

Psalm 22

Ps 22 is another one of those places in scripture where we just need to remove our proverbial shoes because the place upon which we tread is holy ground. It's a Psalm of desperation, of derision, and deliverance. It's a Psalm of prayer and praise.

It's a Psalm of David yet we know of nothing in David's life that parallels the portrait that he paints in this Ch. Certainly he was in desperate situations but with regard to what he speaks of here we just don't have it because it's really not the picture of a man on his sick bed, or a soldier fighting for his life, but rather it's a depiction of a criminal being executed. and So with David we don't find that in his life, however there was another, the Son of David, the Greater than David, JESUS CHRIST whose life looked just like this and will ultimately wind up exactly like this. and David being acknowledged in the scriptures as a prophet definitely penned this Ps in the Spirit of prophecy. and So though we don't know how this Ps pertains specifically to the life of David, we do know how it pertains to the life of the Son of David (that is JESUS CHRIST).

So we have here another "Messianic" Ps, and it's quoted several times in the gospel records with regard to the crucifixion; what was happening to Jesus, what was going on around Jesus, and the interesting thing about this Ps (amongst other things) is that it gives to us the insight regarding what was going on in the heart and mind of Jesus. As Jesus was there lifted up between heaven and earth, what was going on in His heart, what was running through His mind, what did He see? Jesus told Nicodemus that even as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness so must He be lifted up, so that whoever believed upon Him would never die but have eternal life. and The reference to being lifted up was a reference to the cross, whereby His body would be literally lifted up and suspended between heaven and earth. and The record of the gospels is from the perspective of being at the foot of the cross looking up. The perspective of Ps 22 is from the cross looking down, if you ever wondered what Jesus was thinking about while on the cross, you find it here. But this Psalm doesn't stop with the crucifixion and death of Christ, it's also about His resurrection and His ruling and reigning upon the earth, so from the cross to the millennial reign of Christ, it's all encompassed in Ps 22. and What makes this Ps even more fascinating is the fact that David describes in detail the reality of crucifixion 1,000 yrs before Christ and at least 800 yrs before it was really devised as a method of capital punishment, David had never seen crucifixion. In David's day the method of capital punishment was stoning, and so for him to describe in detail the physical realities of crucifixion is nothing short of the moving of the Holy Spirit through his life....

Written to the Chief Musician. Set to "The Deer of the Dawn." A Psalm of David.

Vs1-2

Of course we can't read the very 1st Vs with out being immediately transported in our hearts back to Calvary where we hear the cry of Christ from the cross, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" and So what we have here is the record of His human suffering, His passion, the Lamb of God being slain that He might take away the sins of the world. Remember what we read back in Heb Ch 2? "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone." Heb 2:9 Notice how that even His dying was an act of God's grace toward us, He "by the grace of God" tasted death for everyone. God didn't owe us the death of His Son, we got ourselves into this mess, but by His grace Jesus was made a little lower than the angels (that is He was placed in a mortal frame) for the suffering of death.

That's what we're seeing here, the One who stepped out of heaven's glory and became a Man, and the reason He became a Man wasn't primarily to reveal God, but it was to redeem man. Again the author of Hebrews continues, "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." Heb 2:14-15 Or another way to understand that; His work was our redemption, He partook of flesh and blood so that through His death He might destroy the devil and release those who were all their lifetime subject to bondage (subject to sin).

But in order for our salvation to become a reality, He had to experience separation, that is separation from His Father. Jesus was literally "God forsaken." and That's a feeling that no one has ever really experienced on this side of eternity because the most polluted individual is but a repentant heart away, but a prayer away from Salvation, the Holy Spirit is working with and wooing on humanity. and It's something that Jesus throughout all time and eternity had never experienced either. Remember He said to His disciples when they were talking to Him about how they believed in Him and He said, "Do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me." John 16:31-32 When His disciples fled from Him there in the garden, the Father was still with Him, as He carried His cross, and as they nailed Him to the cross, God was with Him. Yet there was a very definite point in time when something happened, a transaction took place and the Father (for a time) forsook Him.

The bible says it like this, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Cor 5:21 Somehow and in some way when Jesus was there upon the cross, far beyond your sin and your wicked and perverse thoughts, far beyond my sin and all the wicked and/or perverse things I've ever been apart of, God took all the sin of all of mankind, throughout all time and history and placed it on Jesus. He bore the full weight, and the full wrath of our sin; and that's where the separation takes place. Because sin separates us from God. Remember these Vs there in Isaiah? "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear.

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.” Isa 59:1-2 “Why have You forsaken Me, why are You so far from helping Me, and why are You not hearing Me?” Sin had separated Him from His Father, Oh it wasn’t His sin, don’t be deceived, it was your sin and my sin, it was the sin of the world placed upon the sinless spotless Lamb of God that caused God to forsake His Son.

We read here that He cried out both day and night, and some see that as His prayer in the garden the night before (however God was hearing Him there), I lean more toward the time of darkness upon the cross. Because even though He was crucified in the morning the bible tells us that from noon till 3 pm there was darkness over all the land and it was as that time came to a close, about 3:00 in the afternoon when Jesus cried out these words.

Now having said that there are also those who believe that Jesus was also in a manner instructing His disciples from the cross. Because it wasn’t uncommon for a Rabbi in that day to begin a certain passage of scripture and then leave it to his disciples to pursue the scriptures for the remainder of it. and So it’s thought that though this was literally happening in Him that He may’ve simultaneously been seeking to encourage His disciples to search out the scriptures in their doubts and they would see that what was happening was prophesied 1,000yrs earlier. They could read Ps 22 and see it happening in real time right in front of them and that it was necessary for the Christ to have fulfilled all that the prophets had spoken, including His death and resurrection.

Now I would also have you see here that even though David felt forsaken, even though Christ was literally forsaken, neither of them turned from God but rather they continued to cry out to God. God is still our God, still worthy of our devotion, dedication, consecration and commitment regardless of our circumstances and how we feel at the moment.

Vs3

Why did God forsake His Son when He was made sin? Because He is holy, what fellowship has light with darkness, sin with righteousness? Of course we can hardly read through this passage with out recalling Isa 53:4-6, “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. 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.” He was led as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before shearers is silent so He opened not His mouth. During His trial, He said virtually nothing, while they were scourging Him, they got nothing from Him, when they nailed Him to the cross, He took it forgivingly. When the Father forsook Him, He cried out with an intensity; the word “groaning” in Vs 1 speaks more of the roar of a lion, there’s passion in there. J. Vernon McGee calls it, “...the human cry of intense suffering, aggravated by the anguish of His innocent and holy life.” God in His holiness forsook the Son who was made sin for us. Of course the paradox here is that it was in that moment that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.

We note that God is enthroned upon the praises of Israel, or perhaps your bible says that God inhabits the praises of Israel. God inhabits the praises of His people, as we worship Him in spirit and truth, drawing near to Him, the bible says that He draws near to us. His presence abides in His praise.

Vs4-6

Again Isa 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.” He says, “I am a worm and no man; a reproach of men, and despised by the people.” God becomes a Man, the Man becomes a Lamb, and the Lamb becomes a worm, a reproach of men, despised by the people. We spoke Sunday morning of the humility of Jesus, humbling Himself becoming obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. and It’s interesting that he uses the word “Tola” here for worm. It’s the worm that was taken and crushed to make scarlet dye for ancient materials. Henry Morris in his book entitled, “Biblical Basis for Modern Science” said this, “When the female of the scarlet worm species was ready to give birth to her young, she would attach her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing herself so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were thus protected until the larvae were hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, the crimson fluid stained her body and the surrounding wood. From the dead bodies of such female scarlet worms, the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity were extracted. What a picture this gives of Christ, dying on the tree, shedding his precious blood that he might 'bring many sons unto glory' He died for us, that we might live through him!” It was through His death that we were given life, being “born again” as it were through His work there as He was pinned to the cross. and Again we’re reminded of the scripture, “‘Come now, and let us reason together,’ Says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’” Isa 1:18 New life through the crimson flow, from death comes forth life, God speaks of His redemptive work all throughout creation. Painting a picture of the shedding of blood, life through death in something as lowly as the Tola, the scarlet worm.

Vs7-8

We’ve spoken before of the credibility of God’s word based upon the fact that He writes the future down in advance so that as it happens we might be assured that He’s God and there is no other. and Here we’re reading of what the general demeanor of the people would be who were there at the cross, observing the crucifixion. That they would ridicule Him, wag their heads in blasphemy toward Him, saying things like, “He trusted in the Lord, let Him deliver Him since He delights in Him.” We read in Matt 27:39-43, “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;” They may as well have been quoting from Ps 22 and they didn’t even know it! They spat upon Him, mocked and ridiculed Him, shook their heads in disgust at Him.

Vs9-11

We know from the gospel record that Jesus knew that He was to be about His Father’s business from at least the age of 12, but we have indication here that He may’ve known God’s call upon His life much, much sooner than even that. Paul told Timothy that from the womb he’d (Timothy) had been taught the holy scriptures which were able to make him wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. It would seem from this that Jesus was intimately aware of God’s plan for Him right from the very beginning.

Vs12-13

Some commentators believe that this is insight to the demonic hostility that surrounded Jesus at the cross. The “bulls of Bashan” being a reference to Canaanite deities, and demonic entities. and That’s certainly possible, I have no doubt that the spiritual tension that surrounded the cross was unbelievably hostile. and Whether this points to Roman soldiers who were crucifying Him and demonic forces taunting Him the point remains, what was happening to Him wasn’t with reservation, it was with vicious brutality.

Vs14-15

Of course here we have what’s going on at the heart of crucifixion 800 yrs before it was happening. The extreme dehydration, the loss of blood and muscle fatigue causing the bones to literally slip out of joint, “My heart is like wax, it has melted with in me.” I read this regarding the medical science behind crucifixion, “The difficulty surrounding exhalation leads to a slow form of suffocation. Carbon dioxide builds up in the blood, resulting in a high level of carbonic acid in the blood. The body responds instinctively, triggering the desire to breathe. At the same time, the heart beats faster to circulate available oxygen. The decreased oxygen (due to the difficulty in exhaling) causes damage to the tissues and the capillaries begin leaking watery fluid from the blood into the tissues. This results in a build-up of fluid around the heart (pericardial effusion) and lungs (pleural effusion). The collapsing lungs, failing heart, dehydration, and the inability to get sufficient oxygen to the tissues essentially suffocate the victim. The decreased oxygen also damages the heart itself (myocardial infarction) which leads to cardiac arrest. In severe cases of cardiac stress, the heart can even burst, a process known as cardiac rupture.” and As you know when the soldier came to make sure Jesus was dead he pierced Jesus’ side and what poured out was blood and water, referring to the fluid that had built up around His heart and His lungs. You might say that Jesus died of a broken heart, and by going over those facts I’m not trying to work up something emotional in you. I’m simply seeking to show you the precision of prophecy and emphasize the demonstration of the love of God for humanity.

Vs 15

You recall that one of the statements from the cross was, “I thirst.” Again the extreme and unbearable dehydration.

Vs 16

Now as you know when the bible talks about “dogs” not in the context of wildlife it’s a reference to Gentiles. and It was Gentiles (Roman soldiers) who surrounded Him, who pierced His hands and His feet. and Again this was nearly a millennium before death by crucifixion was even being performed, how can we not be blown away at the accuracy of the Word of God.

Vs17

“I can count all my bones.” None of His bones were broken, God had instructed that Passover Lamb was to be with out blemish, no broken bones. and Since the blood comes ultimately from the bones it seems as though God was wanting to send the clear signal that there would be no “break” no “limit” to His cleansing flow, where sin abounds grace abounds more. There’s no sin that can’t be cleansed by the blood of Christ.

Vs18

You remember John’s gospel tells us that after they had crucified Jesus the soldiers divided His garments amongst themselves but when they came to the tunic since it was a nice tunic made with out seams they decided not to tear it but to cast lots for it. and John draws our attention to the fact that in their doing that they fulfilled this scripture which says, “They divide My garments among them and for My clothing they cast lots.”

Vs19-21

Of course that answer came in not being delivered from death but rather delivered through death, that is the resurrection. and So Vs 21 is the transition from the crucifixion to the resurrection.

Vs22-25

We talked Sunday morning about Jesus, “Who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross,” that’s what we’re seeing here. From prayer to praise, from desperation and derision to deliverance, and from suffering to glory. “I will declare Your name to My brethren, in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.” and As you know Hebrews Ch 2 refers to this in the post resurrection light. He was despised and rejected by man, but His work was accepted by the Father (Vs 24) for He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted.

Vs 26-28

An illumination of the millennial kingdom when Christ will rule and reign over the nations. All the families of the nations shall worship before Him, the ends of the world will turn to Him, and the poor and the prosperous shall be satisfied by Him. Isaiah gives us just a glimpse of what that day will be like, and how God will restore the earth and Jesus will rule in righteousness and peace will fill the earth. Turn quickly to Isaiah 11 (Vs1-9)

All the families of the earth shall worship before Him, for the kingdom is the Lord's and He rules over the nations.

Vs29-31

Heaven and earth may pass away but God's word will never pass away. The message of the gospel will be declared generation after generation after generation. and It's kinda neat to think that somewhere in the company of the people who were yet to be born that the message of His righteousness would be declared to was you and me. and Not only has it been declared to us, but should the Lord tarry we will continue to carry it to generations yet unborn. But we should take note that the message delivered is the message of His righteousness, not our righteousness. Our righteousness is as filthy rags. The message is about Him, and His righteousness.

There where it says, "That He has done this." Another way that could be rendered is (I'll give you 1 guess) "It is finished." We're to declare the message that it is finished, God doesn't ask us to do anything, the work that it takes for us to gain acceptance in His sight is already done. Christ did the whole thing, and He presents the package to us completed, we don't add to it, or make up for something lacking in it. It's finished, all we can do is receive it as a gift.

Psalm 22 reveals the heart of Christ as He was made an offering for sin offering on our behalf. and He completed the transaction in triumph. He offers to us a finished redemption. We're never going to be worthy of it; there's nothing we can do to earn it: we can't buy it—we can only receive it as a gift. Jesus has done the whole thing, let's just rejoice over it and praise God for it.

Prayer Points:

Father we thank You for the precious revelation found in Your word. Jesus we thank You for being willing to become a Man, to become a Lamb, even likening Yourself to a worm, humbling Yourself beyond anything we'll ever know or comprehend. You were made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in You. and We give You praise, Lord increase our faithfulness to You, use us for Your glory.