

Christ Alone Psalm 22

Introduction:

1. If I were to say to you, "What is the most important event in world history," what would be your answer?
2. There is no doubt what the answer is to this question. It is the day that Jesus Christ, God's Son, hung on a cross outside Jerusalem. I'm sure that many that day failed to realize that this event would be the focal point of all history. But to us who are saved, we understand. **1 Corinthians 1:18**
3. Yet when you read the gospel accounts about Christ's death, there is simplicity to their accounts. There is not chapter after chapter of melodrama as you would read in a novel. **Matthew 27:35** simply says, "*And they crucified him...*"
4. Psalm 22 is a fascinating psalm because it is written as if the writer is sitting at the foot of the cross watching the events unfold. Yet it was written 1,000 years before Christ died and before crucifixion became a form of capital punishment. Look how it opens. vs. 1
5. This is exactly what Christ said in **Matthew 27:46** on the cross. This psalm is all about Christ and the cross. It allows you to see into the inner thinking processes of Christ as He hung on that cross that day. What was going through His mind? You hear songs about it, but this psalm actually tells you.
6. Then at the end of the psalm we see Christ in His resurrection and Christ ruling and reigning over all the earth. vs. 27
7. The time to turn to Christ and worship Him is now! Don't wait, because when He returns to the earth the Bible says He will make His enemies His footstool.
8. Have you ever turned to Jesus in faith and trusted Him as your Savior? You desperately need to do this. Why is this?

First, Christ alone has made a sacrifice for sin. vs. 1-21

1. Why did God the Father have to forsake Christ on the cross (vs. 1)? Why couldn't the Father help him and come near? Can God fellowship with sin? Absolutely not - and Paul reveals several years later, that Christ **became sin** on the cross.
2 Corinthians 5:21
2. The first three hours (9 to 12) that Christ suffered on the cross, He suffered physically at the hands of sinners. Psalm 22 details many of the events years before they happened.
 - Verse 6 - Christ said, "*I am a worm.*" **Illustration:** the tola worm
 - Verse 6 - Christ's visage was so marred, He didn't look like a man.
 - Verses 6-8 - Christ was a reproach of men and despised of the people. He was stripped naked, beaten, mocked, reviled, and taunted while He hung on the cross (vs. 12-13). Christ was rejected and reproached by His own people.
 - Verse 16 - His hands and feet were pierced and nailed to the cross.
 - Verses 14-15 - He endured excruciating physical pain, torture, and thirst.
 - Verse 18 - He watched as they gambled for his clothes.
3. But then there were three hours (12 to 3 p.m.) where darkness covered the land.

- These three hours would be the worst because the Father himself would have to turn His fellowship from Christ, as Christ hung there alone suffering the punishment that you and I deserve. **1 Peter 2:24**
 - There, Christ **alone** would incur the wrath of the Father against the sins of all mankind. Can you even fathom the spiritual pain and torture?
 - Christ did no sin, yet He suffered and died. Why? **Romans 5:6, 8** (for us)
4. Christ suffered our physical death, but also our spiritual death, during those three hours when the Bible says His **soul** became an offering for sin. **Isaiah 53:10**
 5. What He suffered from the hand of man could not atone for our sin, but what He suffered from the hands of God during those three hours forever settled the sin question.
 6. The cross clearly demonstrates two things about God:
 - **God hates sin.**
 - Sin must be paid for. God cannot allow sin to go unpunished. He would not be righteous in character if He did. Christ knew this on the cross (vs. 3). God loves righteousness and hates wickedness. **Psalms 45:7**
 - **God loves sinners! John 3:16; 1 John 4:19**
 - God could not let us go free unless atonement was made for our sin. The Father gave His only begotten Son, and the Son freely gave His life so we could be set free. Throughout Israel's history, God had brought deliverance over and over again, but there was to be no deliverance for Christ on the cross (vs. 4-5). **His** deliverance would have meant **our** condemnation. Our sin put Christ on the cross and our sin became His sin. **Romans 5:9-10**

Second, Christ alone has defeated death. vs. 22-26

1. All of a sudden the tone of this psalm changes in verse 22. **Hebrews 2:12** quotes verse 22, and it is speaking of resurrection life. No longer beaten, bloodied and hanging on a cross, Christ defeated death and showed Himself alive to His brethren.
2. Christ rose from the dead and showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs. He spent 40 days making appearances to all the brethren and declaring the Father's name.
3. What does this mean for us? Notice verse 26. When we seek Him, we live forever, too! We get His life! Eternal life. **John 10:28; Romans 6:23**
4. When you place your faith in Christ, you receive more than just forgiveness of sins. You receive the very life of Jesus Christ as a present possession. **Galatians 2:20**

Third, Christ alone will rule and reign forever. vs. 27-31

1. Verses 27-31 are prophetic and have not occurred yet. You see, after Christ's resurrection, 40 days later He ascended to the right hand of the Father where He was exalted and given a name above every name. **Ephesians 1:20-21**
2. The day will come when Christ will return to this earth. Those who spurned His grace, His sacrifice, and His offer of forgiveness will incur the wrath and judgment of God. **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**
3. After the wicked are judged and cast into outer darkness, believers from all nations will worship and serve Jesus Christ. Christ will bring His kingdom to earth. Verses 27-31 describe this blessed state.

In Conclusion:

1. In this psalm we see the Messiah:
 - Rejected - vs. 1-21
 - Risen - vs. 22-26
 - Ruling - vs. 27-31
2. Prophecy saw His resurrection and His return to earth to rule and reign happening on the heels of each other. But, hidden in God, was a mystery time period called the dispensation of the grace of God.
3. This is where we are living today. The next event for us on God's timetable is the return of Christ in the heavens to receive all believers unto Himself.
 - At this point, the prophetic time clock will begin ticking again, and in a few short years, this psalm will be fulfilled.
4. Do you know Jesus Christ as your Savior? Have you placed your faith and trust in Him? Why not trust Him today?