

# NOON BIBLE STUDY: MATTHEW 27 (PART 4)

---

## Matthew 27:45-66

We're going to break it down in two parts, next week we'll look at:

- 1 - Cosmic Happenings
- 2 - Who remains, details of burial and other historical logistics

## Matthew 27:45-50 -Jesus Dies

**v. 46** - it is commonly taught that this is the climax of the moment when Jesus has become "sin" and is facing the wrath of God that should have been shown towards sinners. As a result, the Father "abandons" or "looks away" from his son in a pivotal demonstration of what sin has done and what sin results in.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** - He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

**Galatians 3:13-14** - Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us-- for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE"-- 14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

This belief is founded upon the statement of Jesus from the cross, "my God, my God, what have you forsaken me?" (**v. 46**)<sup>2</sup>. The challenge with the "Father turned away" language is that the Bible never explicitly says: The Father stopped loving the son or the Father ceased fellowship with the son or that the Father literally turned his face away.

Why at this point does his father forsake him? Up till now his father had always been right there. In fact, several texts push in the opposite direction.

Baptism - **Matthew 3:17** - and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

During Ministry - **John 8:29** - "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him."

Transfiguration - **Matthew 17:5** - While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

At Last Supper - **John 16:32** - "Behold, an hour is coming, and has already come, for you to be scattered, each to his own home, and to leave Me alone; and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

I believe that even while Jesus bears sin, Scripture never says the love-relationship between God and his son was severed.

So then what is the meaning of these final words of Jesus on the cross? It's helpful to know that this phrase isn't some random saying or insignificant sentence, but actually a quote from the first line of Psalm 22. Psalm 22 is a critically important text for not only Messianic prophecy and expectation, but this exact moment in the life of Jesus. I believe that the citation of Psalm 22:1 is to get the readers attention to the entire Psalm and as we look at it together, we will understand why.

## **Psalm 22**

**v. 1-2** - cry of anguish, questions of "why?". David feels abandoned

**v. 3-5** - I know people have trusted you in the past, and they were delivered

**v. 6-8** - but not me, I'm being mocked,

**v. 9-11** - I know you have been with me in the past, please be near to me now!

**v. 12-18** - Suffering, trial, pain

**v. 19-21** - Save me LORD!

*(something happens in the mind of the Psalmist right here...)*

**v. 22-24** - When you save me, I will praise you

**v. 24** - He has not despised the affliction of the afflicted.

Nor has he hidden His face from him  
When he cried for help, he heard.

**v. 25-29** - the afflicted will be delivered! The LORD will rule!

**v. 30-31** - There is more to be told - Generations that have not yet been born are going to hear about what the LORD has done!

## **Q - What do you think is the end focus of Psalm 22?**

Original Scripture text had no chapters or verses and readers would often reference passages based on their first line. For example, the book we call Genesis is known as "*Bereshit*" which is the Hebrew for the phrase "*In The Beginning*". The book of Exodus is called "shemot" which is "*Names*", the first word/line of the book. Leviticus is "vie-kruh" "*and he called*", etc.

We do this too, if we say “The LORD is my shepherd” or “For God so loved the world...” you know we’re talking about what we call Psalm 23 and John 3:16.

Additionally, it was common in Jewish teaching and writing to identify a larger passage of Scripture by quoting a key phrase or opening line. Because Scripture was memorized & regularly recited, hearers were often expected to recognize the broader context & themes of the passage being referenced.

“Many scholars have observed that in Jewish and early Christian contexts, quoting the opening line of a passage could function as a way of invoking the larger context of that passage. Since Matthew's crucifixion narrative repeatedly echoes Ps 22 (v. 7–8, 18, 1), many interpreters believe Jesus' quotation of Ps. 22:1 invites readers to consider the psalm as a whole. (ESV Study Bible)”

Imagine these words upon the mind of Christ while on the cross...Feeling alone, forsaken, afflicted, God has helped in past...but trouble increases, enemies mock, pain remains, Yet, I know God is good, I know he hears the cries of the afflicted. I know that the LORD will rule, Generations to come will speak of what the LORD has done.

As Jesus sees these things happening, he must have been amazed that the Word of God was true. It was being fulfilled in Him as he breathed these final breaths. And he knew what came next....

There are other psalms Jesus could have quoted which never sort out the abandonment. Psalms and laments which end unresolved. Psalm 22 is not one of those Psalms. Psalm 22 is a psalm which begins with despair and anguish, but ends with praise and salvation and hope!

Jesus’ friends and family may have fled. But his Father never did. This quote on the cross shows us what was on Jesus’ mind. And doesn't that fit right in with what scripture tells us...

**Hebrews 12:2 (NIV)** - Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

**The cross actually shows us that God doesn't abandon us!!** God could/should have abandoned us. but what He did instead was:

**John 3:16** - For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Look at Bible, and believe what God has said, look at what God has done, and look forward to what God will do! Believe that no matter who forsakes you, who doesn't show up - The LORD is with you. His faithful love for his son, even in the darkest hour, shows us that the LORD is a God we can trust too.