

“I OWE YOU LORD MY THANKS”

Psalm 22:19-31

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INTRODUCTION

We have just seen the cry of forsakenness: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” “You do not answer.” My words of groaning cannot be silent for I find no relief. My believing and God-fearing forefathers have always found You faithful when they trusted in You; you delivered them from their distresses when they cried out to You. Moreover, as a **holy** God you cannot do wrong; You must keep your word to all of your people. I have always trusted in You from the time I was born and rested on my mother’s breasts; you have been my God since that time. You have always been there for me.

So, where are you now? Trouble is near, but You are not; I have no one to help me. I am merely a worm—not a man. People mock and sneer at me, opening their mouths wide and wagging their heads. They even use my words of confidence and trust in you to ridicule me as they see no help available to me in my distress. They mock the idea that You would actually desire or even be able to help me.

My opponents are like wild animals in their vicious attacks upon me:

- 1) Like bulls—strong bulls of Bashan they surround me
- 2) Like vicious lions ready to eat me
- 3) Like dogs, unclean and disgusting they surround me.
- 4) They have no sympathy for me—they merely mockingly stare at me.
- 5) They add the final insult in that they divide my clothes among them, and then cast lots to see who gets the best item.

My situation is desperate:

- I am poured out like water.
- All my bones are out of joint.
- My heart melts like wax within me.
- My strength is dried up like a potsherd.
- My tongue cleaves to my jaws.
- You have laid me in the dust of death.
- The dogs have pierced my hands and feet.
- I can count all my bones as they are so stretched out and distorted in my painful punishment.

God, where are you?

Don’t be “far off”—You are “my help”; hasten to my assistance”! (v. 19)

Save me. Deliver my soul,—my life and my being—from:

- The sword that is raised above my head and ready to strike me and kill me (20)
- From the vicious and unclean dog whose “hand”—paw—is pinning me down and ready to tear me apart (20)
- From the mouth of the lion who is about to crush me, tear me up, and kill me (21).
- From the wild oxen whose horns will gore me, throw me about, and then trample me (21).

Now, after all of this, suddenly at the end of v. 21 the psalmist in faith, cries out the words of faith and confidence in his God; he gains reassurance that his prayers have been answered and help is sure and swift: **“You have answered me.”**

Where did that come from? You see, when the night is the darkest, when the future seems hopeless, when the enemy is overwhelming, when I am powerless and seemingly undone—it is then that God acts on my behalf, just like He has done here in psalm 22—especially **with the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Remember, the words of the psalmist have become the words of Messiah Himself; these are the words of Jesus Christ, our suffering sin-bearer who went through His pain so that I can find hope and salvation in Him, and so that I can participate with Him in the celebration and feast of rejoicing that follows upon the Father’s answer to His prayers, and likewise the answer to mine. That the words of vv. 22-31 go way beyond anything that ever happened to David or any other earthly king are obvious from their content, but also obvious from v. 22 being quoted in Hebrews 2:12 as being directly fulfilled by Christ.

Because of What God has done for Christ, and because of what He has done for me, *I must pay my vows, share my praise of the Lord with all of God’s people, must feast together with all saints of Israel and peoples and nations from the ends of the earth, and must rejoice with all future generations as I share with them all that God has done.*

YOU OWE THE LORD YOUR THANKS FOR ALL ETERNITY.

- I. I WILL PRAISE THE LORD IN THE ASSEMBLY [Church] WITH ALL OF GOD’S PEOPLE (22-24)
 - A. Those who share in His praise with me (22-23, 25b)
 1. My brethren
 2. The entire congregation
 3. Those who “fear the Lord” (23, 25b)
 4. The entire people of God [in OT “the seed of Jacob” and “the seed of Israel”]; today, the entire Church, and in the future the entire people of God.
 - B. The Reason for the Praise (24, 25a)
 1. He did not “despise” or “abhor” the affliction of His afflicted—Christ or me!
 2. Yahweh did not hide His face (favor) from me.
 3. When I cried to Him for help He heard me and answered me.
 4. He has made my praise possible—He is both **the object** and **the source** of my song of praise before **the great assembly** (25).
- II. I WILL PAY MY VOWS BEFORE GOD IN THE ASSEMBLY (25b-29)
 - A. All of God’s afflicted people will share with me and be satisfied (26a).
 - B. All of those who seek the Lord will praise Him (26b).
 - C. One day the entire world—all the nations and peoples will be saved and will join together in this praise (27), for “the kingdom of royal sovereignty are the Lord’s and He rules over the nations (28).
 - D. All ranks of people will join together to praise Him. (29)

1. “The fat ones”—the wealthy, successful
 - They will eat.
 - They will bow down in humility and worship
 2. The Poor and afflicted ones
 - They are ready to go down to the dust of death.
 - They are unable to keep themselves alive.
 - They will bow in humble adoration.
- E. Future Generations will also share in His Worship (30-31)
1. Posterity [“seed”] will serve Him.
 2. The [coming] generation
 3. One generation shares with another.
 4. A people yet to be born.

III. I WILL FOCUS ONLY ON GOD IN MY WORSHIP (vv. 30, 31)

- A. I will declare **His righteousness** [note the meaning of this in connection with Christ].
- B. I will declare that **“He has done it!”**

Note the similarity of this statement with: “It is finished.”

CONCLUSION

I will praise the Lord in the assembly; I will pay my vows before God; I will focus only on God in my worship.
But all of this is only true because of who Jesus Christ is and what He has done!

All the world was darkened for three hours while the Sin-bearer bore His sufferings and agony, while He experienced the God-forsakenness, while the dogs, lions, bulls, and oxen surrounded Him, mocked him, and executed Him.

He suffered His agony and aloneness for me—so that I can now find consolation and divine presence in my sufferings and agony.

I must have faith like His faith. I must determine to praise God in the assembly.

One day a **great banquet will be held in which all of God’s people will celebrate His divine salvation and righteousness.**

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