



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

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The Torn Temple Veil

When Jesus Christ died on the cross "*the veil of the temple was rent* (torn) *in twain from the top to the bottom*" (Matthew 27:51). This thick veil or curtain had separated man from God. Only the high priest once a year on the Day of Atonement could pass this veil into "*the most holy place*" where God's presence dwelt. Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, wrote that the veil was four inches thick and that horses tied to each side would not have been able to pull it apart. The veil was about 60 feet high! The fact that it was torn "*from the top to the bottom*" shows that this was **an act of God** not of men!

God's tearing open the veil at the moment of His Son's death dramatically symbolized that Christ's sacrifice, the shedding of His own blood, was **a sufficient atonement for sins**. It signified that now **the way into the Holy of Holies was open for all people**, for all time, both Jew and Gentile.

The old law of ordinances was torn and laid aside. Just before Jesus died, He said, "**It is finished**" (John 19:30). **All was fulfilled in Him.** The atoning blood which was every year sprinkled "within the veil," was now offered "**once for all**" by the great High Priest, Jesus (see Hebrews 9). No blood of lambs is needed now, for Jesus has entered "*within the veil*" with his own blood.

The death of Jesus Christ provided **access to God!** Jesus is **The Way** to God as He said in John 14:6, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*" Please see www.naog.ws/theway.htm for more on this.

Yes, God tore open the veil that separated us from Himself so that we could come to Him by faith in Christ! "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace...*" (Romans 5:1-2).