

* The Heights Baptist Church * Series: The Psalms *

* Topic: Praise God for our Blessings in Christ * Psalm 22:22-31 * 4/13/25 *

MAIN POINT

Psalm 22 is a Messianic Psalm that consists of two major parts. The first part (verses 1-21) prophesizes about Christ's crucifixion. And the second part (verses 22-31) prophesizes about the many blessings that would result from Christ's death and resurrection. This Psalm can also be viewed through David's eyes, showing us fervency and honesty with which we should pray when going through difficult times.

INTRODUCTION

Did you ever experience a moment where you had such a strong motivation to praise God that you just couldn't hold it in?

Psalm 22 started with the despairing question; "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And we saw last week how the first 21 verses of this Psalm were prophetic about what Christ went through on the cross. But the second part of this Psalm (verses 22-31) show us the victory Christ's death and resurrection had on death, and the victory it can have in our lives as well. These victories should result in us offering a sacrifice of praise to God. In today's lesson, we will look at the second portion of Psalm 22.

UNDERSTANDING

I. READING THIS PORTION OF PSALM 22 FROM DAVID'S PERSPECTIVE

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ PSALM 22:22-31

David has poured out his heart to God, and now he will spend the remainder of the Psalm (verses 22-31) worshiping God. How do you think David was able to worship God in the midst of the incredibly trying circumstances he was in?

How might trusting that God is gracious (v. 24) and sovereign (v. 28) help you be able to worship God in the midst of deep affliction?

David was able to praise God because he realized that the distance he felt from God was not the reality. God was present and had not abandoned David. David now turned his attention away from his circumstances and set his hope on his gracious (v. 24) and sovereign (v. 28) God. Doing so allowed him to freely praise the Lord and look to the time when people everywhere will acknowledge God (vv. 26-27).

II. READING THIS PORTION OF PSALM 22 AS A PROPHECY ABOUT JESUS

"Of course, our blessed Lord is in every syllable (of Psalm 22). Indeed, the psalm reads more as history than as prophecy. The divine Sufferer seems to have recited it to himself when on the cross; for it begins with, 'My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?' and ends... with the word in the Hebrew meaning, 'It is finished.'... (And) through those hours of darkness the Easter day is hastening to break in resplendent glory." F. B. Meyer, Bible Commentary on Psalm 22

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ HEBREWS 12:1-3

In last week's lesson, we ended with these verses from Hebrews. What do these verses tell us about what helped sustain Jesus while He suffered on the cross?

He focused on the joy set before Him. A big part of this joy was the fact that He would soon return to the Father, sitting down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 10:12).

Last week we looked at how several of the verses in Psalm 22 are quoted in the gospels, showing us that this Psalm is a Messianic Psalm, prophesying about Christ on the cross.

Let's look at Psalm 22:22-31 to see if they reveal any other "joys" that resulted through Jesus enduring the Cross.

Note to study leader: We will be discussing five points from the second portion of Psalm 22 that reveal some of the reasons that Jesus was focused on the "joy set before Him" while on the cross. Consider writing them on the whiteboard as they are discussed. This will be followed by discussing each of these five points.

1. We have been made heirs with Christ. A part of the family of God. (Psalm 22:22; Hebrews 2:2-15)
2. God will receive glory from his people (Psalm 22:23; 1 Peter 2:9)
3. The poor in spirit who seek the LORD will be able to find satisfaction and eternal life in Christ (Psalm 22:24-26)
4. The gospel will extend to every nation, tribe, people, and language (Psalm 22:27-28)
5. The gospel will continue to be proclaimed through the millennia up to the time He calls us to join Him in the clouds (Psalm 22:29-31)

DISCUSSION ON THE FIVE POINTS FROM PSALM 22:22-31

- 1. We have been made heirs with Christ. A part of the family of God. (Psalm 22:22; Hebrews 2:2-15)**

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ ROM. 16:25-27, EPH. 3:6-11, AND COL. 1:25-27

What mystery that was kept hidden for ages was revealed after Christ's death and resurrection?

The gospel message that through Christ's death and resurrection, Christ will now dwell in us (Col. 1:27), and we will become heirs of God. This includes everyone; Jews and Gentiles (Eph. 3:6), who come to God through faith (Rom. 16:26). This message will be promulgated via the church (Eph. 3:10).

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ HEBREWS 2:9-15

Hebrews 2:12 is quoting Psalm 22:22. How do these verses in Hebrews expand on what Jesus looked forward to while on the cross about the coming church?

We see a clear description in these verses of what Christ accomplished for us. He was made a little lower than the angels for a little while (he became human) and suffered death so that by God's grace, we can receive spiritual life through Him. And afterward, He was crowned with glory and honor.

- 2. God will receive glory from his people (Psalm 22:23; 1 Peter 2:9)**

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ REVELATION 5:6-14

Here we see a scene in heaven. Who is praising God, and for what is He being praised?

God is being worshiped by four living creatures, 24 elders, millions of angels, and every other creature.

Note to study leader: The four living creatures are likely high ranking angelic beings based on their similarity to the cherubim and seraphim described in Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 1 and 10. And the 24 elders are thought to be elders from the church (and possibly Israel), who represent the church in their worship of God. This is based on their white robes, which in Rev. 19:8 represent the righteous acts of the saints. Also, David divided the priests into 24 divisions in Chronicles 24; and the 24 elders are on thrones, representing them reigning. In Christ, we (the church) are a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9, Rev. 1:5-6).

Christ is being praised for purchasing people for God with his blood, and for making us a kingdom and priests before God to serve Him, and for the fact we will reign with Christ on the earth. This includes all created beings; creatures in the spiritual realm in heaven, creatures in the air, on earth (which includes living people), under the earth (which includes the souls of people in Sheol, or Hades), and on the sea.

3. The poor in spirit who seek the LORD will be able to find satisfaction and eternal life in Christ (Psalm 22:24-26)

Jesus' work on the cross would allow the afflicted to eat, be satisfied, and live forever.

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ MATTHEW 5:3-10

How would you summarize who is blessed according to these verses, and how will they be blessed?

It is not the self-confident, boastful, or proud, but the poor in spirit who are merciful and who hunger and thirst after righteousness that will be blessed and will one day see God in the kingdom of heaven.

4. The gospel will extend to every nation, tribe, people, and language (Psalm 22:27-28)

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ ACTS 1:8 AND REVELATION 5:9

According to these verses, how far-reaching will the gospel message spread?

The gospel will spread to the ends of the earth, with people being saved from every people group.

5. The gospel will continue to be proclaimed through the millennia up to the time He calls us to join Him in the clouds (Psalm 22:29-31)

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ MATTHEW 16:15-18 AND 1 THESSALONIANS 4:15-18

According to these verses, how long will the church exist, and how would this have been an encouragement to Christ while on the cross?

The church will endure until the Lord returns in the clouds to call His church to Himself. And we see from Psalm 22:30-31 that Jesus was encouraged by the fact that future generations would come to know Him. As we say at The Heights, "The next generation matters now!"

APPLICATION

ASK VOLUNTEERS TO READ ACTS 2:46-47, ACTS 16:25, AND COLOSSIANS 3:16

What do these verses show us about our relationship with God that we have as Christians?

Through Christ, we can offer a sacrifice of praise to God.

How might the endurance with which Jesus faced the cross change the way we approach the afflictions and difficulties we face?

PRAYER

Thank God that Jesus bore our sin on the cross and was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven, where he sits at God's right hand as our high priest who sympathizes with our weaknesses, and lives to intercede to the Father for us. Ask God to help us fix our eyes on Jesus as we face good times and difficult times on this earth. Thank Him that one day we will be with Christ forever in heaven.

COMMENTARY

Overview of Psalm 22:22-31

“Five things are here spoken of, the view of which were the satisfaction and triumph of Christ in his sufferings: —”

- I. “That he should have a church in the world, and that those that were given him from eternity should, in the fulness of time, be gathered in to him.” (verse 22)
- II. “That God should be greatly honoured and glorified in him by that church.” (verses 23)
- III. “That all humble gracious souls should have a full satisfaction and happiness in him.” (verses 24-26)
- IV. “That the church of Christ, and with it the kingdom of God among men, should extend itself to all the corners of the earth and should take in all sorts of people.” (verses 27-28)
- V. “That the church of Christ, and with it the kingdom of God among men, should continue to the end, through all the ages of time.” (verses 29-31)

Matthew Henry, Commentary on Psalm 22

Psalm 22:22-31

22:22-24 Verse 22 begins a new major section in this psalm, shifting the focus from petition to thanksgiving. The shift might indicate that the prayer of verses 1-21 had been answered or that such an answer was anticipated. Thanksgiving was to be offered in the congregation to evoke praise from the people of God. This was the responsibility of anyone whom Yahweh rescued, so that the entire community could rejoice in God’s acts of deliverance (66:16). Whereas the psalmist praised God for being delivered from death, Jesus the Messiah brought glory to God through His death and resurrection.

22:25-26 The vows were those made during the time of prayer (50:14; 61:8; 66:13). Their fulfillment also took place in the great congregation as a further testimony of God’s goodness to the psalmist. Any ceremonially clean person witnessing someone’s praise offering was permitted to eat from it (see Lev. 7:11-21).

22:27-31 The psalm ends by broadening to the most universal purpose of God’s kingdom over the earth. Israel’s purpose was to be a testimony to other nations so they would bow down before Yahweh and serve Him (67:2; 72:11,17; 86:9). The growth of the kingdom throughout time is demonstrated in the phrase a people yet to be born (future generations). The inclusion of those who go down to the dust who would pay homage to Yahweh (v. 29) is unusual, since in other psalms it is clear that the dead cannot praise Him (6:5; 88:10-12). This is more likely a reference to the final stage of God’s kingdom where even the dead are brought back to life to recognize Yahweh’s authority over all things (see Dan. 12:2).