

## **PRAISE FROM THE TOMB**

Friday, February 23

Reading: Psalm 22:19-31

**Psalm 22:29** *All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. 30* *Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. 31* *They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!*

In verse 22 the entire tone of this psalm changes. The one laid in the dust of death now praises God to the people. The one who was despised and afflicted by men has been heard by the Lord.

Psalm 22:19-21 are the last desperate cries of a man facing death. But they end in a triumphant cry of victory. In Hebrew, the words translated as “save me” in 22:21 are literally “He has heard me.” His prayer for help ends with the assurance that God has heard His prayer (see also 22:24). One of the last things Jesus said before He died was “Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit” (Luke 23:46). No longer is there a separation between the Father and the Son. The debt of sin has been paid and His fellowship with the Father restored.

What prayer of Jesus did God answer and how did He answer it? While we cannot be sure, I believe it was the prayer Jesus made when they were nailing Him to the cross: “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” (Luke 23:34). Jesus prayed for our forgiveness and God answered by raising Jesus from the dead showing that His sacrifice was accepted. The remainder of this psalm proclaims what the death and resurrection of Christ means for us.

(1) His Salvation is Proclaimed (22:22-26) - The phrase “my your hearts live forever” is the essence of salvation. It is the reason for our praise.

(2) His Kingdom is Established (22:27-29) - People from all nations will “remember and turn to the Lord.” Even those who reject Him in this life will one day “bow down before Him” (see Philippians 2:6-11).

(3) His People are Redeemed (22:30-31) - Posterity literally means “seed” - seed that is planted, grows, and bears fruit. The good news will be passed down from generation to generation. And “a people yet unborn” (HEY, THAT’S US!) will hear the gospel.

The last words of this psalm should excite us: “He has done it!” In Hebrew, the line reads “He has done!” or “He has accomplished! These were the last words spoken by Jesus on the cross - “It is finished!” (John 19:30). This is the heart of the gospel! Jesus completed the work of salvation. Sin, Satan, and death were defeated. And we have complete access to God the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ.

This psalm began with Jesus’ cry of separation. It ends with His cry of triumph! Because of His victory we need to follow His commands. We need to DECLARE HIS NAME (22:22). We need to PRAISE Him (22:22-23, 25). We need to SEEK Him (22:26-28). We need to WORSHIP Him (22:29). And we need to SERVE Him (22:30).