

# 13. Jesus in Psalms – Part 1

March 10, 2016

There are so many references of Jesus in the Book of Psalms. It would be unjust for us to finish this Book in one night and move on.

## A. JESUS IN PSALM 2

*Psalm 2:1-2 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying,*

As never before, there is a united voice of rebellion against the rule of God and Christ. What do these countries and people want? Freedom from God's rule. They do not want to submit to God any longer. They want to be away from God's presence. Eventually their wish will be granted and they will end up in hell by their own choice. There they won't have the presence of God. That is more hell than anything else.

I asked you to underline the word 'Anointed' in v2. Of course, we know that it is the 'Messiah' in Hebrew and 'Christ' in Greek.

*Psalm 2:7-9 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"*

'Begotten' is an important idea, as a contrast to "created." Jesus was not created. Rather, He created everything that was created as it is mentioned in Colossians 1:16-17 and John 1:3.

The reference in this psalm is not to the birth of Jesus. He never was begotten in the sense of having a beginning. Rather, this is in reference to His resurrection. Christ was begotten out of Joseph's tomb. Jesus is the eternal Son of God, and God is the eternal Father. They were like this throughout eternity. This is their position in the Trinity.

This is a verse that the Jehovah Witnesses use a great deal. It hasn't anything to do with someone being born, but it does have something to do with someone being begotten from the dead as a resurrection. If the Jehovah's Witnesses have not heard this, but they could find, with a little honest searching, that the New Testament makes it very clear Jesus Christ is not a creature. He is the theanthropic Person. He is the God-man.

## B. JESUS IN PSALM 8

*Psalm 8:1-2 To the Chief Musician. On the instrument of Gath. A Psalm of David. O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! 2 Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have ordained strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may silence the enemy and the avenger.*

You'll notice that the first 'LORD' is all capital letters, which signifies that it is a translation of the Hebrew word for the name for 'God, Jehovah or Yahweh'. The pronunciation is not exactly known, but they figured that it is probably 'Yahweh'. Capital 'L' and, then, the small 'ord' in the Old Testament signify that it is the word or title Lord which in the Hebrew is 'Adoni'. It is the title of 'your Master'.

In Matthew 21 we have recorded what is called the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem:

*Matthew 21:16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, 'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"*

Our Lord was quoting Psalm 8:2. He was telling the chief priests and the scribes that it would be a good idea if they read this Scripture so that they would understand why the children were saying this.

*Psalm 8:4-6 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,*

This portion was quoted by the writers of the Book of Hebrews in chapter 2 and 1 Corinthians in chapter 15. When we read Gen. 1:26-28 carefully, we will note that God gave the first man dominion over the fish, the fowl and the cattle. Actually, mankind was made "a little lower than God" and was appointed God's deputy to rule over the earth. But when Adam sinned, he lost that dominion. Romans 5 points out that there was a change of "kings": death reigned and sin reigned, but Adam no longer reigned. Instead of a king, Adam had become a slave to satan.

When Christ came to earth, He exercised the dominion that Adam lost. No one on earth today could control nature the way He did. When Jesus came to earth, it was God's visit to show what's to come.

Man is certainly the greatest of God's creations, because man is made "in the image of God." However, since modern secular teaching has lowered man to an animal and rejected the image of God, the world is in chaos. No wonder we have so much civil unrest, so much brutality. We have dethroned God and deified humanity. In other words, their idea of human is almost like a god, but he acts like an unruly animal. It is a typical storyline of the Greek Mythology.

Let us never forget our obligation as creatures made in God's image, and our greater obligation as followers of Jesus is being renewed in this image through Christ.

### **C. JESUS IN PSALM 16**

*Psalm 16:8-11 I have set the Lord always before me; Because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. 9 Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. 10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. 11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Verses 8-11 were cited by Peter on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:25-28 and Psalm 16:10b was quoted by Paul at Antioch in Acts 13:35-37 in reference to Christ's resurrection.

The words of David are typological and they transcended his own experience and became historically true in Christ. Preservation from the decaying Sheol is the idea behind both David's and Jesus' experiences, but with David it came through a deliverance from death, whereas with Jesus it came through a resurrection from death.

*Colossians 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*

This Messianic Psalm describes the life of Christ in v8, the death of Christ in v9, the resurrection of Christ in v10 and the ascension of Christ in v11.

#### **D. JESUS IN PSALM 22**

Many of us watched the controversial movie "The Passion of the Christ" in 2004. In my opinion, even though there were many scenes that were extra biblical, it was the most realistic portrayal of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ than any other Jesus movies.

In your minds' eyes, I am going to ask to transfer yourselves to the foot of the three crosses where Jesus was hung almost two thousand years ago.

The air was thick even though it was only 9 o'clock in the morning. The people of Jerusalem smelled the blood of the man whom they once chanted as their Messiah and Savior and cried out, "Hosanna!" while He was entering into the city. They spread palm branches and their outer garments for the young colt to step on. It was a treatment for a victorious king. That was not thirty years ago, not even three months ago, it was even less than three days ago. Now they wanted His blood. They snarled at Him; they jeered at Him; they mocked at Him as if He did the most horrible thing personally in their lives.

The majority of records concerning the crucifixion of Jesus Christ in the Bible shows us the scene of the crucifixion of Him from the foot of the cross. But this Psalm 22 is different. Instead of standing beneath the cross and listening to Jesus, we are going to hang on the cross with Him. We will view the crucifixion of Christ from a new position – from the cross itself.

Psalm 22 is called the Psalm of the Cross. It is so named because it describes more accurately and minutely the crucifixion of Christ than any other portion of the Word of God does. It corresponds, of course, to Genesis 22 and Isaiah 53.

There were seven statements made by Jesus while He was on the cross. In my opinion, these statements by Him have direct connections with Psalm 22. Some commentators believe that He was quoting the entire Psalm 22 while He was on the cross. I don't see anywhere in the Bible that He did, though He quoted several verses out of Psalm 22.

#### **1) My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**

*Psalm 22:1-6 To the Chief Musician. Set to 'The Deer of the Dawn.' A Psalm of David. My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? 2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent. 3 But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. 4 Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. 5 They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed. 6 But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people.*

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, David was writing down this psalm which is a pure Messianic one. It opens with the desperate cry of this poor, lonely Man, forsaken by God the Father.

Some liberal Bible scholars tried to downplay the horrible reality of crucifixion and transferring of our sins to Him that caused Him to be forsaken by the Father.

Why did God the Father forsake His only begotten Son Jesus when He needed Him most? Because on the cross in those last three hours, from noon till three in the afternoon, in the impenetrable darkness, He was made sin. Jesus became a sinner for us by reconciling all of our sins onto Himself.

The Father God was with Him when He was in prison; the Father was with Him when He was being beaten; the Father was with Him when they nailed Him to the cross. But in those last three hours He made His soul an offering for sin, and it pleased the Father to bruise Him.

We have no idea what it is like to be forsaken by God while we are on this earth. The most vile man and the loneliest man on this earth today are not forsaken of God. Anyone can turn to Him until their last breath. But when Christ took my sins and yours upon Himself, He was forsaken of God. It was the human cry of intense suffering, aggravated by the anguish of His innocent and holy life. The only people who were forsaken by God were the ones who rejected Jesus to their last breath by their own choices and now dead.

I asked you to underline 'worm' in v6. What does He mean when He says, "I am a worm"? In another place in the Bible, He was portrayed as the Lion of Judah, but here He called Himself a worm. Why? It is because He has reached the very lowest place.

*Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

The interesting thing is that the word used here for worm means the worm, which was used by the ancient Jewish people in dyeing all the curtains of the tabernacle scarlet red. When He said, "I am a worm," He meant more than that He had reached the lowest level. It was He who had said,

*Isaiah 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."*

By the way, some heartbroken family members of 9/11 demanded answers from their pastors across America, "Where was God when these things happen?" after the four airliners slammed into the Twin Tower, the Pentagon and a field near the town of Shanksville in rural Somerset County, PA. Many of them didn't have an answer. One pastor replied, "The same place when mankind crucified His Son on the cross."

## **2) Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do**

*Psalm 22:7-8 All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"*

Let's look through Jesus' eyes and see what He sees.

When we watched good old fashioned western movies, some criminals have been so detested that they have been taken from the jail and lynched by an angry mob. But while the criminal was being hung, the mob would disperse. Tempers were cooled,

and emotions were settled down. But not this crowd. They sat down and watched Him die. You have to be really low and cruel to do that. In fact, if you and I were there, we might be the ones who sat down and watched Him die. The venom and wickedness of the human heart were being poured out like an open sewer as they remained there and ridiculed Him in His death.

But Jesus had compassion on them and asked the Father to forgive them. Doesn't that just blow our minds?

### 3) I thirst

Then His attention moves back to those who are doing the crucifying.

*Psalm 22:11-18 Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help. 12 Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me. 13 They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion. 14 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. 16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; 17 I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18 They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*

Describing these soldiers who were crucifying Him, He says they are like the bulls of Bashan. He is talking about the Roman soldiers. By the way, He also compares them to a roaring lion, because the lion was a symbol of Rome.

V14, 16, and 17 give accurate descriptions of the crucifixion. It is remarkable when you consider that crucifixion was unknown at the time when this psalm was written. The Roman Empire was not even in existence, and it was Rome that perfected crucifixion which was started in ancient Persia. Yet here is a picture of a man dying by crucifixion. That is an accurate prophecy.

David said on behalf of Jesus something that is indeed strange, "My heart is like wax." He died of a broken heart. Many doctors have said that a ruptured heart would have produced the blood and the water that John meticulously recorded in John 19.

As Jesus was hanging there ready to die, with excessive perspiration pouring from Him, He suffered the agony of thirst. That is why He said, "I thirst."

In addition to the bloody scene, there is one more thing many Christians try to ignore. Jesus was crucified naked. Rome wanted to bring all the humiliations as much as they could to the impending death-row prisoner.

Jesus went through it all, crucified naked, that we might be clothed with His righteousness, and so be able to stand before God throughout the endless ages of eternity.

### 4) Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit

*Psalm 22:19-24 But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! 20 Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. 21 Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me. 22 I will declare Your name to My*

*brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. 23 You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! 24 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard.*

If you have King Jimmy version, v21 says "unicorn". It is not a proper translation. It should be translated as 'wild bull'.

On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed a glorious prayer at the Last Supper, and one line of that prayer reads:

*John 17:26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."*

Those words, prayed in the shadow of the cross, can be understood as a deliberate desire to fulfill this word in Psalm 22. Jesus understood that His obedient work on the cross would bring great glory to His God and Father, declaring the greatness of His name. Jesus knew His assignment on this earth was about to be over.