

## Good Friday 2026

(Psalm 22)

### Announcements:

- Easter - parking and two early bird services... *But tonight...*
- Good Friday - possibly a Wednesday/Thursday... a study for another time (memorial)

**Holy Week Theme** - **Christ in the Psalms** (most quoted book in the NT - close to 40%)

- Please open to **Psalm Chapter 22** (Need a bible? ...Follow along! Track with me...)
- **Holy Week:** Hosanna, inspection, seder, garden, betrayal, unfair trial, sentence, flogging...

### Message: **Crucifixion**

- **Agony & Remembrance** (verses 1-21) (broken up into smaller troubles/reflections)
- **Triumph & Completion** (verses 22-31)

This is a **song of David** (immediately), but **points to Christ** (prophetically) - and then to us, learn.

- Gives **details of crucifixion** 500 years before Persians, plus 500 before Romans (prophetic)
- "This is beyond all others... THE PSALM OF THE CROSS" (Charles Spurgeon)
- Spurgeon goes on to say...
- "It is the photograph of our Lord's saddest hours, the record of his dying words..."

In fact, **at least a couple times**, Jesus quotes verbatim from this Psalm, while on the cross...

- One example = Matthew 27:46 - "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" **Psalm 22**
- **Psalm 22** references **final 4 (of 7) statements** with a **powerful one at the end**.

We won't have time to comment on every portion... will highlight the main ones... (mature ears)

- Intimate. raw - we've heard **ABOUT** the cross, this psalm gives us insight **FROM** the cross...

### **Anguish** (verses 1-2)

### **PRAY**

**Three times** in these opening verses he calls out to **"my God."** - repetition = intensity of the cry...

### **V. 1 - My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**

- Some of the most haunting words in all the Scripture... a direct quote from Matthew 27:46
- And also one that is **very hard for us to fully grasp** what is actually happening (beyond us!)
- "God forsaking God. Who can understand it?" (Martin Luther) (wrestled more until his day...)
- Christ the Son & God the Father were and always have been one.
- John 10:30 - "I and the Father are one" Jesus had not yet known even a shadow of separation
- But something mysterious happened on that old rugged Cross as the Father forsook the Son...
- **Azabtani** = azab (abandon) + tani (you [did to] me) - not a mild word... **relational rupture**.
- A husband abandoning his wife (Is 54:6). People forsaking covenant (Jer. 2:13) - **desertion**.
- For the first time in history, in this exact moment of time, Christ was alone (dreadfully so..)
- It would make sense for God to forsake Judas, or the Pharisees, but **not the spotless Messiah**
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 - "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us." (sin, penalty, wrath)

Our Lord called out to His God, but there was no answer...

V. 1 - **Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?**

- **Ever felt this way?** In pain/struggle, these questions arise... (some have nightmares similar)
- **“God, do you see my pain? Do you hear my cries?” Jesus Himself can relate...**

V. 2 - **My God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not [answer]; and in the night season, [find no rest].**

- **David felt this** at some point; **Christ is experiencing it** on the cross.
- It was **Christ's mission, alone. No other name...**
  - **He was forsaken, so that you and I would never be!**

This Psalm gives us indication of the mindset of Christ; we must implement in our own trials...

### **Remembrance (verses 3-5)**

**“Trusted”** is repeated three times in these verses. **Ancestors** trusted God, **Christ** had to, **we** must...

V. 3 - **But you are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel.**

- **Even in suffering**, the **Forsaken One**, **remembered the greatness of God**
  - He **did not curse** at, **nor hail blasphemies** at God (*reminds us of Job*)
- **“It is as if he had said, ‘It matters not what I endure. Storms may howl upon me; men despise; devils tempt; circumstances overpower; and God himself forsake me, still God is holy; there is no unrighteousness in him.’”** (John Stevenson, *Treasury of David*)
- **In His darkest hour**, Christ **looked to and trusted in** the **holiness** and **faithfulness** of God.

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

V. 5 - **They cried to you, and were delivered; they trusted in you, and were not [disappointed]**

- **“He’s faithful through generations. So why would He fail now... He won’t, He won’t”** (Cody Carnes, *Firm Foundation*)

On that brutal cross, God may have appeared to be silent/distant, but his enemies were not...

### **Mockery (verses 6-8)**

These verses point to the **reality of what Isaiah also prophesied:**

**Isaiah 53:3 - “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him...”**

- The Messiah would be **hated with vile**, **regarded with contempt**, and **discarded as worthless...**

We see that in these verses... (the depths of condescension experienced)

V. 6 - **But I am a worm, and no man**

- One of the **forgotten “I AM” statements** of our Lord.
- He chose **the weakest of creatures** (*cursed to the ground, frail, discarded, hidden, unwanted*)

- **What disgrace - Exodus 16:20 - refers to maggots...** "How could the Lord of glory be brought to such abasement... what a contrast between 'I AM' and 'I am a worm!'" (Spurgeon)
- I need to share **some deep theology** with you here (*wish I had time for a whole sermon*)
- **Tola = scarlet, crimson; maggot or worm ("coccus ilicis") (image on the screen)**
  - **Point 1:** *Once in a lifetime*, giving birth, *attaches to a tree* (forms a *hard crimson shell*)
  - **Point 2:** Dies, gives life *for children to partake of*, *leaves a crimson red stain*
  - **Point 3:** *Dye extracted: tabernacle, the veils, high priest garments, cleaning of a leper*
  - **Point 4:** **Christ is our temple sacrifice, veil remover, high priest, & healing savior!**
  - **\*Roughly three days after death, the body turns white and flakes off like snow...**
- **Isaiah 1:18, NLT** - "Come now, let's settle this," says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are **red like crimson [tola]**, I will make them as white as wool.'
- **C'mon!!! A picture of Christ!** (bringing many sons to glory - Heb 2:9) - The GReek
- **Kokkinos = crimson or scarlet (Matt 27:28 - robe) | Kokkus = seed or grain (Christ is both!)**
  - He is the *tola worm, crimson red*, that *washes us white*, but *also the seed that dies...*
  - **John 12:23-24** - "The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless a grain [kokkus] of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain!**"
- **First fruits of death to life. 1 Cor. 15** - *seed sown into the ground*, but *fruit that comes is better!*

But it required a **sacrificial payment in the deepest of depths...**

V. 6 - A **reproach** of men, and **despised** by the people (*this is exactly what is recorded at the cross*)

- **Matthew 27:39, NIV** - "Those who passed by **hurled insults, shaking their heads...**"
- They made Him feel **sub-human**. He felt the **scorn down deep**. *If you have ever... He knows.*

Vv. 7-8 - *All those who see Me ridicule Me; They [mock] and shake their head, saying, "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"*

- This *exact mocking* of the crowds, *word for word*, is **recorded in the New Testament**.
- **Matthew 27:41-43, ESV** - "...the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, 'He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. **He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'**"

**Spiritually taunting the Messiah... but again... Jesus looks to His Father...**

**Remembrance (verses 9-11)**

Vv. 9-10 - *But You are He who took Me **out of the womb**; You made Me trust while [nursing] I was cast upon You from birth. **From My mother's womb You have been My God.***

- There is a **hint at the incarnation** (*caro/carnis*). God allowed himself to be *born and in need*.
- *The agony* is **proportional to relational intimacy** (*not sad if a stranger abandons you, but...*)
- His *heavenly Father* cared for Him **since the moment of incarnation**, *would He fail now...?*

V. 11 - *Be not far from Me, for **trouble is near**; for there is none to help.*

- **Christ is feeling alone** on the cross, *pressed on every side*, and *crying for help* (*silence...*)
- I would argue this *spiritual/emotional pain* was **far worse** than *the physical* (*garden cup/wrath*)

Christ could have called down a legion of angels... but instead, He endured (Heb 12:2)...

### **Brutality (verses 12-18)**

- Just work through one at a time... (don't read all up front)

Describes: physical/emotional brutality of the crucifixion. MEDICAL ACCURACY. 1,000 yrs prior.

- No pain we go through will ever match, Christ endured the worst of it on our behalf...

Vv. 12-13 - Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. They gape at Me with their mouths... (picture a snarling rodeo bull foaming at the mouth)

- Bashan = Golan Heights. Fertile pasture = well fed cattle. Largest, strongest, most fearsome.
- Deut 3 Theology: Bashan = Kingdom of Og, Rephaim, Mt. Hermon, Gate to the underworld.
  - Charles Spurgeon - "The priests, elders, scribes, Pharisees, rulers, and captains bellowed round the cross like wild cattle... full of strength and fury; they stamped and foamed around the innocent One, and longed to gore him to death with their cruelties."

### **And our Messiah?**

V. 14 - I am poured out like water

- Christ was depleted on that cross... completely empty... drained... (drink offering poured out)

V. 14 - All My bones are out of joint

- Consistent with medical realities of crucifixion. Weight of the body pulling on shoulder joints.
  - More on the bones in a moment...

V. 14 - My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.

- Also, Consistent with medical realities of crucifixion. Hebrew = Cardiac rupture.
- John 19:34 - "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."
  - Blood loss, asphyxiation, circulatory shock... Pericardial Effusion (fluid around heart)
- Matthew Henry suggested Christ literally died of a broken heart bearing the weight of sin...

V. 15 - My strength is dried up like [sunbaked (cracked) bottery]

- This was the goal of crucifixion. Not a quick death, but slow anguish...

V. 15 - And My tongue clings to My jaws / sticks to the roof of my mouth...

- Dehydration expected in this condition (much fluid loss - garden sweating, flogging, exposure)
- The results of this are recorded in the New Testament.
  - John 19:28-29, ESV - "Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the Scripture, "I thirst." A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth..."
  - Notice to fulfill scripture ... also another psalm...
  - Psalm 69:21, ESV - "...for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink."

V. 15 - You have brought me to the dust of death. (not a stunt...or swoon...)

- This is curse and death language... which is exactly why Christ went to the cross...

- Genesis 3:19 - "For **dust you are**, and to dust you shall return..."
- 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")"

- **Christ bore the sting, sin and curse of Adam** on our behalf by **going to the dust of death...**

V. 16 - For **dogs have surrounded Me**; The congregation of the **wicked has enclosed Me**.

- **Near the point of death**, feeling the **weight of curse, wicked evil beings, & death** surrounding Him like **a band of dogs** (Near Eastern religious imagery: **dogs** = **underworld & death**)

V. 16 - They **pierced My hands and My feet**

- This is about **as clear as it gets** pointing to the **physical reality of Crucifixion...**
- **Ka'ari** — "like a lion" (Masoretic) vs. **Ka'aru** — "they pierced" (Septuagint) ... (yod vs. vav?)
- **Hebrew Lion = poetic** (bulls, dogs, etc), **but awkward...** (Satan lion devour? Jesus Lion roar?)
- **Greek = Physical** (peirce/dug), **dead sea scrolls (Nahal Hever)** supports **vav ending: pierced**
  - Paired with New Testament language (especially John 19-20)... **seems strongest...**

V. 17 - I can **count all my bones**.

- **Recorded in John 19** (broke other's legs (quicken death) but not Jesus' legs) Fulfilling...
- Psalm 34:20, ESV - "He keeps all his bones; **not one of them is broken.**"
  - This is also consistent with the **Passover Lamb instructions...**
- Numbers 9:12 - "They shall leave none of it until morning, **nor break one of its bones.** According to all the ordinances of the Passover they shall keep it..." (see also Exodus 12:46)

**As if that wasn't enough Scripture fulfillment (Dayenu), there's more...**

Vv. 17-18 - They look and stare at me. They **divide my garments...** and for my clothing **they cast lots.**

- **They look and stare at Me:** Our Lord was **stripped naked** and **exposed to the gawking** of man.
- Then this **prophecy was fulfilled** by **Roman soldiers** who had **no idea they were doing so...**
- Matthew 27:35 - "They crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots... which was spoken by the prophet: **'They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.'**" - **John 19:24 parallel**, "that the **Scripture might be fulfilled**" = **THIS VERSE!**

**And, now, another peek into the heart and mind of our savior...**

**Remembrance (verses 19-21)**

These are the **Messiah's inner cries** while in the **final dying moments** on that cross...

V. 19 - But You, O **Lord, do not be far from Me:** O My Strength, hasten to [quickly] help Me!

- When life hits its **brutal worst moments (near death)**, this is the **only cry left of man...**

Vv. 20-21 - **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! -

- It could be **merely human authorities (leave room)**. **Dogs** = **gentiles**; **lions** = **countrymen?**
- **Principalities pressing: Spiritual powers** (corrupted dominion, death itself) (Col 2:15 power!)
  - **KJV = "horns of unicorns"** - that's **a separate message...** (wild ancient bull or rhino)

Christ cried out for deliverance and found it in His final breaths...

V. 21 - **You have answered [rescued] me.**

- This is a **major turning point** in the Psalm... (make note!) ...an **outburst of triumph/joy!**
- From **feeling forsaken abandonment** to **proclamations of an answer** from God... **Hallelujah!**
- **Luke 23:46** - "Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, 'Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last." (direct quote from **Psalm 31:5**)
- But **matches the outburst of triumph/joy** in this verse (v. 21) **restored fellowship & shalom.**
  - **Keyword** = "**Father**" (not generic "God") = **the moment that forsakenness lifts!**

The **rest of this Psalm** hints towards a **victorious resurrected Messiah!** (Good Friday = **Good**)

- We will **be brief in this closing section...** **Sunday's a comin!** (sit with **somber reverence**)

**Triumph & Completion** (verses 22-31)

- **Just work through one at a time...** (don't read all up front)

As you will see, the **tone of the psalm changes** - from **crucifixion to celebration.**

V. 22 - **I will declare your name to my brethren; In the midst of the [congregation] I will praise you.**

- **First thing to point out, If the Messiah died, then how can he declare praises? Only if He was somehow resurrected!** (You gotta **come back Sunday to hear more** about that...)
- Now that the **sacrifice has been completed**, it's **time to share the good news! Declare it!**
- The **author of Hebrews connections these dots** in the NT as well...
- **Hebrews 2:11-12, NIV** - "Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, 'I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.'" **I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.**
- A **direct quote from our Psalm** tonight. **Spoken from a risen savior to His beloved brethren!**
- **Christ still declares praises today** through us. **Anytime the Word is spoken. These are not just words tonight... you are not just hearing a man speaking tonight. Christ is in the midst!**

**Someone testify! Someone glorify!**

V. 23 - **You who fear the Lord, praise Him!**

V. 23 - **All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him**

V. 23 - **And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!**

- **Similar to Psalm 118** - **everyone is invited** to **come and partake, praise, and revere!**

V. 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.**

- **Wonderful! Another hinge point verse** of our text tonight...
- **Though Christ felt abandoned** and **rightfully so** due to the **punishment of sin** and **wrath of God..**
- We find here that **the Father has not despised the Son** nor **hidden His face from Him.**
  - **Forsaken, but not forgotten...**
  - **Though Christ didn't know it, and could not discern it** as **he endured the atoning work, when He cried to Him, He heard.** You are so beautiful, God! I am undone...
- This is the **Father's approval! A worthy sacrifice has been accepted!**

- Isaiah 53:10, NLT - "But **it was the Lord's good plan [pleasure, will]** to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants... and **the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.**"

And now we see the **final closing benefits of such a great offering on our behalf (read them)**

Vv. 25-31 - "My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. The poor (*humble/low*) shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever! All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He rules over the nations. 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. A posterity (*seed / descendants*) 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."

- **A couple closing comments on these verses (25-31):**
- **All are invited:** *Rich/poor/dying, all generations, from all the nations (every tribe/tongue)*
- **V. 26 - Let your heart live forever!** - The way of **eternal life** has been made available!
- **V. 25 - Praise in the great assembly... Eat and Worship! (taste/see!) - will do that tonight...**
- **V. 27 - All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord - fresh repentance...**
- **V. 28 - For the kingdom is the Lord's; He rules over the nations - Christ claims it back...**
- **V. 30 - It will be told of the Lord to the coming generations - I am now, what we must...**
- **V. 31 - A people who will be born** - That's **you and I**, friends. *calling some of you even tonight*

And finally, **the most important part (as we invite the worship team up)**

- **V. 31 - He has done this.** One word (Asa) announcing a completed finish. Sound familiar?
  - **"It is finished"** (*John 19:30*) - **Tetelestai** = "paid in full" - **Repeat: He has done this!**
  - *The final words in John's Gospel (earth quaked, rocks split, veil tore ...top to bottom)*
  - **Christ has done all the work.** *Our part is simply to respond... (plead with souls!)*

**Closing:**

**The Psalm** opened with abandonment and closed with a victorious restoration...

All of this is the **greatest act of love ever given** to mankind... (*John 13:1 - loved them to the end...*)

- **V. 27 - remember and turn to the LORD. G.O.S.P.E.L. - Response opportunity...** (*Spirit led*)

## **COMMUNION**

- **The next chapter? Psalm 23 = The Lord is my Shepherd**
  - *...leading into communion... He prepares a table before me... my cup runneth over...*

**[elements and song]**

**PRAY - "May the Lord shine His face upon you..."**