

## Sermon Notes

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 6.2.2024

## PSALM 22 - TROUBLE TO TRIUMPH

### I. INTRODUCTION

- Psalm 22 stands out as one of the most graphically descriptive of all the psalms of lament.
- As we read today's text, you will likely immediately pick up that his psalm contains phrases and events that find their ultimate expression in the crucifixion of our Lord.
- This psalm gives us a glimpse into the suffering of Jesus.
- David, writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, conveys something to us that far exceeds the suffering and trouble he encountered.
- And the subsequent triumph he experienced when God rescued him looks ahead to God's ultimate plan of salvation, the establishment of his kingdom through Christ, the worship of the nations that will pour in, and his kingship that will span the generations.

#### **Psalm 22:1-21**

1 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 ravening 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.

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!

## II. TROUBLE

- 2/3 of this psalm are taken up with David's recounting of a specific time of trouble, a dark period in his life. Which one? We don't know.
- While this psalm is reinterpreted in Christ as he is the ultimate fulfillment of the movement from trouble to triumph, we have to read this psalm from the perspective of its author—David.
- The psalm opens with an anguished cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- There would be many times in David's life, as in ours, where he felt forsaken by God.
- He was beset by enemies intent on killing him.
- It is an agonized question. He is perplexed by God's silence.
- He is disturbed by God's absence in the face of his trouble.
- "Where are you God?" Have you ever prayed that?
- His greatest suffering was this sense that God had forsaken him.
- And as he pleads with God, he receives no reply.
- What David experienced is real—and we all have experienced times where God feels distant and silent.
- And we feel guilty because, if we really believe the promises of God, if we really trust in God, then we shouldn't feel this way.
- But we do. This is a frequent struggle of the Christian life. Believers will go through tough times and feel like they have been forsaken.
- But we can talk to God like David did! We can express lament just like the psalmist.
- What this psalm points to, proves that we are not forsaken or abandoned by God, and we certainly aren't abandoned in the end.
- There are three thoughts that seem to heighten his feelings of God-forsakenness.
- First, vv3-5, The faith of his ancient fathers who trusted in God, they cried out to God, and they were delivered.
- Second, vv6-8, the scorn and mockery of his enemies. His enemies taunt David, "*He trusts in the Lord, let him deliver him!*" Will God allow them to blaspheme him?
- Third, vv9-10, Yahweh has been his God from birth, how could God abandon him now?
- These thoughts lead him to make his appeal to God in v11. "Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help."
- David hasn't lost his faith, but his troubling situation has him disoriented on the account of the fact that God is seemingly absent.
- And that is exactly our experience in troubling times when we feel God-forsaken.
- It is jarring, it is disorienting. Because we have experienced the greatest deliverance—our salvation—and when we go through tough and challenging periods, our faith is tested.
- We feel like David---as if God is distant and silent.
- vv12-21, David describes his enemies and the physical, mental, and emotional suffering he is enduring at their hands.
- He uses animal imagery to depict his enemies. The metaphors describe them as ravenous, bestial, powerful, savage, employing lethal weapons.

- They are all around him, gloating, mocking, sneering, ready to humiliate him.
- His physical strength is gone, he is like a broken piece of dried up clay.
- He is dehydrated, weak, his tongue sticks to the roof of his mouth.
- He is so emaciated he can count all his bones.
- His heart is failing, emotionally he is tapped out.
- He is in extreme agony and near the point of death.
- V19-21, David pleads again, “Yahweh, do not be distant! You are my only hope and help, come quickly!”
- David asks for deliverance from his enemies.

### III. TRIUMPH

- It is at this point that the psalm takes a sudden and dramatic turn—the whole tone of the psalm shifts from trouble to triumph, from prayer to praise.
- V21b You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!
- No indication how the rescue came—just that it did!
- Vv19-21 depicts a great reversal leading to David’s triumph over his enemies.
- V12 - many strong bulls encompass him
- V13 - they are like a ravenous, roaring lion ready to devour him.
- V16 - dogs encompass him
- V16 - a company of evildoers encircles and pierces his hands and feet
- And then in reverse order
- V20 - deliver my soul from the sword
- V20 - deliver me from the power of the dog
- V21 - save me from the mouth of the lion
- V22 - you rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen (bulls)

#### **Psalm 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.

- David felt forsaken by God, he was calling out to God and he was not getting an answer.
- But at the end of the lament section, David can say, “*You have answered me!*”
- In the end, God has not despised his afflicted servant David (25), as he was despised by his enemies (6).
  
- V22-25 And David declares that he will praise God’s name in the midst of the congregation.
- All of Israel will hear how the Lord rescued him. They will hear David praise God for his salvation.
- He will bear public witness of God’s deliverance among his people.
- He will publicly praise God.
- He will exhort fellow sufferers to seek the Lord because God has not hidden his face from them.
  
- V23 contains a command for the people of God.
- God’s people are commanded to praise him!
- God’s people are commanded to glorify him!
- God’s people are commanded to stand in awe of him!
  
- David sees the conversion of the nations in vv27-28.
- The circle of worshippers is ever expanding until all of the families of the nations of the earth are worshipping the Lord.
- David declares the everlasting and universal dominion of Yahweh—he rules over the nations.
- David’s posterity will continue to herald the good news of Yahweh’s salvation and righteousness to subsequent generations.
- They too will praise him!
  
- It would seem that the goal of this psalm was to urge all of Israel to praise the Lord who led his anointed king through intense trouble and suffering to a triumph which will eventually lead to all nations worshipping the Lord.

## IV. TELOS

- Let's now consider the telos of this psalm. Telos means “termination,” “goal,” “fulfillment,” or “end.”
- Ps 22 is pointing us to the greater fulfillment in Christ.
- We have seen this repeatedly in the psalms, the pattern of David’s experience foreshadows the pattern of experience fulfilled in Jesus.
- Christians cannot read this psalm without applying it to the suffering of Christ on the cross and his subsequent glory at his resurrection and ascension and the manifestation of God’s end-time kingdom with all of the nations worshipping the Lord.
  
- Psalm 22 is quoted more frequently in the NT than any other psalm, especially in the gospel accounts of Christ’s passion.
- Luke 22:44 Jesus said to the two disciples he encountered after his resurrection, that everything written about him in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.
- Whatever David’s experience was, as we read this psalm backwards from Christ, we see that David was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this song in such a way as to convey something far more significant than what he was going through.
  
- 22:18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.
- John 19:23-24 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.”
  
- 22:7 All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;
- Matthew 27:39 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads
  
- 22:8 “He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”
- Matthew 27:43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”
  
- We find the words of v1 on the lips of our Lord as he hung on the cross.
- Matthew 27:46 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?”
  
- We can envision the scene of the crucifixion in David’s words and the gospel accounts.
- 22:16 a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—
- Jesus’s enemies surrounded him, piercing his hands and feet as they nailed him to the cross.
  
- 22:17 I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;
- Jesus hung on that cross, his body stretched out, flayed open by the repeated scourgings, his bones exposed, with the jeering crowd staring and gloating over him.

- The writer of Hebrews quotes from 22:22 and declares this to be about Jesus! (Hebrews 2:11-12).

- Jesus is acquainted with suffering. (READ Isaiah 53)
- But Jesus did not just suffer, he triumphed over death and the grave.
- He ascended and sits on the throne of glory, presently ruling and reigning, in fulfillment of God's covenant with David.
- His kingdom is expanding as the gospel is preached and proclaimed.

- This is what makes Jesus such a marvelous Savior!
- This is why he is worthy to be praised by us continually for our salvation in him!
- We join in the praise chorus of the OT saints, as David commanded them to praise God, glorify God, and stand in awe of his salvation!
- An endless chorus of praise that continues until we will behold with our own eyes what John saw in the heavenly vision.
- Revelation 7:9-10 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, 10 and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

- We will have trouble in this world. We may even feel like God has forsaken us.
- But we are never truly abandoned. We are not ultimately forsaken in our trouble and we will one day enter into our everlasting triumph.
- Revelation 7:14-17 "Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore, the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat. 17 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

## **APPLICATION AND REFLECTION**

In light of today's message....

- What did I learn about the gospel?
- How can I apply what I learned about the gospel to my life?
- With whom can I share the gospel this week?