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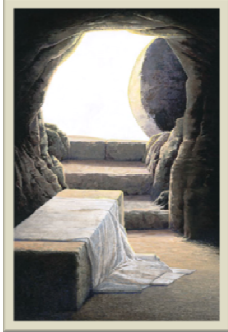
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## Jesus Lives!

**Job 19:25: (NASB) *As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will take his stand on the earth.***

It was 2,000 years ago today, early in the morning, that the world changed. It was not the brash outward change of a military coup, nor was it a treaty of the leaders of great nations to be lauded by the people. The world did not change because of some medical breakthrough or some magnificent discovery. No. The world changed because there was one tomb - just one tomb - that was empty. It was a borrowed tomb, given to a man who had no earthly possession, who just three days previous, had been cruelly and unjustly tortured and crucified. This tomb was empty and that meant that nothing would ever be the same.



Today we want to tell you the story of the victory of Jesus over sin, death and Satan. We want to tell you this story through the writing of a prophecy from about one thousand years earlier. This prophecy written by King David was utterly miraculous in its accuracy and description and could only have been so by the hand of God, for it not only depicted the anguish of Jesus on the cross, it also proclaimed his faithfulness and the worldwide results of that faithfulness! We will begin our story with Jesus at the end of his earthly mission, unjustly accused, abused and sentenced. If you were to watch these events unfold, you would have thought that darkness was claiming a resounding victory and that hope was now hopeless. The sin of Adam created a vortex of downward actions and reactions as Satan through sin has ruled our world with an iron grip. To release this grip, to break the shackles of darkness, a human life was required as the corresponding price for Adam. This life would of necessity have to have been a perfect life, as was Adam's, and would had to have been worthy of life, as was Adam. This life would then have been capable of paying the ransom - the corresponding price - for Adam in the sacrificing of its own life rights. With this offering, such a sacrifice would then be subject to the cruelty of sin, darkness and degradation, for it voluntarily shouldered the weight of all these things so that the human race would have a new opportunity for life again.

Psalm 22 begins with the necessary judgment of God. Psalms 22:1-6. Compare Psalms 22:1 with Mark 15:33-34. *my God my God* - literally, "Mighty One, Mighty One." At no other time did Jesus ever address God as *God*, but always as *Father*. Something at this time was different. It reminds us of Psalms 42:1-3. Did God really "abandon" Jesus?

**forsaken:** Strong's #1459; to leave behind in some place, i.e. (in a good sense) let remain over, or (in a bad sense) to desert

We do not believe God abandoned Jesus but instead left him to the work he had to do. This word *forsaken* has a wide application. Most importantly, though, is the general and consistent thought of leaving or going away from; to what degree is determined by the context.

Compare Psalms 22:2 with Mark 15:33-36, John 19:28-30 and Luke 23:46. Jesus was on the cross for six hours from 9am to 3pm. He was literally on the cross during daytime and nighttime. Psalms 22:2 was fulfilled! Psalms 88:1-4

Jesus is on the cross. He has voluntarily put himself in a position of pain and suffering, for the price that needed to be paid as a result of Adam's sin required "a life for a life" to fulfill the Law. Here he was, suffering mercilessly for hours. At such a time, most of us would break. We would yield our defenses, question all that we stood for and beg for mercy at any price...but not Jesus. Not the one who came to buy us from the tyranny of sin and the cruelty of death. Jesus hung there in devotion to his Father, and he hung there in devotion to his cause. He knew the "why" and he knew the "how" of his dilemma, and he stayed firmly entrenched in his mission. How do we know this? We know by the things he did while on the cross (we will touch on them shortly) and we know because Psalm 22 gives us insight into his mind. **This reveals faithfulness through the deepest adversity:** Psalm 22:3-5: Jesus was in the place of sinners and at the same time he was surrounded by them. His whole final experience, beginning with Gethsemane, was a marathon of singular focus and personal devotion as he navigated through the tumultuous waters of unrest and anger from his enemies and ignorance and immaturity from his friends. **What was his final resolve? To honor his Father's will:** Matthew 26:40-44

All does indeed look bleak. Jesus has been abandoned by his friends, left alone by his Father to bear the weight of sin and is in the heartless hands of those who would pour shame on top of cruelty. Through all of this, Jesus is firm, as he is there to see that the judgment of God is



honored and complete. **But then we see a hidden message of hope where none seems possible:** Psalms 22:6: How does this worm bring hope? (Source: Hebrew Lexicon) The worm "coccus ilicis" - When the female of the scarlet worm species was ready to give birth to her young, she would attach her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing herself so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were thus protected until the larvae were hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, the crimson fluid stained her body and the surrounding wood. From the dead bodies of such female scarlet worms, the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity were extracted. What a picture this gives of Christ, dying on the tree, shedding his precious blood that he might "bring many sons unto glory" Heb. 2:10.

To the casual onlooker of that day, Jesus was just another criminal, suffering at the hands of those who exact vengeance for crossing them. His life looked to be of no value - just as the lowly life of a worm. The reality though was different. Jesus' appearance was being covered in blood and dying. Jesus' purpose was to die in order to give life. Both of these things were reflections of the value of this worm. Hope was present! All was NOT lost! We see the first portion of Psalm 22 showed us prophetically how the necessary judgment of God had to fall upon Jesus. Because sin is so harsh and inherently hurtful, it follows that Jesus would need to absorb its full impact. The next portion of the Psalm lists out some of the harshness of sin. **The cruelty of man - their verbal abuse of Jesus:** Psalms 22:7-13 There were three groups of people verbally abusing Jesus: the general Jewish public, the religious leaders and the thieves being crucified with him. (The soldiers are covered in the next section.) **Here is the abuse of the three different groups:** Matthew 27:39-44 Compare Psalms 22:7,8 with Matthew 27:39-44. **Jesus' reaction to the crowds:** 1 Peter 2:22-23: So, Jesus reacts to the crowds with *silence*. He does not beg them for mercy, he does not lash out at them or belittle them or appeal to them in any way. The things he was being accused of were false, and those revilers who passed by did so with insult on their tongues and malice in their hearts. Jesus saw them, heard them and loved them, for they themselves were the prize his death would ultimately win.

**Jesus' reaction to the thieves:** Luke 23:39-43: The true character of a person is revealed in those moments when stress and strain are so high that our protective resistance is low. **One thief shows character and conscience. How does Jesus respond?** So Jesus shows love, compassion and promise. While under the weight of sin, pain and imminent death, Jesus' true character is a shining example of what full payment for the ransom of Adam and all humanity looks like!

Psalms 22:12-13: (Source: Bible commentary by Albert Barnes) **Strong bulls of Bashan:** The country of Bashan embraced the territory, which was on the east of the Jordan, north of Gilead, which was given to the half tribe of Manasseh... It was distinguished as pasture land for its richness. Its trees and its breed of cattle are frequently referred to in the Scriptures. Thus in Deuteronomy 32:14, "rams of the breed of Bashan" are mentioned; in Isaiah 2:13, Zechariah 11:2, "oaks of Bashan" are mentioned in connection with the cedars of Lebanon; in Amos 4:1, "the kine of Bashan" are mentioned. The bulls of Bashan are here alluded to as remarkable for their size, their strength, and their fierceness; and are designed to represent men that were fierce, savage, and violent.

These strong bulls represented the Pharisees. **Jesus' reaction to them was a stunning silence - just like his reaction to the crowds - he had already answered them the night before:** Matthew 26:49-51 Luke 22:51-54: Jesus met this merciless and vile arrest with love, healing and the willingness to go through whatever the Father had set before him - he would not turn from his mission! Matthew 26:55-56 **The ravening lion reference referred to their devilish activities as the ambassadors of Satan himself!** 1 Peter 5:8 If you want to break a man, you attack him on all fronts. Satan is the author of the breaking of one's will, and the experiences of Jesus had Satan's fingerprints all over them. Let us also not underestimate the power of words, especially the power of words meant to cut and destroy. Let us also not underestimate the power of love: Love for God, love for your fellow man and love for your purpose. Jesus loved so deeply that the verbal abuses hurled at him could not penetrate deeply enough to derail him - he truly did overcome! **The cruelty of man - their physical abuse of Jesus:** Psalms 22:14-21: Remember, this is describing crucifixion in detail 500 years before it would be invented, 900 years before the Romans began using it and 1,000 years before Jesus would be crucified. The Jewish method of capital punishment was stoning. The Psalmist is describing something entirely foreign to the Jews in this prophetic Psalm.

**In view of this, let us examine the description of crucifixion given here:** Psalms 22:14  
**Complete and utter exhaustion:** 2 Samuel 14:14 **Complete disarray of the human form:**



[Psalms 6:2](#): Jesus was willing to go through a very difficult series of events including the self-sacrifice and self-denial of the three and a half years of his ministry. There was a lot of work to prepare for that moment of crucifixion. It is an amazing story of glory and victory! There are lessons for us, as footstep followers of Jesus, in the "pouring out" of our own lives.

[Psalms 22:14](#): Literally his heart was without strength and giving way. [Psalms 68:2](#)

[Psalms 22:15](#): (NASB) *My strength is dried up like a potsherd...* (Source: Bible commentary by Albert Barnes) A "potsherd" is a fragment of a broken pot, or a piece of earthenware. The meaning here is, that his strength was not vigorous like a green tree that was growing, and that was full of sap, but it was like a brittle piece of earthenware, so dry and fragile that it could be easily crumbled to pieces.

[Isaiah 45:9](#) [Psalms 22:15](#): This is a symptom of overwhelming thirst and dehydration.

[Ezekiel 3:25-27](#) **Even though Jesus was unable to speak, this message was posted on the cross:** [John 19:19-20](#) [Psalms 22:15](#) **The only possible end result of this experience:** [Genesis 3:19](#) **Here the focus is now on those outside of God's favor - the Gentile soldiers:** [Psalms 22:16](#)

(Source: Biblical commentary by John Langley) "Dogs" - These haunted eastern towns and villages in savage and cowardly packs - fit emblems of the Psalmist's fierce and yet contemptible foes. "THEY pierced my hands and my feet." The dogs snap at the exposed parts of those whom they attack. They fly at his hands and feet and maim them. (See the nails!)

[Matthew 7:6](#) [Psalms 22:16](#) [Zechariah 12:10](#) [Isaiah 53:4-5](#) [Psalms 22:17](#): *I can count all my bones*: Like most victims crucified by Rome, it is likely Jesus was naked. All his bones were visible, and as his bones were out of joint, they would have been prominent. But in fulfillment of [Psalm 34:20](#), none of his bones were broken. Thus when the soldiers came to break the legs of the victims to bring about a quicker death (as the victim wasn't then able to push themselves up to breathe) they found Jesus had already died and did not break his legs.

Compare [Psalms 22:18](#) with [John 19:23-24](#). [Psalms 22:19-21](#): In spite of the vile words, evil actions and unjust torture, Jesus sees past it all and claims the mercy, justice and compassion of God upon his life! God not only delivered Jesus, but He highly exalted him: [Acts 5:31](#) A thousand years before it happened, [Psalms 22](#) told us how, what and why Jesus' death would happen! We have walked through the difficult texts of [Psalm 22](#). We have seen God's necessary judgment carried out upon and through Jesus as the bearer of the sin of Adam, and therefore the inherited sin of the world. Through that burden, the Psalm tells us Jesus honored God. We have seen the depths of ridicule and insult that were thrown at him, all based on false accusations. Through that degradation the Psalm tells us that Jesus absorbed it and continued to honor God. We have seen the horror of crucifixion piled on top of the horror of scourging. The Psalm again tells us Jesus bore the extremity of this pain and suffering in order to honor God. So, what do we have? We have a remarkable Psalm, written 1,000 years before Jesus, graphically describing not only his physical, mental and spiritual trials, but also graphically describing his victory - his unequivocal, unmistakable, irreversible victory over all of these things - all to the praise and honor of God. Where does the Psalm bring us next? It tells us of the two phases of blessing that arise as a result of this victory!

**1. The resulting blessing to all of the chosen:** [Psalms 22:22-26](#): What remains from the early part of the Psalm? All of the anguish, sorrow and pain are gone; they are but a memory and all that is left is the same firm commitment to honor God that the Psalm began with. **Where does Jesus go to first deliver this honor to God?** [Psalms 22:22-23](#): He first goes to a very specific group of individuals. We know it refers to Jesus' followers...how? **Because the Apostle Paul makes the clear link back to [Psalm 22](#):** [Hebrews 2:10-12](#): So, we are brought into the Psalm 22 picture. We have a place of praise and privilege to be the first to be shown the honor of what happened on the cross. [Psalms 22:24](#) **Doesn't verse 24 contradict the beginning of the Psalm?** [Psalms 22:1-2](#): Not at all...the Psalm always acknowledges God is holy and will answer. The difference is early in the Psalm, it was a cry for immediate deliverance. Here towards the end of the Psalm is a rejoicing for ultimate deliverance - this is the BIG picture. God allows pain and suffering for a short time for ultimate good. **Remember the lesson of the Passover when the firstborn were first delivered. Who did the firstborn represent?** [Hebrews 12:22-24](#): **Please refer to our program from March 29, 2015, "Israel's Passover - What Does It Mean To Us?"** The firstborn delivered by the blood represent the true followers of Christ. The rest of Israel was delivered because of the Passover of the firstborn. We see Jesus going through that horrible trial and then delivering words of hope to his followers. He gave an incredible offering given





once for all time. Because of his sacrifice, all mankind will have an opportunity for life, but it was especially for those who are faithful. So we are here, those of us trying to be faithful but still in the fallen fleshly condition - and yet we have been delivered. This means that even when we fall, we can get back up, dust ourselves off and courageously move forward! John 16:31-33 **What is the end result for those who follow in Jesus' footsteps?** John 14:1-3: Psalms 22 is the anguish of Jesus told from his perspective, asking if he did it all and did he do it right? Was it enough? He endured pain and loneliness but he was prompted by love for others. It had nothing to do with his wanting to be exalted - it was all about his humility, love and devotion. The final phase: We have seen a dramatic prophetic picture unfold. It began with the world hanging in the balance as Jesus bore the weight of the ransom price and endured all manner of contradiction of sinners against him. It began with every piece of outside input designed to crush the Savior at every level of his existence. It began with darkness prevailing and the only hint of light being in the very heart and soul of Jesus himself. It began with the devotion, determination and discipline of Jesus. Of course, that was Friday. It was only Friday. We knew that Sunday was coming. This prophecy exploded into victory, it exploded with such a force that the powers of darkness were eternally wounded and will at the proper time in the near future be utterly vanquished. How do we know this? Let's look at the end of the prophecy!

**BLESSINGS: 2. The resulting blessing to all of the rest of mankind:** Psalms 22:27-31 There is an unmistakable inclusiveness in these verses. Just as in the Passover, the firstborn were delivered from death by the blood of the Lamb, and then the next day the rest of the people - ALL of the people - were delivered from bondage. There are many prophecies that verify this! Here are just a few: Psalms 2:8 Psalms 72:8 Psalms 86:9 Psalms 98:3 So many prophecies - so much hope - how did that hope come to be? Psalms 22:29-30

Now let's go further into some other prophecies that unequivocally verify this glorious conclusion of Psalms 22. Daniel 2:44: There is a very specific context being set out here in Daniel - we have *those kings* - what kings? The kings of the earth. We have the God of heaven setting up an indestructible kingdom that breaks the previous kingdoms in pieces, so it must be - again, here on the earth. Jesus taught us to pray for this in the Lord's Prayer: *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven*. Think about how much sense this makes...Jesus died for Adam and therefore for us, and that means he came to restore what was lost - a perfect earth! Colossians 1:18-20: Let us notice the elements here: 1) Jesus and the church (his "called out" ones) 2) God through Jesus and his sacrifice reconciled and made peace with ALL things. This is much more than the true church - the blood of the cross is about much more than me - it is about us - it is about ALL of us! Acts 3:20-21: God through Jesus is not only reconciling all things to himself, he is RESTORING all things. When you restore something, you return it to its former state. Peter here in Acts says the prophets spoke of this restoration. Let's look at a few of these. Isaiah 51:3: The perfection of Eden was lost and Isaiah is saying that the waste places of earth will once again look like Eden. Redemption brings restitution and restitution brings gladness, thanksgiving and song. How do we know? The prophecies tell us! Micah 4:2-5: These are specifics about the future on earth. Many nations will ALL be seeking after God, which indicates that they must go through a learning curve - they will walk in godly paths with Israel as their example. God will teach the world the ways of peace - swords to plowshares - spears to pruning hooks - no more war - they will all dwell in peace - each with the ability to provide for themselves and all while living under God! This is the direct result of the sacrifice of the cross - the ransom payment for Adam and his sin. This is the way God intended for this world to be! The message of Psalms 22 is a very clear cut picture of Jesus' suffering, ignominy, anguish and death on the cross, but then the dramatic result - first to the true followers of Christ and then to the rest of the world.

Psalms 22:31: Regarding the very last statement of the Psalm: (Source: Biblical commentary by Charles Spurgeon) *that he hath done this, or, that "It is finished."* Salvation's glorious work is done; there is peace on earth, and glory in the highest. "It is finished," these were the expiring words of the Lord Jesus, as they are the last words of this Psalm. May we by living faith be enabled to see our salvation finished by the death of Jesus!

Jesus gave honor and praise to God. He did what he came to do and to God's glory, it is finished. God's plan was now ready to be completed.

*Jesus Lives! For Jonathan and Rick (and Kathy!) and Christian Questions...  
Think about it...!*