

Thesis: As Jesus hung on the cross, he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46). In some sense, Jesus felt forsaken; however, he was also aware he was fulfilling scripture. His words are from a “Passion Psalm” (Psalm 22:1). Through study of this messianic psalm, we see the Christ starting as victim and ending as victor.

1. Greeting

- a. Good morning!
- b.

2. Introduction

- a. As Jesus Christ hung on the cross, he cried out to his Father, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (**Matthew 27:46**).
 - i. The events of the last day had taken its toll on our Lord and our Savior.
 1. He was betrayed with a kiss by a confidant and friend.
 2. All of his disciples left him and fled.
 3. Peter, one of his very best friends, denied even knowing him three times.
 4. He was mocked. He was beaten, He was blasphemed.
 5. He was tried and found not guilty; he was completely innocent and blameless.
 6. Yet the crowd shouted, “Crucify, crucify him.”
 7. They chose Barabbas, a murderer, to be released to them.
 8. Jesus Christ, the Author of life and their Messiah, was handed over to be crucified.
 9. He was scourged. He was spat upon. A crown of thorns was driven into his head.
 10. Jesus carried his own cross for a while, but eventually succumbed to the weight.
 11. They came to Golgotha (the Place of the Skull).
 12. There they crucified him.
 13. They drove nails into his hands and into his feet and stood up the cross.
 14. The ordeal was almost more than he could bear.
 - a. His friends had left him.
 - b. His enemies mocked him.
 - c. He was nailed alive to a tree.
 - d. Jesus felt all alone, and he cried out to his God.
 - ii. As Jesus Christ was dying on the cross, he felt forsaken.
 1. Instead of letting the cup pass from him, as he prayed in Gethsemane, God willed that he drink it in full measure.
 2. God loves us so much, that he did not intervene as his Son cried out.
 - a. Rather he abandoned his one and only Son to the cross.
 3. Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
3. **The words Jesus cried out from the cross have been immortalized. What is less well know is that he was quoting and fulfilling scripture as he cried them. His words are taken from Psalm 22:1. Please turn your Bibles to Psalm 22, and let**

us study together this morning one of the great messianic psalms. We will study the psalm in three segments corresponding to our three main points.

4. First, the victim. In the first 18 verses, Christ is portrayed as the victim. Psalm 22:1-18:

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

³ Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴ In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵ To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

⁷ All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸ "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

⁹ Yet you are he who took me from the womb; you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

¹⁰ On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹¹ Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹² Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³ they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravaging and roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet —

¹⁷ I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

a. In the first 18 verses, Jesus Christ is portrayed as a victim.

i. In **22:1-5**, we see Christ, in a sense, **rejected by God**.

1. He cries out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?"

(**22:1**)

a. Jesus himself cried the first part of this verse as he hung on the cross, thereby fulfilling prophecy (**Matthew 27:46**).

i. His father didn't save him.

ii. His father didn't intervene.

iii. His father could have sent twelve legions of angels to rescue Jesus, but none came (**Matthew 26:53**).

iv. By not intervening, his father abandoned him to the cross.

2. In a way, God rejected Christ by sending him to the cross.

ii. In **Psalm 22:6-13**, we notice Christ rejected by man.

1. He was treated like a worm by men.

a. He was scorned, despised, mocked.



- b. ⁸ "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" (22:8).
 - c. We see the fulfillment of this in **Matthew 27:39-43**:
³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² "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. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.' "
2. Men rejected Christ.
- iii. **Psalm 22:14-18** describe the suffering Christ endured at Calvary.
 1. His bones were out of joint (22:14).
 2. His strength was gone (22:15).
 3. His tongue was parched (22:15).
 - a. This prophecy was fulfilled in **John 19:28**, "²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), 'I thirst.'"
 4. His hands and feet were pierced.
 - a. This was fulfilled at his crucifixion as Roman soldiers drove spikes into the hands and feet of Jesus (**Matthew 27:35**).
 5. **Psalm 22:18**, "¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."
 - a. Again, we see fulfillment of this scripture at the cross.
 - b. **John 19:23-24**, "²³ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴ so they said to one another, 'Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.' This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, 'They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.' So the soldiers did these things.
 6. More than 1000 years before Christ and long before crucifixion was conceived, the prophet David described in much detail, the torment Jesus would face at Calvary.
 - b. In the first 18 verses of this Psalm, we see Christ portrayed as the victim. In some sense, he was rejected by God, he was rejected by men, and he was subjected to the torture of the cross.
5. **Second, the invocation. The whole psalm is addressed to God; however, we see Christ's pleading intensify in 22:19-21:**



- a. ¹⁹ But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
²⁰ Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!
²¹ Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

- i. It seemed that everyone had turned his back to Christ.
 1. Judas betrayed him with a kiss.
 2. Peter denied him three times.
 3. All of the disciples had scattered.
 4. His enemies derided him and mocked him and nailed him to tree.
 5. And even his Father in heaven forsook him by allowing all of this to happen.
- ii. In this hour of utter darkness, hope and relief could only be found in God.
 1. As he was on the cross, Jesus' faith did not waiver.
 - a. God had always delivered the Jewish fathers when they trusted him (**22:4-5**).
 - b. God had been his God and he trusted him from his mother's womb (**22:9-10**).
 - c. So Christ drew closer to his Father in prayer.
 - i. Everyone else was gone, so he continued to trust in his God.
 - ii. He prayed for God to stay close to him.
 - iii. He prayed for God to deliver him from his enemies, those dogs, lions, and wild oxen that would do him harm.
 2. Christ trusted in his Father, so he prayed, knowing God would eventually answer in a way consistent with his will.

b. In verses **19-22**, we see the invocation.

6. Third, the victor. In the last 10 verses of the psalm, Christ is portrayed as the victor. 22:22-31:

- ²² I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:
- ²³ You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
- ²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.
- ²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
- ²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!
- ²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.
- ²⁸ For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.
- ²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.
- ³⁰ Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;



³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it.

a. There is a sea change in the psalm starting in **22:22**.

- i. Up to and including **22:21**, the psalm is lament.
- ii. After **22:22**, the psalm is thanksgiving and praise.
- iii. Christ knows that his prayer will be answered, and he erupts in praise for the Almighty God as a result.

1. You see brothers and sisters, God heard Jesus' cries on the cross.

a. **Psalm 22:24**, "²⁴ For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him."

i. God did not hide his face from Christ.

ii. When Jesus cried out to him, God heard him.

b. The Hebrew writer confirms this in **Hebrews 5:7**, "⁷ In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence."

i. When Jesus cried out in Gethsemane and on the cross, his Father in heaven heard him.

iv. Jesus knew this would be the case.

1. That's why the psalm switches from lament to thanksgiving and praise.

2. Jesus knew that God would hear him and deliver him.

3. Consequently, he knew he would tell of God's name to all of his brothers, and in the midst of the congregation he would praise God (**Psalm 22:22**).

a. Interestingly, the Hebrew writer quotes **22:22** in **Hebrews 2:12** when discussing the intimate relationship of Christians with Christ.

i. In a spiritual sense, Christ is in the midst of the church (*ekklesia*) praising God and telling of God to his brethren (remember we're sons and daughters of God through Christ).

ii. Here, Jesus is looking past the cross, past his burial, past his resurrection into the age of his kingdom, his church.

v. Not only is the resurrection implied in these verses, but so is the universal nature of the kingdom.

1. The Psalmist writes in **Psalm 22:27**, "²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you."

a. Because of the events of that amazing weekend – the death, the burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ – anybody, anywhere, at anytime through Jesus Christ can turn to Jehovah and worship before him.

b. The psalm changes from lament to praise because Jesus is the victor.

7. Conclusion



- a. As Jesus hung upon the cross he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (**Matthew 27:46**).
- b. When Jesus uttered these words, he quoted and fulfilled the 22nd Psalm.
 - i. Through study of this psalm we see Jesus:
 - 1. As the victim. He was rejected by God and man and tortured at Calvary.
 - 2. Utter an invocation. He trusted in his God and prayed for deliverance.
 - 3. As the victor. God heard his prayers and delivered him from death. We are all blessed as a result.

8. Invitation

- a. As hard as it must have been, God did not intervene on Christ’s behalf as hung on the cross and cried out to him.
 - i. Jesus had to die to bear the penalty for the sins we commit.
 - ii. This was the only way to satisfy God’s justice.
 - 1. Paul writes in **Romans 3:25-26**, “²⁵ [Jesus Christ] whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”
 - a. God is just; therefore, he must punish sin.
 - b. Those that are outside of Christ will bear their own punishment.
 - c. However, Christ has already borne the punishment for those who are in him by faith.
- b. Even though he didn’t rescue Jesus from the cross, God did hear his prayer.
 - i. The apostle Peter says, “[Christ] was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption” (**Acts 2:31**).
 - 1. On a glorious Sunday morning almost 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was resurrected from the dead by the glory of the Father.
- c. This is the good news – we can enjoy salvation from our sins through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (**I Corinthians 15:1-4**).
- d. This salvation is a free gift is available to you today.
- e. All you need to take ahold of it is faith, not mental assent alone, but faith exerting itself in obedience?
 - i. Repent
 - ii. Confess
 - iii. Allow yourself to be immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins.
- f. If you are ready to obey the gospel this morning or you have a care you’d like to bring before the church, won’t you please come forward as we stand and sing.
- g. Let us stand and sing.

