

At the Execution Stake

♪ *At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light, And the burden of my heart rolled away, It was there by faith I received my sight, And now I am happy all the day.* ♪

In the last twenty 29 years, on numerous occasions, I have elucidated on what took place at the cross (the execution stake) of *Messiah*. Something happened at the moment of *Messiah Yeshua*'s death, at the moment of His apparent defeat. His enemies represented by the centurion and the vociferous crowd left beating their breasts and declaring that He was righteous and divine but His disciples (those that had been with Him in all of His public ministry) returned discouraged, defeated and went and hid behind closed doors: *"⁴⁴It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour; ⁴⁵for the sun died out. And the curtain of the Temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶And Yeshua, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father; 'into Your hands I entrust My spirit.'" When He had said this, He breathed His last. ⁴⁷Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he began glorifying God, saying, "Truly this was a righteous Man." ⁴⁸And all the crowds assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had happened, began to turn back, beating their breasts. ⁴⁹But all Yeshua's acquaintances & the women who were following Him from the Galil were standing at a distance watching these things"* (Luke 23:44-49)

Obviously, something took place in *"Golgotha (that is to say, Place of a Skull, see Matt. 27:33b)"* when *Yeshua* expired. When we understand the details of this crucial moment, we will become equipped with the greatest weapon in spiritual warfare against principalities and powers that control the forces of darkness in this world and in our lives. All of the forces of the evil one were there to witness Satan's triumph represented by the *darkness that fell over the whole land* from noon to three in the afternoon of Wednesday Nisan 14: *"Then the fifth angel trumpeted, and I saw a star that had fallen from heaven to earth. The key to the bottomless pit was given to him. ²He opened the pit, and smoke rose from the pit like the smoke of a gigantic furnace. The sun and the air were darkened by the smoke from the pit."* (Rev. 9:1-2). *Messiah Yeshua* made a *public spectacle of them*: *"¹⁴He wiped out the handwritten record of debts with the decrees against us, which was hostile to us. He took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵After disarming the principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in the cross"* (Col. 2:14-15). *Yeshua* disarmed the principalities and powers and Satan and his army we publicly defeated. The centurion saw this happen and *began glorifying God* saying *Messiah is Just!* When the hostile crowd saw this happen, they turned back (*made t'shuvah*) and *beat their breasts* (what Jews do only at *Yom Kippur*). His *acquaintances & the women who were following* (his followers) *did not see this happen* (they were *standing at a distance watching*) and left instead doing neither of these things. They left defeated and fearful.

This event also fulfills His prophecy in John 8:28: *"²⁸ So Yeshua said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know who I am. I do nothing by Myself, but speak just what the Father has taught Me."* Indeed, at the cross, at the moment of His death, He triumphed over evil once and for all time. You and I realize this and proclaim Him as the divine Son of God. However, notice that those present (even those responsible for His death) will *KNOW THAT I AM WHO I SAY I AM*. The Scripture quoted above states unequivocally that *Yeshua*: *"wiped out the handwritten record of debts with the decrees against us, which was hostile to us. He took it away by nailing it to the cross"*. Therefore, *"What then shall we say in view of these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* (Ro. 8:31) *Who hath believed our report? I do!*

Many people preach that when *Yeshua* died Satan celebrated his victory for three days and three nights until the Resurrection on the first day of the week. They celebrate, therefore, the triumph of the Lord at *Resurrection Sunday*. But note that Scripture definitively tell us that: *Yeshua triumphed over them at the cross! – and so did we! Shabbat Shalom v'Chag Sameach Pesach!*