

They look and stare at Me (Slide 1)
Psalm 22

Reading: Romans 3:21-26

In this lesson I want to discuss what happened physically to Jesus from David's prophecy but I also want to look deeper into the underlying sentiment and hatred that caused His death.

Psalm 22:16-18 (Slide 2)

¹⁶ For 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.

Last week we discussed the fact that crucifixion, as was carried out in the form of execution of Jesus, came along some centuries later after David penned the 22nd Psalm. That fact clearly indicates that David's writing is from Holy inspiration.

The details that David describes align perfectly with the facts of our Lord's crucifixion.

It is an amazing and powerful spiritual and physical fact that even after Jesus had risen from the dead, what happened to Him on the cross could be seen with the eyes of His closest allies. When Thomas doubted.....visible proof was given:

John 20:24-28 (Slide 3)

²⁴ Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, (Slide 4) and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

David wrote: "They pierced My hands and My feet"

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, (Slide 5) and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

²⁸ And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

David writes: 'dogs have surrounded Me.'

This phrase in the context of the passages of scriptures we are considering causes me to envision a very terrifying scene.

The dogs are scavengers, a pack, who prey on either the weak, or one who has been separated from protection by chance or in the case of Jesus, because He was deserted by His most trusted allies.

It is a picture we may find in the natural world when some poor creature is alone and exposed to the enemy such as a young animal separated from his herd surrounded by a pack of fierce and terrifying hyenas. Hyenas seem to delight in tormenting their prey before they attack.

The young animal is tortured as the hyenas charge and strike over and over again. A terrifying scenario that ends in death.

In the case of our Lord, He is surrounded by the ***“congregation of the wicked.”*** The backbiting, habitual hypocrites and power seeking spiritual leaders of the Jews.

“They pierced My hands and My feet”

I believe so many things in the Bible can be assessed through context and simply through common sense. Yet, I had never realized that there exists some controversy over the way this is translated until I studied this phrase more fully.

(Slide 6) The word pierced is from the Hebrew word: *“kaaru.”* It actually means *“pierced through”* or *“dug”* indicating complete penetration through something.

Some scholars believe the phrase should read *“like a lion, they are at my hands and feet.”*

The words *“pierced”* and *“lion”* have remarkably similar Hebrew lettering. In fact, most of the Hebrew manuscripts use the term *“Ka’ari”* translated in English *“lion”* in the text.

If this were true, this would change the subject of **Psalm 22** to be about **David** and not **Jesus**. That subtle change is from a festering sentiment that has grown in which many so-called scholars wish to change the authenticity of the Bible.

Something sinister has always been in existence and that is to rid the world of Christian values and beliefs. That sentiment is on the rise here in our own country. The very sentiment that put Jesus on the cross.

That level of deception, though silently implemented, is the goal of those who want to disrupt the continuity of the Bible and disprove its entirety.

The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, (the first Greek translation of Hebrew scriptures) both use the word *“pierced.”*

Another important fact to consider is that despite most *Hebrew* manuscripts using the translation "*lion*" the above mentioned predate the majority by a number of years. That is hundreds of years in most cases.

The *Septuagint* was thought to have been completed approximately 200 years before Christ. In fact, it was translated over several centuries.

The translation "pierced" is central to the Christian faith because of what it describes.

Isaiah 53:5 (Slide 7)

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.

The word wounded is the same word translated as pierced. Pierced is the wound.

The same concept, through the continuity of the Bible, is depicted in:

1 Peter 2:24 (Slide 8)

and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

*The NKJV and the KJV translate "**wounds**" as "**stripes**."*

The importance of this messaging is what comes forth from a wound in the "*Human Body*." If I get a cut I bleed.

Jesus on the Cross was wounded and He bled. "*From His wounds flowed life giving blood!*" This is the way of God that blood must be shed for the atonement of sin because "*life is in the blood*."

This necessity was established in the Old Covenant:

Leviticus 17:11 (Slide 9)

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

"Life is in the Blood for our bodies. How much more so is the perfect Lamb of God who shed His blood on the cross eternal life for the life of our souls?!!"

The strength of the saving message about Jesus Christ is in our belief in the continuity of the Bible written by inspiration through many writers. Old Covenant to the New Covenant.

Zechariah 12:10 (Slide 10)

"And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."

John 19:31-37 (Slide 11)

³¹ Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. ³² Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the (Slide 12) first and of the other who was crucified with Him. ³³ But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. ³⁴ But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. ³⁵ And he who has seen has (Slide 13) testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. ³⁶ For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, "Not one of His bones shall be broken." ³⁷ And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

No wonder we are strongly warned to ***"rightly divide the word of truth!"***

The Dead Sea Scrolls, the phrases used by David in Psalm 22, its context, and common sense dictate that the entire Chapter is prophecy about Jesus and what He experienced as He freely gave His life for all of man.

I can count all My bones.

No bones were broken in Jesus' body. However, the effects of hunger, scourging and the crucifixion had a dramatic and profound impact on His physical body.

The depiction of Jesus as He hung on the cross is one of similarity to the emaciation of a soldier who was imprisoned for sometime by the enemy.

Shriveled, weak, often subjected to repeated torture and starved! It paints a picture of sudden debilitating illness where a once human body was full of strength but now is on the verge of death.. Where one as we would say has become mere "skin and bones." The skeletal shell is easily seen as Jesus hangs on the cross.

A sight so horrifying, one could not help but notice and stare.

They look and stare at Me.

Beyond the stares lies ridicule and hate. A picture of those who have such a disdain for another human being, simply because they do not like His message. So deranged in thought they strip Him of His clothes and His dignity, Beat, and Hang Him on a Cross!

They made a public spectacle of Him. Hurling insults and mocking Him as if He were a criminal guilty of slander and deception.

"You claim to be a King! You're no King!"

Matthew 27:42 (Slide 14)

If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

Flogged with Roman scourging, spit-on, slapped, crucified, insult after insult hurled at Him from all walks of life. He is publicly humiliated and written off as just a leader of a defunct movement.

Before His very eyes, disgracefully treated they continue to mock Him by casting lots and dividing His garments. Likely saying to one another "He's as good as dead! He won't need these anymore!" Right in front of Him and no doubt, He witnessed their actions and heard their words.

Psalm 22:18 (Slide 15)

***They divide My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots.***

Matthew 27:35 (Slide 16)

Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet:

***"They divided My garments among them,
And for My clothing they cast lots."***

Invitation

In our English language, the word "endurance" is a noun. It is basically defined as a person's ability to withstand hardship in the face of stress, duress, and adversity.

In our Lord's case, His endurance has never been matched by anyone. His purpose could not be carried out by anyone else.

His body was deprived of sustenance as He endured the cross. In other words, He was starved by His captors.

He endured public humiliation in the form of ridicule.

He endured rejection and desertion.

He endured suffering beyond comprehension.

HIS remarkable endurance leads to life for all who believe and obey.

Have you obeyed the Gospel Call? Have you put on Christ through baptism and submitted your will to His? If not, why delay? Do it today before He comes again.

If you are in Christ but need prayer for any reason, we are here to lift up your petition to the almighty God in the Name of Jesus.

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

Reading:

Romans 3:21-26

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; 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, 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.

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