

MANY TOMBS OPENED (Part 1)

At the moment of the physical death of Jesus, two important events occurred at the same time which is important to this lesson. One event involved the temple and the other event involved a near-by cemetery.

This lesson will study three aspects of Many Tombs Opened.

1. These were 2 of 6 catastrophic events associated with the crucifixion of Jesus.

- Darkness from noon to 3pm
 - During the last three hours of crucifixion (Matt.27:45)
- Veil of Holy of Holies torn down
 - At the time of the physical death of Jesus (Matt.27:50-51; John 19:30)
- First earthquake (3pm)
 - At the time of the physical death of Jesus (Matt.27:51)
- Many tombs opened (3pm)
 - At the time of the physical death of Jesus (Matt.27:52)
- Second earthquake (3rd day of burial)
 - At the time of the resurrection of Jesus (Matt.27:51-52; 28:2)
- Followers of Christ came out of these opened tombs and appeared to many in Jerusalem
 - **After** the resurrection of Jesus (Heb.27:53)

2. These were followers of Jesus Christ who died during His earthly ministry.

When they died, they went to Sheol to Abraham's bosom. They were resuscitated following the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Cor.15:20).

(Matt.27:53) "And the tombs were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; and coming out of the tombs **after His resurrection**, they entered the holy city and appeared to many."

There are six aorist passive indicatives that work in sequence to the aorist active participle of **Jesus cried out**. (krazo/ a.a.ptc.nsm) (Matt.27:50):

- yielded up (a.p.ind.3ps) (Matt.27:50)
- was torn (a.p.ind.3ps) (Matt.27:51)
- shook (a.p.ind.3ps) (Matt.27:51)
- split (a.p.ind.3pl) (Matt.27:51)
- were opened (a.p.ind.3pl) (Matt.27:52)
- were raised (a.p.ind.3pl) (Matt.27:52)

1 of the 6 messianic signs of messiah to Israel: "blind receive their sight, lame walk, lepers are cleansed, deaf hear, dead are raised up, the poor have the gospel preached to them." (Luke 7:22)

He had raised the widow's son (Luke 7:11-17) and Jairus' daughter (Luke 8:49-56) and Lazarus (John 11:38-44). But this one tops the list.

When Jesus died, He went to Sheol and would have met with these as well as the thief on cross (Luke 23:43). This makes this group of believers unique. They died under two different dispensations and went to two different places for believers (Sheol and the Third Heaven) (2 Cor.5:6-8; 1 Cor.15:20-23; 1 Thess.4:13-18 and Matt.27:54) [read]