



THE SUFFERING OF CHRIST CRUCIFIED

Psalm 22

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Today, I wanted to spend time focusing on the Suffering of Christ Crucified. Matthew records this account of Jesus' death, most likely using the Gospel of Mark as a source, in comparison to the Old Testament passage of Psalm 22. When Jesus was arrested, Matthew shared that Jesus explains that He could "appeal to My Father" to immediately stop the suffering, but He didn't so that the scriptures might be fulfilled. Matthew understood Jesus' meaning was to include Psalm 22.

Matthew 27:27-46

"Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. **28** And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, **29** and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" **30** And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. **31** And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. **32** As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. **33** And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), **34** they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. **35** And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. **36** Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. **37** And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews."

38 Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.

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.'" **44** And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. **45** Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. **46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Compare Matthew 27 with Psalm 22 study ...

- Christ Experiences PERSONAL SUFFERING by: (prophecies of Psalm 22:1-21)

1. Emotional ANGUISH (v. 1-5)

ref. Matthew 27:46

2. Social ANTAGONISM (v 6-11)

ref. Matthew 27:39-43

3. Physical AGONY (v 12-21)

ref. Matthew 27:33-35

In the last verses of Psalm 22, we see an encore of praises to the God who has not abandoned the sufferer. God is still worthy to be praised and adorned even in the crisis of suffering. Similarly, as with the scene of Jesus' crucifixion —

- God the Father is GLORIFIED in the Son's SUFFERING. (prophecies of Psalm 22:22-31)

1. God is praised when we realize that He does NOT forsake the SUFFERER. (v. 24)

2. God RESTORES those who are AFFLICTED (v. 26)

3. God is praised when all the FAMILIES of the nations will KNOW and WORSHIP God. (v. 27-31)

All four Gospels include statements Jesus made about the suffering that He was to endure. Jesus did nothing on His own initiative, and no where does it mention of the Father forsaking Him. Rather Jesus stated in John 8:29, "He who sent Me; He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him".

Salvation through Jesus Christ

The single most important decision you could ever make is to receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. The Bible says, all have sinned and fall short of God's glory and we don't deserve eternal life because the wages of sin is death. Yet through God's love, only Christ gives us eternal life by grace through faith... it is a gift of God. God's word says, That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is LORD and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead — YOU WILL BE SAVED. The Bible says to REPENT of your sins, BELIEVE in Jesus thereby receiving His forgiveness. And identify with Christ and start living a new life in obedience to God by being BAPTIZED.