The Agony of the Cross and the Faithfulness of God

Psalm 22:1-31

November 1, 2026
New Baptist Church



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Psalm 22

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

1000 years before Jesus was crucified, David wrote about the crucifixion from a first-person perspective.




“Truly this man was
the Son of God!”
(Mark 15:39).

The Chronology of the Cross

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- Jesus was nailed to the cross
- Jesus was mocked by religious leaders, the crowds, a thief, and the soldiers
- Jesus forgave (*"Father, forgive them"*)
- Jesus promised paradise to the thief
- Jesus entrusted the care of his mother to John

12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

- Deep Darkness fell upon the land
- Jesus contiunes to suffer

3:00 PM - *The Time of Death*

- Jesus cries out, "My God why have you forsaken me?"
- I Thirst
- It is Finished
- Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

3:00 PM - *At Death*

- An Earthquake
- The Veil in the temple is torn
- Blood moon is rising
- Roman Centurion says -"Truly this man was the Son of God!"



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3:00 PM to 6:00-7:00 PM - *After Death*

- The legs of the two thieves are broken
- Spear thrust into Jesus' side
- Jesus removed from the cross

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Psalm 22

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The First Agony: Divine Forsakenness (1-2)

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.

> Matthew 27:46 "…he cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Jesus is not asking a theological question. It is a cry of desolation and horror. Jesus quotes Psalm 22 because scripture is the language he speaks AND because it is true.

Jesus bore our sin, and with it, our judgment. And the full penalty of sin, judged under God's wrath, is ultimately separation from God (divine forsakenness) and death. What was due me, Jesus suffered.



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Yet, at the exact same time

God's Faithfulness: God is Holy and Faithful to Save (3-5)

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.

The Holiness of God is revealed in His pure and perfect love, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. AND His perfect Justice, not letting sin go unpunished. (Exodus 34:7). At the cross, both are happaning at the same time (His perfect love and his perfect justice)



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God's Faithfulness: God is Holy and Faithful to Save (3-5)

The Second Agony: Rejection and Shame (6-8)

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!"



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Matthew 27:39 "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.'"

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The very people that the eternal Word of God created, loved, and came to save looked upon him and declared him unwanted, unworthy, and undeserving of life itself. They despised him, stripped him of dignity, and sought to erase him from their presence.

God's Faithfulness: God is Sovereign and Faithful in His Care (9-10)





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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.

The crucifixion of Jesus was not an accident. It was a part of God's perfect sovereignty. WHY? Because He is faithful to care.

Not only is the cross an image of the shame and judgment upon sin, but at the exact same time it is also an image of God's divine love, care, and faithfulness.



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The Third Agony: Physical Torment and Death. (11-18)

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.



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God's Faithfulness: God is Glorious and is Faithful to Turn our Laments into Praise (19-31).

19 But (YET) 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!

The one who was pierced in his hands and feet and laid down in the dust of death is now saved.	*Because of the resurrection, our laments turn to praise.*

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



Psalm 22

Because of the resurrection, our laments turn to praise.

God's Faithfulness: God is Glorious and is Faithful to Turn our Laments into Praise (19-31).

The Ever-Expanding Ripples of the Resurrection Turning Lament into Praise

The Disciples: 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!

The Early Jerusalem Church: 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.

The Great Congregation: 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

The Poor: 26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever!

All the Earth and All Nations: 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.

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The Ever-Expanding Ripples of the Resurrection Turning Lament into Praise

The Disciples —> Jerusalem —> Judah —> Samaria —> All the World

The Poor & The Prosperous: 29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;

The Dead: before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive.

Through All of Time: 30 Posterity shall serve him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, all praise and glory to God spread from that upper room in Jerusalem to Judah, Samaria, and all the world. Even into the grave and into the future.





Psalm 22:31

"They shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, **that he has done it."**

John 19:30

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **"It is finished,"** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

τετέλεσται

God is Faithful

He is Holy and Faithful to save.
He is Sovereign and Faithful in His Care
He alone is worthy of all praise.
He alone turns our laments into praise.

When Jesus said, **"It is finished,"** he was not only declaring that his agony was over and that death had come. **He was declaring that the great work of redemption, promised from the beginning, has been accomplished.**

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