

## Our Suffering & Satisfied Savior

Psalm 22 | Pastor Jason Van Bommel

### To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?*

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

<sup>3</sup> *Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.*

<sup>4</sup> *In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.*

<sup>5</sup> *To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.*

<sup>6</sup> *But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people.*

<sup>7</sup> *All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;*

<sup>8</sup> *“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”*

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

<sup>10</sup> *On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb you have been my God.*

<sup>11</sup> *Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.*

<sup>12</sup> *Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me;*

<sup>13</sup> *they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.*

<sup>14</sup> *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;*  
<sup>15</sup> *my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.*

<sup>16</sup> *For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—*

<sup>17</sup> *I can count all my bones— they stare and gloat over me;*

<sup>18</sup> *they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.*

<sup>19</sup> *But you, O LORD, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid!*

<sup>20</sup> *Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog!*

<sup>21</sup> *Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!*

<sup>22</sup> *I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:*

<sup>23</sup> *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!*

<sup>24</sup> *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.*

<sup>25</sup> *From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.*

<sup>26</sup> *The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!*

<sup>27</sup> *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.*

<sup>28</sup> *For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations.*

<sup>29</sup> *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.*

<sup>30</sup> *Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;*

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

### Introduction: Two Amazing Chapters

Sometimes you find treasures in unexpected places. One of my favorite shows to watch when I want to take a mental break, is *American Pickers*. I love the wonderful, unusual and valuable

things Mike and Frank find in old barns under piles of junk. Sometimes it comes because they have trained their eyes to see value where others don't.

You may be shocked to find us in the Old Testament, reading a Psalm of David, on Easter Sunday. Why celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with a poem written 1,000 years before He was born? Well, Jesus came into the world as the embodiment and fulfillment of the Scriptures in their totality. Every promise, ceremony, law and covenant in the Old Testament points beyond itself and ahead to Jesus, who came and fulfilled them all in Himself.

But Psalm 22 has a special place among Old Testament Scriptures. Bible scholar Miles Custis has identified 5 clear and specific allusions to Psalm 22 in the accounts of the crucifixion of Jesus; in other words, this Psalm, written 1,000 years before Jesus was born by His human ancestor 28 generations removed has 5 clear and specific prophecies, foreshadowings, or anticipations of the sufferings of Christ on the cross.

Together, Isaiah 53, which we read portions of earlier, and Psalm 22 form an extraordinary pair of Scriptures: Isaiah 53 tells us of the suffering and death of Jesus from God's perspective, explaining to us why Jesus died and what His death accomplished. It, too, contains specific details of the death of Jesus, from His rejection by the crowd to His brutal beating to His unusual burial in a rich man's tomb. While Isaiah 53 tells us about the death of Jesus, Psalm 22 gives us the anguished prayer of Christ from the cross. We actually have a glimpse of the heart of Jesus on the cross here in these verses, written by David.

But even those who know that Isaiah 53 & Psalm 22 are powerful portraits of the cross often miss something else powerful and wonderful in these special chapters: The resurrection! Two years ago, I preached on the resurrection in Isaiah 53, which is found in vv. 10-12, as we saw earlier. Here in Psalm 22, we also have the satisfaction of Christ in His resurrection and exaltation, in vv. 21-31. So, we are going to dig into this rich psalm and see here both the suffering and the satisfaction of our Savior. So, join me as we do a little bit of Bible picking, to find the wonderful glory of Christ hidden in plain sight in this psalm.

## **A. Our Savior in His Suffering, vv. 1-21**

### **I. The Words from the Cross, v. 1**

Jesus Himself directed our attention to Psalm 22. When He hung on the cross, He cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, eloi, lama sabachthani?*" which is the Aramaic version of verse 1, "*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*" So in coming to Psalm 22 today, we're really following the lead of our Savior. Some scholars, including Charles Spurgeon, see another cry from Psalm 22 from the lips of Jesus on the cross: the last Hebrew word of the psalm is translated, "He has done it"

in the ESV. It could also be translated, “It has been done” or “It is done” or even “It is finished,” another cry of Jesus from the cross.

In fact, Spurgeon said it’s possible that Jesus actually prayed the entirety of Psalm 22 from the cross, given the fact that He definitely cried the opening line and may have also cried out the final word of the psalm. Whether or not Jesus prayed all of Psalm 22 from the cross, the whole psalm powerfully shows us His heart while on the cross.

## **2. Mocked and Ridiculed, vv. 6-8**

On the cross, Jesus cried out in agony to His Father as He was surrounded by those who mocked and scorned Him. Verse 7 says the people wag their heads and verse 8 reports their words of mocking: *“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”*

Now listen to how Matthew reports on the scene at the cross, in Matthew 27:37-44 - *Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads 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.” So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, “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. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. (ESV)*

And all of this also lines up perfectly with Isaiah 53:3, *“He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”*

## **3. Surrounded by Enemies, vv. 12-13, 16, 18**

Not only was Jesus mocked and ridiculed, but He was surrounded by powerful enemies, those who plotted together to harm Him. Verse 12 makes reference to *“many strong bulls of Bashan”* and verse 16 refers to *“dogs . . . a company of evildoers.”* “Strong bulls” denotes those who have power and strength. Jesus was surrounded by all those who had power of any kind – from the chief priests to the members of the Sanhedrin to the occupying Roman authorities. “Dogs” is a more specific reference to Gentiles, who are also designated *“a company of evildoers”* – and Jesus was surrounded by a company of hardened Roman soldiers who beat Him, spit on Him, mocked Him and crucified Him.

David tells us specifically that this *“company of evildoers,”* this group of *“dogs”* are the ones who carry out the crucifixion and who then divide his clothing and cast lots for his garment. This specific detail was also fulfilled in Jesus’ death on the cross, as the Roman executioners divided up His clothing and ended up casting lots for His intact inner garment, rather than cut or tear it into pieces.

#### 4. Physical Suffering of Crucifixion, vv. 14-17

In addition to the mocking of those who pass by and the powerful enemies who surrounded Him, Psalm 22 also paints a compelling picture of the physical suffering Jesus suffered on the cross –

- <sup>14</sup> *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;*  
<sup>15</sup> *my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.*  
<sup>16</sup> *For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet—*  
<sup>17</sup> *I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;*

This is a precise and accurate description of Jesus' physical sufferings. His bones were likely knocked out of joint when the cross was dropped into the ground, and yet His bones were not broken, because He was already dead when the soldiers came by to break the legs of those who were still hanging on the crosses, to accelerate their deaths. The thirst of Jesus is described as "my tongue sticks to my jaws." David even makes specific reference to having hands and feet pierced. Clearly, David was given a powerful vision of the sufferings of Messiah, as if they were His own.

#### 5. Jesus, Forsaken Yet Trusting, vv. 1-2, 9-11, 19-21

What we also see of Jesus on the cross reflects His steadfast devotion to the Lord, as He feels forsaken and abandoned, but He nonetheless perseveres in faith and commits Himself to His Father's hands. On the cross, Jesus said both "*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*" and then "*Into Your hands I commit my spirit,*" reflecting this sense of being forsaken and yet still trusting that we see clearly in Psalm 22 –

- <sup>19</sup> *But you, O LORD, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!*  
<sup>20</sup> *Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog!*  
<sup>21</sup> *Save me from the mouth of the lion!*

While Psalm 22 gives us a powerful account of the sufferings of Christ on the cross, it does not tell us why He suffered and died. That perspective is given by Isaiah 53, who tells us that Jesus

suffered for our sins, was crushed for our iniquities and died to give us peace with God. The way Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 complement each other is remarkable if you read them together and then keep in mind that David and Isaiah themselves lived 250 years apart.

So, that's what we see of the suffering and death of Jesus in Psalm 22, but Psalm 22 does not leave Jesus on the cross, just as Isaiah 53 does not leave Him in the grave. The end of verse 21 is the key turning-point –

*You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!*

The New King James Version and the New English Translation make this transitional verses even more clear –

*Save Me from the lion's mouth  
And from the horns of the wild oxen!  
You have answered Me. (NKJV)*

*Rescue me from the mouth of the lion,  
and from the horns of the wild oxen!  
You have answered me! (NET)*

## **B. Our Savior in His Satisfaction, vv. 21-31**

### **1. “You have rescued me!” or “You have answered me!”**

Jesus was answered by His Father. Hebrews 5:7 tells us “*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.*” What a perfect summary of Psalm 22!

Jesus was heard. And because He was heard, He was delivered from death and made the source of life for all who trust in Him. Hebrews 5 goes on to say “*Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. And being made perfect, **he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him***” (vv. 8-9)

### **2. In the Congregation**

Immediately after being answered by God, Psalm 22 says, “*I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:*

The first place Jesus goes after His resurrection is to His disciples, to those who are now His brothers, gathered in the Upper Room, the congregation of the saints. He reveals Himself to them, showing them the work of God in His resurrection and leading them to worship!

And this is where we find Jesus still today, in the midst of His people, leading us to the throne of God in worship. This shows us the heart of the satisfied Savior, risen and exalted, He delights to be in the midst of His people.

Psalm 22:3 says, “*Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.*” Jesus’ heart and His Father’s heart are perfectly aligned. In the congregation, Jesus is actively keeping His promises and saving and satisfying those who look to Him –

*my vows I will perform before those who fear him.*

<sup>26</sup> *The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;*

*those who seek him shall praise the LORD!*

*May your hearts live forever!*

Jesus has vowed in the Covenant of Grace to save all of those who look to Him in faith. He is here, in our midst, speaking through His word, feeding us with Himself, that we may be saved and satisfied in Him!

### **3. To the Ends of the Earth**

Yet Jesus’ focus is not only on the congregation of His own. He is also looking to the ends of the earth:

*All the ends of the earth shall remember*

*and turn to the LORD,*

*and all the families of the nations*

*shall worship before you.*

<sup>28</sup> *For kingship belongs to the LORD,*

*and he rules over the nations.*

It has always been God’s plan that His Messiah would bring His light to the families of the nations. Not only will those within His congregation eat and be satisfied, but so will, those at the ends of the earth. Jesus’ heart is for His people gathered in worship and for the mission to gather in all the nations into the people of God, gathered for worship.

### **4. For Generations to Come**

And finally, Jesus’ heart is a heart for the generations yet to come: “*it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn*” Here we are, nearly 2,000 years after Jesus’ resurrection, over 3,000 years after King David wrote Psalm 22, and we worship the same God and rejoice in the same good news of His righteousness. Will we be faithful to proclaim Him to the coming generation, and will the coming generation be faithful to proclaim Him to the still-coming, yet-unborn generation?

The heart of the satisfied, risen, exalted Jesus is seen in Psalm 22 in three places:

1. In the gathered worship of His people.
2. In spreading the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth.
3. In telling the coming generation of the righteousness of God and His victory over sin and death.

This Resurrection Day, as we celebrate, we get to see the heart if Jesus supernaturally reflected in a Psalm written 1,000 years before He was born. Will we align our heart to His?

**Conclusion:** Will you be satisfied in His satisfaction?

Another way for us to consider this question is this: Will you be satisfied in His satisfaction?

Isaiah 53:11 speaks of the resurrection of Jesus in these words:

*Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;  
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,  
make many to be accounted righteous,  
and he shall bear their iniquities.*

If you will be satisfied in His satisfaction, then you will be among the many who are accounted as righteous in Him!

Jesus' heart is to give you the satisfaction your soul needs in Him, as we saw in verse 26:

*The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!  
May your hearts live forever!*

You are afflicted by sin and death. Everyone here is. We sin. We die. Yet if we will feed our hungry souls on Jesus, we shall eat and be satisfied. We shall be freed to praise the Lord and live forever.

Come to Jesus. Be satisfied in Him!