

Bible Readings

Psalm 22

For the director of music. To the tune of "The Doe of the Morning." A psalm of David.

- ¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?
- ² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.
- ³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.
- ⁴ In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.
- ⁵ To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
- ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.
- ⁷ All who see me mock me;
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.
- ⁸ "He trusts in the LORD," they say,
"let the LORD rescue him."
Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him."
- ⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.
- ¹⁰ From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother's womb you have been my God.

- ¹¹ Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.
- ¹² Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
- ¹³ Roaring lions that tear their prey
open their mouths wide against me.
- ¹⁴ I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.
- ¹⁵ My mouth is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.
- ¹⁶ Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet.
- ¹⁷ All my bones are on display;
people stare and gloat over me.
- ¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment.
- ¹⁹ But you, LORD, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.
- ²⁰ Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.
- ²¹ Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.
- ²² I will declare your name to my people;
in the assembly I will praise you.
- ²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!

Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

²⁴ For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;

he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.

²⁵ From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you, I will fulfill my vows.

²⁶ The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the LORD will praise him—
may your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,

²⁸ for dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹ All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
those who cannot keep themselves alive.

³⁰ Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord.

³¹ They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn:
He has done it!

Mark 15:33-41

The Death of Jesus

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud

voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

³⁵ When some of those standing near heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah."

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

Sermon

24-Jan-21

The Cross (Psalm 22 and Mark 15:33-41)

We're continuing our **summer series of Psalms** - looking at **Psalms** that **point to Jesus, the Messiah.**

Outline available.

Let me **pray** before we begin...

Intro/Context

- If I said "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" - **what would you say?** [Gen 1:1]
- If I said "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - **what would you say?** [John 3:16]
- If I said "The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing." - **what would you say?** [Psalm 23]

[PowerPoint 1-Ps 22:1/Cross]

- When we hear the **first words** in **Psalm 22**
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- We should **immediately think** of **Jesus** on the **cross.**
- As our **NT reading** says from **Mark 15:34**

- And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").
- When we look at the last words in Psalm 22 in v31

[PowerPoint 2-Ps 22:31-Done it]

- He has done it!
- These words sound remarkably like at Jesus' last words on the cross - "It is finished" (John 19:30)
- This Psalm is written by King David
- Normally when we look at an Old Testament passage -
- We need to look at the current context before we start looking at how it relates to the New Testament.
- But when we look at this Psalm
- We see it describes a remarkably tragic event
- It describes an execution
- Many have tried to see how it relates to King David - Yes, David had some terrible incidents in his life - but he never faced an execution
- And when we look at other Old Testament characters - nothing can be found that fits what Psalm 22 is describing

- When David wrote Psalm 22 - a 1000 years before Jesus came to this Earth
- David was making a prophecy about Jesus
- How do we know David was prophesying about Jesus?
- We know because the NT writers tell us so
- When we looked at Psalm 16 last week
- The **Apostle Peter** says this about David - in **Acts 2:29-30**

[PowerPoint 3-Prophet]

²⁹ "Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. ³⁰ **But he was a prophet** and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

- The **Apostle Peter** also says this about prophets in the Old Testament in **1 Peter 1:10-11**:

[PowerPoint 4-1 Peter 1:10-11]

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, ¹¹ trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing **when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow.**

- So, the **Spirit of Christ** was working in the Old Testament prophets and predicted the suffering and glory of Jesus, the **Messiah**.

- And its these sufferings of the **Messiah** and the glory that follows that neatly define Psalm 22

[PowerPoint 5-Ps 22]

- Psalm 22 can be divided into 2 parts
- The **suffering** - in verses 1 to 21
- The **glory** - in verses 22 to 31

The Suffering (Psalm 22:1-21)

- When we look at the suffering parts of the Psalm
- We see we there are "my, I" verses which describe the suffering of the person the Psalm is about
- And we see "You" verses which describe God
- Let's look at the "my, I" verses and the suffering first

[PowerPoint 6-Heading]

Spiritual Suffering (vv1-2)

- In v1 and 2 we have **spiritual suffering**

¹My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Why art thou so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but thou dost not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.

- There's **no doubt** that **Jesus** was **meditating** on Psalm 22 from the Old Testament as **He suffered on the cross**

- As we said these words from v1-2 of Psalm 22 **echo Jesus' words on the cross**
- And those watching His crucifixion that knew scripture - would instantly recall Psalm 22
- Why does He say God has forsaken Him?
- Why does He feel the presence of God away from Him?
- Why doesn't God answer? And why does He have no rest?

[PowerPoint 6a-Spiritual Suffering]

- Because sin deserves God's anger or wrath
- Because sin separates us from God
- And at that moment Jesus experienced being away from the **constant presence of God** He was used to
- He'd never experienced alienation from the Father before
- To Jesus - it's understandable that Judas is **gone** having betrayed Jesus - and Peter is **gone** having denied Jesus - but not the Father - He can't go
- But the answer to the Why?
- Is Jesus has been chosen to stand in the place of guilty sinners
- So now - on the Cross - He has become sin for us -
- And God's anger for our sin was put on Him
- Application - perhaps we don't think enough about the fact that our sin was put on Him. I have enough trouble struggling with my own sin - I can't imagine what it was like for Jesus having the sins of the whole world put

on Him - and God turned His face away - because He can't look upon sin
(Hab 1:13)

- Application - those who refuse to believe in Jesus - will experience this same spiritual suffering. There's an urgency for people to repent and an urgency for us to share the message of Jesus

Mental Suffering (vv6-8)

- In v6 to 8 - we see mental suffering
- Because of the way the sufferer is treated
- He feels like a worm - He doesn't even feel like a human being
- He is despised and rejected and mocked

[PowerPoint 6b-mental]

- When Jesus was on the cross in **Matthew 27:42-43** it says:
"42 He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God. Let God rescue him
- Ironically His death was saving people from the punishment of their sins!
- Application - How do we feel when people mock us and misunderstand us - and ridicule us - especially about our faith. It hurts doesn't it? Jesus - in His grace and love for humankind - laid down His life to save people getting the wrath of God even though He was sinless.

- Jesus says that we will have tribulation in this world (John 16:33) and the Apostle Peter says we shouldn't be surprised by fiery ordeals that test us, and that we must participate in Christ's sufferings but we will also be overjoyed by His glory (1 Peter 4:12-13)

Physical Suffering (vv12-18)

- Then in verses 12 to 18 we see physical suffering
- The people around the cross - were like animals
- Like raging bulls - and like roaring lions
- It's very scary
- Physically Jesus was in a bad way on the cross
- Remember - Jesus was scourged before He was even put on the cross - whipped so badly - he was almost dead - and disfigured - his bones are out of joint
- He is described as being poured out like water - a picture of being wasted
- It's like his heart is melting away like wax - a picture of what crucifixion does - it can rupture the heart (see John 19:34)
- And his mouth is so dry - the agony of crucifixion and not being able to breathe properly- caused incredible thirst
- Crucifixion is the cruellest of executions

[PowerPoint 6c-physical]

- It's like he's surrounded by a pack of dogs

- It's like being cornered by a bunch of villains
- Have you noticed when people are in a crowd - they behave worse - they're spurred on by the worse behaved and join in - we saw that recently in the attack on Capitol Hill in Washington?
- Before we give this rabble a hard time - remember our sin was put on Jesus too?
- Look at the violence too
- His hands and feet pierced - as He was nailed to the cross
- As He pushes himself up to breathe properly - all his bones are on display - and the mob gloats at His suffering - [French guillotine]
- This is no way to treat the King of Heaven and Earth - the Saviour of the world
- Have you noticed when there's a protest that turns into a riot and the crowd go wild - the crowd gets petty and greedy - and start looting shops and taking stuff they don't even need?
- That's what happens at the cross - those crucifying Jesus - and in the middle of the most horrific execution - throw dice to see who gets Jesus' garments

Now during all of this suffering

Notice there is no confession of sin

Normally when we read the Psalms - and sin is involved - we see a confession of that sin

There's no confession here - because Jesus was sinless - and so we wouldn't expect Him to confess anything

During His suffering we see Jesus turn to God the Father

[PowerPoint 7-Heading]

These are the "You" verses which describe God

God has helped in the past (vv3-5)

- In verses 3 to 5
- **Jesus in the midst of His suffering looks back at what God has done for His people - and how He has helped in the past**

[PowerPoint 7a-God helped]

- God is **Holy** (v3)
- He is the God that **Israel worships**
- He's the one the people of **Israel trusted in**
- And v4 **God delivered them from trouble** - like when He brought the Israelites **out of slavery in Egypt**
- They cried out to God (v5) and **He saved them**

- Application - in the middle of our suffering - we can recall what God has done for us in the past - and what He does in the Bible all the time. We need to remember God is a Saviour

Then again - in vv9-11-in the middle of His suffering

Jesus reminds Himself that God has always been present

God has been ever-present (vv9-11)

- The sufferer can only remember God being with Him since the time He was born

[PowerPoint 7b-ever-present]

- And so, He asked God to not be far off - because He's in terrible trouble - and no one else can help
- Application - We must remember that God is ever present in our lives - AND He's still on the throne - even during our suffering - even during this pandemic - even when we've lost a loved one - or lost our job - or facing health or mental health issues. He's there to help when no-one else can.

And again, in vv19-21

Jesus - knowing God has helped in the past - and is ever present - He calls upon God to rescue Him

God is a Rescuer (vv19-21)

- So, Jesus calls upon The Father to come near

- And be His strength and help
- He calls upon The Father to **deliver Him from this violent execution** - and save his life from this bunch of animals crucifying Him
- And the rest of the Psalm shows **God answers**
- **See the end of v24** - He has not hidden His face from the sufferer - but has listened to His cry for help
- Because Jesus death on the cross was not the end
- **God didn't keep His face hidden permanently**
- He put His wrath on His Son - and His Son took our punishment and our death
- And then - **God answered His cry**

[PowerPoint 7c-Rescuer]

- And **raised Him to life**
- Application - For us it means - **God will always listen to and answer the cry of someone repenting of their sin and rebellion - and God will offer Jesus as their saviour**
- Which brings us to the glory of the Psalm

The Glory (Psalm 22:22-31)

- The **glory of the Psalm** is in v22-31

[PowerPoint 8-Glory]

- We can break down this glory into **two sections**

- **Praise and Victory**

Praise (vv22-25)

- Because **God** has listened and answered
- There is cause to praise **God**

[PowerPoint 8a-Praise]

- And the sufferer sees a time when He can declare how great **God's name** and reputation is - and praise Him, in the assembly
- Application - as **Christian's** who believe in Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life - we can declare **how wonderful God is in sending Jesus** - and give Him the Glory
- We have the most wonderful good news to share with everyone we come across
- The picture we have here is of a sufferer being delivered and giving a testimony
- We all have a testimony of how **God** has worked in our lives and how we came to follow Jesus
- Why not share our testimony with a friend or family member?

The Psalm also describes a victory - in verses 26-31

Victory (vv26-31)

[PowerPoint 8b-Victory]

- Those who seek the Lord **will not be disappointed**
- They will feed off Jesus - **the bread of life** - and be satisfied - **not for a while - but forever**
- The Good News - The Gospel of Jesus' death and resurrection - **will reach the ends of the earth**
- And when Jesus returns **every knee will bow and worship Him** (Phil 2:10; Rom 14:11)
- And **future generations** (v30) - **those not yet born** (v31) will hear about His victory over sin and death and will hear about His rescue mission
- Because as the Psalm says in the last verse - **He's has done it** - Jesus has finished the Rescue Mission

Our Response

[PowerPoint 9-Heading]

To finish up then - quickly - **3 responses to Psalm 22** - for us...

[PowerPoint 9a-Repent]

1. #1 Jesus went through agony and suffering and **experienced the wrath of God** - for our sin - so we need to be constantly repenting of our sin and rebellion against God - which has been put on Jesus

[PowerPoint 9b-Thank]

2. #2 The Roman centurion who watched Jesus suffer and die - had no doubt who Jesus was - can we join Him and said "Surely this man was/is the Son of God" - and constantly thank God for Jesus - His Son

[PowerPoint 9c-Give a reason for the hope we have]

3. #3 The Psalmist says the sufferer will declare the Lord's name in the Assembly -in other words - the Good News of the victory of Jesus on the cross - needs to be spread. As the apostle Peter reminds us - in 1 Peter 3:15 - which we'll finish with this morning:

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... Let's pray.