

**Exegetical Notes, Matthew 27:45-49**  
**“Why Have You Forsaken Me?”**

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**Matthew 27:45-49**

**Verse 45**

*From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land.*

- The sixth hour of the day was high noon. The ninth hour was at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Thus, from noon until 3, normally the brightest part of the day, there was darkness over the place where Jesus was crucified. The cause of this darkness is unknown.

**Verse 46**

*About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”-- which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*

- Near the hour of three, Jesus spoke from the cross. The words are in Aramaic but with certain Hebraisms.
- As the weight of the world's sin fell on his shoulders, Jesus felt severe separation from God the Father for the first time in all of his existence. The pain of this separation caused him to cry out in anguish.
- This is a quotation from Psalm 22:1

**Verse 47**

*When some of those standing there heard this, they said, “He’s calling Elijah.”*

- Apparently, those standing near mistook Jesus' cry, “Eloi” for the Hebrew word “Eli” and thought that he was calling the great prophet Elijah to come and help him.

**Verse 48-49**

***Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. The rest said, “Now leave him alone. Let’s see if Elijah comes to save him.”***

- Sour wine was a cheap drink used by common laborers. It was offered to Jesus to help clear his speech.
- Those who mocked him, having misunderstood what he said, now watched to see if Elijah would come to his aid.

(These exegetical notes are the foundational study for the sermon entitled *Why Have You Forsaken Me?*. They have been prepared by the Reverend Doctor Charles H. Jensen, Senior Pastor at Cornerstone Fellowship, Coatesville Pennsylvania. All rights are reserved by Dr. Jensen and *Cornerstone Fellowship*.)