

There are 280 direct quotations from the Psalms in the New Testament taken from 224 passages in 103 psalms. That means that the New Testament authors saw Jesus and His coming kingdom in much of the psalms! Are we reading the psalms like they read them? David knew that it would be one of his heirs that would reign forever. (Psalm 89:4) It would not be a stretch to think that David, as prophet and king, realized that when he penned his psalms he could see the wording applying to that great descendant to come. (Numbers 24:17)

Last week we looked at the psalms of rejection. They are in sync with Isaiah's Suffering Servant Songs. The Messiah was to be rejected by religious leaders, the people, and even his friends. That rejection led to Him being offered as a guilt offering for the sins of the world, past, present, and future. (Isaiah 53:10) He is the ultimate sacrifice, the only One that could free us from the penalty our sins deserve. His is the substance of which all previous sacrifices of Israel were only a shadow. (Hebrews 10:1)

This is Palm Sunday, the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem and was greeted as a Savior. It was the very day that Jews were instructed to select their sacrificial lamb for Passover. (Exodus 12:3) That was the day the Lamb of God chose to present Himself to Jerusalem. It appeared that they were choosing Him, but the Jesus they were choosing was not the meek and gentle Jesus riding on a donkey and its foal. (Zechariah 9:9) They preferred that He be on a war stallion, as their choice of Barabbas would soon reveal. (Matthew 27:21) They did not want the perfect sacrifice for sin. They wanted a conquering king. They preferred a conqueror of their occupiers rather than a conqueror of their sinful nature. **It is the preference of the physical over the spiritual.**

Many of the psalms were written a thousand years before the events they so aptly describe. Jesus' blood began to flow for you and me during that horrendous scourging that the Romans called half-death. It was described in Psalm 129:3 (ESV) ³ *The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows.* It was so graphically, but I believe accurately, depicted in the movie, *The Passion*.

If we have any doubt that Jesus saw these psalms fulfilled in what He was enduring, we should look to Jesus' own words on the cross. ¹ *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?* Psalm 22:1a (ESV) The entire psalm depicts not only the anguish of His body but that of His soul as well.¹ Jesus lived in constant communion with His Father. It was the Father's words that He spoke. (John 12:49) It was the Father's judgments that He gave. (John 5:30) He joined the Father in His actions. (John 5:19) But now, suddenly, there was no sense of His presence. No still small voice comforted His soul and directed Him. The sins of the world, yours and mine, were laid upon Him. This was

Commented [notes1]: Psalm 89:4 (ESV)

⁴ "I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations." *Selah*

Commented [notes2]: Numbers 24:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth."

Commented [notes3]: Isaiah 53:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ "Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand."

Commented [notes4]: Hebrews 10:1 (ESV)

¹ "For since the law has but a shadow of the good things to come instead of the true form of these realities, it can never, by the same sacrifices that are continually offered every year, make perfect those who draw near."

Commented [notes5]: Exodus 12:3 (ESV)

³ "Tell all the congregation of Israel that on the tenth day of this month every man shall take a lamb according to their fathers' houses, a lamb for a household."

Commented [notes6]: Zechariah 9:9 (ESV)

⁹ "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Commented [notes7]: Matthew 27:21 (ESV)

²¹ "The governor again said to them, 'Which of the two do you want me to release for you?' And they said, 'Barabbas.'"

Commented [notes8]: John 12:49 (ESV)

⁴⁹ "For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak."

Commented [notes9]: John 5:30 (ESV)

³⁰ "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me."

Commented [notes10]: John 5:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ "So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.'"

the moment that He knew was coming, the moment over which He sweat those drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Luke 22:44) Listen to the words in another psalm. ²⁶ *For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded.* Psalm 69:26 (ESV) Isaiah said the same in Isaiah 53:10a (ESV) ¹⁰ *Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt...* (also see Isaiah 50:6)

Commented [notes11]: Luke 22:44 (ESV)

⁴⁴ And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Even creation showed by the absence of light what was happening in the spiritual realm at that moment. (Matthew 27:45) God is of purer eyes than to behold evil. (Habakkuk 1:13) It was the only moment in all eternity when He had to turn away from the Son, because my sins and yours were upon Him.

Commented [notes12]: Matthew 27:45 (ESV)

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

Commented [notes13]: Habakkuk 1:13 (ESV)

¹³ You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?

There is something we should see in this. **Jesus is the man of joy because of His fellowship with the Father, but He entered into the greatest grief at His separation from Him.** Jesus knows what true joy is as well as true anguish of the soul. One is heaven, and the other is hell. Do you see what Jesus experienced? Every day was heaven as He walked through this life in cooperation and communion with His heavenly Father who is love. For three hours He experienced hell, separation from the Father and the anguish of our sins and all that they justly deserve. (Romans 6:23)

Commented [notes14]: Romans 6:23 (ESV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Though for the most part Jewish rabbis only see the final section of the psalm as relating to the Messiah, the earlier rabbis could see the first part as prophetic of His suffering. The Midrash literature's Pesikhta Rabbati, the compilation of which took place probably in the 8th or 9th centuries but which is based on traditional material stretching back to a much earlier period, portrays the Messiah Ephraim, the son of Joseph, as follows: "Our Rabbis have taught that one day, in the month of Nisan (Easter time), the Patriarchs will come to him and say: 'Ephraim, Messiah, Our Righteousness. Although we are your fathers you are greater than us because you have suffered for the sins of our children and have gone through great and difficult trials... you have become an object of scorn and ridicule in the midst of the nations for the sake of Israel, and you have sat in the darkness and the depths... your skin has been torn off, and your body is dried out like wood... and your strength like a potsherd. You have suffered all this because of the sins of our children.'" (From Risto Santala on Psalm 22)

The entirety of Psalm 22 is written as if one was observing from the foot of the cross. I'll just take the passages that are plainly seen in the New Testament. ⁷ *All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;* ⁸ *He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!*" Psalm 22:7-8 (ESV) Those who mocked Jesus from the foot of the cross unwittingly quoted verse 8. (Matthew 27:43) What restraint and love the Lord showed by enduring the taunts of these self-

Commented [notes15]: Matthew 27:43 (ESV)

⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'

righteous men. He endures the taunts even today, as should we who are His body. (1Peter 3:9)

¹⁴ 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; ¹⁵ my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death. Psalm 22:14-15 (ESV) Crucifixion would quickly dislocate the shoulders. The beating and flogging that Jesus endured caused such blood loss and dehydration that the thickened blood that remained would indeed feel as if your heart was wax. He was certainly in the dust of death, barely clinging to life until it was time to surrender it into the hands of the Father. (Luke 23:46)

¹⁶ For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet - ¹⁷ I can count all my bones - they stare and gloat over me; Dogs is a Jewish expression for the ungodly. (Revelation 22:15) It was usually used for Gentiles, but in typical Hebrew parallelism, the parallel word here is evildoers, which includes Jew and Gentile. Then comes the phrase that so clearly points to the cross, "*they have pierced my hands and feet*". Keep in mind that crucifixion was not even invented as a means of execution until centuries after this psalm was written. It so clearly points to Christ Jesus that later rabbis argue that the word for pierced should be translated "lions". In other words, "lions have chewed my hands and feet." But when lions chew they pierce with their teeth. Their argument has only shown how clearly Jesus' is seen in it.

In the way one hangs from a cross, the bones are quite visible as the rib cage extends outward, the disjointed shoulders, the bent legs and shattered feet bones. The crowd had indeed gathered to stare and gloat just as the psalm describes.

¹⁸ they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. John tells us the soldiers did exactly that, fulfilling this passage. (John 19:24) Once again we also have rabbinical agreement that this is about the Messiah. Ibn Ezra says of verse 18, "...they are royal vestments; if he were not a king these words would make no sense." He goes on to say that this is the King before whom every knee will bow. I say, "Amen!" If you honestly seek the truth about these passages, you will find it. It is only those who are trying to disprove the fulfillment in Christ that seek not what the passage truly points to but what they would rather have it say. (2Peter 3:16)

²⁶ The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! The rabbis see in this passage a messianic connection and a covenant meal. The famous Jewish commentator of the eleventh century, Rabbi Shlomo Yitzhaki who defended against Christian interpretation wrote that it refers to

Commented [notes16]: 1 Peter 3:9 (ESV)

⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing.

Commented [notes17]: Luke 23:46 (ESV)

⁴⁶ Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

Commented [notes18]: John 19:24 (ESV)

²⁴ so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things,

the "time of deliverance, the days of the Messiah" while at the same time trying to say the first half of psalm did not.

In these verses it is the afflicted that eat and in verse 29 it is the prosperous. The afflicted eat and are satisfied. The prosperous will eat and worship. We know this as the new covenant of communion which many partake of while kneeling. The symbolic partaking of Christ meets the afflicted soul with the satisfaction of the Messiah sharing our pain and redeeming us from our sins, which results in our hearts living forever. This is the eternal life that is given to us when we accept what Jesus did for us as described in this psalm. (John 3:36) Those who seek Him find Him (Proverbs 8:17), and those who find Him praise Him for who He is and all this that He has done in love for us. The Old Testament does speak of communion! (as does Passover)

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you.²⁸ For kingship belongs to the LORD, and he rules over the nations. Psalm 22:27-28 (ESV) Psalm two tells us the King that will reign is called the Son! (Psalm 2:7-8) Isaiah 9 tells us the Son God gives us will reign on David's throne forever. (Isaiah 9:6-7) This Gospel of the kingdom has been preached in all the world as a witness to all the families of the nations. (Matthew 24:14) Who could have imagined when David penned this psalm how marvelously it would be fulfilled. Everywhere on the planet people worship the Lord Jesus as Savior and Lord. In fact, we are able to worship because of what was done for us as described in this psalm. We see the great love of God so clearly expressed on the cross. He rules over the nations whether they know it or not, but the day is soon coming when all will know it. (Jeremiah 31:34)

²⁹ 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. Psalm 22:29 (ESV) Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11) You may be able to buy the best attorney and escape a punishment on earth, but you can't buy off the Judge of the living and the dead. Even the knees that don't want to bow will bow. Even the tongues that curse Him today will then confess He is Lord.

³¹ they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, that he has done it. Psalm 22:31 (ESV) Have you ever wondered what it would be like to experience the fulfillment of a prophecy? You just did! I am proclaiming to you, the people who were yet to be born when the psalm was written and when Jesus fulfilled it, the righteousness of Jesus. He did it! He did it for you! This verse is fulfilled every time we share the message of Jesus' sacrifice with others.

Commented [notes19]: John 3:36 (ESV)

³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Commented [notes20]: Proverbs 8:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.

Commented [notes21]: Psalm 2:7-8 (ESV)

⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

Commented [notes22]: Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Commented [notes23]: Matthew 24:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Commented [notes24]: Jeremiah 31:34 (ESV)

³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Commented [notes25]: Philippians 2:10-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The first words on the cross were the beginning of this Psalm, and His last words were the final words of the same Psalm. If Jesus was speaking Aramaic (*kullah*), which would have been most natural, these final words of this psalm would translate to the wording of the Greek text (*teleo*). In English we read, "It is finished!" It is the word that in Hebrew and Aramaic is used regarding the completion of a sacrifice.

The word is also the final word in Hebrew of the first creation account in Genesis 2:3. This tells us that Jesus had completed the New Creation. He makes all things new! (Revelation 21:5) Through rejection, suffering, and death in obedience to the Father, He made us a new creation in Him. It's a new start to those who will enter into it. It is freedom from guilt and shame. It is a new way of thinking and seeing the world. It is to become a vessel of the Holy Spirit. (1Corinthians 3:16) The kingdom has come.

"The New Testament expounds virtually the whole history of salvation in the light of the Psalms. Christ was despised, Psalm 22:6, 69:19--21; he was rejected, Psalm 118:22; he was mocked, Psalm 22:7--8, 89:51--52; he was whipped, Psalm 129:3; he was derided, Psalm 69:8,20; he was impaled on a cross, Psalm 22:1--2, 14--17; he was thirsty, Psalm 22:16; he was given wine mixed with gall on the cross, Psalm 69:20--21; lots were cast for his garments, Psalm 22:18--19; his bones were not broken, Psalm 34:20." ³

This is no coincidence. The odds of all this accidentally coming together are about the same as man evolving by random chance from pond slime. Who was this riding into Jerusalem on a donkey almost 2000 years ago? He is the eternal Son of God that demonstrated the extent that God would go to redeem us. (Romans 8:32) He is the fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies including this psalm written 1000 years prior. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world. (John 1:29) He is the King of kings before whom every knee will bow. (Revelation 19:16) If we truly grasp this, how can we be less than passionate in our response each and every day! His death in our place changed everything. Will you gratefully receive it?

Questions

- 1 How often are psalms quoted by the authors of the New Testament?
- 2 Why is Palm Sunday significant?
- 3 How does Jesus' life define heaven and hell?
- 4 How do Jews see this psalm?
- 5 Why should we endure taunts?
- 6 What did Jesus endure on the cross?
- 7 How do we see communion here?
- 8 Where do we see ourselves?
- 9 What is the promise?
- 10 What are the Psalm's final words?

Commented [notes26]: Genesis 2:3 (ESV)

³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

Commented [notes27]: Revelation 21:5 (ESV)

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Commented [notes28]: 1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

Commented [notes29]: Psalm 69:19-21 (ESV)

¹⁹ You know my reproach, and my shame and my dishonor; my foes are all known to you.

²⁰ Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.

²¹ They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

Commented [notes30]: Psalm 118:22 (ESV)

²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

Commented [notes31]: Psalm 89:51-52 (ESV)

⁵¹ with which your enemies mock, O LORD, with which they mock the footsteps of your anointed.

⁵² Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and Amen.

Commented [notes32]: Psalm 129:3 (ESV)

³ The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows."

Commented [notes33]: Psalm 69:8 (ESV)

⁸ I have become a stranger to my brothers, an alien to my mother's sons.

Commented [notes34]: Psalm 69:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ Reproaches have broken my heart, so that I am in despair. I looked for pity, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.

²¹ They gave me poison for food, and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink.

Commented [notes35]: Psalm 34:20 (ESV)

²⁰ He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.

Commented [notes36]: Romans 8:32 (ESV)

³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

Commented [notes37]: John 1:29 (ESV)

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Commented [notes38]: Revelation 19:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.