



Psalm 22

HAS GOD FORSAKEN US?

Crucifixion as a method of execution was specifically designed to intensify and prolong agony. ...Debasement resulting from public display was a chief feature of the method, along with the prolonging of agony. It was a form of advertisement, public announcement—this person is the scum of the earth, not fit to live, more an insect than a human being. The crucified wretch was pinned up like a specimen. ...Everyone understood that the specific role of the passersby was to exacerbate the dehumanization and degradation of the person who has been thus designated as a spectacle. Crucifixion was cleverly designed—we might say diabolically designed—to be an almost theatrical enactment of the sadistic and inhumane impulses that lie within human beings. ...God, in the person of his sinless Son, put himself voluntarily and deliberately into the condition of greatest accursedness—on our behalf and in our place. This mind-crunching paradox lies at the heart of the Christian message. —Fleming Rutledge

An overview of the themes of the five books of the Psalms:

- Psalms 1-41: Opposition to God's Anointed King
- Psalms 42-72: Communication to the Nations
- Psalms 73-89: Devastation and Despair of God's People
- Psalms 90-106: Faith in God's Sovereign Kingship
- Psalms 107-150: Consummation and Celebration!

In Psalm 22, David's sufferings reach a climax. As he describes his pain, rejection, and opposition in graphic, poetic terms, his words paint an accurate picture of the future suffering of his promised Son, the Messiah, Jesus, the Savior of the world.

HE IS THE _____ SUFFERER.

I was cast upon You from birth.

From My mother's womb, You have been My God. (22:10)

He committed no sin,

Neither was deceit found in his mouth. (1 Peter 2:22; Isaiah 53:9)

Pilate went out again and said to them, "See, I am bringing him out to you that you may know that I find no guilt in him." (John 19:4)

HE IS THE _____ SUFFERER.

But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by mankind and despised by people.

Everyone who sees me mocks me;

they sneer and shake their heads. (22:6-7; Is. 53:3; Matt. 27:38-44)

The Lord's covenant with David [2 Sam. 7] provides the essential theological framework for understanding the Psalms.

—O. Palmer Robertson

This is a kind of gem among the Psalms, and is peculiarly excellent and remarkable. It contains those deep, sublime, and heavy sufferings of Christ, when agonizing in the midst of the terrors and pangs of divine wrath and death, which surpass all human thought and comprehension.

—Martin Luther

The Spirit of God inspired the psalmist in the writing of this psalm so that he used many vivid and at times hyperbolic expressions to describe his own suffering that would ultimately be true in a greater way of David's greater son, the Messiah. —Allen P. Ross

The depravity of man is at once the most empirically verifiable reality but at the same time the most intellectually resisted fact.

—Malcolm Muggeridge

The seed of every sin known to man is in my heart.

—Robert Murray McChyne

The Messiah is rejected, hated, despised, scorned, mocked, ridiculed, dehumanized...by mankind...by all of us (cf. Is. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-23). And those who reject him become more and more like animals than humans.

HE IS THE _____ SUFFERER.

*I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint;
My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And My tongue clings to My jaws;
You have brought Me to the dust of death. (22:14-15; cf. Is. 53:4-5)*

On the cross, the Messiah experienced the _____ of suffering—excruciating physical pain, mental torment, thirst, despair, rejection, shame, degradation, dehumanization, God-forsakenness.

HE IS THE _____ SUFFERER.

*My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?
Why are You so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish? (22:1; cf. Matt. 27:45-46).*

For He [God] made Him [Jesus] who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24)

You have answered Me! (22:21b)

HE IS THE _____ SAVIOR!

The resurrected Messiah calls us His _____ (Heb. 2:12).

The resurrected Messiah calls us to _____.

HE IS THE _____ KING!

Every person, everywhere, in every station of life, from every generation is invited to remember, to turn to the Lord, and to bow down in worship.

The message that we proclaim is that **He has done it!** (cf. John 19:30)

Have you recognized your need for salvation, turned from your own way, confessed Jesus as your Savior, and bowed down before Him in worship?

Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us. —John R.W. Stott

The victim of crucifixion died a thousand deaths. —H. E. Dosker

The death of Jesus resulted from rupture of the heart. ...Such a death would be almost instantaneous, and the blood flowing into the pericardium would coagulate into the red clot (blood) and the limp serum (water). The blood and water would then be released by the spear thrust. —William Hendriksen

God forsaken by God—who can understand it? —Martin Luther

*God made Him **sin**: that is to say that God the Father made His innocent incarnate Son the object of His wrath and judgment, for our sakes, with the result that in Christ on the cross the sin of the world is judged and taken away. —Philip Hughes*

Worm. Hebrew, *tola*, “worm; scarlet; the crimson dye made from the dried body of the female worm, ‘coccus ilicis.’”

There is a little red worm which seems to be nothing else but BLOOD when it is crushed, it seems all gone except a blood-stain; and the Savior, in the deep humiliation of His spirit, compares Himself to that little red worm. —Charles H. Spurgeon

Religious people want visionary experience and spiritual uplift; secular people want proofs, arguments, philosophy, science. The striking fact is that neither of these groups want to hear about the cross. —Fleming Rutledge