

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? (Slide 1)
Psalm 22 & Matthew 27:46

Reading: Ephesians 2:14-22

The research and preparation of this sermon has led me on a journey of discovery. That is; to grasp and to understand the circumstances of this plea and to search and understand the incredible events that occurred after our Savior on the Cross spoke these words and committed His Spirit to God Almighty.

*Take note that as I begin this series based on **Psalm 22** and the significance of the events after the death of our Lord, I am unsure at this time how many lessons will follow. As always, any work or lesson writing becomes a living document. Always learning, ever discovering.*

Psalm 22:1-2 (Slide 2)

¹ My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Why are You so far from helping Me,

And from the words of My groaning?

² O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;

And in the night season, and am not silent.

David expresses in his writing a sense of great fear and loneliness. He feels he faces his circumstances alone without God. Undoubtedly, David knew in times past and leading up to where he is now that God had been with him. But now he feels he faces his challenges alone.

Matthew 27:46 (Slide 3)

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?"

*I submit to you that Jesus, though I am convinced felt these words, He also knew exactly what He was saying when He quoted **Psalm 22:1**. He knew*

what He was saying would be recorded and that His words would validate that He is the Messiah. That is what David is prophesying.

Just as some of His final words prove His identity, so too did they prove His voluntary submission to the will of God and the giving of His life for the lost.

Luke 23:46 (Slide 4)

And when 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.

No one took His life He gave it. ***"I commit My Spirit"*** indicates the completion of His voluntary mission.

Matthew 27:41-43 (Slide 5)

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. (Slide 6) ⁴³ He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.' "***

Could He have come down from the cross? Could He have saved Himself? Could He have asked God to rescue Him? Absolutely!! But He didn't! He chose to follow through.

*Again, it is no coincidence that Jesus cries out just as the Psalmist David had written in **Psalm 22**. The pleas of both men connect to the prophecy of Jesus on the cross bearing the sins of man alone.*

"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" is an exact representation in Hebrew as the prophecy written by David. It is then translated into Greek by Matthew and for us in English for our understanding.

Psalm 22 was written approximately 1,000 years before the crucifixion of Jesus and is considered as one of the most vivid and detailed prophecies regarding Jesus and the cross.

The words written by David and spoken by Jesus on the cross are heartbreaking and depict the anguished feeling of abandonment felt by our Savior and reflected also in the life of David.

David's writing was inspired by his own personal suffering, Yet, even his life experiences never reached the depth of abandonment that Jesus experienced on the Cross.

The Holy Spirit guided the thoughts of David as he pinned the words of this Psalm and Jesus, forth right, fulfilled and spoke these words on the Cross signifying all that the Cross meant for victory over death and the grave.

The words spoken by Jesus are proof positive of His suffering, His death and ultimate victory. The passage of **Psalm 22** and the inspired Gospel accounts depict the continuity of the entire Bible and main theme, that is; it all points to Jesus.

Jesus made these statements concerning the Bible's central theme:

Luke 24:25-27 (Slide 7)

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" (Slide 8) ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luke 24:44-45 (Slide 9)

⁴⁴ 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.”⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.

David's agony of abandonment was happening in real time as he fled from his enemies and utterly felt alone. A time in his hour of need when he felt God had forsaken him.

I would venture that there are few Christians today that on occasion do not feel in hard times our spirit within waver and wonder where God is in my time of need.

I hope at the conclusion of these lessons we will be able to see that God has been “there all the while.”

Even though David had fallen on hard times because of persecution, his abandonment was not the literal abandonment that Jesus endured.

I don't have a complete grasp on what Jesus meant when he cried, ***“Why have you forsaken me”*** but I do know that's what God had done.

Jesus had the entirety of all of man's sin laid upon Him.

Sin is dark, black, cruel, evil, spiritually deadly, immoral, ugly, and encompasses everything that opposes the very nature of God. God cannot have fellowship with anything that is opposite of His nature.

The very purpose of Jesus going to the Cross was to destroy what is opposite of the nature of God.

1 John 3:8 (Slide 10)

He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

In order for that word to be completed something extraordinary had to happen. So for the first time in the existence of eternity, Jesus is alone and without fellowship and connection to God. He truly has been forsaken as the stench of our sin is born upon His body.

The reality and the concept of being separated from God as visually seen in Jesus' suffering and death on the cross is relatable to separation from God for eternity for those who reject God's grace and mercy. Reserved by separation for an eternity of suffering.

However, David knew that God had always been there for him:

Psalm 22:3-5 (Slide 11)

³ ***But You are holy,
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.
Our fathers trusted in You;
They trusted, and You delivered them.
They cried to You, and were delivered;
They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.***

Despite this feeling of abandonment, David knew the true makings of our Holy God. He reminds himself that God has always been a stalwart fixture in the lives of the Israelites.

He later writes in:

Psalm 46:1 (Slide 12)

***God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.***

He knows God is ever present and his feelings of abandonment are temporary.

However, be reminded Jesus was forsaken on the cross. Therefore, Holy is our God who could not look at the Sin carried to the Cross by Jesus.

Isaiah 53:4-6 (Slide 13)

***⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.***

***⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions,
(Slide 14) 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.***

Jesus submitted Himself to the Holiness of God volunteering to take on the necessary requirement for Justice on the Cross.

Romans 3:23-26 (Slide 15)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, (Slide 16) because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Invitation

God's abandonment of Jesus on the cross is the life preserver of our soul.

Jesus not only conquered death, but the death caused by sin. Having given all mankind a path to be justified through obedient faith by shedding His Blood on the cross.

Have you heard the Gospel call yet remain in your sin? Why not choose the cleansing power of the Blood of Christ and be washed clean in baptism. The Gospel message is the power of God for salvation.

If you are in Christ but the feeling of being all alone has clouded your journey, let your brethren pray for you and help restore your faith.

Please let us know how we may serve you.....

Reading

Ephesians 2:14-22

¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

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