

JESUS OUR SCAPTGOAT

By Pastor Greg Hooker

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46)

These words were uttered by Jesus in Arabic as He was suspended between heaven and earth upon the cross. They were not words of despair, denoting a sense of helplessness (Jesus could have called a host of angels to descend from heaven and remove Him from the cross and end His suffering), but they were words of 'lamentation'. Jesus was expressing His grief and anguish as His Father turned His back upon Him because Jesus was *“becoming sin for us”*. God the Father did so because Jesus typified an Old Testament act in which He (Jesus) was becoming the *“scape goat”* (Lev. 16:8, 10, & 26). The scape goat is literally *“One that is made to bear the blame of others”*.

The Old Testament Priest would place his hands upon a goat on the Day of Atonement and symbolically transfer the sins of the people to the poor animal. He would then release the goat into the wilderness, thus sending the people’s sins away. That, my friends, is why God the Father turned His back upon His Son; Jesus was becoming the ultimate *“scape goat”* for the sins of the whole world! Listen to these verses of Scripture: *“he bore our grief’s and carried our sorrows; that he was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities; that the chastisement of our peace was laid upon him; that by his stripes we are healed”* (Isaiah 53:4-5). *“He [Jesus]redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us”* (Galatians 3:13).

Thank you, Jesus, for becoming our *“scape goat”* and forever removing our sins as far as the east is from the west! Thank you that my sins and that of the entire human race were *“laid upon”* you. *“God made Him (Jesus) who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.”* Willingly you suffered the pain and grief as your Father turned His back upon you while you *“carried them away”* into the wilderness of eternity. They will never return, never resurface, and never be brought up against us again! Hallelujah! To God be the glory, great things He hath done! Please bless the hearts of those who reads this today. Your son, Pastor Greg – Amen.



