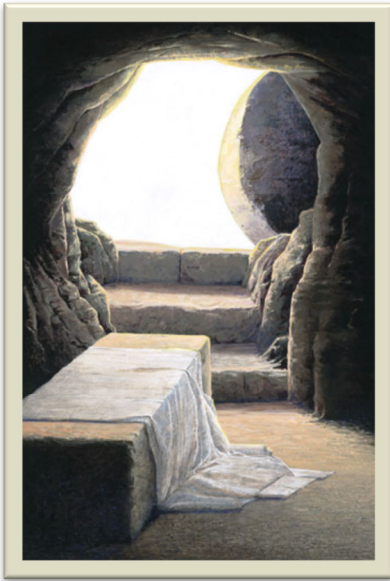




## Jesus Lives!

**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.



**"Hosanna," Soweto Gospel Choir**

*Let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Let the blind say, "I can see"  
What the Lord has done in me  
(Repeat)*

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!

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm is divided into five segments. The first three are not happy or pleasant, so as we tell you about them, we will also remind you of the glorious end result. This Psalm truly does unfold a world-changing drama.

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.



***It's Friday - But Sunday's a Comin', S.M. Lockridge***

*It's Friday  
Jesus is praying  
Peter's a sleeping  
Judas is betraying  
But Sunday's comin'  
It's Friday  
Pilate's struggling  
The council is conspiring  
The crowd is vilifying  
They don't even know  
that Sunday's comin'*



*It's Friday  
The disciples are running  
like sheep without a shepherd  
Mary's crying  
Peter is denying  
But they don't know  
that Sunday's a comin'  
It's Friday  
The Romans beat my Jesus  
They robe him in scarlet  
They crown him with thorns  
But they don't know  
that Sunday's comin'  
It's Friday  
See Jesus walking to Calvary  
his blood dripping  
his body stumbling  
and his spirit's burdened  
But you see, it's only Friday  
Sunday's a comin'*

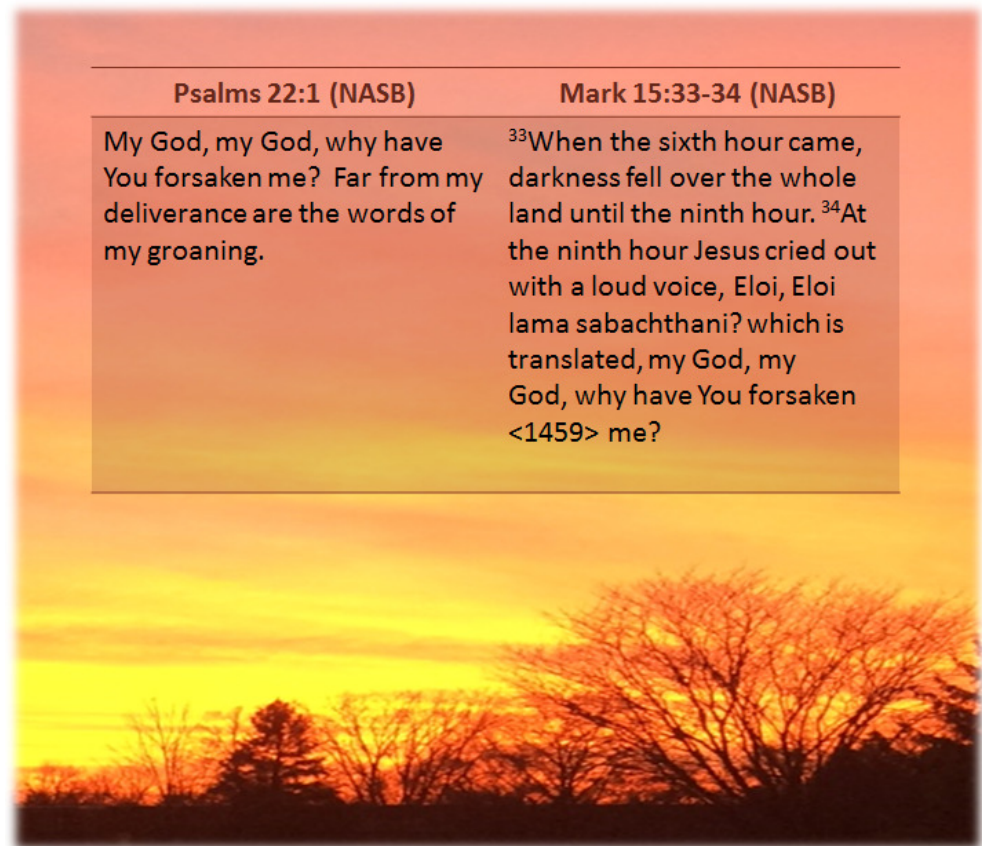


The first of the five segments of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Psalm deal with the necessary justice of God. The sin of Adam created a vortex of downward actions and reactions as Satan through sin has ruled our world with an iron grip. To release this grip, to break the shackles of darkness, a human life was 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.



It is here that Psalm 22 begins with the necessary judgment of God.

Psalms 22:1-6: (NASB) <sup>1</sup>My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. <sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest. <sup>3</sup>Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup>In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You delivered them. <sup>5</sup>To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted and were not disappointed. <sup>6</sup>But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people.



**Psalms 22:1 (NASB)**

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

**Mark 15:33-34 (NASB)**

<sup>33</sup>When the sixth hour came, darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. <sup>34</sup>At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, Eloi, Eloi lama sabachthani? which is translated, my God, my God, why have You forsaken <1459> me?

*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 this:**

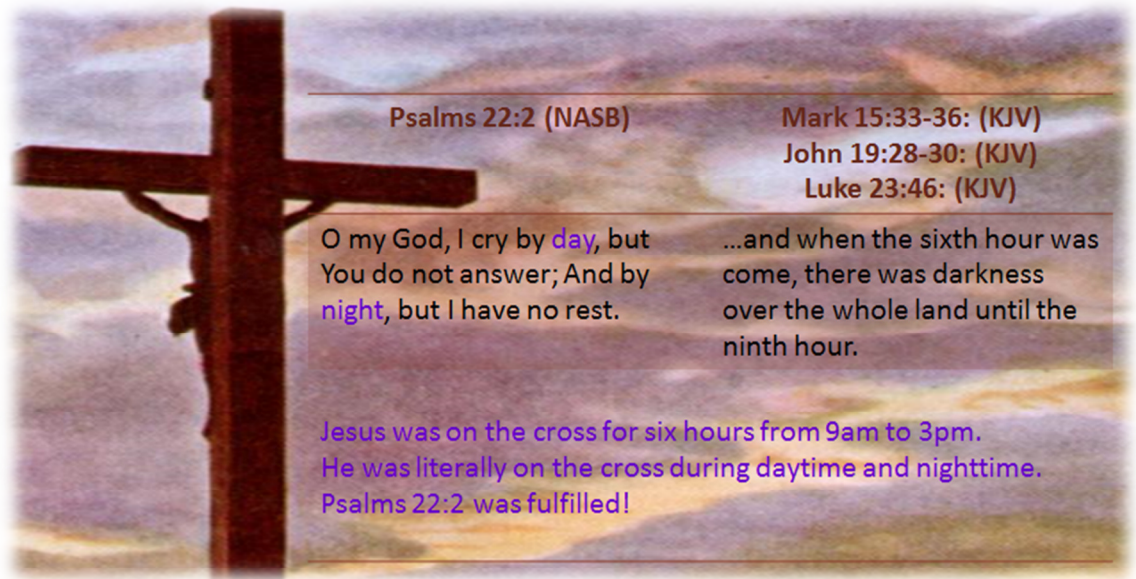
**Psalms 42:1-3: (KJV)** <sup>1</sup>*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.* <sup>2</sup>*My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?* <sup>3</sup>*My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, where is thy God?*

**Did God really "abandon" Jesus?**

**forsaken:** Strongs #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.





Psalms 22:2 (NASB)	Mark 15:33-36: (KJV) John 19:28-30: (KJV) Luke 23:46: (KJV)
O my God, I cry by <b>day</b> , but You do not answer; And by <b>night</b> , but I have no rest.	...and when the sixth hour was come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.

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!

### Here is another example of what Jesus was experiencing:

Psalms 88:1-4: (KJV) <sup>1</sup>O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee: <sup>2</sup>Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; <sup>3</sup>For my soul is full of troubles: and my life draweth nigh unto the grave. <sup>4</sup>I am counted with them that go down into the pit: I am as a man that hath no strength.



### "Jesus Loves Me," (Verse one) Cedarmont Kids

Jesus loves me! This I know  
For the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to him belong  
They are weak, but he is strong  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me!  
The Bible tells me so

### How did Jesus react to God allowing the full weight of sin and hopelessness upon him?

So, 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 Psalms 22 gives us insight into his mind.



### **This reveals faithfulness through the deepest adversity:**

**Psalm 22:3-5:** <sup>3</sup>Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. <sup>4</sup>In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You delivered them. <sup>5</sup>To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted and were not disappointed.

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:** (NRSV) <sup>40</sup>Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? <sup>41</sup>Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. <sup>42</sup>Again he went away for the second time and prayed, my Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done. <sup>43</sup>Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup>So leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words.

 ***It's Friday - But Sunday's a Comin', S.M. Lockridge***

*It's Friday  
The world's winning  
People are sinning  
and evil's grinning  
It's Friday  
The soldiers nail my Savior's hands  
to the cross  
They nail my Savior's feet  
to the cross  
And then they raise him up  
next to criminals  
It's Friday  
But let me tell you something  
Sunday's a comin'*

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:** (NASB) *But I am a worm and not a man, a reproach of men and despised by the people.*

### **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!



### "Hallelujah," Resurrection Day Version

*A crown of thorns placed on his head  
He knew that he would soon be dead  
He said did you forget me, Father, did you?  
They nailed him to a wooden cross  
Soon all the world would feel a loss  
A Christ that came before us, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah*

So we can see that 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:

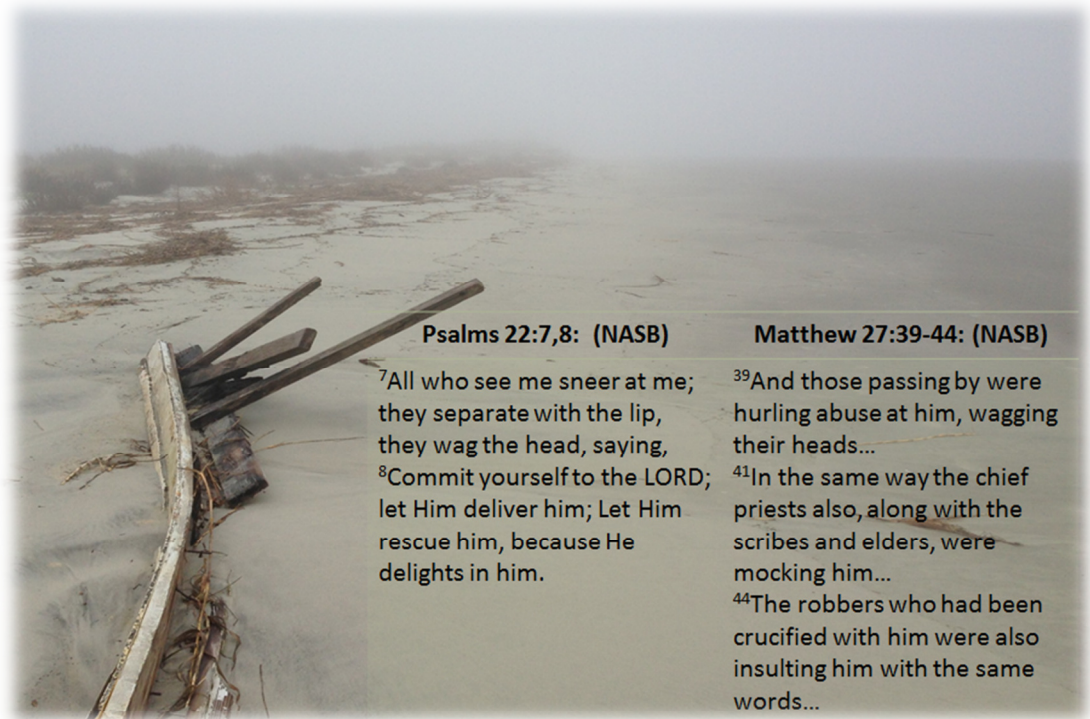
Psalms 22:7-13: (NASB) <sup>7</sup>All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying, <sup>8</sup>Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him. <sup>9</sup>Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust when upon my mother's breasts. <sup>10</sup>Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb. <sup>11</sup>Be not far from me, for trouble is near; for there is none to help. <sup>12</sup>Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. <sup>13</sup>They open wide their mouth at me, as a ravening and a roaring lion.

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: (NASB) <sup>39</sup>And those passing by were hurling abuse at him, wagging their heads <sup>40</sup>and saying, you who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross. <sup>41</sup>In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him and saying, <sup>42</sup>He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in him. <sup>43</sup>He trusts in God; Let God rescue him now, if He delights in him; for he said, I am the Son of God. <sup>44</sup>The robbers who had been crucified with him were also insulting him with the same words.





Psalms 22:7,8: (NASB)	Matthew 27:39-44: (NASB)
<sup>7</sup> All who see me sneer at me; they separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,	<sup>39</sup> And those passing by were hurling abuse at him, wagging their heads...
<sup>8</sup> Commit yourself to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.	<sup>41</sup> In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking him...
	<sup>44</sup> The robbers who had been crucified with him were also insulting him with the same words...



**"Why?" (Verse one) Nichole Nordeman**

*We rode into town the other day  
Just me and my Daddy  
He said I'd finally reached that age  
and I could ride next to him on a horse  
that of course was not quite as wide  
We heard a crowd of people shouting  
and so we stopped to find out why  
And there was that man  
that my dad said he loved  
but today there was fear in his eyes  
So I said, Daddy, why are they screaming?  
Why are the faces of some of them beaming?  
Why is he dressed in that bright purple robe?  
I'll bet that crown hurts him more than he shows  
Daddy, please can't you do something?  
He looks as though he's gonna cry  
You said he was stronger than all of those guys  
Daddy, please tell me why, why does everyone want him to die?*

**Jesus' reaction to the crowds:**

1 Peter 2:22-23: (NASB) <sup>22</sup>who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; <sup>23</sup>and while being reviled, he did not revile in return; while suffering, he uttered no threats, but kept entrusting himself to Him who judges righteously;

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.



## How did Jesus handle the religious leaders - how would YOU have handled them?

### Jesus' reaction to the thieves:

Luke 23:39-43: (NRSV) <sup>39</sup>*One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us! <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.*

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?

<sup>42</sup>*Then he said, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. <sup>43</sup>He replied, truly I tell you today, you will be with me in Paradise.*

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: (NASB) <sup>12</sup>*Many bulls have surrounded me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled me. <sup>13</sup>They open wide their mouth at me, as a ravening (tearing) and a roaring lion.*



*It's Friday - But Sunday's a Comin', S.M. Lockridge*

*It's Friday.  
He's hanging on the cross  
feeling forsaken by his Father.  
Left and alone and dying;  
Can nobody save him?  
Whoa, it's Friday  
But Sunday's coming.  
It's Friday.  
The earth trembles,  
the sky grows dark.  
My King yields his spirit.  
It's Friday.  
Hope is lost,  
death has won,  
sin has concurred  
and Satan's just a laughing.*

(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:** (NASB) <sup>49</sup>Immediately Judas went to Jesus and said, Hail, Rabbi! And kissed him. <sup>50</sup>And Jesus said to him, Friend, do what you have come for. Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. <sup>51</sup>And behold, one of those who were with Jesus reached and drew out his sword, and struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his ear.

**Luke 22:51-54:** (NASB) <sup>51</sup>But Jesus answered and said, Stop! No more of this. And he touched his ear and healed him. <sup>52</sup>Then Jesus said to him put your sword back into its place; for all those who take up the sword shall perish by the sword. <sup>53</sup>Or do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>How then will the Scriptures be fulfilled, which say that it must happen this way?

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:** (NASB) <sup>55</sup>At that time Jesus said to the crowds, have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as you would against a robber? Every day I used to sit in the temple teaching and you did not seize me. <sup>56</sup>But all this has taken place to fulfill the Scriptures of the prophets. Then all the disciples left him and fled.

**The ravening lion reference referred to their devilish activities as the ambassadors of Satan himself!**

**1 Peter 5:8:** (NASB) *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*



**"Hallelujah," Resurrection Day Version**

*He hung his head and prepared to die  
then lifted his face up to the sky  
Said, I am coming home now Father to you  
A reed which held his final sip  
was gently lifted to his lips  
He drank his last and gave his soul to glory  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah*

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!

Now we move into the next and fortunately last kind of abuse he endured.

**The cruelty of man - their physical abuse of Jesus:**

**Psalms 22:14-21:** (NASB) <sup>14</sup>I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; It is melted within me. <sup>15</sup>My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death. <sup>16</sup>For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet. <sup>17</sup>I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; <sup>18</sup>They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. <sup>19</sup>But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my



assistance. <sup>20</sup>*Deliver my soul from the sword, my only life from the power of the dog. <sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth; from the horns of the wild oxen you answer me.*

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: (NASB) *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint...*

**Complete and utter exhaustion:**

2 Samuel 14:14: (NASB) *For we will surely die and are like water spilled on the ground which cannot be gathered up again. Yet God does not take away life, but plans ways so that the banished one will not be cast out from him.*

**Complete disarray of the human form:**

Psalms 6:2: (NASB) *Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am pining away; Heal me, O LORD, for my bones are dismayed.*



*It's Friday - But Sunday's a Comin', S.M. Lockridge*

*It's Friday  
Jesus is buried  
A soldier stands guard  
and a rock is rolled into place  
But it's Friday  
It is only Friday  
Sunday is a comin'!*

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: (NASB) *...my heart is like wax; it is melted within me...*

**Literally his heart was without strength and giving way.**

Psalms 68:2: (NASB) *As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish before God.*

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: (NASB) *Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker - an earthenware vessel among the vessels of earth! Will the clay say to the potter, what are you doing? Or the thing you are making say, he has no hands?*

Psalms 22:15: (NASB) *...and my tongue cleaves to my jaws;*

**This is a symptom of overwhelming thirst and dehydration.**



**Ezekiel 3:25-27:** (NKJV) <sup>25</sup>And you, O son of man, surely they will put ropes on you and bind you with them, so that you cannot go out among them. <sup>26</sup>I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be mute and not be one to rebuke them, for they are a rebellious house. <sup>27</sup>But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, thus says the Lord GOD. He who hears, let him hear; and he who refuses, let him refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

**Even though Jesus was unable to speak, this message was posted on the cross:**

**John 19:19-20:** (KJV) <sup>19</sup>And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup>This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city: and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek and Latin.



**"Forever," Kari Jobe**

*The moon and stars they wept  
The morning sun was dead  
The Savior of the world has fallen  
His body on a cross  
His blood poured out for us  
The weight of every curse upon him  
One final breath he gave as heaven looked away  
The Son of God was laid in darkness*

**Psalms 22:15:** (NASB) ...and You lay me in the dust of death.

**The only possible end result of this experience:**

**Genesis 3:19:** By the sweat of your face you will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.

**Here the focus is now on those outside of God's favor - the Gentile soldiers:**

**Psalms 22:16:** (NASB) For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me;

(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:** (NASB) Do not give what is holy to dogs, and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you to pieces.

**Psalms 22:16:** (NASB) ...They pierced my hands and my feet.

**Zechariah 12:10:** (NASB) I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

**Isaiah 53:4-5:** (NKJV) <sup>4</sup>Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup>But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed.





**"Why," Last Verse, Nichole Nordeman**

*My precious Son, I hear them screaming  
I'm watching the face of the enemy beaming  
But soon I will clothe you in robes of my own  
Jesus, this hurts me much more than you know  
But this dark hour I must do nothing  
Though I've heard your unbearable cry  
The power in your blood destroys all of the lies  
Soon you'll see past their unmerciful eyes  
Look there below, see the child  
Trembling by her father's side  
Now I can tell you why  
She is why you must die*

**Psalms 22:17:** (NASB) *I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me;*

*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 Psalms 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.

Psalms 22:18 (NASB)	John 19:23-24: (KJV)
They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.	<p><sup>23</sup>Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece.</p> <p><sup>24</sup>So they said to one another, let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be; this was to fulfill the Scripture: They divided my outer garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.</p>



In the midst of those who would crucify for sport, there was one soldier who saw through it all and saw Jesus for who he really was. Even in the torment of death, Jesus witnessed to the glory of God!



**"Hallelujah," Resurrection Day Version**

*The soldier who had used his sword  
to pierce the body of our Lord  
said "truly this was Jesus Christ our Savior"  
He looked with fear upon his sword  
Then turned to face his Christ and Lord  
Fell to his knees crying "Hallelujah"  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah*

**Psalms 22:19-21:** (NASB) <sup>19</sup>But You, O LORD, be not far off; O You my help, hasten to my assistance. <sup>20</sup>Deliver my soul from the sword, my only life from the power of the dog. <sup>21</sup>Save me from the lion's mouth; from the horns of the wild oxen You answer me.

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:** (NIV) God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

A thousand years before it happened, **Psalms 22** told us how, what and why Jesus' death would happen!

**Now that the sacrifice is complete, who benefits?**

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.



**"Hallelujah," Resurrection Day Version**

*Took from his head the thorny crown  
and wrapped him in a linen gown  
and laid him down to rest inside the tomb  
The holes in his hands, his feet and side  
Now in our hearts we know he died  
to save us from ourselves oh, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah*



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:** (NASB) <sup>22</sup>I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. <sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise Him; all you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel. <sup>24</sup>For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard. <sup>25</sup>From You comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him. <sup>26</sup>The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

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:** (NASB) <sup>22</sup>I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. <sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.

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:** (KJV) <sup>10</sup>For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Jesus did what he was supposed to; he was faithful) <sup>11</sup>For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, <sup>12</sup>Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

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.



### "Forever," Kari Jobe

The ground began to shake  
The stone was rolled away  
His perfect love could not be overcome  
Now death where is your sting?  
Our resurrected King has rendered you defeated  
Forever, he is glorified  
Forever, he is lifted high  
Forever, he is risen  
He is alive  
He is alive  
Forever, forever



**Psalms 22:24:** (NASB) For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has He hidden His face from him; but when he cried to Him for help, He heard.





### Doesn't verse 24 contradict the beginning of the Psalm?

**Psalms 22:1-2:** (NASB) <sup>1</sup>*My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. <sup>2</sup>O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest.*

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.

**Psalm 22:3:** *Yet you are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.*

Recognition of such deliverance provokes faith and action on the part of those who are blessed. We are blessed!

**Psalms 22:25-26:** (NASB) <sup>25</sup>*From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him. <sup>26</sup>The afflicted will eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!*



**"Hosanna," Soweto Gospel Choir**

*Let the weak say, "I am strong"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
Let the blind say, "I can see"  
It's what the Lord has done in me  
Hosanna, hosanna to the Lamb that was slain  
Hosanna, hosanna Jesus died and rose again*

### Remember the lesson of the Passover when the firstborn were first delivered. Who did the firstborn represent?

**Hebrews 12:22-24:** (ASV) <sup>22</sup>*but ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable hosts of angels, <sup>23</sup>to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup>and to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaketh better than that of Abel.*

**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:** (NASB) <sup>31</sup>*Jesus answered them, do you now believe? <sup>32</sup>Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. <sup>33</sup>These things I have spoken to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world.*



## What is the end result for those who follow in Jesus' footsteps?

John 14:1-3: (KJV) <sup>1</sup>Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

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.

**Just like the Passover, does Psalm 22 prophesy about the rest of those delivered from bondage?**

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!



"Hosanna," Soweto Gospel Choir

*Hosanna, hosanna Jesus died and rose again  
Jesus died and rose again  
Jesus died and rose again  
Jesus died and rose again*



## 2. The resulting blessing to all of the rest of mankind:

Psalms 22:27-31: (NASB) <sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. <sup>28</sup>For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations. <sup>29</sup>All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. <sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve Him; It will be told of the Lord to the coming generation. <sup>31</sup>They will come and will declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has performed it.

### Now let's break it down:

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will worship before You. <sup>28</sup>For the kingdom is the LORD'S and He rules over the nations.

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: (NASB) *Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession.*

Psalms 72:8: (NASB) *May he also rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.*

Psalms 86:9: (NASB) *All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, And they shall glorify Your name.*

Psalms 98:3: (NASB) *He has remembered His loving-kindness and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

So many prophecies - so much hope - how did that hope come to be?



**"Forever," Kari Jobe**

*So it is not just words that I proclaim  
For my words point to The Word  
and The Word has a name  
hope has a name  
joy has a name  
peace has a name  
love has a name  
and that name is Jesus Christ  
Christ his name forever  
Forever, he is glorified  
Forever, he is lifted high  
Forever, he is risen  
He is alive  
He is alive  
Hallelujah... Hallelujah praise the Lord*

Psalms 22:29-30: <sup>29</sup>*All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, all those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, even he who cannot keep his soul alive. <sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve Him; It will be told of the Lord to the coming generation.*

Now let's go further into some other prophecies that unequivocally verify this glorious conclusion of Psalms 22.

Daniel 2:44: (ASV) *And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.*

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: (NRSV) <sup>18</sup>*He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.*





Let us notice the elements here:

- Jesus and the church (his "called out" ones)
- 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: (NASB) <sup>20</sup>and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, <sup>21</sup>whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

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: (NRSV) <sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places, and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

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: (KJV) <sup>2</sup>And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

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.

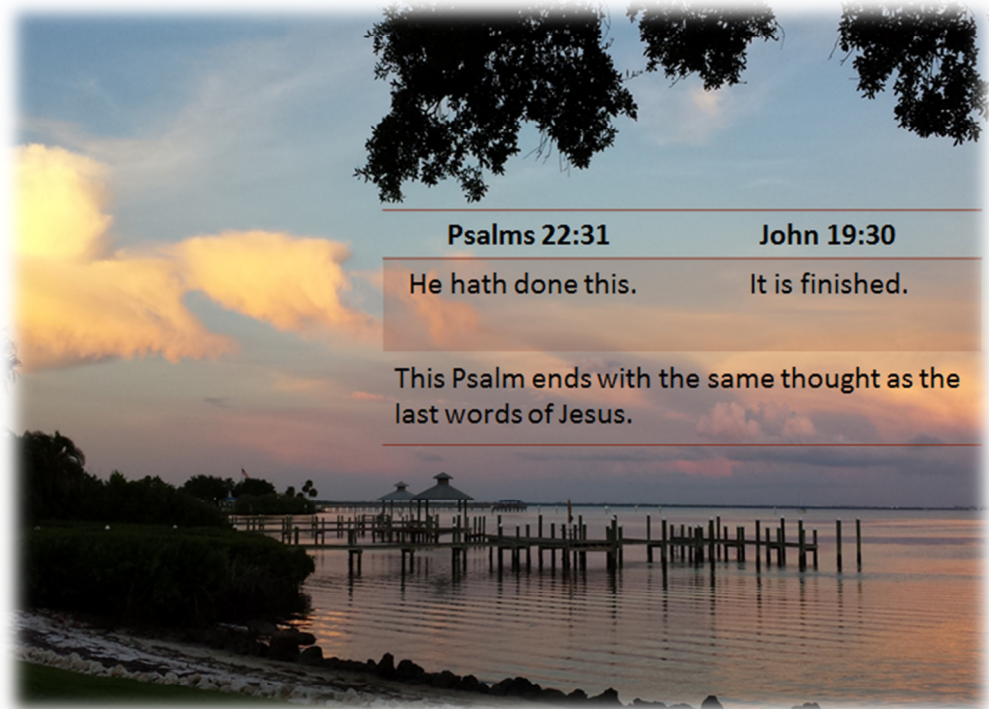
<sup>3</sup>And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>4</sup>But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. <sup>5</sup>For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God forever and ever.

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: (NIV) *They shall come and shall declare His righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that He hath done this.*

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. Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away - let us listen one last time to such a moment:



### "Hallelujah," Resurrection Day Version

Three days went by  
again they came to move the stone to bless the slain  
with oil and spice anointing, hallelujah  
But as they went to move the stone  
they saw that they were not alone  
but Jesus Christ has risen.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Oh Hallelujah!

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