

A View of Calvary

Psalm 22:1-2; 12-18

Our text today comes from a well-known psalm. Like many others, this too is a psalm of David. Most agree that it must have been written during a time of deep anguish and great difficulty for David. The words of this psalm are very descriptive and expressive of an extreme situation.

While there appears to be universal agreement on David being the author of the psalm, most agree David could not have been writing about personal experiences. Surely he had faced great adversity and endured much pain, but these words go beyond anything even David had experienced. There can be no doubt that David was inspired by the Spirit to record a prophetic psalm that deals extensively with the coming crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. While it was written around 1,000 years prior to these events, they record the events of the crucifixion with precise detail. In fact, David is more descriptive of those events than the Gospels.

There seems to be a clear separation in the psalm. Verses one through twenty one deal with the agonies of the cross, and yet verse twenty two reveals a song of praise. David was inspired to record the events of the cross and the coming triumphant resurrection. It is interesting to note – the psalm begins with a familiar statement Jesus declared from the cross. We also know Jesus declared triumphantly, “It is finished!” While we can’t see it in the English text, the phrase in V.31: “He hath done this” is one word in the Hebrew language – *asah* – finished, accomplished, or complete! The psalm begins with the agony of being forsaken and closes with the word of triumph!

Time will not permit us to consider this psalm in its entirety, but I do want to examine the [prophecies](#) of David as we consider: [A View of Calvary](#).

I. The Supplication of the Lord (1-2) – Here David prophecies with precise and detailed accuracy the supplication our Lord made from the cross. Consider:

A. The Plea (1a) – [My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?](#) David revealed the words our Lord would speak as He hung on the cross, bearing the sin of the world and dying in our place. [Mark 15:34 – And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?](#)

- Many today argue the accuracy of the Word of God. It is often viewed as a book of fables and myths, handed down throughout the generations. I refuse to believe that David was “lucky” enough to record the exact words our Lord would speak, 1,000 years before He spoke them.

Christ fulfilled every prophecy regarding His first advent and He will fulfill the remaining prophecies when He comes again!

B. The Perplexity (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?* As we consider the plea our Lord made from the cross, we must do so within its context. *John 1:1-2 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ^[2] *The same was in the beginning with God.* This is beyond our ability to comprehend because everything we know is dictated by time. There was never a moment in eternity past when Jesus did not exist with the Father. He was there in the beginning! Now we know God was not created; He has always existed, and Christ the Son has as well.

- With that great truth in mind, consider there had never been a moment when Christ did not enjoy fellowship with the Father. They had always communed with one another. Christ lived a perfect, sinless life in a body of flesh, while He enjoyed continued fellowship with the Father. At this moment on the cross, Jesus bore the sin of humanity and suffered the judgment of God in our place. *2 Cor.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.* God could not look on sin, so He had no choice but to turn His back, looking away from Christ. For the first moment in eternal time, Jesus experienced separation from the Father! No doubt this created the worst suffering and agony for Christ as He hung on the cross. The *words of His roaring* speak of the intense agony experienced on the cross.

C. The Persistence (2) – *O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.* No doubt David was faithful in prayer, but again he speaks of the coming Christ and not of himself. As Jesus hung on the cross, crying out to God, and hearing no response, He refused to abandon prayer. On many occasions in the Gospels, we find Christ spending hours at a time in prayer and fellowship with the Father. Although the Father could not look upon the Son at this moment, Jesus continued to pray unto Him.

- That presents a great challenge to every believer. Many of us lack fervency in prayer. We may be willing to pray, but we lack persistence in those moments when it appears God is silent. We must do as Christ, and continue to pray, even when it appears our prayers are unheard.

II. The Crucifixion of the Lord (12-18) – Here David revealed exact details of the coming crucifixion and the suffering our Lord endured. Consider:

A. The Opposition (12) – *Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round.*

David spoke of being surrounded by strong bulls, implying those who sought his defeat and destruction. He faced such opposition by many enemies, and Christ did as well. Our Lord was despised and rejected by those He came to save. He was betrayed by one of the twelve and condemned by the religious authorities. He suffered unimaginable brutality at the hands of the Roman soldiers. Jesus endured great opposition as He was condemned to death and crucified on the cross.

B. The Accusation (13) – *They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.*

Jesus endured false accusations, viewed as an imposter and blasphemer. This began as He stood before the Sanhedrin in a mock trial, being accused of crimes He did not commit.

Matt.26:59-60a – Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; ^[60a] But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none.

The soldiers mocked and ridiculed Jesus as a defeated king. The malefactors and many at the cross railed on Him, challenging Him to come down from the cross if He indeed was the Christ.

- We cannot imagine how this made Jesus feel. He was the Son of the living God, King of kings and Lord of lords, and yet He was accused and condemned. The majority wanted nothing to do with Jesus, viewing Him as rebellious troublemaker who received a just reward.

C. The Contortion (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. David prophesied of further agonies of the cross. Every bone in Jesus' body was pulled out of joint as He pushed against the nails in His feet and hands to draw a breath into His lungs. I have never experienced a dislocated joint, but I am told it is very painful. Imagine every joint being out of place. The body of Christ was contorted by the cruelty of the cross.

- His heart was like wax and melted into the midst of His bowels. Most agree this speaks of the piercing of Jesus' side by the soldier to ensure His death. *John 19:34 – But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.* Commentaries reveal that many medical doctors speculate the flow of blood and water reveal a ruptured heart prior to His side being pierced.

- *I am poured out like water.* Surely this speaks of the agonies Jesus experienced, but I also believe it speaks of His great sacrifice on the cross. He was poured out as an offering, a sacrifice, holy and acceptable to the Father to atone for sin!

D. The Exhaustion (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.* David revealed the utter exhaustion and extreme thirst Jesus would face on the cross. I have experienced weakness and thirst at times, but never anything like this. Consider the struggle Jesus faced on the cross – gasping for a breath of air to fill His oxygen deprived lungs, while being forced to push against the spikes in His feet. This was a continual struggle on the cross. He had been beaten mercilessly, losing precious blood and body fluids. His thirst became so intense that His tongue began to cleave to His jaws and the roof of His mouth. The creator of the vast oceans and rivers, hung in misery, thirsting for a drink of refreshing water. *John 19:28 – After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.*

E. The Affliction (16-17) – *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.* Jesus was surrounded by those who cast their voices against Him and rejoiced in His death. He had been nailed to a rugged, Roman cross, through His hands and feet, to suffer an excruciating death! As He hung dying on the cross, with the exception of John and a few women, no one showed Him mercy.

- *I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.* This reveals the horrific treatment and suffering Jesus endured on the cross at the hands of sinful men. I am convinced the flesh was literally ripped from the Savior's body, exposing the bone within. We cannot imagine the suffering our Lord endured on our behalf. *Isaiah 52:14 – As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.* Had we personally known Jesus, having walked with Him upon the earth, we would have been unable to positively identify Him as He hung upon the cross following the brutal treatment He endured.

F. The Humiliation (18) – *They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.* The cruel brutality of the cross was not enough for the soldiers who stood at the foot of the cross. This was prophesied 1,000 years earlier and carried out as David revealed. *Matt.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.* Jesus was God in flesh, and yet He owned few possessions. In fact, at this moment, this was all Jesus owned – the garment He wore prior to the crucifixion. Jesus was stripped naked and hung on the cross in shame and humility, while the soldiers gambled for His only possession.

- Jesus suffered greatly on the cross to atone for our sin. This is difficult to consider, but we must remember this was the plan of God before the foundation of the world. Jesus died with purpose – to save humanity from sin! He suffered in agony on the cross, but He rose triumphant

over sin and death. He is coming again wearing a garment that declares Him King of kings and Lord of lords!

Conclusion: I am reminded that Jesus endured such suffering and agony because of the great love He had for us and the Father. He was committed to the Father's plan to redeem us from sin. I am thankful I know Him as my Lord and Savior. Have you responded to the call of Christ for salvation? He died so all might be saved. If you are unsaved, I urge you to consider the truths we have discussed and respond to Christ in repentance and faith. He stands ready to save!

Christian this passage ought to deepen your love and devotion to Christ. He endured the cross to redeem us. The least we can do is faithfully serve Him in obedience. If there are needs, bring them to the Savior!