

# Psalm 22 – Communion Meditation

Psalm 22:1-21

## Introduction:

1. There is no better preparation for observing the Lord's Supper than Ps 22
2. In early 1700s Isaac Watts wrote "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"
  - a. Tonight we are going to survey the wondrous cross, but we are not going to the four gospels to do so
  - b. Actually there are many details about the cross in the prophecy in Ps22
    1. Let's imagine something for a moment. We know that on Nov 22, 1963 President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, TX. But suppose that a document was discovered that gave details about this assassination and that document was tested and discovered to be one thousand years old. A document was found that had been written 500 yrs before Columbus set sail for the New World. Suppose this document told of a powerful leader of a powerful nation was riding in a chariot that was not pulled by horses but moved under its own power. And then suppose that this document described this leader's death in detail. A death that was not even known in the mid-tenth century. The prophecy described a piece of metal that pierced the leader's head. And the thousand year document described how the whole world found out in the matter of a few minutes and the whole world mourned. Imagine how a document like that would be responded to today. There would be amazement. How did the writer know one thousand years ago what would happen in our lifetime? In a sense that is what we have here in Ps 22.
    2. Ps 22 was written a thousand years before the crucifixion of Christ
    3. Ps 22 spoke about a means of capital punishment that not even heard of in the day in which it was written.
3. Some have counted 33 prophecies concerning the death of Christ that were fulfilled in this psalm
  - a. Verse 1 was literally quoted by the Savior on the cross
  - b. There is no record anywhere in the OT that anything even similar to this happened to David or any other OT person
4. This psalm can be divided into two sections
  - a. Verses 1-21 speak of the "Terrible Reality of Calvary"
  - b. Verses 22-31 speak of the "Tremendous Results of Calvary"
5. Let's look at the first section tonight as we survey the wondrous cross.

## I. Abandoned by God – vs 1-6

1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. 3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

### A. The Gulf Between Christ and the Holiness of God – vs 1-3

1. This was the agony of the cross for Jesus
  - a) *It wasn't the nails – though I don't want to minimize them*
  - b) *It wasn't the crown of thorns – I wouldn't minimize that*
2. The agony was Christ's separation from His heavenly Father
3. These verses record a mystery much too deep for us to understand
  - a) *These verses let us in on the agony that Jesus went through when he was separated from His Father*
  - b) *We can't fully understand the agony that Jesus went through on the cross because we can't begin to understand the love and unity that the Father and Son enjoyed in the trinity*
  - c) *They were in perfect unity / communion from before time began*
  - d) *Then Jesus left heaven and came to earth to walk among us*
  - e) *He was in total submission to the Father and did His miracles in the power of the Spirit*
4. God the Father was with the Son – Gethsemane / trial / beating
5. But now, God turned His back on Christ
  - a) *He cannot look on His Son as Jesus is made sin for us*
  - b) *God covers the world in darkness during this time*
  - c) *The answer to the question in vs 1 is found in vs 3 “thou art holy”*
  - d) *God is separate from sin*
  - e) *Gal 3:13 – Jesus became a curse for us*  
*13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...*
  - f) *2Cor 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
6. What a paradox that God had to separate Himself from His Son in order to bring us to Himself
7. Don't ever let that truth become old
8. We owed a debt that we could not pay so our Savior paid the debt that he did not owe
9. Here we see Jesus taking that cup that He had mentioned  
*Lu 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*
10. Do you see why we so adamantly oppose those who say that there are many ways to God?
11. When Jesus experienced separation from God, He was experiencing what ever believer deserved to experience. What unbelievers will exp

## **B. The Gulf Between Christ and the Holiest of Men – vs 4-6**

4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. 5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. 6 But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

1. In 1707 Isaac Watts wrote another hymn...  
Alas and did my Savior bleed?  
And did my Sovereign die?  
Would he devote that sacred head,  
For such a worm as I?
2. Many song books now change that to “sinners such as I”
  - a) *Maybe “sinners” sounds more respectable than “worm”*
  - b) *A worm is among the lowest of God’s creation*
  - c) *A worm has no special beauty or charm or appeal*
3. Yet our Savior compares Himself to a worm
  - a) *“I am the Bread of life” “I am the door of the sheep”*
  - b) *“I am the way, the truth and the life” “I am the living water”*
  - c) *“I am the good Shepherd” “I am the resurrection and the life”*
  - d) *But here is another “I am” – “I am a worm”*
4. He was taking our places – we are the worms
  - a) *We had nothing that would cause God to look down / say “wow”*
  - b) *We had no appeal, no beauty, no great worth*
  - c) *“God did look down and say, “Now there’s one who has so much potential that I think I’ll reach down and save him.”*
  - d) *God did not love us because we were valuable, instead we are valuable because God loved us*
5. The Hebrew word for “worm” is “tolas” – “scarlet” in Isa 1:18

## **II. Abhorred by Men – vs 7-18**

### **A. The Contempt of Men – vs 7-10**

7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. 9 But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. 10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly.

1. See the contempt in vs 7-8 of those who stood by the cross and mocked the dying Savior
  - a) *Gestures of mocking the Lord of glory*
  - b) *In Matt 27:43 we see some of the very words that were said around the cross are mentioned here 1000 yrs before*  
43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

## **B. The Cruelty of Men – vs 11-17**

**11 Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.**

1. Vs 11 is one of the saddest verses in all the Bible – “none to help”
2. He left the splendor of heaven where He was the object of worship
3. As a man He lived a sinless life
4. Now He is forsaken by the Father – under the just wrath of God
5. He was rejected by His own nation
6. His disciples had deserted him and denied Him
7. Jesus is all alone in his suffering
8. This is what Isaiah was talking about 300 yrs after Ps 22

**Isa 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

**12 Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round.**

9. Some believe that this refers to the Jewish religious leaders who stood around the cross watching their nemesis die
10. Some think that this refers to the unseen, but real, demonic and Satanic hosts that were around the cross that day

**13 They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a 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 in the midst of my bowels.**

**15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. 16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.**

11. Here is a very detailed description of crucifixion
12. Remember this is 1000 yrs before the crucifixion of Christ
13. It is felt that the Romans learned crucifixion from the Phoenicians who learned it from the Assyrians or the Medes and Persians
14. When the cross was put upright and dropped into the whole with a thud, often bones were pulled out of place. – not pleasant
15. John Gill said, “If the heart of the Savior, the lion of the tribe of Judah melted like wax, then what are you going to do poor sinner when you face the wrath of Almighty God and his wrath is poured out on you?”
16. Vs 15 speaks of the intense thirst of crucifixion – dehydration
17. Remember that Jesus cried out from the cross – “I thirst” – the One who gave the water of life freely was athirst
18. Vs 16 – pierced my hands and my feet – how could anyone read that and not see crucifixion?
19. That would have made no sense to people in David’s day

### **C. The Callousness of Men – vs 18**

18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Mt 27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

### **III. Abused By Satan – vs 19-21**

19 But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. 20 Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. 21 Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

#### **A. Vs 19-21 – *Jesus is not crying out to be delivered from the death of the cross***

1. He came to die for sinners
2. He was praying to be delivered out of death – to be resurrected

#### **B. *There were the unseen demonic / satanic forces***

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