

PSALM 22 – The Suffering, Praise, and Posterity of the Messiah!

4/8/23 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, www.ptwente.com 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS – George Bennard – sung by George Beverly Shea (2:53)

*On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain*

*Refrain: So I'll cherish the old rugged cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the old rugged cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

*O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world, has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above to bear it to dark Calvary. [Refrain]*

PSALM 22 – Overview – Why Have You Forsaken Me?

- Such Holy Ground! – One of the “mountain top” experiences in the Old Testament! Psalm 22 is one of those prophetic psalms which stands out probably among all of the Messianic psalms. This psalm is a psalm of David, not describing himself, but a very graphic description of death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion, hundreds of years before it was introduced by the Romans as a form of capital punishment. David would describe death by crucifixion is sort of a miracle in itself, and yet, inspired by the Holy Spirit, he wrote graphically of the death of Jesus Christ, including things not given to us in the gospels. Jesus cried out!

PSALM 22 - Why Have You Forsaken Me? - To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Deer of the Dawn." a Psalm of David.

Psa 22:1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?

Psa 22:2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent.

- In that cry of Jesus from the cross, we understand more completely the agony in the garden, as He was seeking to, if possible, escape the cross. For in the garden, He was praying, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. Nevertheless, not My will, Thy will be done" (**Mat 26:39**). That thrice repeated prayer in the garden, sweating as it were great drops of blood to the ground. The agony of Christ in the garden is explained of the cry of Christ on the cross, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" But He was forsaken of God for a moment. The reason for His being forsaken is given to us in this next verse.

Psa 22:3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.

- It was the right thing that happened! The holy God could not be in fellowship with sin. It is impossible that a holy God be one with sin. The word fellowship means oneness, a commonness. When God placed upon Jesus the sins of us all, it brought that separation. "For You are holy," the reason for His being forsaken. (**2Co 5:21** *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*)

Psa 22:4 Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.

Psa 22:5 They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

Psa 22:6 But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

- This was prophesied in Isaiah Chapter 53, how He would be despised and rejected of men.

Psa 22:7 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

Psa 22:8 "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"

- The high priest and religious leaders all laughed when Jesus was hanging on the cross, saying, He trusted in the Lord to deliver Him. Now let Him come down if He is truly the Messiah, and we will worship Him. (**Mat 27:39**)

Psa 22:9 But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.

Psa 22:10 I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God.

- It now is known there is a consciousness of the child in the fetal state. From the tenth week or so, the child begins to have very normal functions, sleeping, the awake times. It begins to recognize the mother's voice, speaking really of an awareness, a consciousness. *You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.*

Psa 22:11 Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help.

Psa 22:12 Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.

Psa 22:13 They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion.

- Activities of His enemies around Him. Note the descriptiveness of the cross, written hundreds of years before it happened, before crucifixion was even invented!

Psa 22:14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

- All of My strength is gone! Fully God! Fully man, all at the same time! When the soldier thrust the spear in His side, there came forth blood and water. **Bones out of joint** - during crucifixion, as a person is hanging there, held there by the spikes, your muscles after a while begin to fatigue and give way. When your muscles give way, your body begins to drop and actually the joints fall out of joint, causing the excruciating pain, which often killed the prisoner.

Psa 22:15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

- What thirst Jesus had at that point! All of His moisture was gone! Following hours of beating and questioning, scourging and now hanging there on the cross, one would get that horrible thirst, the dry mouth, tongue clinging.

Psa 22:16 For dogs (Gentiles) have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

Psa 22:17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.

- The Roman soldiers took great pleasure in staring at Him!

Psa 22:18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

- Hundreds of years before the soldiers did this, it was prophesied that this would happen.

Psa 22:19 But You, O LORD, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me!

Psa 22:20 Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog.

Psa 22:21 Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me.

- Now the whole tone of the Psalm changes – from describing the cross to something most joyous and wonderful! This Messiah that was going to die on the cross; that death would not have the final say! But God answering the prayer by means of the resurrection!

Psa 22:22 I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

- Going now, beyond the cross. - We move on out to the resurrection and unto the glorious day of the Lord and His reign.

Psa 22:23 You who fear the LORD, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!

Psa 22:24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard.

- God heard the cry of Jesus! The promise of God to Jesus was that He would not leave His soul in hell. He would not allow His Holy One to see corruption. Jesus cried to the Father and the Father heard. He did not leave His soul in hell, neither did the Holy One see corruption.

Psa 22:25 My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

Psa 22:26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

- The promise of eternal life because of the death of Jesus Christ. God loved the world and gave His only begotten Son that whosoever would believe would not perish but have everlasting life. Your heart will live forever.

Psa 22:27 All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.

- That glorious, wonderful day is coming when Jesus shall reign! Every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Psa 22:28 For the kingdom is the LORD's, And He rules over the nations.

Psa 22:29 All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive.

- This is the promise of the resurrection, even those whose bodies have gone back to dust will bow before Him.

Psa 22:30 A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,

Psa 22:31 They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this.

- Today we are fulfilling this last verse as we declare God's righteousness, to you people who have been born long after the psalm was written. The Lord has done this! He paid the price. He died upon the cross for our redemption. He rose again. He's coming again to establish God's kingdom upon the earth.

SUMMARY:

- **Such Holy Ground** – One of the “mountain top” experiences in the Old Testament! Psalm 22 stands out! David, not describing about himself, but is a very graphic description of death of Jesus Christ by crucifixion, hundreds of years before crucifixion was invented!
- **Of Jesus' seven statements on the cross, this was the only question! My God, why have You forsaken...?**
- **(2Co 5:21) For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**
- **The Psalm doesn't end with the crucifixion but moves on** to something most joyous and wonderful! Death would not have the final say! But God answering the prayer by means of the resurrection then moving on to the resurrection and unto the glorious day of the Lord and His reign.

(Mat 17:23) and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY – C. Wesley/L. Davidica – Hymns Triumphant Performers (3:08)

1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!