THE GREATER MIRACLE

And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead *men*. Matt 28:4 (KJV)

Several miracles surround the crucifixion and the resurrection. There is the miracle of the darkness while Christ was on the cross. It began at noon and lasted until three p. m. It was not an eclipse because it continued for three hours. From the way the Bible describes it, the day became dark at noon and remained dark until mid-afternoon. No, it became mysteriously and miraculously dark.

The veil was rent in twain from top to bottom. All accounts of this suggest it took place before the earthquake. It happened at the time of evening sacrifice. The serving priests would witness this miracle as it took place. The barrier was removed that stood between the Holy and the Most Holy in the temple. Within the Most Holy was the mercy seat where they believed the presence of God dwelled. This was where God communed with man. Only the High Priest could go into this presence and then only once a year. Now, the way was made by the death of Christ. As he gave up the Ghost the veil was rent in two from top (heaven) to bottom (earth). The veil was torn by God. Christ death made the way for us into the presence of God.

The earth did quake. Matthew Henry said that “the earth quaked, as it feared to open its mouth to receive the blood of Christ, so much more precious than that of Abel.” The rocks rent. Praise had ceased therefore the rocks cried out as the suffering Savior breathed his last breath and bled his last drop of blood. Paul’s glory was in the cross of Christ so should be ours.

The miracle of the graves being opened may be somewhat mysterious but the death of Christ was but a fore runner of what was to come. As the earth quaked and the rocks rent it broke open the tombs of the cemeteries there about Calvary. Remember Joseph’s tomb was close by.

Now let us consider those charged with keeping the tomb of the Son of God secure. They were told to make sure the body of Jesus remained in the tomb. Brothers and Sisters it would have taken a greater miracle to keep him in that tomb; greater than hiding the sun at mid-day; greater than keep it from shining for three hours. A greater miracle would be needed than ripping the veil that had no seam, into two distinct pieces. To keep Christ in the tomb would require more power than making the earth to quake and the rocks to be broken. The one who lay in the tomb created the tree he was crucified on and the tomb he was buried in. He could charge the sun not to shine, the veil to be torn and the earth to quake. The keepers were commanded to carry out a task that was impossible to complete. Christ could have said to the stone “Roll away,” or “Break into little pieces.” Instead he decided to exit the tomb without a physical way out. “Oh! What a Savior!”

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram