

Matthew 27:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Analysis

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour—From noon to 3 PM, supernatural darkness (σκότος, skotos) enveloped the land (γῆ, gē), likely Judea though possibly wider. This was not a solar eclipse (impossible during Passover's full moon) but divine intervention marking cosmic horror at God's wrath being poured out on His Son.

The **sixth hour** was when the daily sacrifice began; the **ninth hour** when it ended—Christ's death brackets the sacrificial hours, fulfilling what the lambs foreshadowed. The darkness echoes Exodus 10:21-23 (plague on Egypt) and Amos 8:9-10 ('I will darken the earth in the clear day...I will make it as the mourning of an only son'). God the Father veiled creation's eyes from the Son's unspeakable suffering as He became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Historical Context

Darkness at noon was recorded by several ancient historians. Thallus (c. AD 52) mentioned unusual darkness at this time, which Julius Africanus (c. AD 221) connected to Christ's crucifixion. Crucifixions typically occurred in public view, but this supernatural darkness emphasized the cosmic significance—not merely a man dying, but the Creator bearing divine judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why would God darken the earth during His Son's atoning sacrifice rather than illuminating it?
2. How does the three-hour period mirror Jesus's three days in the tomb, and what does this pattern reveal about resurrection hope?

Interlinear Text

Απὸ	δὲ	ἔκτης	ώρας	σκότος	ἐγένετο	ἐπὶ	πᾶσαν	τὴν
from	Now	the sixth	hour	darkness	there was	over	all	
G575	G1161	G1623	G5610	G4655	G1096	G1909	G3956	G3588

γῆν	ἔως	ώρας	ἐννάτης
the land	unto	hour	the ninth
G1093	G2193	G5610	G1766

Additional Cross-References

Amos 8:9 (Darkness): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord GOD, that I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the clear day:

Isaiah 50:3 (Parallel theme): I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering.

Revelation 9:2 (Darkness): And he opened the bottomless pit; and there arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit.

Mark 15:25 (Parallel theme): And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

Revelation 8:12 (Darkness): And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise.

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