Luke 23:46)

A. This is demonstrated in that most victims of the cross lived longer.

B. Jesus willingly gave up his life. (John 10:11, 15, 17-18)

C. The cross is a path of voluntary sacrifice.

V. The miracle of the sanctuary devastation.

A. The temple curtain was torn in two.

B. The curtain kept men from true intimacy with God.

C. Jesus paid for our sins giving us access to God.

VI. The miracle of the earthquake.

A. God often came with an earthquake.

B. God promises in the Bible that the world will be shaken. (Hebrews 12:26)

VII. The resurrection of many saints.

A. Bodies came out of the grave, not spirits.

B. The cross is the greatest point for the hope of resurrection.

Application Questions:

1. What does it mean that Jesus took our place on the cross?

2. What does the tearing of the temple curtain symbolic?

3. Why is it important to know that Jesus' sacrifice was voluntary? Explain.
