

Psalms 22,23, 24 - STUDENTS Edition

22 – Mt. Calvary

24 – Mt. Zion

23 – The Valley between

PSALM 22

- I. Psalm 22 – Psalm seems to be less of a prophecy than a history. A perfect example of **eternal existence**.
 - a. It cannot refer to David, for no where do we know of any circumstances in David's life to which expressions such as verse 16 can be applied. (Crucifixion was virtually unknown in David's time)
 - b. The psalm is strictly _____ and undoubtedly the nation of Israel had no idea what the psalm was talking about. They had no concept of a "Suffering Saviour." That thought was preposterous!
- II. One of the 5 Levitical offerings is the "_____ offering." It is this offering I believe we have pictured here.
 - a. In this offering He is "made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
 - b. He took the awful judgment of God against sin.
- III. Forsaken by the _____ -
 - a. The awful cry! (Matthew 27:46; Mark 5:34)
 1. The big question: WHY? (Note: "roaring" = groaning. See Psalm 32:3 – David was silent on the outside but "roaring" inside because of his sin.
 2. Jesus took on Him the sins of the world (1 Peter 2:24) and was roaring inside because of this.
 3. The perfect communion was broken. Hell is separation eternally from God.
 4. Verse 2 – Day and "the night season" = the sun grew dark at mid-day
 5. The answer to the question? Verse 3 – "Thou are Holy" – God's Holiness required it of Him, for our sake.
- IV. The Scarlet Worm (vs 6)
 - a. Isaiah 52:14 – these indeed give us His physical description but don't fully explain His identification as a worm – Isaiah 53:3
 - b. Worm = *tolath* – translation Exodus 25:4 = scarlet; Isaiah 1:18 = Crimson; Job 24:6 = worm
 - c. Cross reference to Jonah 4:4-11 – Worm prepared by God

NOTE: There are some very interesting applications here in regard to the worm

1. **The Worm takes away that which makes Jonah (us) _____ in sin**
 - a. This is God's love to His own

1. As a loving parent refuses to the child things that are hurtful
2. Jonah is in sin – Gourd brought comfort in his misery, joy to his bad attitude
3. He should have been in the city – joy should have been found in the salvation of 120,000-800,000! (Moody, Graham, Sunday, Torrey never had those results in one meeting)

b. God does the same to you and I.

2. The Worm reveals God's _____ to the lost

a. Jonah – Built a booth – put his trust in that for protection

1. made by man
2. insufficient for the conditions

b. God grew a gourd and Jonah put his faith in that!

1. Natural resource
2. Not designed for his protection
3. God destroyed it with the Worm
4. Here we see the connection to Is (Scarlet) and Psalm 22 – “I am the scarlet worm”

c. We/men, as Jonah, look to the man-made object for salvation

1. Finances – jobs
2. Empires – Nations – Governments/programs
3. Religion (all religions are man-made)
4. In Love, Jesus died, to destroy our hope in these – Acts 4:12

d. We also look to the natural things for our salvation and comfort

1. “Innate Goodness”
2. “Loving God that would never send anyone to hell”
3. Water, juice/wine, cracker/wafer
4. John 14:6 – The WORM on Calvary destroyed all the ‘gourds’ of false hope

3. The Worm shows God's _____

a. destroyed it as fast as it appeared

1. Shows that God place no real value on the gourd
2. It wasn't created to bring comfort and a solution

b. Jonah had PITY of the gourd! (vs 10)

1. People today have pity on the lies and the false hopes

2. God to Jonah – “Doest thou well to be angry?”
 - a. Answer? – NO
3. Jonah had pity on the wrong thing!
4. God’s grace was shown toward the lost souls of Nineveh
 - a. Longsuffering
 - b. Patient
 - c. Gracious
- c. Today – pity the whales, “save the seals”, cry over a scratch on the new car, weep and get angry if the AC is broken. Would to God we would keep our priorities straight and remember that there is no AC in hell. Pity the lost world!!
- d. The life cycle of this worm is interesting too.
 1. When the female is ready to give birth to her baby worms, she will implant her body in a tree somewhere (like a post, stick of wood or bark on a tree trunk) so firmly that she can never leave again.
 2. When the young are brought forth, the mother’s body provides the sustenance and protection until they reach the stage where they can leave. At this time she dies and the scarlet fluid in her body emerges only to stain her progeny and the wood where they were given life by their dying mother. (Heb 2:10)
 3. Throughout the biological realm, new life is always preceded by a time of trial and possible death. (Isaiah 53:11)

V. Principalities and Powers (Vs 7-13)

- a. Perhaps the most remarkable passage in describing in intimate detail the events that take place 1000 years later at Calvary.
- b. Verse 7 – Total lack of compassion and sorrow for an innocent victim (Read Matthew 27:39-43)

Verses 8-9 – Recollection of His miraculous birth by contrast (Hebrews 10:5)

Verses 10-11 – John 8:29

Trouble is near now, however; (Evidently, even His Father had forsaken Him. The hour and power was here – Luke 22:52). Genesis 3:15 was being fulfilled.

Verse 12 – The demonic BULLS of Bashan

– Bulls of Bashan were noted for their remarkable size, strength and fierceness

– Bashan = fertile land east of Jordan and north of Gilead

NOTE HERE ALSO:

The dogs (vs 16) – Gentile soldiers

The lion (vs 13, 21) – 1 Peter 5:8

The Unicorn (vs 21)

VI. The Agony of Crucifixion – vs. 14-18

Poured out like water – bones out of joint – heart is like wax=melted in the midst of my bowels, pierced hands, and feet. (Unnatural strain forcing bones to tear out of joint, the body dehydrates, the heart collapses and ruptures and eventually suffocation. The death of crucifixion)

Ultimate exposure to the public and conditions

Total rejection and dehumanization (Vs 18 – gamble for your belongings, refusing to recognize your humanity!)

VII. Climax (vs 19-21)

At the peak of suffering during the three hours of His darkness He calls upon God to help before Satan's triumph is complete.

VIII. Praise (vs 22)

Death, doom, end in 18. Then assumed VICTORY in 21 and Praise for the future. "I WILL"

IX. Victory – (vs 23-21)

This is Millenium language:

Pay my vows

The meek shall eat

Heart live forever

All the ends of the earth worship the Lord

Kingdom is the Lord's

Governor among the nations

PSALM 23 – The Valley between Calvary and Zion

1. One of the shortest chapters in the Bible
2. Most likely the best loved chapter
3. One of the first learned by S.S. children
4. Last one requested by dying saints.

Written by David

The Shepherd is Christ (The Messiah)

John 10:11 and 14 - "I am the good Shepherd"

Hebrews 13:21 – "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep...."

1 Peter 5:4 – "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory..."

I. Structure of Psalm 23

A. Great testimony to the believer's security

Vs 1 – **all NEEDS supplied by Christ (Philippians 4:19)**

Vs 2 – **Rest and Peace**

- a. Genesis 2:2 "And he rested on the seventh day from all his works"
- b. Hebrews 4:9-10 "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his."
- c. Leads gently
- d. Still water is not stagnant water
- e. Mark 4:39 "and he arose and rebuked the wind and said unto the sea "Peace be still"
- f. Philippians 4:7 "and the God of peace....shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"

Vs 3 – **Health and Guidance**

Proverbs 3:5-8, Matthew 6:25-26, 1 Timothy 4:4, Romans 14:17, Philippians 4:19

Note: If we stray out of His will He constrains us back into the "paths of righteousness." Psalm 37:23-24, Romans 8:28, Hebrews 12:11. This is all for our good

Vs 4 – **Courage and Comfort**

Philippians 1:21-2 Timothy 1:7 – Believers are not to fear evil

Rod = Scepter – sign of control or sovereignty. The **protector**

Staff = cane-crook – used to **guide** the flock

Vs 5 – Protection and Provision

2 Timothy 4:18, Psalm 34:7

Vs 6 – Love and Life

Psalm 139:7-10, John 10:28-29

PSALM 24 – The King of Glory

Introduction: Psalms 22, 23, 24 form a trilogy covering the past, present and future. They speak of Christ as the Sufferer, the Shepherd and the Sovereign. They remind us of

the _____ in the tabernacle court,

the _____ in the holy place and

the _____ in the holiest of all.

Interpretation:

- I. **Historically:** Perhaps used for the bringing up of the ark of God to Zion – 2 Samuel 6
- II. **Typically:** Charles Spurgeon, influential Baptist pastor in the 1800's calls it the "Song of the Ascension" the song sung as they ascended to the temple inviting and acknowledging the King.

Handel in his oratorio, "Messiah," also applies it this way. Handel uses this Psalm as a framework for a section that celebrates the coming of the Messiah, and this particular phrase highlights the power and authority of the King of Glory. Words to "Lift up Your Heads, Oh ye Gates"

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory; it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in. Who is the King of glory: even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory."

III. Prophetically: An Outline of the Lord's Glorious Coming

- A. Psalm 24 is an earthly scene, not heavenly.
 1. The hill, house and throne are literal
 2. A supposed empty throne - one of world dominion
 3. The challenge as to who has qualifications to occupy it.
- B. There are a number of thrones in Scriptures
 1. Throne of God
 2. Throne of Grace (Hebrews 4:16)
 3. Throne of Glory (Matthew 25:31) - Judgement of nations
 4. Great White Throne (Revelation 20:11)

5. Throne of God and the Lamb (Revelation 22:1)

C. The throne in Psalm 24 is a different one

1. The throne of world dominion - the throne of the kingdom of Heaven
2. Many have presumed to sit on it.
3. Psalm 24 answers the question as to who has the right to occupy it.

Verses 1 & 2 - A strong statement of declaration

In a debate this would be your "positional statement." Then you set about to prove it.

So goes this Psalm.

A. **Verse 1:** Dominion of the Lord = the earth and it's fulness.

1. Note here the Sovereignty of the Lord
 - a. Ephesians 1:21-23
 - b. Earth is the Lord's - Colossians 1:16

B. Jesus Christ the Lord is:

1. Self-existent
2. Eternal
3. Omnipotent
4. Omniscient
5. Omnipresent

Verse 3 - The question of debate: Who has the right to the throne?

A. Here we have the challenge

1. There are two eminences in Jerusalem:
 - a. Mount Zion with the royal palace and
 - b. Mount Moriah with the temple. (These may very well be the "hill" and "house" of the Psalm.)
2. To take possession of them one must be both priest and king.
 - a. Ezekiel 40-48 describes a re-erected temple with revived worship.
 - b. 2 Samuel 7:8-17 promises in the Davidic covenant a dynasty, a throne and a kingdom in perpetuity.
 - c. Therefore, who has the credentials and qualifications to occupy both at the same time?

Verse 4 - The Credentials

A. There are Four

1. Clean hands
2. Pure heart
3. Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity
4. Not sworn deceitfully.

B. Let's look at some of the applicants of the past for the position.

1. Satan: at the wilderness temptation of Christ
 - a. Claimed to have possession already.
 - b. This was obviously the claim of a usurper.
2. The Four Gentile Empires
 - a. Babylon - Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. Medo-Persia - Cyrus
 - c. Greece - Alexander
 - d. Rome - Augustus Ceasar
3. Modern Times
 - a. Napoleon - lifted up his soul unto vanity - crowned himself.
 - b. Hitler - claimed an empire that would last 1000 years - killed 6 million Jews.
 - c. Stalin - swore deceitfully - signed agreements that broke them.
 - d. Mao

C. What about Jesus?

1. Clean hands?
2. Pure heart? - sinless - unaccused - John 8:46
3. Vanity? - Matthew 11:29
4. Deceitful? - Truth personified - John 14:6

D. The Creatorial Right

1. Colossians 1:16-17 – In Him, By Him, For Him, He is before, by His ALL things consist
 - a. Associated with Him is a generation that seeks God's face.

Verse 6 - We now enter the second half where the Conqueror enters the City and the Sanctuary.

Note: The church age and the rapture do not come into Psalm 24. The prophetic background of this Psalm is Revelation 4-19. Note the unique similarity of question found in Revelation 5:2.

Then note the response in verse 12.

- A. By Psalm 24:6 the rapture of the church and the tribulation have already taken place. He has dealt with His enemies and has revealed Himself to Israel who now repent and join His victorious train.
- B. The last two Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament are Malachi 3:1 and Malachi 4:2. The second half of Psalm 24 gives the fulfillment of these.

Verse 7 - Picture the victorious Christ and His retinue approaching the gates of the city of Jerusalem. Specifically the Eastern gates. They are shut. Then the herald cries out, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."

Verse 8 - The reply from within is "Who is this King of Glory?"

The answer, "The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle."

He won over Satan in the wilderness

He won over the host of hell on the cross

He won over the enemies of God at Armageddon

Picture the gates thrown open and He enters, occupying the city and the royal palace.

Verse 9 - He moves to the temple site where He was rejected the first time. The herald cries again, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."

Again the question: "Who is this King of glory?"

The reply, "The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory."

NOTE: "The LORD of hosts" is the term used in Isaiah 6:5 for the occupant of the throne of the temple.

Now He enters the temple and possesses the house.

Thus, the hill and the house are occupied by the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the King of glory.

"A Priest upon His throne, and He shall bear the glory. " Zechariah 6:12-13