

## The Suffering and Glory of Jesus

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Today I want to talk about Jesus' suffering and glory. Now Jesus suffered a lot during His ministry years, but His greatest suffering was when He was dying on the cross, and Ps. 22, written over 1000 years before His death, describes what He went through for us. - Ps. 22 is Jesus' telling us what He was thinking and feeling when He was suffering on the cross, but it also describes His hope, a glorious future that relates directly to us.

Psalm 22:1. This first phrase, *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?”*

(Matt. 27:46), is what Jesus said to His Father not long before He died.

You see, Jesus felt absolutely terrible, worse than He had ever felt before.

- First, Jesus was physically suffering; every inch of His body was hurting;

He was in great pain; and He was physically worn out, physically exhausted.

- Second, Jesus was emotionally hurting. He was all alone; He was continually being laughed at and mocked; and He, an innocent man, was being punished for our sins - all our sins were placed on Him, and I am sure He felt guilty. Luke 22:44

Third, Jesus was relationally separated from His Father. Jesus and His Father had this perfect relationship since eternity past, and now His Father turned His back on Him; His Father rejected Him and wasn't talking to Him because of the sin He was bearing.

- Fourth, Jesus was spiritually separated from His Father. Jesus was perfect, and because He was perfect, He bore our sins, He was being punished by His heavenly Father.

- Jesus was literally experiencing and feeling the terrible and hellish wrath of God, He was being punished for what must have been billions and billions of sins, for all the sins of all the people who would ever believe in Him.

And so Jesus felt terrible in every way imaginable, and He cries out to His Father.

- Vs. 1 in the NIV says, *“Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the groaning of my words?”* You see, Jesus' Father is far from Jesus, He isn't talking to Him, He is against Him, is actually punishing Him, and Jesus didn't deserve it. Rom. 5:8

Psalm 22:2. Jesus kept praying, kept crying out to His Father, but to no avail. His Father was completely silent, His Father didn't answer Him, and couldn't answer Him, and that's because He was treating Jesus like a sinner, and God couldn't have anything to do with sin, but to punish it. For the first time ever, Jesus was all alone, and He felt all alone.

Psalm 22:3-5. Jesus knows that His Father is perfectly holy, is perfectly righteous, which is why He's being punished. And Jesus knows that His Father is doing the right thing, He knows He should be punished because He's unholy, He's guilty.

- Jesus then thinks about the saints of old, and how they praised and trusted God, and how God came through for them and blessed them.
- Jesus knew that many of these saints were persecuted. He knew what Jeremiah went through, and that he trusted God (Lam. 3). And here's Jesus, and He's in extreme physical, emotional, and spiritual anguish, and He too is trusting God. Ps. 31:7

Psalm 22:6-8. A major theme of this chapter is that Jesus is being persecuted, is hated by all these people. He's being laughed at, mocked, taunted, and insulted.

*"Hey, Jesus, you're so great, you healed all these people, you did all these miracles - save Yourself, or maybe your God will save you."* Matt. 27:34-44

- But Jesus knew He was doing the right thing, and that His Father would come through for Him; and He knew He was dying for sinful people, people who'd repent of their sins, and believe He was the Christ, and that He died to pay for their sins. *"Forgive them."*

Psalm 22:9-10. That Jesus trusted in God, in His Father, is further shown in these verses. God Himself brought Jesus into the world. God created Jesus in Mary's womb, and caused Him to become a human being, the result being that Jesus was both God and man. So Jesus trusted in God when He was in Mary's womb, when He was a baby, a toddler, a youth, a teenager, a young man, during His ministry years, and now when He's on the cross.

And Jesus' faith in His Father, His complete and total reliance on His Father was the key to Jesus living for Him, the key to His successful ministry, and the key to Him dying on the cross and paying for all our sins. He trusted His Father for the grace, peace, and strength He needed to suffer and die on the cross for us. You

Psalm 22:11-13. Jesus prays again - *"Do not be far from me for trouble is near."*

The only way Jesus could victoriously make it through those horrendous and hellish six hours on the cross was by faith, by trusting God, His heavenly Father. Jesus was saying, *"Father, I got all this trouble - these people are strong, and they hate me, and they're like bulls, like lions, and they're ferocious, and they want to kill me."*

And God gave Him all the strength that He needed. Psalm 18:1-3

Psalm 22:13-18. Jesus continues to pray to His Father, even though He doesn't respond, doesn't answer Him. Jesus knows that His Father hears Him, and that His Father will answer Him, and will give Him the victory over sin, death, and hell. Jesus is telling His Father about His physical condition. Jesus is hanging on the cross and He says His bones are out of joint - they had been pulled out of their sockets.

Jesus says His heart is like wax - the physical stress Jesus is going through is putting incredible pressure, an unbelievable strain on His heart, and Jesus is feeling something

He had never felt before - His heart feels like wax. And Jesus has very little strength. He's physically exhausted and severely dehydrated. Jesus knows He is close to death, that it won't be long before His body completely gives out and He physically dies.

And Jesus feels this extreme pain in His hands and feet, in those places that had been pierced by those spikes, those huge nails. And every time Jesus pushes up to get more air, this screaming pain goes shooting through those parts of His body. Jesus can count all His bones, for wherever His bones were at, which was every part of His body, He felt this extreme weight and pressure and this incredible pain.

All these evildoers, like dogs going in for the kill, surround Jesus and stare at Him, and they're not looks of love or kindness, but looks of anger and malice, of pure hate. Not only that, but they are also gambling away Jesus' clothes, and Jesus is God in the flesh, their Creator, the Savior of sinners, this One who'll be King of the world.

Psalm 22:19-21. Again, Jesus prays to His Father, and He calls Him Lord, for He is His Master, the One who's in charge of His life. Again, He asks for help, and He's asking His Father to hurry up, to bring this unbelievably painful ordeal to an end. Jesus is praying for deliverance, for His soul, His life to be rescued from His enemies. And again He uses animals to illustrate the severe peril He is in. He talks about lions, wild oxen, and dogs, and these would be wild dogs, and all these were extremely dangerous and deadly animals.

Psalm 22:22-24. Jesus says God has not despised His affliction, which means God has not ignored Jesus, hasn't looked down upon Him, hasn't disregarded what He's going through. And God hasn't abhorred Jesus, hasn't loathed Him, hasn't detested Him. God greatly loves His Son and deeply cares about what He's going through, and Jesus knows this, that His Father hadn't forgotten Him, but will answer His prayer.  
- Psalm 16:7-11. Jesus knows He's going to die, but also knows His Father would raise Him from the dead. Jesus had talked to His Father about all this, and so Jesus had hope, He knew the future, He knew that He would be victorious.

Vss. 22-23, 25. Jesus talks about this hope, what He knows will happen in the future.  
- First, Jesus will tell the believers about God, about His glory, greatness, and love.  
- Second, Jesus will give honor and praise to God in the midst of all the believers, and this is repeated in vs. 25.  
- Third, in the future, all believers will be standing together in awe of God, and be giving glory to God. Rev. 7:9-11

Vss. 26-31. Jesus is on cross, and He knows His Father loves Him, and He loves His Father. But Jesus also has hope, and is looking ahead to the future. But is Jesus referring to the church age, the kingdom age, or both? I believe it's both. Jesus' hope, what He was certain would happen, is that His death and resurrection would greatly, powerfully, and eternally affect every single person in the world. Not only that, but Jesus knew He would be glorified. And so what do we learn?

1. 26 - The poor, the humble, those who seek the Lord, those who are believers, will have eternal life, will live forever, and will be forever blessed and satisfied.
2. 27 - Everyone on the earth, all nations and peoples, and not just the Jews, but Gentiles too, and this includes unbelievers, will worship the Lord. Ph. 2:9-11 says every knee will bow before the Lord, and I believe this takes place during the kingdom age. Ps. 67:7
3. 28 - There will be a kingdom, and this is Christ's kingdom, and He'll be a ruler, and He'll reign over the world, and He'll rule with a rod of iron. Ps. 145:13 - "*Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.*"
4. 29a - Those who are rich will worship the Lord, will fear Him and bow down to Him. I don't believe this is speaking of just rich people who are saved, but that all the rich people living during the kingdom age will be fearing and worshipping God. Gospel
5. 29b - All those who die will bow to the Lord, will worship Him. And people are dying during this age and will be dying in the kingdom age. And Jesus is making the point that all people, whether they live or die, will worship Him, for He is the Lord and King.
6. 30-31 - Our posterity, our descendants, and this refers to both the church and believers in the coming age, will tell people about Jesus. And we're to tell people that Jesus is righteous and we are unrighteous, we are sinners, and He died to pay for our sins, and then rose again, and that they need to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus. And this is our job, our mission, during this church age. And this message about Jesus will also be proclaimed in the age to come. Matt. 24:14, Ps. 96:1-3, 98:1-3

I want to make three final points:

- The first comes from the last phrase - it says, "*that He has performed it*" or "*that He has done it*", and I believe this refers to Christ's finished work on the cross. Jn. 19:30. This Psalm is about Christ suffering and dying to pay for our sins and it concludes by saying that His work is finished, all that nothing else needs to be done.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> point is that Christ is Lord and King and not long from now, there's the rapture, and all believers will be glorified and reigning with Him over this world. 1 Pet. 1:10-17
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> point tells us what kept Jesus going, what enabled Him to endure: 1<sup>st</sup>, He knew the love of His Father; 2<sup>nd</sup>, He had faith in His Father; 3<sup>rd</sup>, He had hope, He knew the future, that there'd be an amazing, wonderful, and glorious future.