

PSALM 22

I. "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME? WHY ARE YOU SO FAR FROM HELPING ME, AND FROM THE WORDS OF MY GROANING?" (1)

- A. **Mark 15:33-34** *"Now when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which is translated, 'My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?'"*

Jesus specifically quoted this psalm as one of His seven utterances from the cross.

- B. **Galatians 3:13** *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree')."*

The plain meaning of the psalm is applicable to Jesus. He was cursed on our behalf.

- C. **Isaiah 53:4-5** *"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."*

Other ancient prophecy upholds the concept that God smote and afflicted the Savior on behalf of those whose sins He would bear.

II. "BUT I AM A WORM, AND NO MAN; A REPROACH OF MEN, AND DESPISED BY THE PEOPLE. ALL THOSE WHO SEE ME RIDICULE ME; THEY SHOOT OUT THE LIP, THEY SHAKE THE HEAD, SAYING, 'HE TRUSTED IN JEHOVAH, LET HIM RESCUE HIM; LET HIM DELIVER HIM, SINCE HE DELIGHTS IN HIM!'" (6-8)

- A. **Matthew 27:39-44** *"And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, 'You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.' Likewise the*

chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 'He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, "I am the Son of God."' Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing."

His detractors among the chief priests, scribes, and elders derided Him with the very words of this prophetic psalm.

- B.** **John 15:18-20** *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you. Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you."*

That Christ was treated so spitefully reminds us we should expect no better.

III. "MANY BULLS HAVE SURROUNDED ME; STRONG BULLS OF BASHAN HAVE ENCIRCLED ME."

(12)

Cattle are a common sight in our neighbors' pastures and during our visits to South Africa they are a common sight along the roadside, but American cattle are considerably larger than their South African counterparts, by about one third. The difference is immediately visible. Evidently, Bashan raised impressive beef specimens, too. He was not merely surrounded by cattle, but specifically bulls, and particularly bulls from Bashan.

"FOR DOGS HAVE SURROUNDED ME; THE CONGREGATION OF THE WICKED HAS ENCLOSED ME." (16_{a-b})

Whether the imagery is bovine or canine, the point is that the object of prophecy was surrounded by intimidating foes.

- A.** **Matthew 26:57** *"And those who had laid hold of Jesus led Him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled."*

The night of His arrest, Jesus was surrounded by Jewish religious leaders.

- B.** **Luke 23:10-11** *“And the chief priests and scribes stood and vehemently accused Him. Then Herod, with his men of war, treated Him with contempt and mocked Him, arrayed Him in a gorgeous robe, and sent Him back to Pilate.”*

The next morning, Christ was surrounded by the King of Edom’s warriors who belittled Him.

- C.** **Mark 15:16-19** *“Then the soldiers led Him away into the hall called Praetorium, and they called together the whole garrison. And they clothed Him with purple; and they twisted a crown of thorns, put it on His head, and began to salute Him, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ Then they struck Him on the head with a reed and spat on Him; and bowing the knee, they worshiped Him.”*

The Savior was surrounded by the Praetorian Guard who scorned His claim to the Kingdom.

IV. “MY STRENGTH IS DRIED UP LIKE A POTSHERD, AND MY TONGUE CLINGS TO MY JAWS; YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME TO THE DUST OF DEATH.” (15)

- A.** **John 19:28-30** *“After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”*

Naturally, Jesus was thirsty. Blood loss will do that. Three hours of naked exposure to the sun will do that. Nevertheless, he did not mention His thirst exclusively because of thirst, but because He was consciously fulfilling prophecy.

- B.** **John 13:19** *“Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He.”*

Before He went to the cross, He foretold His upcoming ordeal.

- C. **Luke 24:44-46** *“Then He said to them, ‘These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.’ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, ‘Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day.’”*

After the fact, He reminded the apostles that His crucifixion was the fulfillment of prophecy.

V. **“THEY PIERCED MY HANDS AND MY FEET.” (16c)**

- A. **Luke 23:33** *“When they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him.”*

The New Testament narrative is less dramatic than the Old Testament prophecy. The reader is expected to understand what crucifixion amounted to. Extremities were impaled.

- B. **Luke 24:39** *“Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see.”*

As evidence that He was truly Himself following resurrection, He offered His hands and His feet for visual inspection.

VI. **“THEY LOOK AND STARE AT ME.” (17)**

As anticipated since ancient time, Jesus was not afforded the dignity of a private death.

- A. **Matthew 27:36** *“Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.”*

Soldiers were guarding the scene.

- B. **Luke 23:35** *“And the people stood looking on.”*

The public took notice.

VII. **“THEY DIVIDE MY GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS.” (18)**

- A. **John 19:23-24** *“Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,’ that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: ‘They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.’ Therefore the soldiers did these things.”*

The method for distributing the last of his earthly possessions was specified long before in God’s Word.

- B. **Matthew 8:20** *“Jesus said to him, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.’”*

Jesus never had much during His earthly sojourn. His first bed was borrowed from livestock and His last ride into Jerusalem was also on a borrowed animal. What little He had at the end, the clothes on His back, were taken from Him before He was killed.

VIII. “BUT YOU, O JEHOVAH, DO NOT BE FAR FROM ME; O MY STRENGTH, HASTEN TO HELP ME! DELIVER ME FROM THE SWORD, MY PRECIOUS LIFE FROM THE POWER OF THE DOG. SAVE ME FROM THE LION’S MOUTH AND FROM THE HORNS OF THE WILD OXEN! YOU HAVE ANSWERED ME.” (19-21)

Although He was forsaken, and cursed, and smitten by God, suffering was not the end of the story. Not even death was the end of the story. When Jesus wanted God to “Help Me!” and “Deliver Me!” and “Save Me!”, God answered – just not quite the way one might expect at first.

- A. **Romans 8:32** *“[God] did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all.”*

The help, deliverance, and salvation Christ received from the Father did not spare Him from dying.

- B.** **Acts 2:23-24** *“Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.”*

The deliverance He obtained was from the grave through His own resurrection.

- C.** **2nd Timothy 1:8-10** *“Do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”*

That resurrection is the heart of the gospel. Our hope is bound up in Christ's conquest of death.

IX. **“I WILL DECLARE YOUR NAME TO MY BRETHREN; IN THE MIDST OF THE ASSEMBLY I WILL PRAISE YOU. YOU WHO FEAR JEHOVAH, PRAISE HIM! ALL YOU DESCENDANTS OF JACOB, GLORIFY HIM, AND FEAR HIM, ALL YOU OFFSPRING OF ISRAEL! 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. MY PRAISE SHALL BE OF YOU IN THE GREAT ASSEMBLY; I WILL PAY MY VOWS BEFORE THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.” (22-25)**

- A.** **Hebrews 2:11-12** *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: ‘I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.’”*

Having been delivered by God after death through the resurrection, Christ praises Him among His brethren! By bringing us to God's glory as His sons, we are the brethren of the only begotten Son.

- B.** **Matthew 12:47-50** *"One said to Him, 'Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.' But He answered and said to the one who told Him, 'Who is My mother and who are My brothers?' And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.'"*

We are Christ's brothers and sisters when we do the Father's will.

- X.** **"THE POOR SHALL EAT AND BE SATISFIED; THOSE WHO SEEK HIM WILL PRAISE JEHOVAH. LET YOUR HEART LIVE FOREVER!" (26)**

- A.** **Matthew 5:3, 6** *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven... Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."*

Central to the gospel are the beatitudes wherein Jesus promised fulfillment to the poor and hungry.

- B.** **Matthew 7:7** *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."*

He said seekers will find!

- XI.** **"ALL THE ENDS OF THE WORLD SHALL REMEMBER AND TURN TO JEHOVAH, AND ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE NATIONS SHALL WORSHIP BEFORE YOU. FOR THE KINGDOM IS JEHOVAH'S, AND HE RULES OVER THE NATIONS." (27-28)**

- A.** **Mark 16:15** *"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.'"*

Jesus sent His apostles to preach the gospel everywhere.

- B.** **Revelation 5:9** *“And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.’”*

Those redeemed in Christ’s blood come from every tribe, every language, every people, and every nation.

XII. “ALL THE PROSPEROUS OF THE EARTH SHALL EAT AND WORSHIP” (29_a)

Harkening back to the poor eating to satisfaction (26), this verse teaches that the rich are not excluded.

- A.** **Matthew 19:23-26** *“Jesus said to His disciples, ‘Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.’ When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, ‘Who then can be saved?’ But Jesus looked at them and said to them, ‘With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”*

Jesus did speak to the unlikelihood of wealthy people submitting to the gospel, but He also emphasized that God has a marvelous way of overcoming impossibility.

- B.** **Luke 19:2, 8-9** *“Now behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was rich... Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, ‘Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘Today salvation has come to this house.’”*

Zacchaeus is one example of a prosperous person humbly repenting and doing right.

XIII. “ALL THOSE WHO GO DOWN TO THE DUST SHALL BOW BEFORE HIM, EVEN HE WHO CANNOT KEEP HIMSELF ALIVE.” (29_b)

- A. **Philippians 2:9-10** *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth.”*

Paul’s remark that those under the earth will kneel at the name of Christ Jesus aligns perfectly with the psalm telling us those down in the dust will bow.

- B. **Isaiah 26:19** *“Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.”*

There will be a resurrection. There will be singing among the risen!

XIV. “A POSTERITY SHALL SERVE HIM. IT WILL BE RECOUNTED OF THE LORD TO THE NEXT GENERATION, THEY WILL COME AND DECLARE HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO A PEOPLE WHO WILL BE BORN, THAT HE HAS DONE THIS.” (30-31)

The events prophesied in this psalm, a thousand years before they happened, would continue to be related long after they happened, too.

- A. **Psalms 78:1-7** *“Give ear, O my people, to my law; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, telling to the generation to come the praises of Jehovah, and His strength and His wonderful works that He has done. For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children; that the generation to come might know them, the children who would be born, that they may arise and declare them to their children, that they may set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.”*

Psalms 102:18 *“This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise Jehovah.”*

Psalm 145:4 *“One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.”*

Every generation needs to learn about God’s wondrous works.

- B.** **2nd Timothy 1:5** *“I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”*

Timothy, the son of Eunice and grandson of Lois is an example of multi-generational faith.