

Psalm 22 – Christ’s Suffering and Your Response

JFB, Poole, Gill, Henry, Pulpit, JFB, Plumer, Spurgeon, HebrewLexicon, TSK,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ, Psalm 22 is called the Gospel According to David. It is called the Gospel because it shows the Messiah(弥赛亚) suffering for his church, and the glory his people give to him for his suffering for them. Today I want to highlight **8** aspects of the suffering of Jesus to show you sense of the intensity of his suffering for you, and then I will highlight **3** ways you must respond to his suffering to give him the glory.

Our headings are:

Christ’s Suffering

Your Response

Our goals are: That as a covenant child, **you will be refreshed in your soul as you see the work of Christ on your behalf,** and that **you’ll be challenged to give him the glory for what you have received through his suffering for you.**

Christ’s Suffering:

1 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.

1. Your Covenant Keeper was deserted 被抛弃 by his Father in heaven. This was the worse suffering of all. No wonder David started here! His Father turned his face from him. Jesus directly applied David’s words to himself.

Mark 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?" which is translated, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

David illustrated his desertion in Verse 2. The Lord Jesus, your covenant keeper, cried to his Father who refused to hear him. The Lord probably prayed for all 6 hours on the cross.

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.**

There is something that made the abandonment of Jesus by his Father worse. Even sinning men of the past God had delivered, but not his Son on the cross. Abraham committed adultery and God restored him. David committed murder and God restored him. Solomon worshipped idols and God forgave him. But your Covenant Keeper had no one to rescue him. This intensified Jesus’ suffering which he experienced for you.

6 But I **am a worm,** and no man; **A reproach of men,** and despised by the people.

10 I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother’s womb You have been My God. 11 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. (14 我如水被倒出来, 我的骨头都脱了节, 我心在我里面如蜡融化。)

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. (15 我的精力枯干, 如同瓦片; 我的舌头贴在我牙床上。你将我安置在死地的尘土中。)

2. Your Covenant Keeper was physically weakened. He felt like a worm. “Worm” was not used in the sense of how we use worm today – a picture of a sneaky person (奸猾之人) . Worm was used to show weakness. Look at the fulfillment.

Matthew 27:42 - "He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him.

Your Covenant Keeper was surrounded by bulls...bulls that were like wild lions. This is the thing of nightmares. **He felt weak.** His substance was gone...as after a catastrophic event (大灾难) ...as a tornado or earthquake. His bones were separated. He was poured out as water is poured out of a vessel-possibly referring to his many tears and sweat in Gethsemane or like poured-out water that could not be saved. His heart melted from the heat of God punishment. He felt like nothing was left in the tank. **His heart was not a rock anymore. His tongue was dry and stuck to the roof of his mouth.** And like the **claypots, potsherds** 陶瓷瓦片, all his juices have dried up. This was an awful physical torture...to have a dried mouth...and he felt it was time to die. Jesus experienced this for you.

3. Your Covenant Keeper was Reproached by Jews and Gentiles even though he was holy, harmless, and undefiled 纯洁的。 “Reproached” means to censure or rebuke. Men with high degrees of wretchedness rebuked the God of glory. But see how Christ does not blame his Father for his troubles. He endured your reproach so you don’t have to.

4. Your Covenant Keeper was deserted by his family and friends. With all the threat and troubles there was no one there. He faced the bulls alone. Having family around could help to soften pain...but there was none for Jesus. They abandoned him in his weakness. Who abandons a dying man? Yet his family and friends turned their backs to him and denied **they even knew him. And others abandoned him.**

Mark 14:50 - Then they all forsook Him and fled.

Yet with all of this desertion, Jesus cried out:

Matthew 26:42 –O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, **Your will be done.**

He knew that he had to do this by himself, for his own family and friends were full of sin.

7 **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!"

5. Your Covenant Keeper was laughed to Scorn 鄙夷. Who laughs a dying man-even if he had done wickedly? Laughing Jesus hurt him, but he felt sad for his mockers – for he knew they needed him the most. Today also, those who **laugh at Christ and his people** are the ones who need him the most. Feel sad about it. Then tell them the Gospel.

9 But You are He who took Me out of the womb; **You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts.**

6. Your Covenant Keeper's trust was betrayed by the religious leaders. When Jesus was a child he nursed from his mother and learned trust, but as an adult, the people he should have trusted betrayed that trust and killed him. This intensified his suffering. But he had to face his suffering for you.

16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;19 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.

7. Your Covenant Keeper was Pierced. Jesus' enemies were already called bulls, and lions. Now they are called dogs. The Jews and the Romans were like powerful dogs...like lion's jaws...like the horns of wild oxen! And Jesus had no comfort on the cross, as he was suffering for you. These are not the kind over fed domestic animals that many have today. It is a picture of wild dogs with blood dripping from their mouths. **And they nailed Jesus to the tree.** While today people pierced their bodies, usually in safe places, for a fashion statement, they nailed Jesus in his hands and feet for you. **Your Covenant Keeper's physical pain was so intense that he called for help.**

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. (17 我的骨头，我都能数过，他们瞪眼看我。18 他们分我的外衣，为我的里衣拈阄。)

8. Your Covenant Keeper was Shamed. You could count the bones on his ribs as Jesus was stripped of his clothes. Southern expression: He would have felt lower than a snake's belly. This was also a picture of poverty like you have seen the pictures of Hitler's concentration camps 纳粹集中营. But he died the painful and shameful death for you.

Your Response

22 I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.

1. Knowing and believing that Christ endured these 8 things for you is not enough. How should you respond?

2. Declare your Covenant Keeper's name by teaching his servants and bringing sanctification 成圣 to those inside the church and salvation 救恩 to those outside.

To teach his “name” is to teach of Christ’s work. Christ’s suffering in life and in death and his glorious resurrection must be the focus of preaching. This means you must encourage someone. You can give them a good book or have a Bible study together. Talk to anyone who would listen. But to be a good teacher, you have to be a good student first.

26 **The poor shall eat and be satisfied;** Those who seek Him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

3. Your teaching will allow the spiritually poor to eat this message and be satisfied. Their souls would be assured of grace and strengthened in faith. God never neglects one who seeks him.

Isaiah 55:1 "Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; And you who have no money, **Come, buy and eat.** Yes, come, buy wine and milk **Without money and without price.**

And as they are nourished through your teaching, **they will praise God in their souls and out of their mouths.** Notice how this is much more than saying “Praise God, praise God, praise God,” and getting lost in a trancelike state (走火入魔的状态) .

But this praise is not only in church. For example: If you are at your job, and they want someone to pray, do you hide behind another person, or do you say “I will do it?”

27 **All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD,** And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You. 28 **For the kingdom is the LORD’S,** And He rules over the nations. 29 All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive. 30 **A posterity shall serve Him.** It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, (29 地上一切丰肥的人必吃喝而敬拜；凡下到尘土中不能存活自己性命的人，都要在他面前下拜。30 他必有后裔侍奉他，主所行的事必传与后代；)

4. The end result of your response:

a. To world – even to its remotest ends- will recognize your Covenant Keeper’s work. (Psalm 110, Mt 24, Psalm 2). And this is not pointing to a sporadic (零星的) amount of believers...but all the nations...as God said to Abram: In You all the nations of the world will be blessed...

b. To your children. The worship of the Lord will never be finished...

5. Every time you bring glory to him, you bring blessings to yourself. This is the “believer’s reward.”

Conclusion:

First, Jesus was deserted, weakened, reproached, deserted by family and friends, laughed at, betrayed by religious leaders, pierced, and shamed. He did not deserve to go through these torments; you did. But he loved you. His condescension (降卑) is unparalleled. This knowledge of Christ’s work in your place should bring refreshment to your soul. **Second,** he gained glory for himself through his death. How? He made you a child fit for heaven. He gave you access to God. He made you an ambassador of righteousness. He guarantees a future for you that is certain and bright. .

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. Be clear announcers of his good news to your family, your friends, your enemies, even to all the peoples on earth. 2. Don’ be bogged down (停滞不前) by little things. Don’t worry about food... clothing... health...cars... or employment. The big thing has been resolved. If the Lord has the power to help you with the big thing – your eternal salvation, do you think the little things are difficult for him? And hasn’t he assure you that he will meet all your needs?

Finally, let me take this opportunity to address for a minute those who do not know Jesus. His offer still stands today to all who come. He says: You can be free from the load of your sins. You may have committed the worst sins imaginable, but he already took the punishment so you can go free. Stop carrying that load and turn it over to the Lord who loves those who turn to him.