

# The Cross

## Psalm 22

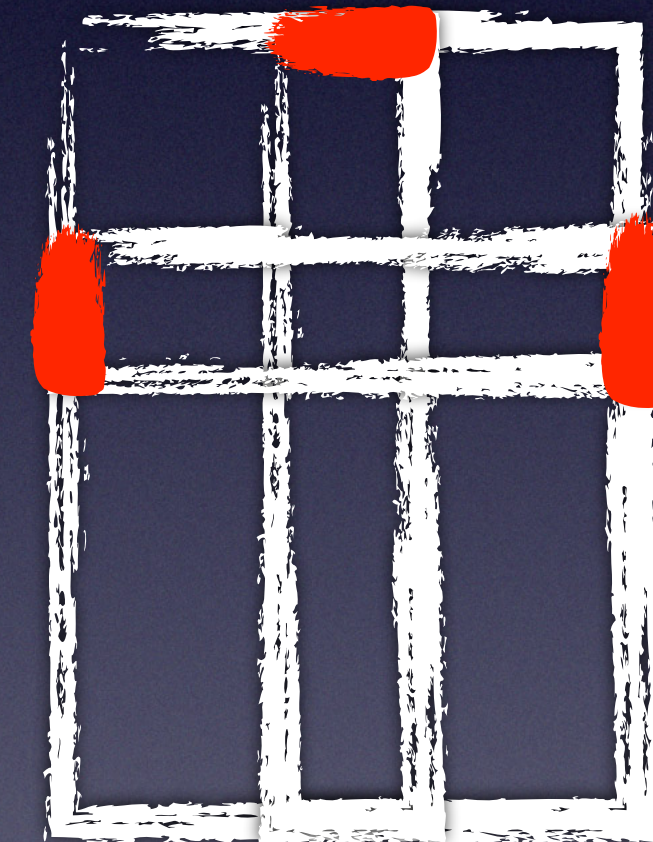
The gospel according to the prophets

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# The Cross Foretold

- Psalm 22 writes of the events of The Cross a 1000 years before they occur.
- While David certainly had experienced suffering, abandonment, and at times lived on the brink of death, this Psalm certainly transcends the events of David's life.
- The Cross foreshadowed:
  - Abraham / Isaac Genesis 22
  - The Exodus, Passover Genesis 12
  - The Bronze Serpent Numbers 21, John 3
- The Cross was preordained before Creation.
  - Mystery of the Cross 1 Corinthians 2:7-10
  - *"foreordained before the foundation of the world"* 1 Peter 1:18-20, Revelation 13:8.
  - Isaiah 53 speaks of the cross in past tense! (much more to come on that later...)





# Parallels impossible to miss

Matthew 27	Psalms 22
<i>And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. (v 35)</i>	<i>they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. (v 18)</i>
<i>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ... So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him... (v 39, 41)</i>	<i>All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads ... ... they stare and gloat over me (v 7, 17)</i>
<i>And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (v 46)</i>	<i>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? (v 1)</i>

The events described in Psalm 22:1-27 are congruent with the crucifixion account in the Gospels



# Introduction to the Song of the Cross

## Psalm 22

- Psalm 22 was put to music:
  - *“To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.”*
  - Progresses from a cry of despair and deep darkness to “the dawn” of praise declaring “his righteousness.”
- Was a well known Psalm.
  - Like Psalm 23, the opening line provided a cue for remainder of the Psalm.
  - Audience at The Cross would have immediately known the reference (bystanders thought he was calling for Elijah - Mark 15:35)



# The Cry of The Forsaken

## Psalm 22:1-2

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
Why are you so far from saving me, from the  
words of my groaning?  
O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.*

- A complete sense of abandonment in the midst of great suffering.
- A longing for an answer from God.

(We'll revisit this at the end)



# An Appeal to the Trustworthiness of God

## Psalm 22:3-5

*Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.  
In you our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.  
To you they cried and were rescued;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.*

- God has a track record of faithfulness to those who trusted in Him.
- Compare with [Isaiah 50:4-9](#)



# Mocking of The Crowd

## Psalm 22:6-8

*But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.*

*All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;  
“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”*

Matthew 27:29,31,39-42

Mark 15:20,31

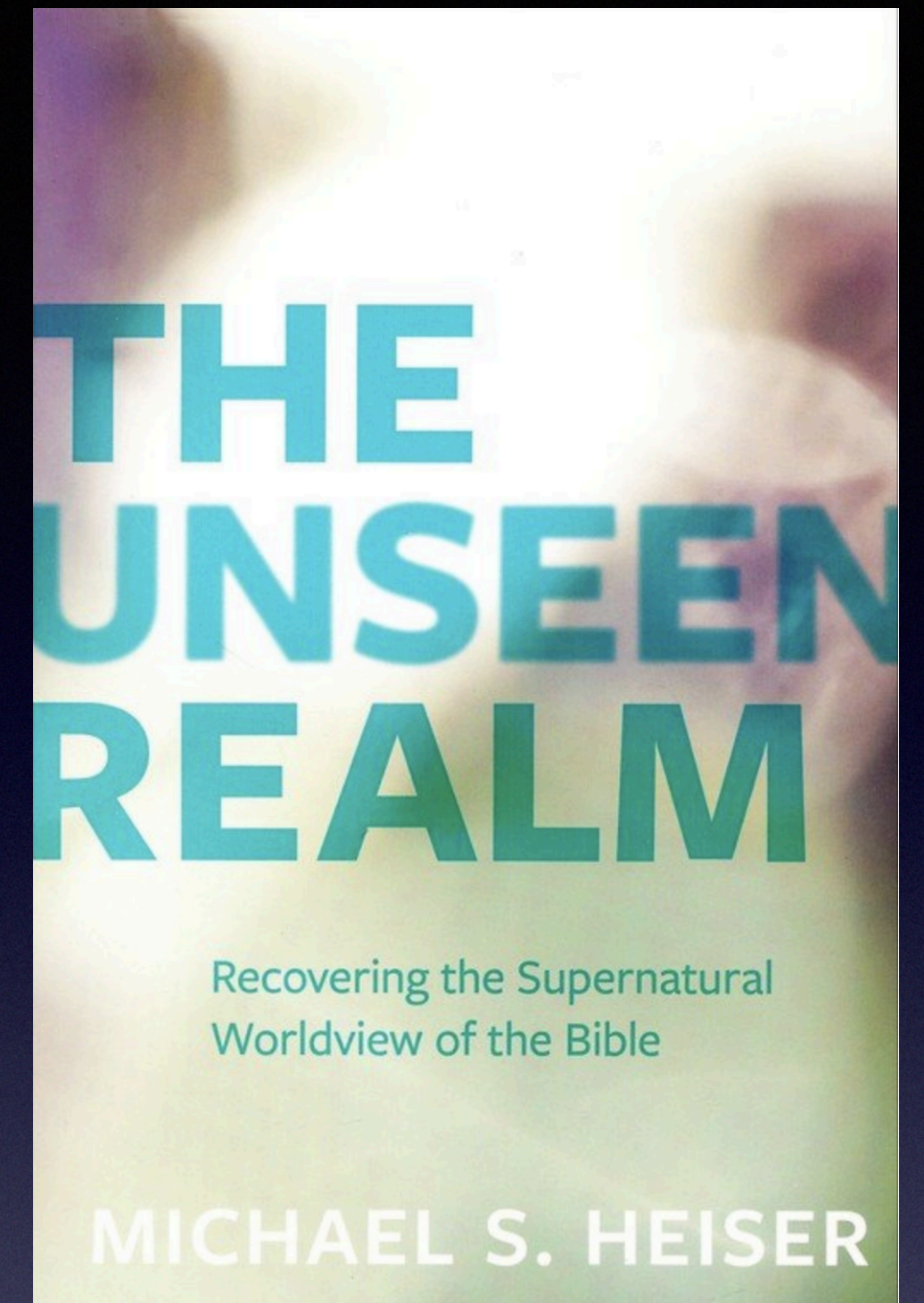
Luke 22:63, 23:11, 23:35,36



# Bulls of Bashan

## Psalm 22:12, 13

*Many bulls encompass me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;  
they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.*



- The Bashan was home to a variety of Canaanite deities
  - Baal-Hermon located near Mt Hermon was a center of Baal worship
  - Giant Amorite King Og, defeated by the Israelites (Numbers 21, Deuteronomy 3) was a remnant of the Rephaim (Joshua 12:4)
  - Jeroboam set up one of his golden calves in Dan (1 Kings 12:28-30) *“Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.”*
- Jesus grew up on the edge of this territory in Capernaum
  - *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shone.* Isaiah 9:2



# Agony of Crucifixion

## Psalm 22:14-15

*I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;  
my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.*

John 19:28 (Psalm 69:21) *“I am Thirsty”*



# Piece Hands and Feet

## Psalm 22:16

*For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet*

MT כארי ידי ורגלי (*"like a lion my hands and my feet"*)

LXX ωρυξαν χειράς μου και πόδας (*"they have dug/pierced my hands and feet"*)

Dead Sea Scrolls, Syriac, Vulgate, and some other Hebrew MSS agree with LXX



# Casting Lots for Clothing

## Psalm 22:17-18

*I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;  
they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots*

Matthew 27:35

Mark 15:24

Luke 23:34

John 19:24



# Christ our brother

## Psalm 22:22-24

*I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted,  
and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard, when he cried to him.*

**Hebrews 2:12**

The suffering of our High Priest brought us  
salvation and we are His brothers!



# Psalm 22:24-26

*From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.  
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!*

*And they sang a new song, saying,  
“Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,  
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God  
from every tribe and language and people and nation,  
and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,  
and they shall reign on the earth.”*

Revelation 5:9,10



# Psalm 22:27-28

*All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.*

*For kingship belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.*



# He has done it!

## Psalm 22:29-31

*All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
even the one who could not keep himself alive.*

*Posterity shall serve him;  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;  
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a  
people yet unborn,  
that **he has done it**.*

***"It is finished."*** John 19:30

Words of completion from the Godhead:  
Genesis 1:31, Revelation 21:6



# The Cry from The Cross

Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34

*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*Why are you so far from saving me,  
from the words of my groaning?*

Psalm 22:1, ESV

Why did Christ make this cry?



# Common Explanation

- This was the moment the sin of the world was placed on Christ, for he became sin. (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- God's wrath, diverted from us, was poured out on Christ.
- God can not look on sin (Habakkuk 1:13)
- God the Son was momentarily separated from (forsaken by) God the Father.



# Alternative Explanation

- Jesus was quoting the first verse of a well known Psalm that would reveal His fulfillment as the suffering Messiah.
- The details of what was happening were described 1000 years earlier!
- In fact, Psalm 22:24 specifically states that *“He [YHWY] has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted.”*
  - Psalm 22:22-31 The view turns from death and suffering to life!
  - Ephesians 5:2 Christ’s death was a fragment offering (like the offerings of Leviticus 23:18).
  - Isaiah 53:10-12 gives a better view of how YHWY saw His affliction.
- Jesus also references that last verse of Psalm 22 when with his last dying breath says **“It is finished”** (John 19:31).



# So why forsaken?

- Jesus, our great High Priest (Hebrews 3:14-26), is identifying with us in our human emotion — when we are in extreme suffering it seems as if God has forsaken us.
- The answer, according to Psalm 22 is *“I have not forsaken you!”*
  - The crowd thinks “He has lost, He is forsaken” — quite the opposite! He was won, and Jesus’ High Priestly prayer in John 17 has been answered — He is One with the Father!
- The promise of Scripture: **“He will never leave or forsake you.”**
  - Deut 31:6,8
  - Joshua 1:5
  - 1 Kings 8:57
  - 1 Chron 28:20
  - Psalm 37:28
  - Psalm 94:14
  - Isaiah 41:17
  - Isaiah 42:16
  - Heb 13:5
  - Psalm 23:4!

Jesus will never leave us! Matthew 28:20



# Another Textual Problem

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,  
from the words of my *groaning*?    ESV, MT

O God, my God, attend to me:

why hast thou forsaken me? the account of my *transgressions* is far from my  
salvation

LXX, Brenton

O God my God, why hast thou let me to live?  
and yet thou hast delayed my salvation from me,  
because of the words of my *folly*.    Syriac