

Psalm 22 “A Son Forsaken”

I know that last week I had said we were going to be looking at 2 Psalms this week but as I prepared for Psalm 22 I just couldn't justify moving through it quickly and so today we are going to be covering just 1 Psalm which is perhaps one of the most powerful Psalms in the Bible.

The 22nd Psalm is known as a Messianic Psalm and certainly as we look at this, I believe we are going to be able to very clearly see that this Psalm was written as if it were given from the point of view from Jesus as He went through the crucifixion. We'll see several references to things that were fulfilled prophetically as our Lord was brutally slain and I'll point those out as we work through the text.

I have to mention that this Psalm was written by David and if you just do a little research, you learn that this Psalm was written almost 1,000 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. As this Psalm speaks about the crucifixion of our Lord understand that the process of killing someone this way was not yet in existence. It was not until about 500 BC that this method was used under the power of the Persians and then later on the Romans perfected it.

We might keep in mind that crucifying someone could be likened to what we have today when someone is lethally injected or killed by the use of the electric chair. Crucifixion was designated for what were considered the worst criminals in society.

As we look at this there are a few different ways that people interpret it as they work through it. There are some that believe that David must have been going through a large issue in his life as he wrote this down

and as he did so he was writing symbolically about himself...I'll just be honest I have a hard time with that but to each their own.

I personally believe that as David wrote this that the Spirit of God came upon him. Perhaps as he wrote he was not fully understanding what it was he was writing. I liken this to some of the things that the prophet Daniel wrote as he spoke of kingdoms that would come to be in the future, or perhaps the prophet Zechariah as he wrote about the visions that he was given. I honestly don't think they fully understood what they wrote about.

1 Peter 1:10-12 says this of the prophets of the Old Testament ¹⁰**Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, ¹¹ searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. ¹²To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven— things which angels desire to look into.**

So my opinion is that David wrote this as he simply followed the leading of the Holy Spirit in his life and we are told here at the beginning of this Psalm that it was again written to the chief musician and this time we are told it was set to “the deer of the dawn” and we don't really know what that was but it was probably a well-known tune of some kind that David is putting words to.

Let's go ahead and look at verses 1-2 which say **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And**

from the words of My groaning?

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

As we begin I wanted to point out that what David writes about here is not something that is foreign to us as we personally go through life. In our own lives we have probably passed through a hard time where we wondered where the Lord was.

We also see this written about in some of the other Psalms we have looked at and just for an example listen to what Psalm 10:1 says as the writer of it wrote Why do You stand afar off, O Lord? Why do You hide in times of trouble?

And then listen to what Psalm 13:1 says when it says How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? I don't want you to feel like you are the only person that passes through a time where the Lord may feel like He is far away...This especially happens when situations in our lives take place that are very difficult to pass through and you can wonder when the trial will end or when the Lord will work on your behalf.

I would mention that in both Psalm 10 and Psalm 13 that by the end of those Psalms the writers are seen rejoicing. We'll also see the same thing in Psalm 22. God will respond to our prayers as we work through times of difficulty and so often it is really our perspective that needs to change. Many times in my own life when I am struggling with something and I can't seem to see the Lord at work as I come to Him in prayer and I drop my anxieties off to Him the Lord then changes my perspective and I can go from a place of lowliness to the heights of the mountains as I praise Him for His good work in my life.

Perhaps we should work to apply Philippians 4:4 which says **4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!** I speak to myself as much as anyone else here today but I often will find my mind in places of despair and I can't seem to see how things are going to work out and then if I just take the things I am all worked up about to the Lord and I begin to seek Him and think of His goodness I find that I begin to stand in faith once again. Sometimes I'll have to do this multiple times in a day...Something will start to bother me and I'll get worked up and I have had to just train myself to just take things to the Lord rather than stay in my stinking thinking.

Ok, let's talk about these two verses from a prophetic standpoint and I want to remind you that our Lord as He hung upon the cross had 7 different things to say as He suffered. The first was "Father forgive them for they do not know what they do." Then second Jesus said "Today you will be with me in paradise" to the criminal next to Him. Then third Jesus said "Woman behold your son" speaking to Mary.

And then fourthly and what we want to focus on here is Jesus in Matthew 27:46 after supernatural darkness had come over the land said this **46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"** Now when the Lord Jesus cried out in this way anyone who heard and knew the scriptures would have cued into the fact that Jesus had just quoted what is found in Psalm 22 and I believe Jesus did this very purposefully in the hopes that anyone that heard or read about His death on the cross in the future would be moved to just take a look at what this Psalm had to say. As people then read this Psalm they should have been able to see that

what Jesus cried from the cross was exactly what this Psalm spoke of as it prophesied of the coming Messiah.

Now we might ask ourselves why would Jesus cry this out from the cross? Why would Jesus say that the Father had forsaken Him? It's amazing to think about the life of Jesus and the simple fact that He had never sinned in His life...this was an amazing feat for I know in my own life that I catch myself making mistakes an awful lot...but for Jesus there was not one fault or failure.

Because Jesus had no sin in His life He was able to have a constant connection with the Father and this connection was without fail.

Jesus even made a statement in John 10:30 when He said this ³⁰ **I and My Father are one.** And then in John 14:9-11 we see the following ⁹ **Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"** ¹⁰ **Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.** ¹¹ **Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.**

The question then becomes why did Jesus say "My God My God why have you forsaken me?" when He was on the cross. I want to use scripture to help us work through this and the first I want to point out to you is found over in 2 Corinthians 5:21 which says this ²¹ **For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.** Then listen to 1 Peter 2:24 which says this of Jesus ²⁴ **who Himself bore our sins in His own**

body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

When Jesus went to the cross He took the sins of humanity upon Himself. He bore the punishment that you and I deserved. Jesus was a substitute sacrifice on our behalf. When Jesus was on the cross He was taking the punishment of sin for us that we might be allowed to go free.

While the Lord was on the cross He was found to be there around 9 AM in the morning and for 3 hours the Lord suffered and then suddenly we are told that around 12 PM that darkness came over the land...and this is a little bit of a mystery but this was the time that I believe the sins of the world were placed upon our Lord and the Father turned away from the Son. It was at this time the wrath of the Father was laid upon the Son as He suffered for you and I. The Father at this time turned away from the Son and for the first time in history the Father and the Son were separated.

Can you imagine Jesus at this moment? Being on the cross crying out to the Father, looking for the Father to help and finding that there is silence in response?

I believe that verse 2 when it speaks of crying out in the daytime and then doing so in the night as well is speaking of the time that Jesus was on the cross both when it was light out and then again when it was supernaturally dark.

To know that our Lord did this on our behalf is remarkable. Jesus did not have to suffer in this manner but He chose to for our sakes.

Let's move forward in our text this morning if you look with me at verses 3-5 which say ³**But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.**

⁴**Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.**

⁵**They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.**

It may be that as the Lord Jesus cried out to the Father and got no response that His mind began to think of the holiness of the Father and how the Father is perfect and good and righteous and that the people of Israel were a people of praise.

Perhaps this was comforting for Jesus to remember...and then David the writer of this Psalm begins to write about how the fathers of the nation of Israel had trusted God and how God had delivered them as they cried out to Him and they trusted in Him and were not put to shame.

I don't want to project into the mind of Jesus while He was on the cross but I can imagine Jesus thinking about these very words as He suffered. Remembering the faithfulness of God to the people of Israel. Remembering that the people of Israel did not deserve nor had they earned the favor of God...and yet the Father loved the people of Israel and often went out of His way to rescue them and help them.

It is the same way with our Lord and Savior. You and I have failed and fallen short of the glory of God more times than we could ever count and yet Jesus in His love chose to die for us.

The people of Israel cried out to God while they were in captivity by the Egyptians, they cried out during the times of the judges, they cried out multiple times in their history and the Lord God in His mercy decided to rescue them.

So it is with Jesus today, He hears the cries of humanity, He hears when just one of us cries out for deliverance from our sins and He in His mercy chooses to save us. From the cross our Lord knew that His death meant salvation for all who call upon His name and it may be that Jesus as He was dying was thinking about the people of Israel and how the Father loved them even in their failures.

Look at verses 6-8 in our text which say the following ⁶**But I am a worm, and no man;**

A reproach of men, and despised by the people.

⁷**All those who see Me ridicule Me;**

They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying,

⁸**“He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him;**

Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”

Can you imagine the humility of hanging on the cross? And then to think that before the cross our Lord was brutally flogged and He was mocked as a purple robe was put on Him and then He was beaten by the soldiers. Of Jesus it says this in Isaiah 52:14 and I'm going to read it to you from the New Living Translation which says **But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.** I don't personally think we know half of what our Lord went through.

It says in verse 6 the words “But I am a worm” and no man. Have you ever thought about worms before? Yeah, me neither. The worm is probably one of the lowliest insects on the planet, they have no real worth and often times kids will pull them apart in the middle or smash them...and really we only see them when it rains out and they come out of the earth to grab some air. I think Jesus felt humiliated, overlooked, despised and forgotten as He hung on the cross treated as a criminal.

We also know that around the Lord there were many that spoke against Jesus ridiculing Him, making fun of Him and we have some specific things that are recorded here 1,000 years before our Lord was on the cross as it says “He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him.” It’s interesting that these very words were spoken in Matthew 27:41-43 which says the following **⁴¹ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² “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. ⁴³ He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ”**

Have you ever thought about the “so called” random things that happened in the life of Jesus that were prophetic? There were lots of things that the scriptures prophesied would happen that Jesus had no control over and yet they came to pass. This is one such case.

If only those who mocked understood that what Jesus did on the cross was for the salvation of the world they wouldn’t be mocking...and I wonder today if some of those who mocked Jesus are in hell right now

and they know that as they came against Jesus they had made a pretty big eternal mistake.

Let's look at verses 9-11 which say **9 But You are He who took Me out of the womb;**

You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.

10 I was cast upon You from birth.

From My mother's womb

You have been My God.

11 Be not far from Me,

For trouble is near;

For there is none to help.

In thinking about Jesus it's interesting to think that He left His eternal position and submitted Himself to being a man. [Philippians 2:5-8](#) puts it this way when it says **5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.**

As we think of Jesus in this Psalm we might remember that the Father was involved in the creation of the life of Jesus while He was in the womb of His mother...and while Jesus was nursing we are told here that Jesus was in a place of helplessness relying on His mom to take care of Him and the Father to watch over His life and we might even remember that Herod had tried to kill Jesus after the wise men had

come and announced the Savior had been born...the Father divinely protected Jesus.

Jesus spoke of how the Father watched over Him and then again we see a desperation as the Lord asked that the Father be not far from him as trouble was near and there was none to help. Again I think we see the loneliness of Jesus from the cross.

You and I might relate to these verses as well...Of course we are not Jesus and we will never suffer anything near what He went through but we at times find ourselves in places in life where it's important to remember that God has had His hand on our lives from the womb. We should remember that God has overseen our lives and He watches over us even now.

Look with me at verses 12-13 which say ¹²**Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.**

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

Have you ever seen a video of the running of the bulls over in Spain? I have to say these people to me are not the brightest but if you ever want to have an adrenaline rush by putting your life on the line go over and get involved in this...During this event there are thousands of people that run through barricaded narrow streets and as they run there are 6 bulls that are released and these bulls go nuts as they trounce those that get in their way.

I could see our Lord feeling as though the enemy that surrounded Him were like angry bulls.

Look at verses 14-15 which say this 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. 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. It's common knowledge that those who hung on the cross would often have their joints pulled out of socket...the stress on the body was incredible as all the weight of your body was placed upon your shoulders especially as you hung.

We might even think of how our Lord was pierced to ensure that He was dead and when He was pierced, we know that both blood and water came out.

The strength of our Lord was all dried up while He suffered and his tongue clung to His jaws. Our Lord was probably almost totally dehydrated as He hung on the cross and we know that actually the 5th of 7 things Jesus said from the cross in John 19:28 were the words "I thirst" and this was right before the Lord cried out "It is finished"

And then you and I can probably relate to the words "You have brought me to the dust of the earth" when we think about death...Often at funerals the words "From dust man came and to dust man shall return" are spoken. It's interesting how you and I really at the end of the day are nothing but dust balls...and yet we know that man lives on after death, that physical death and a return to the dust of the earth is not the end as humanity lives on forever in one of two places either heaven or hell.

Look with me at verses 16-18 which say the following **¹⁶For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me.**

They pierced My hands and My feet; ¹⁷ I can count all My bones.

They look and stare at Me. ¹⁸ They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. Certainly it was the

sinfulness of man that placed our Lord upon the cross and you know there were many that rejoiced when they finally saw the Lord on the cross. How sad that they missed the Messiah when He came.

We know that the hands and feet of Jesus were pierced and as Jesus hung He probably felt his bones and perhaps his bones were exposed from the scourging He received...and yet I want to remind you that not one of our Lord's bones were broken...Jesus we know was our Passover lamb and one of the requirements of the Passover lamb was that no bones were to be broken and for homework you might take a look at Ex. 12:46 and Numbers 9:12.

Verse 18 is certainly seen fulfilled while our Lord was on the cross wasn't it? It's incredible to think that there were Roman soldiers who were there that ended up playing a game to see who would win the clothing of Jesus. Clothes in Biblical times were not found like they are today...People didn't have 20 sets of shoes, they might have one or two garments that they used and so clothing was a valuable commodity.

We see the fulfillment of this over in John 19:23-24 and I think that this prophecy is yet another example demonstrating how things happened that Jesus had no control over and as they took place it is exactly what the scriptures say would happen to the Messiah. You and I know that Jesus fulfilled well over 300 prophecies many of which were out of His control. It's not like Jesus was on the cross and He spoke to someone nearby telling them to go to the guards and have them cast lots for His clothes because it needed to be done to fulfill what was written.

Look at verses 19-21 which say ¹⁹ **But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me!** ²⁰ **Deliver Me from the**

sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog. ²¹ Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen!

You have answered Me.

A final cry from our Lord and I believe this is probably what was happening in the mind of the Lord as He suffered and He was just crying out to the Father saying "You are my strength, please help Me Father, Deliver Me, keep my life from the dogs that surround me and from the horns of the wild oxen.

And then I believe that there is a gap here at the end of verse 21 as we see in other prophetic verses of the Bible and then when our Lord rose from the dead as death could not hold Him our Lord would victoriously say "YOU HAVE ANSWERED ME." What do you think Jesus thought when He rose from the dead? I mean man how awesome would that be to have victory over death, to be able to say that death could not hold Me...What do you think the Father and Jesus had to say to each other when the death and resurrection of our Lord was completed? I can imagine the Father saying "Well done my good and faithful Son." I can imagine Jesus saying after all this Father "you have answered me."

Now I say that there is probably a gap here at the end of verse 21 because really from here on out in this Psalm the tone changes and the message changes if you go ahead and look with me at verses 22-24 which say ²²I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. ²³You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! ²⁴For 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.

The idea here is that there is some victory that is to be had and praise should be given to God! Certainly you and I should rejoice that our Lord has risen from the dead. Here in our text we are told that the descendants of Jacob should glorify and fear Him...certainly this is speaking of the people of Israel and really they of all people in the world should be rejoicing in what God has done on their behalf.

Verse 24 is again speaking of our Lord and how He was afflicted and the Father had not hidden His face from Him but instead when the Lord cried out the Father heard. This is a far cry from when our Lord was on the cross saying “why have you forsaken me.”

Look at verses 25-26 which say ²⁵ **My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.**

²⁶ **The poor shall eat and be satisfied;**

Those who seek Him will praise the Lord.

Let your heart live forever!

It says here the words I will pay My vows before those who fear Him...What is this talking about we might ask? I believe it's pointing to the fact that God always keeps His Word...He has kept His vows or promises in the past and God will keep them in the future as well. I'm amazed that we can look throughout God's Word we can see that He always does that which He has said.

Verse 26 speaks of how the poor shall eat and be satisfied. And those that seek Him will praise the Lord and their heart would live forever.

Over in Matthew 5:3 our Lord Jesus said the following

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

It is true that when a person finally comes to accept Jesus in their lives for the forgiveness of sins they must first recognize how lowly that they are, they must come to the place of brokenness in their lives. Before a person can be forgiven they must know that their sin has separated them from God.

The Bible says this in Romans 6:23 when it says²³ **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** Before one can experience the love of God in their lives they must learn that they have not one good thing in them and that because of their sin they are separated from God.

I'm so thankful that when I was poor in spirit, when I was broken, when I had no hope that my Lord rescued me from the pit of despair and set my feet on solid rock. He can do the same for you if you would but realize that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the promised one, the One that fulfilled all of the prophecies that were said of the One that would forgive humanity for their sins and place your faith and hope in Him.

We can look at this wonderful Psalm that is before us and we can clearly see that Jesus is the One that fulfilled these things...It is Jesus alone that has paid for our sins. The Bible says this of the Messiah in Isaiah 53:5-6 which is another prophetic chapter in the Bible when it says this **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. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. No one**

else can be said to have accomplished all our Lord did on our behalf. The reality is Jesus died for sinners which means He died for the whole world and the Bible is clear that all who come to Jesus in humility recognizing who He is and placing their faith in Him will be saved. Have you done that today? Are you saved? When you die today where will you go? Will you go to heaven because you have accepted that Jesus died in your place on the cross? Or will you go to hell because you have chosen not to receive Jesus?

If today you need to accept the Lord after the service is over please come forward and find me as I would love to pray with you.

Let's finish the chapter quickly here if you look at verses 27-29 which say 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.

²⁸ **For the kingdom is the Lord's,**

And He rules over the nations.

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 certainly reminds me of the Great commission as these verses speak of all the ends of the world remembering and turning to the Lord and that all of the families of the nations will do the same...And then we have a great reminder that the kingdom of God will one day rule

over the nations and certainly when Jesus returns in what is called the Millennial reign He shall rule and reign.

Notice in verse 29 it says All those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him and that really reminds me of what we have over in Philippians 2:9-11 which says this ⁹**Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ 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, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.** It's true that one day no matter who you are or when you lived or how you lived that every knee will bow and tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. You can either do that here in this world or you can choose to do so after death when you find yourself in hell for refusing to accept Jesus.

As you and I rejoice in what our Lord has accomplished we then to get to be a part of fulfilling what verses 30-31 say when they say ³⁰**A posterity shall serve Him.**

It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation,

³¹ They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born,

That He has done *this*.

We get to tell others the good news that declares what Jesus has done for us. What a blessing as we look at this passage of scripture to know that our Lord fulfilled everything that was required and we know that He did so with you and I in mind and He did so that we might set free from our sins.

Let's pray and then we'll worship in closing this morning.

Psalm 22 “A Son Forsaken”

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Verses 27-29

Philippians 2:9-11