THE TORN VEIL

Daniel M. Gurtner examines the meaning of the rending of the veil at the death of Jesus in Matthew 27:51a by considering the functions of the veil in the Old Testament and its symbolism in Second Temple and Rabbinic Judaism. Gurtner incorporates these elements into a compositional exegesis of the rending text in Matthew. He concludes that the rending of the veil is an apocalyptic assertion like the opening of heaven, revealing, in part, end-time images drawn from Ezekiel 37. Moreover, when the veil is torn, Matthew depicts the cessation of its function, articulating the atoning role of Christ’s death which gives access to God not simply in the sense of entering the Holy of Holies (as in Hebrews), but in trademark Matthean Emmanuel Christology: “God with us.” This underscores the significance of Jesus’ atoning death in the first gospel.

DANIEL M. GURTNER is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary.
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To Beth
With all my love
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This volume is a minor revision of my Ph.D. thesis completed under the supervision of Prof. Richard J. Bauckham at the University of St Andrews, Scotland. I am grateful for Prof. Bauckham’s very capable supervision, as he patiently corrected careless oversights and fallacious reasoning. Not only has his gracious supervision informed my work in the Gospels and Second Temple Judaism, but his honest scholarship, done at the highest level, has been a formative example for me. I am likewise grateful to Prof. Ron Piper, who, though late in coming to my supervisory aid, was nonetheless decisively influential in crafting my argumentation with care and precision.

I am particularly grateful to Dr G. K. Beale for his enduring encouragement in my research, for his rigorous, thorough, and worshipful exegetical fervor, and for his love for Jesus Christ that is evident through it. I am grateful to my parents, Donald and Marilyn Gurtner and Wayne and Sharon Greenwood, for unwavering support of my calling and studies. I am grateful to Prof. John Court for accepting this piece for the SNTS Monograph Series, and to Dr Donald A. Hagner for recommending that he do so, along with offering some valuable suggestions for how to introduce the subject.

While the present work has been submitted to the scholarly community for scrutiny and critique, it is, more importantly, submitted to the glory of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as an act of obedient worship, of which he alone is worthy. It was in joyful obedience to his calling that this project was undertaken, and it is a testimony to his faithfulness that it is completed. Errors that remain throughout this study simply testify to the enduring frailty of its author.

Though many have contributed in numerous ways to this project, it is dedicated to Elizabeth Ann, my love for whom is surpassed only by my love for our Lord. She has heard all of my triumphs, struggles, and daily
Preface

reports on my research, and she has listened patiently to the minutiae of lexicographic research and endured the profundity of my wrestling with theological hypotheses while she sacrificially worked to allow me the luxury of research. This book is for Beth,

With all my love.

Daniel M. Gurtner
Bethel Seminary
St Paul, Minnesota
### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

#### Biblical

**Old Testament**

- Gen.  Genesis  Neh.  Nehemiah  
- Exod.  Exodus  Est.  Esther  
- Lev.  Leviticus  Ps(s)  Psalms  
- Num.  Numbers  Prov.  Proverbs  
- Deut.  Deuteronomy  Isa.  Isaiah  
- Josh.  Joshua  Jer.  Jeremiah  
- Jdg.  Judges  Lam.  Lamentations  
- 1 Sam.  1 Samuel  Ezek.  Ezekiel  
- 2 Sam.  2 Samuel  Dan.  Daniel  
- 1 Kgs  1 Kings  Nah.  Nahum  
- 1 Chron.  1 Chronicles  Hab.  Habakkuk  
- 2 Chron.  2 Chronicles  Zech.  Zechariah  

**New Testament**

- Matt.  Matthew  Col.  Colossians  
- 1 Cor.  1 Corinthians  Heb.  Hebrews  
- Gal.  Galatians  Jas.  James  
- Eph.  Ephesians  Rev.  Revelation  

#### Philo

- Abraham  on the life of Abraham  
- Moses  on the life of Moses  
- Contempl. on the Life of Contemplative Life  
- QE  Questions on Exodus  
- Giants  on Giants  
- Spec. Laws  Special Laws  

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List of abbreviations

Josephus

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<th>Ant.</th>
<th>Jewish Antiquities</th>
<th>Life</th>
<th>Life</th>
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<tr>
<td>J. W.</td>
<td>Jewish War</td>
<td>Ag. Ap.</td>
<td>Against Apion</td>
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</table>

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

| Apoc. Ab. | Apocalypse of Abraham |
| Apoc. El. (H) | Apocalypse of Elijah |
| Apoc. Sedr. | Apocalypse of Sedrach |
| Ascen. Isa. | Ascension of Isaiah |
| 2 Bar. | 2 Baruch |
| 4 Bar. | 4 Baruch |
| 1 En. | 1 Enoch |
| 3 En. | 3 Enoch |
| Ep. Jer. | Epistle of Jeremiah |
| 1 Esd. | 1 Esdras |
| Jos. Asen. | Joseph and Aseneth |
| Jub. | Jubilees |
| Liv. Pro. | Lives of the Prophets |
| 1 Macc. | 1 Maccabees |
| 2 Macc. | 2 Maccabees |
| 3 Macc. | 3 Maccabees |
| 4 Macc. | 4 Maccabees |
| Pss. Sol. | Psalms of Solomon |
| Sib. Or. | Sibylline Oracles |
| Sir. | Sirach |
| T. Ash. | Testament of Asher |
| T. Benj. | Testament of Benjamin |
| T. Dan | Testament of Dan |
| T. Iss. | Testament Issachar |
| T. Jud. | Testament of Judah |
| T. Levi | Testament of Levi |
| T. Naph. | Testament of Naphtali |
| T. Sol. | Testament of Solomon |
| T. Zeb. | Testament of Zebulun |
| Wis. | Wisdom of Solomon |

Rabbinic

| b. B. Bat. | Babylonian Talmud Baba Batra |
| b. B. Me’il. | Babylonian Talmud Baba Me’ilah |
List of abbreviations

b. Git. Babylonian Talmud Gitin
b. Hag. Babylonian Talmud Haggigah
b. Sanh. Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin
b. Sotah Babylonian Talmud Sotah
b. Yoma Babylonian Talmud Yoma
Eccles. Rab. Midrash Rabba Ecclesiastes
Exod. Rab. Midrash Rabba Exodus
Gen. Rab Midrash Rabba Genesis
Lam. Rab. Midrash Rabba Lamentations
Lev. Rab. Midrash Rabba Leviticus
m. Meg. Mishnah Megillah
m. Ber. Mishnah Berakhot
m. ’Erub. Mishnah Erubin
m. Ned. Mishnah Nedarim
m. Shek. Mishnah Shekalim
Num. Rab. Midrash Rabba Numbers
Pes. K. Pesiqta of Rab. Kahana
Pesiq. Rab. Pesiqta Rabbati
Pirqe R. El. Pirque Rabbi Eliezer
Ruth Rab. Midrash Rabba Ruth
Song Rab. Midrash Rabba Song of Solomon
t. Me’ila. Tosefta Me’ila
Tg. Targum
Tg. Neof. Targum Neofiti
Tg. Ps.-J. Targum Pseudo-Jonathan
y. Ta’an. Jerusalem Talmud Ta’anit

Secondary Sources

ABC Anchor Bible Commentary
ABD Anchor Bible Dictionary
ANF Ante-Nicene Fathers
AS Aramaic Studies
AUSS Andrews University Seminary Studies
BAR Biblical Archaeology Review
BASOR Bulletin for the American Society of Oriental Research
List of abbreviations


BECNT  Baker Exegetical Commentaries on the New Testament

BHB  *Biblisch-historisches Handwörterbuch*

*Bib.*  *Biblica*

*BN*  *Biblica Notizen*

*BSW*  *Biblical Studies on the Web*

*BTB*  *Biblical Theology Bulletin*

*BZAW*  Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft

CB  *Cultura biblica*

*CBQ*  *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*

*CBJMS*  *Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series*

*BJ*  *Classical Journal*

ConBNT  Coniectanea neotestamentica or Coniectane biblica: New Testament Series

ConNT  Coniectanea neotestamentica or Coniectane biblica: New Testament Series

*CR: BS*  *Currents in Research: Biblical Studies*

*CSCO*  *Corpus scriptorium christianorum orientalium*

*CurBS*  *Currents in Research: Biblical Studies*

*CurIM*  *Currents in Theology and Missions*

*DCG*  *Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels*

*DDD*  *Dictionary of Demons and Deities*

DJD  *Discoveries in the Judean Desert*

*DJG*  *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*

*DNB*  *Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*

*DOTP*  *Dictionary of Old Testament Pentateuch*

*DSD*  *Dead Sea Discoveries*

*ECDSS*  *Eerdmans Commentaries on the Dead Sea Scrolls*

*ECSNU*  *Edenda curavit Seminarium Neotestamenticum Upsaliense*

*EDSS*  *Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls*

*EJL*  *Early Judaism and Its Literature*

*EKK*  *Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar*

*ETL*  *Ephemerides theologicae lovanienses*

*EvQ*  *Evangelical Quarterly*

*Exp. 5th Series*  *Expository Times 5th Series*
xviii List of abbreviations

ExpTim Expository Times
GAP Guides to Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha
HAT Handbuch zum Alten Testament
HBT Horizons in Biblical Theology
HCOT Historical Commentary on the Old Testament
HeyJ Heythrop Journal
HNT Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
HSS Harvard Semitic Studies
HTR Harvard Theological Review
HUCA Hebrew Union College Annual
HvTSt Hervormde teologiese studies
IBS Irish Biblical Studies
ICC International Critical Commentary
IEJ Israel Exploration Journal
Interp. Interpretation
ISBE International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
JAOS Journal of the American oriental Society
JBL Journal of Biblical Literature
JETS Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society
JNES Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JNSL Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages
JQR n.s. Jewish Quarterly Review, New Series
JSJSupp Journal for the Study of Judaism Supplement Series
JSNT Journal for the Study of the New Testament
JSNTSup Journal for the Study of the New Testament, Supplement Series
JSOT Journal for the Study of the Old Testament
JSOTSup Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, Supplement Series
JSP Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha
JSPSup Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha, Supplement Series
JTS Journal for Theological Studies
MSU Mitteilungen des Septuaginta-Unternehmens
MTL Marshalls Theological Library
MTS Marburger Theologische Studien
NCB New Century Bible
Neot. Neotestamentica
NES Near East Studies
List of abbreviations

NICNT New International Commentary on the New Testament
NICOT New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIDOTTE New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis
NIGTC New International Greek Testament Commentary
NKZ Neue kirchliche Zeitschrift
NovT Novum Testamentum
NovTS Novum Testamentum, Supplement Series
NSBT New Studies in Biblical Theology
NSK Neue sächliche Kirchenblatt
PC Proclamation Commentaries
NTG New Testament Guides
NTM New Testament Message
NTS New Testament Studies
NTT Norsk Teologisk Tidsskrift
OTP Old Testament Pseudepigrapha
OtSt Oudtestamentische Studiën
PH The Pentateuch and Haftorahs
RA Revue d’assyriologie et d’archéologie orientale
RB Review biblique
RBL Review of Biblical Literature
REG Revue des etudes grecques
RelSBul Religious Studies Bulletin
RevQ Revue de Qumran
RHR Revue de l’histoire des religions
SBLDS Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLSCS Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies
SBLSP Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers
SCS Septuagint and Cognate Studies
SDC Scripture Discussion Commentaries
SFSHJ South Florida Studies in the History of Judaism
SFSMD Studia Francisci Scholten memoriae dicta
SJLA Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity
SJT Scottish Journal of Theology
SNT Studien zum Neuen Testament
SNTSMS Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SP Sacra Pagina
Str-B Strack-Billerbeck, Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch.
Syria Syria
List of abbreviations

\textit{T\&G} \textit{Theologie und Geschichte}
\textit{TDNT} Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
\textit{TDOT} Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament
\textit{Them.} \textit{Themelios}
\textit{TSAJ} Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
\textit{TWAT} \textit{Theologische Wortbuch zum Alten Testament}
\textit{TynB} Tyndale Bulletin
\textit{UUA} Uppsala Universitetsårskrift
\textit{VE} \textit{Vox Evangelica}
\textit{VT} \textit{Vetus Testamentum}
\textit{WBC} Word Biblical Commentary
\textit{WMANT} Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
\textit{WUNT} Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
\textit{ZAW} \textit{Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft}
\textit{ZNW} \textit{Zeitschrift für die Neuestamentliche Wissenschaft}
\textit{ZST} \textit{Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie}

Miscellaneous

c.e. common era
b.c.e. before the common era
Fr. Fragments
Hom. Homily
LXX Septuagint
LW Luther’s Works
LCL Loeb Classical Library
MT Masoretic Text
Cr. Crations
Pasch Pascha
Aq Aquilla
Sm Symmachus
Th Theodocian

Select Ancient Works: Christian and Secular

Apollinaris, Fr. Jo., \textit{Fragments on John}
Apollonius, \textit{Lex. Hom.} \textit{Homerian Lexicon}
# List of abbreviations

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<th>Work</th>
<th>Translation</th>
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<td>Homilia de passione et cruce domini</td>
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<td>City of God</td>
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<td>Civ. Dei</td>
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