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978-0-521-87064-1 - The Torn Veil: Matthew's Exposition of the Death of Jesus

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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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PREFACE

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

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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

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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

<i>Abraham</i>	<i>on the life of Abraham</i>	<i>Moses Names</i>	<i>on the life of Moses on the Changing of Names</i>
<i>Contempl. Life</i>	<i>on the Contemplative life</i>	<i>QE</i>	<i>Questions on Exodus</i>
<i>Giants</i>	<i>on Giants</i>	<i>Spec. Laws</i>	<i>Special Laws</i>

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Josephus

<i>Ant.</i>	<i>Jewish Antiquities</i>	<i>Life</i>	<i>Life</i>
<i>J. W.</i>	<i>Jewish War</i>	<i>Ag. Ap.</i>	<i>Against Apion</i>

Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

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

Rabbinic

<i>b. B. Bat.</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud Baba Batra</i>
<i>b. B. Me'il.</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud Baba Me'ilah</i>

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<i>b. Giṭ.</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud Giṭṭin</i>
<i>b. Hag.</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud Hagigah</i>
<i>b. Sanh.</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud Sanhedrin</i>
<i>b. Soṭah</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud Soṭah</i>
<i>b. Yoma</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud Yoma</i>
<i>Eccles. Rab.</i>	<i>Midrash Rabba Ecclesiastes</i>
<i>Exod. Rab.</i>	<i>Midrash Rabba Exodus</i>
<i>Gen. Rab.</i>	<i>Midrash Rabba Genesis</i>
<i>Lam. Rab.</i>	<i>Midrash Rabba Lamentations</i>
<i>Lev. Rab.</i>	<i>Midrash Rabba Leviticus</i>
<i>m. Meg.</i>	<i>Mishnah Megillah</i>
<i>m. Ber.</i>	<i>Mishnah Berakhot</i>
<i>m. 'Erub.</i>	<i>Mishnah Erubin</i>
<i>m. Ned.</i>	<i>Mishnah Nedarim</i>
<i>m. Shek.</i>	<i>Mishnah Shekalim</i>
<i>Num. Rab.</i>	<i>Midrash Rabba Numbers</i>
<i>Pes. K.</i>	<i>Pesiqta of Rab. Kahana</i>
<i>Pesiq. Rab.</i>	<i>Pesiqta Rabbati</i>
<i>Pirqe R. El.</i>	<i>Pirqe Rabbi Eliezer</i>
<i>Ruth Rab.</i>	<i>Midrash Rabba Ruth</i>
<i>Song Rab.</i>	<i>Midrash Rabba Song of Solomon</i>
<i>t. Me'il.</i>	<i>Tosefta Me'ilah</i>
<i>t. Sukkah</i>	<i>Tosefta Sukkah</i>
<i>Tg.</i>	<i>Targum</i>
<i>Tg. Neof.</i>	<i>Targum Neofiti</i>
<i>Tg. Ps.-J.</i>	<i>Targum Pseudo-Jonathan</i>
<i>y. Ta'an.</i>	<i>Jerusalem Talmud Ta'anit</i>

Secondary Sources

ABC	Anchor Bible Commentary
ABD	Anchor Bible Dictionary
ANF	<i>Ante-Nicene Fathers</i>
AS	<i>Aramaic Studies</i>
AUSS	<i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i>
BAR	<i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i>
BASOR	<i>Bulletin for the American Society of Oriental Research</i>
BDB	Brown, F., S. Driver, and C. Briggs. <i>The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon</i> . Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1996. Repr. Boston, Mass.: Houghton, Mifflin, 1906.

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BDF	Blass, F., A. Debrunner, and Robert W. Funk. <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 1961
BECNT	Baker Exegetical Commentaries on the New Testament
BHB	<i>Biblich-historisches Handwörterbuch</i>
<i>Bib.</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BN</i>	<i>Biblica Notizen</i>
<i>BSW</i>	<i>Biblical Studies on the Web</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CB	Cultura biblica
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CBQMS</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series</i>
CJ	Classical Journal
ConBNT	Coniectanea neotestamentica or Coniectane biblica: New Testament Series
ConNT	Coniectanea neotestamentica or Coniectane biblica: New Testament Series
<i>CR: BS</i>	<i>Currents in Research: Biblical Studies</i>
CSCO	Corpus scriptorium christianorum orientaliū
<i>CurBS</i>	<i>Currents in Research: Biblical Studies</i>
<i>CurTM</i>	<i>Currents in Theology and Missions</i>
<i>DCG</i>	<i>Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels</i>
DDD	<i>Dictionary of Demons and Deities</i>
DJD	<i>Discoveries in the Judean Desert</i>
<i>DJG</i>	<i>Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels</i>
<i>DNTB</i>	<i>Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds</i>
<i>DOTP</i>	<i>Dictionary of Old Testament Pentateuch</i>
<i>DSD</i>	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
<i>EvQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>Exp.</i> 5 th Series	<i>Expository Times</i> 5 th Series

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<i>ExpTim</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
GAP	Guides to Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha
HAT	Handbuch zum Alten Testament
<i>HBT</i>	<i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>
HCOT	Historical Commentary on the Old Testament
<i>HeyJ</i>	<i>Heythrop Journal</i>
HNT	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
HSS	Harvard Semitic Studies
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
<i>HvTSt</i>	<i>Hervormde theologiese studies</i>
<i>IBS</i>	<i>Irish Biblical Studies</i>
ICC	<i>International Critical Commentary</i>
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>Interp.</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
ISBE	International Standard Bible Encyclopedia
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American oriental Society</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JETS</i>	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
<i>JNES</i>	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
<i>JNSL</i>	<i>Journal of Northwest Semitic Languages</i>
<i>JQR</i> n.s.	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i> , New Series
JSJSupp	Journal for the Study of Judaism Supplement Series
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i> , Supplement Series
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i> , Supplement Series
JSP	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
JSPSup	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i> , Supplement Series
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal for Theological Studies</i>
LSJ	Liddell, H. G., and R. Scott. <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9 th ed. Oxford. Oxford University Press, 1996
MSU	Mitteilungen des Septuaginta-Unternehmens
MTL	Marshall's Theological Library
MTS	Marburger Theologische Studien
NCB	New Century Bible
<i>Neot.</i>	<i>Neotestamentica</i>
NES	Near East Studies

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

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

Miscellaneous

<i>C.E.</i>	common era
<i>B.C.E.</i>	before the common era
<i>Fr.</i>	<i>Fragments</i>
<i>Hom.</i>	<i>Homily</i>
<i>LXX</i>	Septuagint
<i>LW</i>	Luther's Works
<i>LCL</i>	Loeb Classical Library
<i>MT</i>	Masoretic Text
<i>Cr.</i>	<i>Crations</i>
<i>Pasch</i>	<i>Pascha</i>
<i>Aq</i>	Aquila
<i>Sm</i>	Symmachus
<i>Th</i>	<i>Theodocian</i>

Select Ancient Works: Christian and Secular

Apollinaris, *Fr. Jo.*,
Apollonius, *Lex. Hom.*

Fragments on John
Homeric Lexicon

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Athanasius, <i>Ep. Cast.</i>	<i>Hom. Illud Homilia in illud: Ite in castellum</i>
Athanasius, <i>Hom. Pass.</i> ,	<i>Homilia de passione et cruce domini</i>
Athanasius, <i>Sermo asceticus</i> ,	
Augustine, <i>Civ. Dei</i>	<i>City of God</i>
Augustine, <i>Comm. Ps.</i>	<i>Commentary on Psalm</i>
Augustine, <i>Cons.</i>	<i>Harmony of the Gospels</i>
Augustine, <i>Pecc. orig.</i>	<i>Original Sin</i>
Augustine, <i>Serm. NT</i>	<i>Sermons on the New Testament</i>
Augustine, <i>Spir. Et litt.</i>	<i>The Spirit and the Letter</i>
Chrysostom, <i>Comm. Heb.</i>	<i>Commentary on Hebrews</i>
Chrysostom, <i>Cruc.</i>	<i>De cruce et latrine homiliae II</i>
Chrysostom, <i>Hom. 1 Cor.</i>	<i>Homily on 1 Corinthians</i>
Chrysostom, <i>Hom. Jo.</i>	<i>Homily on John</i>
Chrysostom, <i>Hom. Matt.</i>	<i>Homily on Matthew</i>
Chrysostom, <i>Orat. Hyp.</i>	<i>Oratio de hypapante</i>
Chrysostom, <i>Scand.</i>	<i>Ad eos qui scandalizati sunt</i>
Chrysostom, <i>Trid. Res.</i>	
<i>Clem. Recogn.</i>	<i>Clementine Recognitions</i>
Clement of Alexandria, <i>Exc.</i>	<i>Excerpts from Theodotus</i>
Clement of Alexandria, <i>Paed.</i>	<i>Christ the Educator</i>
Clement of Alexandria, <i>Strom.</i>	<i>Miscellanies</i>
Concilia Oecumenica, <i>Concil. Univ.</i>	
<i>Const. ap.</i>	<i>Apostolic Constitution</i>
Cyril of Alexandria, <i>Comm. Jo.</i>	<i>Commentary on John</i>
Cyril of Alexandria, <i>Comm. Matt. 27.51</i>	<i>Commentary on Matt 27.51</i>
Cyril of Alexandria, <i>Comm.</i> <i>Minor Proph. Or Commentarius</i> <i>in xii prophetas minores</i>	<i>Commentary on the Minor Prophets</i>
Cyril of Alexandria, <i>Fr.</i>	fragments
Cyril of Alexandria, <i>Fr. Acts</i> <i>et Ep. Cath.</i>	<i>Fragments on Acts and the Catholic Epistles</i>
Cyril of Jerusalem, <i>Catech. illum.</i>	<i>Catecheses ad illuminandos</i>
Euripides, <i>Phoenisae</i>	<i>Phoenician Maidens</i>
Eusebius, <i>Dem. ev.</i>	<i>Demonstration of the Gospel</i>
Eusebius, <i>Fr. Luc.</i>	<i>Fragments on Luke</i>
Eusebius, <i>Hist. ecc.</i>	<i>Ecclesiastical History</i>

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Herodotus, <i>Hist.</i>	<i>Histories</i>
Hippocrates, <i>De morbis popularis</i>	<i>Diseases</i>
Jerome <i>Ep.</i>	<i>Epistle</i>
Origen, <i>Cels.</i>	<i>Contra Celsum</i>
Origen, <i>Comm. Jo.</i>	<i>Commentary on John</i>
Origen, <i>Ezech.</i>	<i>Fragmenta ex commentaries in Ezechielem</i>
Origen, <i>Fr. Cant.</i> ,	<i>Libri x in Canticum canticorum</i>
Origen, <i>Fr. Luc.</i>	<i>fragments on Luke</i>
Origen, <i>Sch. Cant.</i>	<i>Scholia in Canticum canticorum</i>
<i>Prot. Jas.</i>	<i>Protevangelium of James</i>
Tertullian, <i>Adv. Jud</i>	<i>Against the Jews</i>
Tertullian, <i>Marc.</i>	<i>Against Marcion</i>
Theodoretus, <i>Interp. Daniel</i>	<i>Interpretation of Daniel</i>
Vettius Valens, <i>Anth.</i>	<i>Anthology</i>
Xenophon, <i>Apol.</i>	<i>Apologia Socratis</i>
Xenophon, <i>Mem.</i>	<i>Memorabilia</i>