

Darkening Skies  
Mark 15:33-39

I. Review

- A. In Jesus' teaching and the Old Testament prophets, the darkening of the sun was always linked with the Day of Judgment
- B. The clearest example of this was the Ninth Plague on the Egyptians
- C. Judgment Day did come in a sense on Good Friday, as Jesus was condemned on behalf of all those who trust in Him
- D. Because Jesus died for us, the darkness has been lifted and the way into God's presence has been opened

II. Go Further – Read Joel 2:10-32

- A. In verses 10-11, how is the Day of the Lord described?
- B. Knowing that this day of judgment is coming, what does God call His people to do in verses 12-13?
- C. How can God's people be sure God will forgive them in verse 13?
- D. In verses 15-17, God describes what it would look like if His people would repent. Who is included in this repentance and what sorts of things do they do to express their repentance?
- E. In verses 18-27, God promises blessings on His repentant people. What does He promise them in verses 19 and 24?
- F. What does God promise in verse 20?
- G. What sorts of blessings does God say He will bring on the natural world in verses 21-23?
- H. How does God say His people will respond to Him in verse 26?
- I. What blessing does God promise His people in verses 27-29?
- J. How is the image of Judgment Day similar in verses 10-11 and 30-31?
- K. Why does verse 32 say God's people have no need to fear His coming?

III. Apply

- A. What might we Americans have done to deserve God's judgment?
- B. What sorts of things can we do to express our repentance to God?
- C. How has God blessed us, and how can we respond to these blessings?
- D. How can we encourage others to call on the name of the Lord and be saved?