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East Columbus Bulletin

How the Cross Proved Jesus was the Christ

How could dying as condemned criminal prove you are someone important and special? In reality, the cross proved Jesus was the Christ. In Matthew 27:45-56, Jesus' manner of death convinced a Roman centurion and his guard he was the Son of God. No crucifixion they had performed or witnessed had ever been like this! But for Bible-believing Jews, just hearing his words and looking around should have convinced them of the same thing. *SOURCE: www.LumoProject.com*

Why did so many people quote Psalm 22 at the cross?

When he spoke the words, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?", he not only expressed the strong feelings of a righteous man who to all appearances had been abandoned by God, but also echoed the opening words of a Psalm that explored those same feelings, Psalm 22. It turns out that this Psalm not only expressed the emotions of someone in a similar circumstance of oppression and despair, but also was prophetically describing the crucifixion of the coming Messiah.

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

Just a few minutes before Jesus quoted the first verse of this Psalm, everyone around him was mocking and ridiculing him. But some of the mockers mocked him with exactly these words! Perhaps they chose the words of this well-known Psalm because they wanted to add a touch of Biblical authority to their mockery, but if they did this consciously, then

Times of Services

Sunday

10:00 a.m. Worship only

Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Study and Worship Opportunities

Due to COVID concerns, services and classes are limited to Sunday morning and Wednesday evening. Stay alert to possible changes.

News and Notes

- **Home Bound Members:** Mike Butler, Willena Woods.
- **Prayer Requests:** Elbert Logan, Lee Gallop, Doug and Pat Wheeler, Steve Coburn, David McGee.
- **Others to Remember:** Wade McCrary, Jim Ratcliff, Jerry Paschall, Elbert Logan, Mike & Marion Butler, Lee Gallop. Willena Woods is at Windsor Place.
- **Sick:** Doug Wheeler has completed radiation treatments for lymphatic cancer. Pat Wheeler is receiving treatments for pancreatic cancer. Steve Coburn is rehabilitating from a collapsed lung. Jim Ratcliff is in Trinity Place for physical rehabilitation. David McGee underwent extensive foot surgery and in addition is being treated for a long-term infection. Mike Lavender is recuperating from recent hip replacement surgery. Steve Linville, nephew of Kathy Paschall, is critically ill and in need of our prayers.
- **Remember to Spring Back on March 14** – Yes, we spring forward to Central Daylight Savings Time on March 14. If you forget you will be an hour late for services.

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they chose to mock Jesus with words spoken by the wicked against the unjustly suffering righteous.

So now two different people at the cross have directly quoted two different parts of this Psalm: Jesus' enemies, and Jesus.

Psalm 22 was a Prophecy of the 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 has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.

According to Matthew, just hearing Jesus speak made someone want to get him something to drink. His tongue clung to his jaws.

John's gospel tells us when the soldiers pierced his side, blood and water came out. The Psalmist said, "I am poured out like water... my heart is like wax; it has melted within me."

Psalm 22:16 — For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

Historians credit the Persians with inventing crucifixion. David wrote this Psalm nearly 500 years before the rise of Persia and 1000 years before Jesus died. Yet those standing at the cross who have heard this Psalm quoted twice can look up and see a man whose hands and feet have been pierced, just as Psalm 22 describes.

Psalm 22:17–18 — I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.

And then they could see or recall seeing the soldiers at the foot of the cross, plundering the victims of the crucifixion, but in doing so, exactly carrying out the words of this same Psalm.

Matthew tells us, this happened in order to fulfill this verse. But, clearly, the events of the cross bring to our view and fulfill the whole Psalm.

SOURCE: www.LumoProject.com

The Cross Proved Jesus was the Christ

Putting these two texts beside each other, the crucifixion itself becomes a glorious affirmation that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, the King of the Jews. In Psalm 22, the speaker is the righteous man who is surrounded by his enemies. All who are present on that day and recognize this Psalm coming to pass cannot doubt that Jesus had been condemned unjustly and must therefore be all that he claimed to be.

God appears to have totally abandoned Him. Enemies of overwhelming power surround Him. He can't even defend himself as they cruelly mock him. But that was only the appearance. The rest of the Psalm reveals the reality. It says:

Psalm 22:21–28 — ...You have answered Me. 22 I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. ... 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. ... All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the LORD's, And He rules over the nations.

Jesus only appeared to be forsaken by God. God did hear him. The same one who was brought to "the dust of death", later praised the name of God to his brethren. So if we know the subject of this Psalm was not just close to death, but actually died, then the rest of the Psalm becomes a prophecy of his resurrection. Not only that, the nations, seeing and remembering what happened, turned to the Lord, beginning with the Roman centurion who crucified him.

The cross proved Jesus was the Christ!

BRENT PASCHALL, DEC 24, 2020