

In Matthew 27:45-46, it says,

"Now from the sixth-hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour.

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"

If Jesus is God, why would He say this?

Darkness over the Land

When darkness falls, something changes.

"It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining...." (Luke 23:44-45a)

An African-American spiritual asks: "Were you there when the sun refused to shine?" Why the darkness? The word rendered "stopped shining" (NIV), "failed" (NRSV), "was darkened" (KJV) is *ekleipō* (from which we get our English word "eclipsed"). It means to "fail, give out, die out."29

Throughout Jerusalem -- and especially in this killing ground -- the darkness is felt, heavy and foreboding.

But what does the darkness mean? What is its significance?

1. A symbol of moral darkness, "when darkness reigns" (Luke 22:53)

2. A fulfillment of prophecy.

"The sun will be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood

before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD." (Joel 2:31)

"In that day,' declares the Sovereign LORD,

'I will make the sun go down at noon

and darken the earth in broad daylight.

I will turn your religious feasts into mourning

and all your singing into weeping.

I will make all of you wear sackcloth

and shave your heads.

I will make that time like mourning for an only son

and the end of it like a bitter day.'" (Amos 8:9-10)

3. A portent of the death of a king. Philo, a first century AD Jewish writer, saw supernatural eclipses as "indications either of the impending death of some king or of the destruction of some city."

4. The Father's anger at how his only Son is being treated:

"The rising **sun will be darkened**

and the moon will not give its light.

I will punish the world for its evil,

the wicked for their sins.

I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty

and will humble the pride of the ruthless." (Isaiah 13:10b-11)

5. The Father's judgment on the sins of the world being borne on Christ's shoulders as he hangs on the cross. The Lamb of God was bearing in himself the sins of the world!

Psalm 22 is the prayer of a just one who suffers innocently, of one who is surrounded by enemies and mocked precisely because of his fidelity to God. When God hears this cry and delivers, the just one offers praise and thanksgiving to God.

A song always comes to my mind this day ,the chorus of a Charles Wesley hymn written in 1738 , that was the great altar call of the time this church was built.

"Amazing love! How can it be that thou my God shouldst die for me

1 And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?

Refrain:

Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me!

2 'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more. [Refrain]

3 He left His Father's throne above,
So free, so infinite His grace;
Emptied Himself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race;
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
For, O my God, it found out me. [Refrain]

4 Long my imprisoned spirit lay
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;
Thine eye diffused a quick'ning ray,
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free;
I rose, went forth and followed Thee. [Refrain]

5 No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own. [Refrain]

“Eli! Eli!” - Jesus crying out in abandonment

“My God! My God!” - Words of Psalm 22:1 in Aramaic

Some of the crowd mis hear

“He’s crying for Elijah , wait see if he comes

As Jesus dies the veil of the temple is ripped in two.

Jerome Jerimias book ‘ Jerusalem in the time of Jesus

‘ (DESCRIBE)

-Temple veil rent asunder KJV

EXODUS 26:33

Opening access to the holy of holies

Christ death

Emmanuel god w us we marked Christmas

Brings gods presence to us,

In our midst

In our lives in our hearts