

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

SIGNS AND WONDERS GALORE, AND THEY COULD NOT SEE! NOT THEN, and NOT NOW

Many at the crucifixion of Jesus or otherwise involved in it quite apparently did not know who he was. But when we stop and look at the things that happened just during those few hours, shouldn't everyone involved have realized this Jesus was not like anyone they had ever encountered before? Someone that even nature and the elements reacted to? Obviously someone way beyond themselves? Shouldn't those religious leaders who were the humans responsible for pushing for Jesus' death have been able to see? Jesus referred to them as blind, and obviously they were and remained so.

Look at all the extraordinary things that happened in just a few hours!

- First, in the garden – a group of soldiers and officers accompanied by disciple Judas came to arrest Jesus. From the information given, it is thought that their number was somewhere between 300 and 600. Why so many? Because Judas no doubt had told the leaders of Jesus' great power. When the band arrived, Jesus asked them who they were looking for. The reply was Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus answered "I am he." But he really didn't say that. In the Greek of the New Testament, he said "ego eimi," or "I am!" In other words, he identified himself as he did more than once with the great words that God the Father had used in identifying himself to Moses. "I am!" When Jesus said this, the soldiers and officers were knocked back and to the ground. He said "I am" and they were overpowered and knocked back and down. Wouldn't you think they might wonder what happened? I don't think they had ever seen anyone with such power before, do you? Of course not. No one like that existed as a human being on earth before. After that Jesus relented and let himself be taken by the soldiers to fulfill the purpose of his being sent to earth.
- When Jesus was arrested, a young man was there wearing nothing at all but a linen garment. That is what corpses were wrapped in. He followed Jesus and some in the band laid hold of him, but he slipped out of their grip and fled naked leaving his garment behind. Who was he? And why of all things was he naked except for this linen cloth? The most obvious answer is that he had been dead, and when Jesus had said "I am," and released the great power that knocked the entire contingent back and down, somehow this dead boy came to life and was following Jesus.
- During the arrest, Peter took out his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his right ear. Jesus stopped that response and touched the man's ear, healing it. Had anyone there seen anything like that before? Not unless they had been watching Jesus heal people in his ministry.
- The entire discussion between Pilate and Jesus is worthy of detailed study. In it Jesus reveals he is a king and that his kingdom is not of this world, and Pilate ponders what truth really is and

tries to find a way out of killing Jesus. And get this! Pilate's wife tells Pilate to have nothing to do with Jesus, because she has suffered greatly in a dream because of Jesus. You might note that Pilate, when Jesus was finally sent to be crucified, had a sign prepared and fastened to the cross that said "JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS." The sign was in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek. When the Pharisees protested, Pilate refused to change the sign.

- We know that Jesus was crucified at 9 AM. We also know that from noon until 3 PM when he died, darkness covered the whole land. The sun stopped shining! Dark. Really dark. In the middle of the day. Not an eclipse. Just suddenly somehow the light was turned out. Well, it really was, wasn't it, on earth anyway for a moment. The light of Jesus. Don't you think it strange that everyone – the rulers of the Romans, the religious leaders, the people there at the cross, all the people – didn't fear that some cataclysmic event was happening? Should they have been terrified? Absolutely.
- At the moment Jesus died – 3 PM – the curtain at the entrance of the Holy of Holies in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. This giant curtain separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. This is the time the chief priest would be preparing to enter through the curtain into the Holy of Holies to offer the blood of the Passover lamb to cover the sins of the people. But the real sacrifice for the people was happening right then once and for all time on the cross! This curtain was enormous. It is reported to have been six inches thick (a handbreadth), 60 feet high, and 30 feet wide. It was torn from top to bottom. Imagine the sound! Imagine the shock to the High Priest and others in the temple! No human could have ever torn this curtain! This was God tearing the curtain apart that symbolically had separated mankind from him. The sacrifice of the Lord on the cross had opened the way for people to God, through Jesus. Shouldn't the Pharisees at this moment have realized some things, such as: What is this? What power is this? We have really made a great mistake, the greatest of all time?
- At the same time 3 PM, there was a giant earthquake and rocks split. Real rocks, not little rocks, split in two! And the tombs broke open and out of them came people!!! The bodies of holy people who had died sometime before came to life and walked out, into Jerusalem. They were seen by many! Shouldn't this have scared the socks off everyone at the crucifixion and in Jerusalem, including the Romans and the Pharisees? Do you think they had ever seen this before? Nope. Not a chance. Nope. Have you?
- We do have the report that the centurion and others with him (Romans) guarding Jesus saw all that had happened. They were terrified and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!" Well. Thank God for their eyes being opened. But what about everyone else? (There is the report of people beating their breasts at the crucifixion site.).

[Note: to read about the above points and more, go to Matthew 26:47-27:65, Mark 14:43 – 15:47, Luke 21:47 – 23:56 , and John 18:1 – 19:42.]

Blind. Jesus used that term more than once in referring to some of the religious leaders of the day. They clearly were, throughout all of this. We only have the report of Joseph of Aramathea and Nicodemus realizing who Jesus was – or at least realizing he was from God.

Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!

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Yes, the leaders could not see. Way back in Isaiah 6 God told Isaiah that the Jewish people would be every hearing but never understanding, ever seeing but never perceiving. In my own life and God's call on my life, once several years ago the Lord told me I would be like Isaiah. Then some time later he said, "The time will come when people will not want to hear your words." As I continually warn people of the immediacy of the Lord's return and of all he is, I see this as very much a current reality. Only God's people want to hear his truths, his words. Only Jesus' sheep hear his voice. Not everyone is his sheep, as he so clearly pointed out in John 10.

The amazing thing to me still is that people just cannot see, even when miracles happen, when people they know or can see actually testify in person to signs and wonders, to great healings. But if their eyes are not open, if they have not turned to God and God is not drawing them to Jesus, they really, really can't see. One time Jesus said to me, "John, they can't see because they can't see." It always is so apparent, painfully apparent. Sometimes in a service some are so open to the Lord, to the Holy Spirit, and others are like doorknobs (to use Kenneth Hagin's term).

Once at a lunch involving perhaps ten or twelve ministers, I was discussing this very point, and I said I had thought that when people saw the great healings they would be greatly impacted, but that had not happened. I then said that I guess I would have to raise someone from the dead for that impact. Quietly, a minister down the table leaned forward. "Well, no." He said. And he went on to explain that someone had died during his Sunday morning church service. He said he had walked into the congregation to the man and had prayed over him. And the man returned to life! But the minister then reported at the lunch that there was no significant impact on the people in the congregation.

When people are living behind a spiritual veil, they really are living behind that veil. The Bible does note that the devil has blinded the minds of unbelievers. It also notes that when a person turns toward God, God takes away that veil.

Just a few weeks ago a Pope resigned. That had not happened in six hundred years. Why did he resign? We don't know. Just a few hours after the announcement of the resignation, a powerful lightning bolt hit the top of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. A photographer standing nearby was surprised. Inexplicably, he got his equipment and set it up. Another giant lightning bolt did the same thing, and he took the picture that circulated the world on the Internet. Soon the news was out about an old prophecy from a priest in the 1100's, updated perhaps in the 1500's. It laid out 112 future popes. The one who replaced the one that just resigned is the last Pope listed. Is this the last Pope?

The same week a large asteroid was to pass near earth, closer than ever. As the scientists and others waited, another body – a meteor – screamed across Siberia and crashed, breaking huge numbers of windows and doing other damage, injuring many, and no doubt terrifying many. No one had expected the meteor. Shortly thereafter the asteroid did pass by the earth.

Are all these recent events enough for you? How many people saw God in these recent signs and wonders? Did you?

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Unfortunately for our world today, so many are behind the veil. Pray for your family and friends, for God to draw any who do not know Jesus to Jesus. And stay alert yourself. You do not know when the trumpet might blow.

DON'T FORGET "JOHN'S BLOG"

We mention the blog every newsletter lately to remind you there are new items there that are not elsewhere. You could read there now a penetrating new piece on Faith in God that uses the story of Job and an event from John's life to make a great point we all need to come to grips with – we will never know or understand why some things happen in our lives. Read it now. Just go to the ministry web site and click on John's blog in the menu column.

MORE TELEVISION PROGRAMS ADDED TO THE WEB SITE

- **TRUTHS OF GOD AND MAN** – exactly what the title says. Find it on the video page.
- **KEY POINTS OF HEALING** – an excellent 30 minute summary of divine healing. This is currently in the video screen on the home page as well as listed on the video page.

May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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