

Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani - My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me! (e'-loi, e-lo'i, / la'-ma, / sa-bakh-tha'-ni)

This cry from the lips of the Messiah, these words, cried out as He hangs upon the cross, rips out your heart when you hear them - - -

such pain, such misery, such sorrow - - - He who is over-whelmed with grief,

now cries out for relief - as he apprehends himself - -

as being forsaken.

These words from the “son of man”, who is both God and Man, whose true identity is finally revealed, by the Roman centurions, as it is proclaimed at the end of the gospel reading

“Truly this was the Son of God.”

The son of God (both man and God,) forsaken by God...how can this be?

These words from Jesus – “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me” – are words that all devout Jews would have known.

These words first uttered by David; the same words our Lord now taketh Himself, more truly and properly, than ever did David.

To those familiar with these words from Psalm 22, these words are understood by them then, and us today,

as this is a psalm, in its totality, of a divine act which in the end, reveals true love and appreciation (one could even say Thanksgiving.)

The words of lament at the beginning - - - will end in words that are triumphant.

Many of us are, or know someone who is in pain; spiritually – mentally – or physically,

so let us allow the words of Jesus to direct our attention and thoughts - - - from which these words came.

Let us go deeper and read this psalm.

I ask of you to be patient with me, for this is important, because when those who do NOT know God

hear these words of God forsaken his only Son , they are turned off and want no part of such a God.

But those of God who hear these words and know Christ,

we understand fully the message that Christ was sending from the cross that day, and still sends today.

As I read Psalm 22 (let us reflect upon our own situation - - - and of those whom we know and love.)

*Verse 1. My God, my God, look upon me; why hast thou forsaken me? *
and art so far from my health, and from the words of my complaint?*

Obviously being pressed heavily on every side with the burden of the “passion”, Jesus begins to lament (to mourn aloud)

as He is in physical and spiritual pain...

?and to whom does He mourn? –

not to those who are afflicting the pain,

but, to “My God, my God” –

he laments to He who is above all things and all places.

Even when suffering the consequences of revealing the truth to all mankind, he never waivers from God

and He calls upon Him

(as he did every hour of his life.)

This psalm of David, applies to Jesus as He hangs upon the cross, and it applies to all of God’s children who are suffering for whatever reason.

We all lament at one time or another, but Jesus shows us, even when we are under extreme pain and suffering

we are never to “forsake our God.”

But we are to call upon Him, for he hears the prayers of His people.

Jesus lays hold of his God in this time of trouble with all his heart, soul, and mind, ... an example for all of us when we are suffering.

Jesus said these words not only for His own comfort, but for ours.

These words should motivate us: we are to read this psalm, and all scripture, for our comfort, especially in time of need...

When reading scripture, we should understand that our Lord always chooses his words carefully and always with a purpose.

Now I continue with the first stanza only of the next few verses

2 O my God, I cry in the day-time, but thou hearest not;

(Remember the wonderful woman from Canaan: Not heard, no response – ignored by the Jesus and his disciples

– yet the silence motivated her all the more to move forward in her faith.)

Silence can weaken or strengthen us – as Christians,

we are to fight through all discouragements, by Faith, and to move forward with our Lord and Saviour. Now the psalm continues:

3 And thou continuest holy,

(Yes, even when we are in distress – God remains Holy!)

4 Our fathers hoped in thee;

5 They called upon thee, and were holpen;

6 But as for me, I am a worm, and no man;

7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn;

8 He trusted in the LORD, that he would deliver him;

9 But thou art he that took me out of my mother's womb;

10 I have been left unto thee ever since I was born;

11 O go not from me; for trouble is hard at hand,

Here a connection is made with the psalmist (David), and the Jews, as they cried to God from the wilderness,

knowing that their God was holy, they who trusted God,

cried again and again unto Him and they were holpen (they were helped),

but still they were laughed to scorn, yet they trusted God, who brought them forth from their mother's womb, and cared for them,

but yet, still trouble is at hand.

Jesus now relates to the same...for the psalms are a book written for the people of God –

so there should be joy; and yet there is still suffering.

Jesus knew both extremes well, both physically (outwardly) and spiritually (inwardly) as he hung upon the cross

and of which He had experienced pain for his entire life – from birth to death.

We as Christians must always remember - that yes - - - there is great joy in our faith,

and yet our suffering at times may be the true connection to our Lord, as His suffering was above all suffering, including ours.

And now I continue reading full verse”

*12 Many oxen are come about me; * fat bulls of Bashan close me in on every side.*

*13 They gape upon me with their mouths, * as it were a ramping and a roaring lion.*

*14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; * my heart also, in the midst of my body, is even like melting wax.*

*15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaveth to my gums, * and thou bringest me into the dust of death.*

*16 For many dogs are come about me, * and the council of the wicked layeth siege against me.*

*17 They pierced my hands and my feet: I may tell all my bones: * they stand staring and looking upon me.*

*18 They part my garments among them, * and cast lots upon my vesture.*

Christians fully understand what was happening to Jesus - - -

on the Day we call Good Friday, as David had wrote aforetime,

and now Jesus (knowing the words of David), by use of the Psalm, makes a testimony against the evil and sinful world,

fulfilling once again the Holy Scriptures --- and using its very words --- to draw attention to the Living God Himself.

Do you not see?

Jesus is the picture drawn by this psalmist – those who have eyes, let them see.

Some of the particulars of the previous verses above, never occurred to David;

therefore one would have to appoint these words to Christ in the depth of his pain and humiliation.

Let us look, step by step: as he is abandon by his friends (even his own disciples left his side –

all of us have experienced abandonment – although not to this extreme),

therefore, Jesus had to trod the wine-press alone, for all had fled from him.

He was insulted by the bulls of Bashan – fat and fed ... to the full,

As such were the chief priest and elders that persecuted Christ, assembling and plotting against him.

Jesus was crucified in a manner prescribed - - - that was never in use against the Jews:

And yet David wrote and we read: “Thy pierced my hands and my feet;” which are now nailed to the accursed tree,

causing the greatest of pain and suffering.

This psalm is a most eminent prediction of the death of Christ and was so exactly being fulfilled.

The dislocation of his bones – pulled out of joint by the violent stretching of his body upon the cross –

his heart was made like: ... well, as if to receive the very impression of God’s wrath against the sins of man which hardens their hearts.

And now as He is brought down into the dust of death,

His tongue even cleaveth to his gum.

Stripped and shamed, just as Adam and Eve suffered the immediate consequence of their sin and became shamed by their nakedness...

now Jesus **robes us** in the robe of His own righteousness,

via his shame of being stripped and placed upon the cross.

And now we read: I may tell all my bones, and they stand staring at this sight - while others parted his clothes...

My fellow sheep of the Great Shepherd – Jesus Christ,

it was Jesus who told us:

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. Jn 10:11

The victory over the cross belongs to our Lord and Saviour – Jesus Christ.

Now, I return to reading only the first stanza:

19 But be not thou far from me, O LORD;

20 Deliver my soul from the sword,

21 Save me from the lion's mouth;

22 I will declare thy Name unto my brethren;

23 O praise the LORD, ye that fear him:

24 For he hath not despised nor abhorred the low estate of the poor;

25 My praise is of thee in the great congregation;

26 The poor shall eat, and be satisfied; they that seek after the LORD shall praise him:

27 All the ends of the world shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the LORD;

28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S,

So we hear:

Deliver me and save me...

and I will declare thy name...

I will praise thee in the great congregation...

I pray that St. Michael the Archangel always does the same.

We pray, that the poor are fed,

and that the world will remember and turn unto God.

My friends, Jesus, in a marvelous way, used these words so that we would reflect upon them –

he wants this psalm to be in our hearts.

Even unto the end of His life

He is telling us the way.

Showing us that pain and fear and even death,

must never separate us from our God.

Through Christ only, can we are to defeat Satan

and his tricks of deception –

I can almost hear Christ saying through all His suffering and pain:

As Paul writes in 1Co 15:55

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

Fear not, we told over and over again in Scripture...

The victory is yours, if you will only take it –

we are not a faith of fear but of hope –

as we are to seek the Treasures (our treasures) of Heaven.

This morning I do what is not proper: I will go to the last verse, of the last chapter, of the last Book of Scripture

to read the words of confidence

that is given to all who proclaim the Name of Jesus:

Rev 22:20

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen.

Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

Come Lord Jesus - Such confidence **we must proclaim...**

So now,

let me simply end with the last words of this beautiful psalm –

this psalm which started in pain and ends with perfect Joy.

Hear the words and live them....

*30 All they that go down into the dust shall kneel before him; * and no man hath quickened his own soul.*

*31 My seed shall serve him: * they shall be counted unto the Lord for a generation.*

*32 They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness * unto a people that shall be born, whom the Lord hath made.*

The hour cometh and now is....