THE REALITY OF CALVARY

**DATE: 6/7/2015 am**

**TEXT: Psalm 22:1-21**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we come to the **22nd Psalm** we findDavid again crying out to God

Nowhere in the Bible does it tell us that David suffer the agonies that are mentioned in the 1st half of this psalm

This is truly a Messianic Psalm

**Psalm 22** is often referred to as the *“Psalm of the Cross”*

It provides us with a detailed description of Calvary

What I would like to call …The Reality of Calvary

So many fail to recognize the great cost that was paid to secure our eternal life

As we come near the end of our series on this portion of the psalms

We see …

There is a distinct relationship between **Psalms 22, 23, & 24**

-- In **Ps. 22**, we will see our Saviour Suffering

-- In **Ps. 23,** we see our Shepherd Leading

-- In **Ps. 24,** we will see our Sovereign Reigning

**Psalm 22** is divided into 2 parts **… vs. 1-21** & **22-31**

We’ll be looking at the first half of this Psalm this week and the 2nd half next week

Let’s pray and then I want to think on this thought

***“The Reality of Calvary”***

***~~~Prayer~~~***

First, we learn that Christ was …

**I. “ABANDONED” – vs. 1-6**

This psalm contains 33 distinct prophecies which were fulfilled at Calvary

Yet it was written a 1000 years before the birth of Christ

It is the most convincing example of Divine Inspiration found in the Scriptures

**II Timothy 3:16a *– “All scripture is given by inspiration of God,”***

For only God can prophesy with such perfect accuracy

We understand that when someone is Abandoned that they are left alone

When we look at this Abandonment we must look at …

**A. The Holiness of God – vs. 1-3**

In **verses 1-3** we see a clear presentation of the Holiness of God

**1.** The Orphan Cry of Christ **– v. 1**

***“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?”***

**Psalm 22** begins with clear application to Jesus upon the cross

**v. 1** was literally quoted while on the cross

This is recorded in **Matthew 27:46** and **Mark 15:34**

***“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?”***

***“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”***

As our blessed Lord hung stretched out between heaven and earth, He was in desperate straits

He had been rejected by men

**John 1:11 - *“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not”***

And, now His Father ***“hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all”* – Isaiah 53:6b**

**II Corinthians 5:21 *– “For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him”***

God the Father therefore could no longer bear to look upon His only begotten Son

Even the sun in the heavens refused to shine

**Matthew 27:45 –** ***“Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour”***

Jesus was all alone in the universe

Though he suffered the pains of the cross physically, the real suffering was spiritual

He born the reproach of sin, one who knew no sin

**Isaiah 50:6 –** ***“I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not My face from shame and spitting”***

**Hebrews 13:13** – ***“Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach”***

Our Holy Heavenly Father had turned from Him

He hung there alone, forsaken by God

The word *“****roaring”*** means exactly that

The thought likely is how that Jesus cried out in

utter despair as a lion roars

I can’t imagine what was worst …

… the Pain or the Rejection

Jesus was forsaken on the Cross so that we might never be forsaken of God

**2.** The Continued Call of Christ **– v.2**

***“O My God, I cry in the daytime, but Thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent”***

As Jesus hung upon the cross that fateful day,

He cried out to God in heaven, but God didn’t answered

The night prior, He had poured out His heart in the Garden

In that hour of His great crisis, our Lord could only look to heaven

Yet, in those dark hours that fateful afternoon,

God would not hear or answer

Jesus had become sin for us and God will have no fellowship with sin

**3.** The Ultimate Attribute of God **–v.3**

In those dark hours, our Lord knew full well why His

Heavenly Father would not respond

***“But (For) Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel”***

The ultimate attribute of God is acknowledged

He is Holy!

In **Habakkuk 1:13** the prophet wrote - ***“Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity”***

Because of God’s infinite holiness, He could not look upon His suffering Son that awe-some day

Notice also David’s designation of God as ***“Thou that***

***Inhabitest (lives among) the praises of Israel”***

God is Holy, yet He delights to be with His People

That is … those that delight in Him

But that day He could not be with His cherished Son

**The Holiness of God**

The 2nd Thought we see in this Abandonment is…

**B. The Hurt of Men – vs. 4-6**

In **vs. 4 & 5** we read **– *“Our fathers trusted in Thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them” “They cried unto Thee, and were delivered: they trusted in Thee, and were not confounded”***

Others had cried and God heard them

Moses cried, Abraham cried, David cried

But Jesus’ cry is left unanswered

 **v.6 – *“But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people”***

The Bible isn’t teaching that this is what Christ thought of Himself

But rather what was the Opinions of Men about Christ

As Christ hung on the Cross, the people mocked and jeered

The Bible says that they gathered around Him like wild beasts in **vs. 12, 13**

They mocked, railed, and reviled Him

**Isaiah 53:3 –** ***“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not”***

He says – *I’m regarded as less than a man. I am regarded as a worm*

If you want to know what an unbelieving, Christ-rejecting world thinks of Christ?

Then you don’t have to look far

For they think the same thing that they have always thought

Don’t be ashamed of Christ

Many people are ashamed of Him because of the Opinions of Men

Don’t you Abandon Him!

**“ABANDONED”**

The 2nd thought that comes to mind when we think of the Reality of Calvary is…

How Christ was …

**II. “ABHORRED” – vs. 7-18**

**To Abhor** means*to detest something or someone***,** *to reject strongly*

**Ps. 38:19 –** ***“But mine enemies are lively, and they are strong: and they that hate me wrongfully are multiplied”***

We see this in …

**A. Their Contempt – vs. 7, 8**

**Contempt -** *a powerful feeling of dislike toward somebody or something considered to be worthless, inferior, or undeserving of respect*

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

**Luke 23:35-37a – *“And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God” “And the soldiers also mocked him,”***

One of the most significant features of this prophecy lies in the fact that it foretold exactly what the Lord's enemies would say to Him while on the cross

The priests and people assembled at Calvary would have known this Psalm well

But they had no desire to prove the claims that Jesus was the Messiah

On the contrary they did everything they could to disprove His claims

Yet, despite themselves, they used the very language of **Psalm 22** when taunting Him, thus fulfilling prophecy

**Matthew 27:43 –** ***“He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him: for He said, I am the Son of God”***

**v.8 says - *“He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him”***

The prophetic words of the psalm fell from the lips of Christ's foes

**The Contempt of Men**

**B. Their Cruelty – vs. 12, 13, 16**

**1.** Bulls **– v.12, 13a**

The Lord's enemies were like ***“bulls of Bashan”***

I don’t know why the association here

Bashan was a wide and fertile farming district stretching from Jabbok to the foot of Mount Hermon

It included Gilead and was famous for its pasturelands

Bulls will often gather in a circle around anything they are unfamiliar with

They will charge upon the slightest provocation

***“They gaped upon me with their mouths”***

Means to open one’s mouth wide

They ran Him down with their mouths

The Lord's enemies were like that, standing strong and menacing around the cross

They were not only bulls with ready horns

But also …

**2.** Lions **– v. 13b**

***“as a ravening and a roaring lion”***

They were roaring lions, tearing, rending, devouring

They may not have been the devil but they were certainly instruments used by the devil

**3.** Dogs **– v.16a, b**

***“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me …”***

The dogs were not tame household pets that we think of today

But ravenous, wild packs which roamed freely

Bulls! Lions! Dogs!

That's how cruel the Lord's enemies where

They possessed the strength of the bull, the self-sufficiency of the lion, and the savagery of wild dogs

 **The Contempt of Men**

**The Cruelty of Men**

 **C. Their Callousness – v. 14-18**

**v. 18 - *“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture”***

The Roman soldiers fulfilled this prophecy

We can easily picture the scene and imagine what was going on

They were gambling for Christ clothes

While God's beloved Son was suffering physical, emotional, and spiritual anguish

… They are playing games!

Sounds like the world today

He was dying for sin, and it meant nothing to them

But none-the-less the great redemptive work went on

**v. 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”***

**v. 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”***

He who had created every mountain stream, every babbling brook, every river, every lake, every spring was consumed with thirst

He who began His public ministry by being *hungry,* ended it by being *thirsty*

As Jesus hung there, suffering in agony, His strength evaporated

His swollen, dry tongue stuck to the inside of His mouth as He thirsted in the hot Middle-Eastern sun

Indeed, He knew that He soon faced the dust of death

It was inevitable

**vs. 16c, 17a –** ***“… They pierced my hands and my feet” “I may count all my bones”***

Indeed, they pierced His hands and feet

**John 20:25, 27 – Thomas**

**Zechariah 12:10 – *“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn”***

**Revelation 1:7 *– “Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen”***

This will forever be a reminder to everyone of the great Priced paid for our eternal Life

As for lost men – **v. 17b - *“They (just) look and stare”***

The suggestion here is that with malicious delight His enemies feasted their eyes on the sight

We can hear them gloat – *“There you are Annas. He'll never trouble us again. Messiah! (ha) Come down from the cross and we'll believe you”*

The Contempt, the Cruelty, the Callousness of men was all foretold in this psalm

We see the Reality of Calvary in that Christ was …

**“ABANDONED”**

**“ABHORRED”**

And Lastly …

**III. “ABUSED” – vs. 19-21**

**v. 19b** says – ***“O LORD: O my strength, haste Thee to help me. Deliver my soul …”***

**v.21a** says - ***“Save me from the lion's mouth”***

The *lion* is there, that roaring lion of Whom Peter speaks in **I Peter 5:8**

***“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:”***

The powers of the pit were present at Calvary

The rulers of this world's darkness

The wicked spirits in high places

The Principalities and Powers of whom Paul speaks of in **Ephesians 6:12**

***“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”***

All hell is gathered around the cross to gloat

**Luke 22:53b –** ***“…but this is your hour, and the power of darkness”***

I suppose your all wondering about the unicorn

Guest what, so am I … there is all kind of speculation

This isn’t the only time this animal is mentioned

But I imagine we will have to wait until heaven to find out

**CONCLUSION**

There was nothing Good at Calvary from a Physical Stand point

That’s the Reality

Christ was …

**“ABANDONED” BY THE FATHER**

**“ABHORRED” BY MAN**

**“ABUSED” BY SATAN**

All for what?

To secure our Salvation

The only way for us to be saved required Christ to stay on the Cross and bleed and die for our sins

Do you know what this psalm does?

It brings us into the Heart of the Work of God

The Christian message is clearly the message of Jesus Christ

**I Corinthians 2:2 –** ***“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified”***

Those that say they know Him will always strive to Glorify Him!

Jesus Christ is the only way of Salvation

Never let the world’s opinion of Christ become your opinion!