NEVER READ A BIBLE VERSE*

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. . .
Matthew 27:51-54

*Without Context.

Easter 2026: All These Signs

TODAY'S VERSES:

Matthew 27:51-54
Matthew 27: 40, 43, 45-50
1 Corinthians 15:3
1 Peter 3:18
1 John 2:2
Exodus 10:22
Amos 8:9-10
Genesis 1:3
2 Corinthians 5:21
John 19:30
Ephesians 2:13
Daniel 12:2
Matthew 16:16
Matthew 26:63
Psalm 22:27

APRIL 5, 2026

RECAP & DISCUSSION STARTERS:

There are many signs that surround Jesus' crucifixion in Matthew 27:45-54, such as Jesus' cry of abandonment ("My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"), and three hours of supernatural darkness at midday as Jesus bears the weight of humanity's sin. When Jesus dies, four immediate signs follow:

1. The temple curtain tears from top to bottom (symbolizing both judgment on the old system and salvation's new access to God)
2. An earthquake that splits rocks
3. Tombs open and saints are resurrected (though they don't appear until after Jesus' resurrection)
4. A Roman centurion with his soldiers confesses, "Truly this was the Son of God."

These signs vindicate Jesus' identity and demonstrate the cosmic significance of His death - conquering both sin (torn veil) and death (opened tombs). Jesus' first post-crucifixion Christian declaration comes not from Jesus' disciples, but from Gentile soldiers who had likely participated in His execution. This fulfills the theological significance of the torn veil, showing that access to God now extends beyond Jewish boundaries to all nations.

- What does Jesus' cry of, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* (referencing psalm 22) reveal about His experience of bearing sin? How does this deepen our understanding of the Trinity during the crucifixion?
- What does the timing of the supernatural signs - occurring immediately after Jesus' death - teach us about the Father's vindication of His Son?
- What are the implications of both interpretations of the torn curtain for us today?
- How does the centurion's confession challenge our assumptions about who can recognize Jesus' true identity and how God works through unlikely people?
- What does the progression from mockery to confession among the soldiers teach us about the power of Jesus' death to transform hearts?
- How have you witnessed God at work, and how can that lead you to confess/share with others?