

I. Review

If you have your Bibles this morning, I would like you to turn to Psalms, Chapter 22. Today, we are going to finish up our study on the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you know, I have told you and then showed you week by week that there are seven key passages in the Old Testament that simply lay out the very thoughts of Christ as He hung on the cross or as He was crucified. Last week, we looked at Job, Chapter 30. Here, we saw the most grievous and terrible time period, the time period when our sins were paid for. This will be from the sixth to the ninth hour. In those three hours—and I do not have a way to understand it, I do not have a way to explain it, it is beyond the scope of my finite mind to grasp the concept, though I can wrap my heart around it, but certainly not my head—how in those three hours, from the sixth to the ninth hour, as God poured out His wrath on His Son for all of mankind, God was satisfied with the sin of every man, woman, and whoever lived down through history on planet Earth. In those three hours, as the wrath of God was poured out, He paid that price. It is unbelievable to me.

➤ Understanding that Day that Changed the World Forever Should Change People's Lives Forever, too

A couple of weeks ago, I gave you the whole week leading up to His crucifixion from Sunday to Sunday, as found in the book of Mark. In the Bible, as I told you, the New Testament accounts of the events in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John show us clearly the New Testament events as they unfold. But yet, in the Old Testament, as those events are unfolding, God takes us behind the veil. God takes us and shows us the very thoughts that Christ has on the cross, and everything that we need to see and understand of what He is thinking, who He is thinking about, and His perspective of the crucifixion. I told you when we started our study that the Bible will lay out different viewpoints of the crucifixion. You will get God's viewpoint of the crucifixion. You will get the world's picture of the crucifixion. You will get what God's people's picture should be of the crucifixion. You will get what Israel's picture of the crucifixion was. Now, we have been able to see what Christ's thoughts were as He paid the price on Calvary's cross. Understanding that day that changed the world forever should also change the lives of men and women everywhere forever too.

➤ We Understand the Endurance and Suffering within the Ministry Based on His Suffering for us on the Cross

As we talked about Moses, seeing Him who is invisible, that will be the key. In time, the day that God changed your name as you grow spiritually, we talked about the seven name changes found in the Bible and what they represent. I talked about Moses last week where the Bible says once he met God, and once he made his decision and understood what God wanted, he chose to endure the suffering of the people of God in a ministry that God had for him because he understood what God had for him. For you and for me, it is the same thing. We understand the endurance and the suffering within the ministry based on His suffering for you and for me on the

cross. Moses, rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, chose to suffer the affliction with the people of God against Egypt.

➤ The Doctrine of Hell

I also showed you one of the great doctrines in the Bible, the doctrine of hell. It is unknown today. Everybody knows about hell; everybody uses the word "hell" in everything that they do. But the bottom line is, **most people do not understand why there is a hell, why there has to be a hell, and why hell is such an important part and a certain doctrine in the Bible.** I showed you why that when a man rejects Christ, he must go to the place called hell and then later on, a place called the lake of fire. You will find hell defined for you in Luke 16, and the lake of fire in Revelation chapter 20. I told you how when God created man, God created him with an eternal soul. That soul, based on Adam's sin, became sinful. What God did when He sent His Son down was make a way to purge our souls, to take our soul, separate it from our flesh, and then to save our souls. That is what is saved if you are saved here this morning. Your body is not saved. Your spirit is not saved. But your soul is, if you are saved this morning. God saved your soul because it is eternal. Down here on earth right now, God has a plan for us. But when we get into eternity, which requires you and me to have an eternal body, you will really understand God's plan.

The problem is that **the soul is eternal**. When a man rejects God, when a woman rejects Christ, when they will not take His salvation, and they die in their sin, the problem is now that there is an eternal soul. What is He going to do with it? If He does not do something with it, it will contaminate everything in God's eternity. So there must be some checks and balances for that eternal soul that rejected Christ's salvation and now is in sin. **The only thing that God can do is put it into an eternal fire where that eternal soul is eternally purged.** But there is no end to it because there is no end to the soul. So sin can never contaminate this world or God's eternity ever again.

➤ Hell is a Choice

I showed you, and this is what I do not think most people get, or maybe they do not want to get, that going to hell is a choice. No man in hell—and there are plenty of them down there, and plenty more headed that way—no man or woman in hell will ever say, "God sent me here." No, that will never happen. You may want to believe that. You may have been told that, but that is simply not true. The truth is, no man in hell will ever say, "God sent me here." The Bible tells us in Matthew chapter 25, verse 41, that hell was never prepared for you or me in the first place. The Bible says that hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. God never intended any man or any woman ever to go to hell or in time to the lake of fire. He will never send a man to hell; the man sends himself. Second Peter chapter 3, verse 9, says,

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

But when a man refuses that sacrifice, when a man chooses to reject Christ and His mercy and His gift, then you send yourself to a place that God never intended for you to be in. It is the only way that God can keep sin from contaminating the universe a second time.

➤ We Often Do Not Want to Take Responsibility for our Actions

We all, as human beings, and I find this in dealing with people all the time, have a tendency to blame God for everything. A little baby will die in a family, and that is always a tragedy, and mom or dad blames God. I get it, you do not understand it. Some tragedy happens and somebody dies, and somebody blames God. Some illness or sickness comes in your life, and we have a tendency to blame God.

That goes back to Adam. When Adam sinned and God dealt with him, and God said to Adam, "What did you do?" Adam's answer was, "Well, Lord, the wife You gave me." See, that is human nature at its best. **We simply do not want to take responsibility for the actions in life.** Boy, is that not a problem today. So we blame God for going to hell. You know, if that was true, I mean, if predestination was true and God chose some people to go to heaven and some people to go to hell, and you just happen to be one of the ones that go to hell. You know, "Jesus loves me, sorry about you." You know, that would be a thing where in eternity you could maintain some respectability. I mean, I know you are in hell, and it is hot and all that stuff, but you could say, "Hey, look, I am not here by my own choice. God sent me here, and therefore I am a victim. I did not do anything wrong. He chose me not to go to heaven." You might maintain some respectability in a place called hell, but that will not be the case.

If you **die and go to hell, and later on the lake of fire, you are in a place that you chose because you rejected what God did for you, and you will spend an eternity in hell reliving that decision that you did not make.** Hell is a choice.

II. Psalms 22: Christ's Thoughts on the Cross

Now today we are going to be back where we started. As you know, we have been coming through the book of Psalms chapter by chapter, verse by verse, word by word. Several months ago, we got to Psalms chapter 22, and that is where we started our study of the seven places in the Bible that show us the thoughts of Christ on the cross. Last week we looked at Job chapter 30, and Psalms 22 will go along with that. Job chapter 30 and Psalm chapter 22 will take place at the height of His suffering on the cross. This will be found, if you want to make the cross reference to the New Testament, in Matthew chapter 27 verses 45 through 46:

45. Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

46. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Psalms 22 starts right where Matthew chapter 27, verses 45 and 46, take place, where He is crying out, "**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**" **My dear friend, that is exactly what an unsaved man is screaming in hell this morning.** That is exactly what every unsaved woman, movie star, president, famous person, every drunk on skid row, everybody on planet Earth who has died without Christ, that is the cry on their lips today. **And that was the cry on God's Son's lips as He paid the price so you would not have to cry out and cry that.**

➤ Christ's thoughts on the Cross into the Future for Both Israel and the Church

Here is where you see the thoughts of these events on the cross, and they are key. You see how the Old Testament fills in the blanks of the New Testament events and the accounts as found in Matthew chapter 27. But in Psalms 22 and other places that we have looked, the other six, show you the thoughts.

I will show you today that Psalms 22 is the perfect place to end this study. It really is. Everything else we looked at took place during various aspects of the cross. But Psalms 22 is the place that we need to end this study because it is a picture of that day as He died for you and me. But also, I will show you how Psalms 22 will take you from the cross into the church age and show each one of us long-term what the cross was intended to do, all in Psalms 22. It is history, but it is also the future.

Psalms 22 will be a complete layout of His death on the cross for the two identities we have been talking about and focused on in the Bible. We talked about it Thursday night. We have talked about it several times that when Moses had the ark, he put in that ark three things. He put in the Ten Commandments, which represent the nation of Israel. He put in Aaron's rod which budded, which represents the church. He put a pot full of manna, which represents the Word of God.

You are going to see now that in the crucifixion out of Psalms 22, before we are done this morning, God's plan within the crucifixion, within His thoughts for both the nation of Israel and for you. Quite incredible, but not for the unsearchable riches.

Turn over to Psalms 22. We are going to read the chapter here, 31 verses.

Psalms 22:1-31. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? [why art thou so] far from helping me, [and from] the words of my roaring?

2. O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

3. But thou [art] holy, O [thou] that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

4. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

5. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

6. But I [am] a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

7. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, [saying],

8. He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

9. But thou [art] he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope [when I was] upon my mother's breasts.

10. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou [art] my God from my mother's belly.

11. *Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for [there is] none to help.*
12. *Many bulls have compassed me: strong [bulls] of Bashan have beset me round.*
13. *They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a 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 in the midst of my bowels.*
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.*
16. *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.*
18. *They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.*
19. *But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.*
20. *Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.*
21. *Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.*
22. *I will declare thy name unto my brethren in the midst of the congregation: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.*
23. *Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.*
24. *For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.*
25. *My praise [shall] be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.*
26. *The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.*
27. *All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.*
28. *For the kingdom [is] the LORD's: and he [is] the governor among the nations.*
29. *All [they that be] fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.*
30. *A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.*
31. *They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done [this].*

III. Eight Concepts from Psalms 22

You know, when you read the Bible and you read a passage like this, one of the problems we have is a tendency to lose everything in the 31 verses. It is hard, when you read a large passage, to single out the things that you need to see. You may come away with an overall concept, and that is good, but it is hard if you want to really learn something by just reading it like this. I learned that years ago, and I have followed this in each passage we have looked at, and I will also do it today. That is, I will just give you the outline that God gave me 40 some years ago, and **when I get into a place like this in the Bible, I have learned that the key to really learning it and understanding it is to break it down into sections.** Break it down into legitimate sections that change either with paragraph marks or just in the course of what He is saying, and that is what I want to do for you today. I want to take this incredible passage and break it down into eight concepts. If you look at my Bible here and other places, you will find that I have these eight places sectioned out with the notes corresponding to what I am dealing with, and that is basically all I am going to give you today. There is no great mystery to this. I am just going to simply take a passage that contains the very thoughts of Jesus Christ while He is on the cross that He wrote to me and you and then put it into an understandable breakdown that we all can understand.

➤ Section 1: Psalms 22:1-6—The Reality of God Forsaking Him

Psalms 22:1-31. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? [why art thou so] far from helping me, [and from] the words of my roaring?

2. O my God, I cry [in] the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

3. But thou art holy, O [thou] that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

4. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

5. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

6. But I [am] a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

As I said when we started this, what you are reading in Psalms 22 is the time on the cross in the time frame of the sixth and the ninth hour, like we saw last week in Job chapter 30. This is where He cries out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" This is where in John chapter 19, verse 28, that He cries out, "I thirst." Now we see in His mind the reality that God has forsaken Him.

You know, I deal with a lot of people, a lot of Christians. I find that there are God's people from time to time, because of their lack of a relationship with God or their lack of time in the Bible or something like that, who are saved and on their way to heaven, yet they feel like God has abandoned them. They feel like God has forsaken them. I try to help people like that and try to deal with them along these lines but let me just say this to you: **God will never leave thee nor forsake thee. God will never abandon you. God will never turn His back on you. I do not**

care what you have done. I do not care what you get into. God always has a pathway back to Him. But the problem is that you need to understand the reason why God will never turn His back on you. **The reason why God will never forsake you when you call on Him is because He turned His back and forsook His own Son on the cross. He did it to Him so He would not have to do it to you.** How ridiculous that a child of God who is saved would think God would turn His back on them in any situation. All that tells me is you have no idea of the price that was paid for you on Calvary's cross. All that tells me is you are a blank sheet of paper when it comes to understanding that He turned His back on Him crying out here, "Why art thou so far from me? Why do you not hear the words of my roaring? I cry in the daytime, but you hearest not; in the night season and am not silent."

He says in verse 4 and 5, "Our fathers trusted in thee: in the Old Testament. Israel got into all kinds of problems, but you were always there for them. There was not a time, no matter how far they got from God, that you did not send them somebody: a Moses, an Elijah, an Elisha, a Joshua, somebody. You heard their cry." So God, "Why will you not hear me?"

You see, when you just read the words, it becomes so impersonal. But when you read it and break it down—**why was God so far from Him? Why did God not hear the words of His roaring? Why did God, when He cried in the daytime, not hear Him? Why did the fathers of Israel trust in Him and He did deliver them?** "They cried unto thee," verse 5, "and were delivered. They trusted in thee and were not confounded."

➤ The Reason God Didn't Help Him

"Lord, you did that for them. Now here I am. I am Your Son. I am the apple of Your eye. This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." "God, I am hanging on the cross. Why will You not help me?" **Because if He would have helped Him, He would have never been able to help us. If He had heard His cry, He would never have been able to hear ours.** God had to turn His back and a deaf ear to His Son so that 2,000 years later, whoever you are out there today, if you are truly saved, "I waited patiently on the Lord and He heard my cry." **He did not hear His** Son's cry, and the reason why He did not is so He could hear yours.

Verse 4 and 5, "You delivered our fathers of Israel when they came and they cried out to You, why not me?" The real answer to that is in verse 6: *But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.* That is the clearest verse in the Bible that tells you that from the sixth to the ninth hour, the devil brought hell to Him on the cross. In those three hours, I do not understand it, He paid the price and sin debt for every man on planet Earth down through history. Isaiah 66, verse 24—you want to see a picture of a man in hell, Lake of fire, do you? Do you want to see what an unsaved man in a lake of fire winds up being?

➤ He Became a Worm; A Man in the Lake of Fire; Abhorred

Isaiah 66:24. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

He became a worm. He became a man in a lake of fire that was abhorred, not just of man, abhorred of God. When He cried out to God, He did not hear Him. He did not respond.

➤ He Became my Brazen Serpent on the Pole when I was Bit by the Fiery Serpents of Sin and when I look to the Cross, I am Healed

Back in Numbers chapter 21, you have a beautiful story. It is also a great sermon. There were fiery serpents that came among the nation of Israel. They bit the people, and they died. Moses went to God, and God delivered them. The reason why the fiery serpents came was because Israel was in sin. Once again, they had completely disobeyed God, so He sent the fiery serpents among them. Israel cried out. People are dying, being bitten by the fiery serpents. Moses goes to God, and he cries out, "Can You deliver our people from the fiery serpents that are biting them, and they are dying?" You know what God said? God said, "Okay, make a brazen serpent, a snake out of brass, which is the picture of God's judgment. Put it on a pole. Hold it up. Anybody that gets bitten by the fiery serpents of sin that looks to the brazen serpent on the pole, the cross, will be healed."

You know that song, 195 in our hymnals, "Look and Live." It goes, "Look and Live. I have a message from the Lord. Look and Live." That is the picture in the Old Testament. Christ became my serpent on a pole when I was bit by the fiery serpents of sin. When I looked to the cross, He became my serpent. He became a worm. You know what the tragedy of that is? Most of God's people could care less.

➤ Section 2: Psalms 22:7-8—Mockery and Scorn

*7. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, [saying],
8. He trusted on the LORD [that] he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.*

Now this will be found in the New Testament in Matthew chapter 27, verses 40 through 43, if you want to make the cross references. Last week we talked about how He said He became their song and their byword. This is where it is at. They make fun of the fact that He preached God to them. "So where is God now? You are a fake, Jesus. Oh, God delighted in Him? Really? Did He? Where is He now in your hour of need? The God who you said was your God who sent you to us. You are a fake. You are a blasphemer. Hey, Jesus, you said you are the Son of God and He is your Father. Why does He not take you off the cross? God is not your Father, and you are not the Son of God." They laughed Him to scorn. "Even if thou be the Son of God, you saved everybody else. You cannot save yourself. You know what? Come down off the cross. We will believe." You know what the truth of that is? If He had come off that cross, they would not have changed one thing about believing in Him. They laughed Him to scorn. Oh, what a day that must have been.

You know, it is hard for me to read these pages without being moved. **It was hard for Jesus Christ to go through it on the cross. But you know who it was really hard for? God the Father.** He said, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." He was the apple of His eye. He was one that enjoyed the fellowship from Proverbs chapter 8. Here He stands on that

day. I wonder how many of you, God forbid and excuse this terrible illustration. But I wonder how many of you would take your child and let him be tortured and crucified so somebody else could live. None of us would. We should not have to. I only say that to show it rises up in you a feeling and an emotion that you could never do that. Do you not think God felt that? **Do you not think what He felt when He looked down, and He saw what they were doing to Him?** He walked daily with Him. He fellowshipped daily with Him. Now He is crying out to Him.

➤ A Father's Sacrifice

When I first got right with the Lord back in 1970 something, right after the Civil War, I read a story that I never forgot. I have used it in a million sermon illustrations. Down in southern Ohio, there is a steel city called Steubenville, right on the Ohio River. I read the story about how they had a bridge that went across this river that the trains went on. There was a man that sat in that little wheelhouse, and when there was no signal for the trains, he would turn the bridge this way so the ships could get through. Then when he got the signal of a train coming, he would stop the ships and he would put the railroad back connected, and they would come across.

Well, I do not know all the details of the story, but one day he took his little boy to work with him. They were having a good time in the morning, you know, father and son. They were turning the bridge and letting the trains go across, the boats go through, and he had turned the bridge for the ships to go through, and he watched his little boy playing down on the buoy, and the kid slipped, fell, whatever, went over the guardrail and went down into the Ohio River. Suddenly, the phone rang, and a guy on the other end said, "There has been an emergency, a miscalculation. There is a passenger train that is two minutes from coming across that bridge and make sure that bridge is across." There were 300 people on that train, and the bridge was in the wrong direction. He started to turn that bridge around, and he heard his little boy cry. He left those controls and walked down there, and he saw his little boy crying, "Daddy, Daddy, Daddy, help me." He started down when he heard the train whistle with 300 and some people on it. He went back to that wheelhouse, tears running down his face, and pushed those levers forward, and that train trestle got caught back up to the track, 300 some people went across that bridge into safety, and three days later his little boy's body washed up in the Ohio River.

There was a day when my God looked down over the banisters of heaven and saw His Son crying out, "Why do You not help me? Why are You so far from me?" **God turned His back on His own Son so you and I could go across the expanse of eternity from hell to heaven.** God's people are so indifferent to that. I have told that story many, many times, and it has brought tears to people's eyes because it is something you can relate to. But I will tell you the story of Christ dying on the cross and God turning His back on His Son, and you never get a tear.

➤ Section 3: Psalms 22:9-13—Confusion and Confoundment

9. But thou [art] he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope [when I was] upon my mother's breasts.

10. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou [art] my God from my mother's belly.

11. *Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for [there is] none to help.*
12. *Many bulls have compassed me: strong [bulls] of Bashan have beset me round.*
13. *They gaped upon me [with] their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.*

Here we are getting a look at Him on that cross. He is confused and He is confounded. He is saying, "God, You brought me forth from my mother's womb." Luke chapter 2. "You have been my God from the day I came into this world." Verse 11 says, "Help me, be not far from me, trouble is near," but there was no help for Him. One of our favorite verses found in Psalm 46:1:

Psalms 46:1. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

How many of God's people have claimed that? How many of you have claimed that? How many times have I claimed that? **See, God is a very present help in a time of trouble for you and for me. The only reason He can be is because He refused to be a help in a time of trouble as His Son hung on the cross.** Do you not get it? He said, "Many bulls, strong bulls of Bashan." Those will be the unsaved scribes and the Pharisees and all the crowd who have beset Him about, the scribes, the Pharisees, the Sadducees. It says, "They gaped upon me with their mouths as a ravening and a roaring lion." There it is, 1 Peter 5:8:

1 Peter 5:8. Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

He was on the prowl that day, Isaiah 50, verse 8. **Now we see the events of His death for you and me in full swing; the full fury Satan brings to Him from the sixth to the ninth hour and turns Him into a worm for you and for me, so you and I would never have to be.**

➤ Section 4: Psalms 22:14-16—Dissolved Substance and Agony

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.*
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.*
16. *For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.*

We see His substance is now completely dissolved. He is as weak as water; emotionally when everything is drained out of you. Nothing left. I told you last week about how that the way of crucifixion on the cross will simply pull every bone out of joint. Here it is. I showed you last week where they put the nails in His hands and His feet. Here it is. He says, "My heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels." I showed you that last week as His bowels boiled as He burned in the lake of fire on the cross and were melted like wax.

Verse 15 says, "My tongue cleaveth to my jaws." Notice He did not say "my tongue cleaveth to my throat" or "my tongue." It cleaveth to His jaws. He is biting His tongue in agony and pain.

Verse 16 says, "Dogs have compassed me." That is the unsaved men defined in Proverbs 26:11 and 2 Peter 2:22. Dogs are pictures of unsaved men, and they are compassed around Him. This would be in particular the Roman soldiers who were Gentiles. What a day that must have been for God the Father to see that and to experience that. What a day it must have been for God not to just heed the cry of His Son. I cannot imagine. I cannot even imagine.

➤ Section 5: Psalms 22:17-21—The Parting of His Garments

17. I may tell all my bones: they look [and] stare upon me.

18. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

19. But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.

20. Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.

21. Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan. Oh, the grace that brought it down to man. Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary. For you and for me. Verse 17 says bones out of joint, sticking out of His skin. One of the most incredible things here that goes unnoticed and is unheard of; you couldn't find three preachers in this city who could explain this. Trust me. The parting of His garments. Now this takes place in Matthew chapter 27, verse 35.

➤ He Wouldn't Take the Painkiller but Took the Pain and Agony of the Cross

He is on the cross and He says, "I thirst." They bring Him vinegar mingled with gall. Now gall is a painkiller. So, there is some little mercy here as He is on the cross in agony; however, He would not take the painkiller, but He would take the pain of the agony of the cross. What a lesson that is for all of us, because when we get into a tough time, the first thing we want is, "God, get me out of it." **We want to drink the gall. We want to lessen the pain instead of going through the pain and finding out what God has for us to learn going through the pain.**

➤ His Garment is Ripped into Four Pieces

Soldiers never change. I know soldiers. I can close my eyes and just see the thing as it goes on. They were not there because they chose to be there. They were there because they were ordered to be there for whatever purpose. This was their detail. They would much rather have been in the town pub. They would much rather have been out someplace else, but here they are. They've gotten the dirty detail of being at the crucifixion to keep order, make sure nobody gets Him off the cross, or whatever the case may be. They are sitting around there, and they take His clothes off. He is naked on the cross, and they throw it all in a pile.

Now there are two garments here. There is a garment and then there is something called a vesture. You need to see that. They take the garment, and there are obviously four of them, so they rip it up in four pieces. Each guy gets a piece because what they are going to do is sell it to somebody in the local market someplace. Soldiers never change. In Normandy, the guys came ashore, and they fought all that battle, and then all the extra guys came across who never fought.

The GIs picked up every German helmet they could find, every Luger, every bayonet, every P-38, and took them to the guys and sold it to them. They made hundreds off of it. They even took German helmets and maybe got \$50 for them, but if you put a bullet hole in it, you got \$100 for it. Soldiers never change. They rip His garment into four pieces.

Matthew 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.

*John 19:23-24. Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, **took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also [his] coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.***

24. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did."

➤ The Vesture was not Ripped; They Cast Lots for It

Now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout." Why do I have to know that? When I got saved and they ran me through the Romans Road, did they throw that in so I would have a better understanding? What is the importance; **why did I have to know where the seam went?** Now that probably means nothing to most of God's people, obviously, but over the years I have learned that everything in that Bible is there for a reason. Why did I need to know that the vesture was not ripped up? They ripped up the other pieces, but they said, "Let us not rend this one," and that is the one they cast lots for.

Side Study: What is the significance of His coat not being ripped?

Now the study of the four pieces of His garment and His coat that was not ripped up is one of the greatest studies in all of the Bible. Why this coat was kept in one piece represents something in the Bible on a grand scale, way beyond this moment, if you can connect the dots. Things like this are only found in a King James 1611 Authorized Version, and it is only revealed to those who can see Him who is invisible. Now, without getting into it any farther, which I will not, why is that? Why is that important? Why did they not rip that up? I mean, now what does it represent?

Verse 19: "But be not thou far from me, haste thee to help me," the help that never came. Verse 20 said, "Deliver my soul from the sword." The sword will be God's Word, Hebrews chapter 4, and the judgment found in that Book for an unsaved man who becomes a worm, that is poured out on His Son from the sixth to the ninth hour.

➤ The Host of Hell Poured Out on Him

He says, "From the horns of the unicorns." You see, the unicorns, you are told, are mythical animals. You also have something called centaurs and satyrs, and you are told that those animals never existed, and of course that would not be true. They did exist in Genesis chapter 6 when the Bible says the sons of God came down and cohabited with strange flesh. So, you actually had

animals that were half man, half horse and half man, half goat. You say, “How do you know that?” They are in the Bible, bug wit. You think God just put it in there because He is talking metaphorically? They were real creatures; they were real animals out of Genesis chapter 6, connected with the sons of God. So here, when you find it, **He is talking about what we call demons. The Bible calls them devils. Satan's cohorts out of Genesis chapter 6.** Verses 19, 20, and 21 are the host of hell poured out on Him through God's judgment, through the Word of God (the Sword), on His precious Son.

➤ Section 6: Psalms 22:22-24—His Focus on Israel’s Restoration

22. I will declare thy name unto my brethren in the midst of the congregation: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

23. Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.

24. For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.

You know what He is saying there? He is telling Israel to glorify God because God will never hide His face from Israel, but here, He is hiding His face from His own Son. Now you have to see this. Oh, you must see this, and this is why I waited to do Psalms 22 last.

➤ Jesus is Looking Beyond His Suffering

In the midst of His crucifixion, we see He is focusing not on Himself, but He is focusing on the two items that were found in the ark, one representing Israel, one representing the church, and here is another great lesson. When we struggle in life, and we are all going to struggle, there is never going to be a time that you do not go through something, believe me, especially in the ministry, but most of God's people never do what Jesus did on the cross. **Jesus never focused on His own struggles and His own issues. He saw through the endurance of it all and He focused on what the outcome of that suffering was going to be.** God's people cannot seem to do that. They just see the turmoil they're in at the moment. They never look past the endurance test to see what God may be doing. In these next two sections of verses, you see Him looking beyond His suffering—what He has and what He is doing for the nation of Israel.

This is why in Luke chapter 23, verse 34, He cries out, *Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*

*Luke 23:34. Then said Jesus, **Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.** And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.*

➤ He is Looking Long-Term at Israel Being Restored in the Millennium

They could not see the long distance of what God was going to do with Israel through the crucifixion. He says in verse 23, "All ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the

seed of Israel." You see, He is on the cross, but He is looking at Israel as Israel will be restored someday in the millennium. The nation of Israel are God's chosen people.

It is looking beyond what we are going through, looking beyond the suffering to see the outcome that God has for you. He sees it: seeing and understanding how that through His death, He meets the need of the two people groups that were in God's mind, the only two that are found in the ark, one for Israel (10 commandments) and one for the church (Aaron's rod that budded), through the pot of manna, the Word of God. There in verse 22, 24, 25, and 28, we see Him dying for the people of Israel, who, if you know your Bible, at the end of the tribulation period, Romans chapter 11, verse 26, "all Israel shall be saved." It is what He is seeing. For us, and I say this all the time, and I know it goes in one ear and out the other, **it is being able to look at something not just short term but long term.**

➤ Section 7: Psalms 22:25-28—The End Result of His Death on the Cross

25. My praise [shall be] of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

26. The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.

27. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

28. For the kingdom [is] the LORD's: and he [is] the governor among the nations.

We've moved past the crucifixion; we are looking into the millennium. We are looking at the end result brought to the nation of Israel through His death on the cross.

He is looking to His people. Verse 26 says, "The meek shall eat and be satisfied." That is Matthew chapter 5 verse 11, "the meek shall inherit the earth," that is Israel. Verse 27 says, "All the ends of the world shall remember this day." Zechariah chapter 14, you commemorate the Feast of Tabernacles every year in the millennium, which deals with the first coming of Christ and the second coming of Christ, and all the kindreds and nations will in that day worship before Thee.

He is on the cross, going through all this suffering, but He is not focusing on His own suffering. **Even though He is struggling, the Son of Man is going through the agony, but the Son of God is looking beyond it.** If you are saved this morning, you may have your flesh, the Son of Man, but you have the Son of God living inside you, and when your Son of Man goes through some kind of torment, let the Son of God show you the end result.

➤ Section 8: Psalms 22:29-31—The Church Declaring His Righteousness

29. All [they that be] fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.

30. A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

31. They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done [this].

Here is the second thing that we need to see. The first thing is, when He dies in the previous verses, He is seeing the nation of Israel, but there are two key parts. Israel is God's wife, but the church is Christ's bride. Those are two of the three things that were in the ark, which is God's mind. Now look at verse 30. He covered Israel, now let me show you, you and me.

➤ **Born Again, not of Corruptible Seed but of Incorruptible by the Word of God**

A seed shall serve Him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. That generation is found in Matthew chapter 24. **A seed shall serve Him, and the Bible says in I Peter 1:23 that we are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God.** Verse 31, *They shall come*, the seed; there is the book of Acts, chapter 11 through chapter 28, the church age, and this seed *shall declare his righteousness*. That is the gospel of Jesus Christ found in 1 Corinthians chapter 15. Now this seed *shall declare His righteousness unto a people that shall be born*. That cannot mean physically born; if they are physically born, they are already born. **It is somebody who is physically born that needs to be born again through a seed who preaches His righteousness** on the cross. Born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God. First Peter chapter 1, verse 23.

So the message for you and for me to the lost world in declaring His righteousness to a group of people who need to be born, that He hath done this. He died on the cross for every man, every woman, and every child. If they will confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in their heart that God has raised Him from the dead, they shall be saved.

Now you see how Psalm 22 puts the whole thing together. It puts all the other places we looked at together. We started out with Him on the cross from the sixth and the ninth hour, wind up with Israel in the millennium, and you and me declaring His righteousness unto a people that shall be born.

IV. The Personal Impact of the Crucifixion

I cannot speak for anybody in this room, not that I ever would. I do not know what the crucifixion means to you. I do not know how it has truly impacted your life. I can only speak for me. The crucifixion means a lot of things to a lot of different people. Some people do not make it personal at all. That has never been my problem.

For me, the crucifixion is found in John chapter 19, verses 32 to 36. This is where it gets really personal for me. This is why I can't ever go back. This is why I try to do the best I can, as much of a failure as I am, of what God wants me to be.

John 19:32-36. Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

33. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

34. But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

35. And he that [saw it] bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.

36. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

It says in verse 32, "Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him." Those are the two thieves. The reason they did this is because this is the way they put them to death. I told you that they had to lift up to keep breathing because if they did not, their lungs would fill up and they would collapse. So on the cross they had to constantly stand on that little footrest and push themselves up so they could breathe. So when the Roman soldiers wanted to go home, they broke their legs. Hence, they could not push up anymore, and they died. Simple formula. But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they broke not His legs. But one of the soldiers with his spear pierced His side, and forthwith came out blood and water. And he that saw it bare record. That is John. His record is true, and he knoweth that he saith true, that you might believe, for these things were done that the scripture should be fulfilled, "A bone of him shall not be broken." That is Psalm 34, verse 20.

I know soldiers. These guys are the roughest guys on the planet. The Roman soldiers have been in battle and killed hundreds of men. They all bear the scars of battles. They care nothing about life. They have this dirty detail. One centurion sergeant in charge with who knows how many Roman soldiers, and they are all milling around there watching Jesus be crucified. Oh, they got a little perk when they got His garments. Now they want to go home. They want this to be over. They want to get back to the barracks, the garrison, whatever the case may be. They've got plans for the night. They've got this or that, and they've got this terrible detail that they couldn't care less about. They care nothing about Jesus and nothing about the Jews. They are there because some lieutenant said, "Here is your order. Get 10 guys. Do it."

They are saying to themselves, "Come on guys, it is time to go." So one of them walks over to the first thief, breaking his legs. Walks over to the second thief, breaks his legs. Walks over to Christ. He is already dead. Throws the club down. I know soldiers. The older guys always like to show the younger guys how tough they really are. How they are real combat guys. I am sure there were some young guys there, conscripts, and the older guys were around. They always like to show off. He is already dead. There was no need for what happened.

➤ God's Hand was Stayed for Me

That soldier, probably the sergeant in charge, looks around, and sees all his young conscripts there. He is already dead. He wants to show them what a real soldier does. He walks over and picks up the spear. "Watch this, guys. Right in His side". That may not mean anything to you. But I am telling you, **after what God had watched His Son go through, the beatings and the whippings, the scourging, the laughter, the mocking, the nails in His hands and His feet, all the things that they did to Him, when God turned His back on His Son for me at that**

moment in time. I do not care about you anymore. I do not care what you think. In my heart and mind, at that moment, when God saw that act, that Roman soldier take that spear and put it into His side, I think God had had enough. I believe with all my heart that God raised His hand. Ten thousand angels to wipe planet Earth out. As He raised that hand, Bob Alexander came into His mind. He knew if He did that, that I would be lost forever. The hand of God was stayed. Yet out of that terrible act, the Bible says blood and water came out. John was standing there, saw the water and blood, and then wrote about it in his writings in John and told us what the water and the blood represents.

God's hand was stayed so Bob Alexander could find Christ, His righteousness, that somebody could tell me what He did for me. I cannot claim that for you. I do not know what you think about it, and I don't really care. For me, that is what it all came down to. God had enough. The reason I say that is because I have watched God down through the Old Testament, where most of you are playing your video games and you have never seen it, when God had had enough and is going to do something to wipe out the planet, and then somebody talks Him out of it.

➤ Well Done, Thou Good and Faithful Servant

There is going to come a day, if you are saved, that we are going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ. It is not going to be about the things you did that were wrong. It is simply going to be based on the fact that once you trusted Christ as your own personal Savior, what was your attitude toward the Word of God and what God wanted you to do? Did you do what God wanted? He is not going to ask you what you knew or what you did not know. He is only going to be interested in what you could have found out but you chose not to. For me, the judgment seat of Christ is totally off what most people think it is. 1 Corinthians chapter 3, gold, silver, precious stones, and all that stuff. I care nothing about that. That all goes back at the feet of Him anyhow, Revelation chapter 4.

When I get to the judgment seat of Christ, I do not want any medals. I do not deserve any rewards. When I come up, and I cannot speak for you, when I come up before the Lord on that day, and that day is coming, I just want one thing. I want to walk up to Him and lay down that sword, that King James 1611. It will be nicked, rusted, beat up from the battles of this old world. I want to lay that thing at His feet, and I just want one thing from Him: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." That is all I need. I do not want any awards. I do not want any medals. I do not want any crowns. I just want to be recognized that while I was here, I got and understood. I did not wrap my head around the crucifixion. I wrapped my heart around it.

That is the reason for my passion in preaching. That is the reason why you can hear a thousand guys out there that are as boring to listen to as grass growing. It changed my life. It made a difference in me. I am sorry it did not make a difference in you, but it did in me. I have a passion to preach that Book. I have a passion to see you grow. I have a passion to see you get out of the messes in life you are in. Why? Because on the cross His passion was for me and you. Psalm 22 ends it all. It says it all. Now you have got it all. What you do with that from this moment on will define who you are.

The ministry in Christianity and churches is filled with issues and problems, believe me. Some of them are absolutely horrendous and can have long-range consequences. In your life you are going to find struggles that look like they are going to overwhelm you. I always look at Christ on the cross. He was not just really on the cross. He is in the crosshairs. In the ministry you are going to find yourself in the crosshairs. You are either going to fight the fight, or you are going to blame everybody else for your problems. It is just that simple.

It all comes down to that day that He died on the cross. That day that you trusted Christ, believing that, that it really changed your life. Or you are as indifferent as God's people were. The day He paid my price. The day that changed the world forever. The day men's lives should be changed forever. Life to a dying planet from a dying Savior. All for the sinners, you and me, who were without Christ. Yet back in Israel's time, God's own people were indifferent to the work of God. Today, God's own people in the New Testament will be indifferent to everything that God has done for us. But a seed shall serve Him. A seed shall declare His righteousness unto a people that need to be born. Born again. My life for the last 55 years has been holding up this book and saying, "He hath done this."

At Calvary

***Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died
On Calvary. (Refrain)***

***By God's Word at last my sin I learned;
Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
Till my guilty soul imploring turned
To Calvary. (Refrain)***

***Now I've giv'n to Jesus ev'rything,
Now I gladly own Him as my King,
Now my raptured soul can only sing
Of Calvary. (Refrain)***

***Oh, the love that drew salvation's plan!
Oh, the grace that bro't it down to man!
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span
At Calvary. (Refrain)***

Refrain:

***Mercy there was great, and grace was free;
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty
At Calvary.***