

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 19 as we continue our study through the Word of God. This is a fascinating Psalm of David in that we see the glory of God revealed to us in nature, verses 1-6, which speaks of natural revelation; and through Scripture, verses 7-14, which speaks of special revelation. And, as you will see, this Psalm opens with a focus on the heavens, it centers on the Word of God and it culminates in the heart of the servant of God. So let's begin reading in verse 1 of Psalm 19 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 19

VERSES 1-4b

1. We need to understand what David is speaking of when he speaks of the “heavens.” You see, the Bible speaks of 3 heavens; the place where birds fly, the universe, and the place where God dwells. Here, I believe, David is looking up at the billions of stars that fill the sky, and he is overwhelmed at what God has done in creation. Now here's the thing. As you look at and study creation you will clearly see that this did not happen by random chance, there is a designer, there is a creator, there is a God! When you look at just the size of the universe, it is overwhelming, some 12 billion light years and maybe even bigger than that, we are not sure!

And just look at the sun, for example, it has a diameter of 864,000 miles (one hundred times that of earth's) and could hold 1.3 million planets the size of earth inside of it. The star Betelgeuse, however, has a diameter of 100 million miles, which is larger than the earth's orbit around the sun. It takes sunlight, traveling at 186,000 miles per second, about 8.5 seconds to reach earth. Yet that same light would take more than four years to reach the nearest star, Alpha Centauri, some 24 trillion miles from earth. The galaxy to which our sun belongs, the Milky Way, contains hundreds of billions of stars. And astronomers estimate there are millions, or even billions of galaxies. What they can see leads them to estimate the number of stars in the universe at 10^{25} . That is roughly the number of all the grains of sand on all the world's beaches.

Max Planck, winner of the Nobel Prize and one of the founders of modern physics, wrote, "According to everything taught by the exact sciences about the immense realm of nature, a certain order prevails – one independent of the human mind . . . this order can be formulated in terms of purposeful activity. There is evidence of an intelligent order of the universe to which both man and nature are subservient" And that is just the heavens!

2. And thus, David is saying that creation itself is crying out that there is a designer, a creator, for you only have to look and listen to what they are trying to show you. In fact, Paul, in Romans chapter 1, tells us that those that suppress this truth, the truth that nature is showing them, that God has revealed to them through His creation, will be judged accordingly, they are without excuse for nature testifies of the existence of God. (Romans 1:18-23).

3. In verse 2 when David says that “**Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge**” he is speaking of how the night sky and the day sky give us the knowledge of God and thus, there is no excuse for people to reject God! In fact, the words, “**utters speech**” Boice tells us that “This is stronger in the Hebrew text than it appears to be in English, for the image is literally of a gushing spring that copiously pours forth sweet, refreshing waters of revelation.” You just need to look! It is as one writer put it, “Though all preachers on earth should grow silent, and every human mouth cease from publishing the glory of God, the heavens above will never cease to declare and proclaim his majesty and glory. They are for ever preaching; for, like an unbroken chain, their message is delivered from day to day and from night to night.” (Tholuck, cited in Spurgeon)

4. Now if you reject the creator God what do you hope for, what do you place your trust in? Do you put your trust in man, or science or what? It is as Robert Jastrow wrote, “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.” May we look to our Creator God and enjoy the beauty that He has created, even though it has been tainted by sin, it still is beautiful to behold!

VERSES 4c-6

1. David can be speaking of two different things in these verses. First of all the rising and the setting of the sun appears to make a circuit across the sky. But also he can be speaking of the circuit that our sun makes in our galaxy, for the sun is not stationary.

Now think about this for a minute. In the ancient Middle East many people saw the sun as a god but not here. The sun is part of creation and not the creator, it is a symbol of the power of our Creator God and every day we see what our God has done, what He has created for us to not only enjoy but to help sustain us here on planet earth!

2. Now here is the difference between natural revelation and special revelation. In natural revelation we can know that there is a God, but you can't know Him specifically, that is only accomplished through special revelation or that which is revealed to us through the Word of God. And this section is the most comprehensive section dealing with the sufficiency of the Scriptures. Again, the reason the enemy likes to downplay the Word of God is because he does not want people to know God. And so he slams creation, he does away with the Creator God and no one is interested in finding out about God in His Word! Let's read on and you will see the importance of the Word of God!

VERSES 7-9

1. In these three verses David makes six important statements about the word of God and I think we would be wise to listen and apply them to our lives. They are as follows:

A. The Law of the LORD is perfect – it converts the soul

For those who would like to deny the sufficiency of the Scriptures, these verses shoot that down. David says that God’s Word is “**perfect.**” The Hebrew word that is used is TAMIYUM, (taw-meem’) and it means without blemish, complete, without spot, full! It is so sad today that many don’t believe that God’s Word is perfect and thus, they listen to the words of men instead of the Word of God which is perfect!

And the problem comes when they reject the Word of God because it is not only perfect, but it converts the soul. Paul said in Romans 10:17, “**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**” Notice that it is not entertainment that builds our faith, but the teaching of the Word of God. I wish pastors would understand that fact. And notice what Peter has to say in I Peter 1:23, “**Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.**”

B. The Testimony of the LORD is sure – it makes us wise

The Hebrew word for “**sure**” is AMAN, (aw-man’) and it speaks of being reliable, not only firm but it is confirmed, that is the Word of God! And as we stand upon the sure Word of God it makes us wise! You see, you don’t have to be the smartest or wisest person in the world; in fact, those that profess to be wise are many times nothing more than fools. We have a God that is all wise and if we obey Him through His sure Word, it makes us wise! But to disobey an all knowing God only makes us fools.

C. The Statutes of the LORD are right – it brings joy to our hearts

Yes, the statutes of the LORD are right and that means they are morally right, they are practically right, they are universally right! In other words, they are right because it is the revelation of God who is right. Clarke put it like this, “To make straight, smooth, right, upright, opposed to crookedness in mind or conduct; showing what the man should be, both within and without.” And notice what this produces in our life, joy! Many reject Christianity because they want their freedom. The thing they don’t realize is what joy we have walking down His path. For those that reject His way, they are the ones who find themselves in bondage and not at peace. They are looking for joy in all the wrong places, they need to come back to the Lord and follow His ways that are right and they will find that joy they are looking for!

D. The Commandment of the LORD is pure – it enlightens the eyes

God’s Word is pure because it comes from God and God is pure, He is holy. And as we read and apply God’s Word to our lives it opens our eyes up to the things of God. In other words, we can see clearly now, the darkness of this world is gone, the light of God’s Word is turned on and thus, it will bring the comfort and knowledge and confidence that a light in the midst of darkness brings.

E. The Fear of the LORD is clean – it endures forever

As we read God’s Word, as we fear the Lord we are told that it is clean then to us. In other words, a person who reads and hears and studies the Word of God, meeting Him in His Word, will have an appropriate appreciation of God’s awe and majesty, he will fear the Lord. And the reason the Word of God is clean is that it comes from God Himself, in which there is no darkness in Him at all. And thus, that which is clean will never rust, fall apart, fade away, it will endure forever!

F. The Judgments of the LORD are true – they are righteous altogether

And David finishes us by speaking of the judgments of God, that they are true. He uses the Hebrew word EMETH, (eh’ - meth) which speaks of assurance, that it is established, it is right, it is trustworthy. Make no mistake about it, God’s judgments are righteous altogether and they will come to pass whether a person believes them or not! God is going to judge those who have rejected Him!

2. I like the way that Spurgeon sums up these first 9 verses of Psalm 19 for us. He wrote, “He is wisest who reads both the world-book and the Word-book as two volumes of the same work, and feels concerning them, ‘My Father wrote them both.’”

VERSES 10-11

1. What is more precious than Gold? David is saying that God's Word is more precious to him than gold! How precious is the Word of God to you? Clarke truly makes a point regarding what people see as precious as he wrote, "This is strictly true; but who believes it? By most men *gold* is preferred both to *God* and his *judgments*; and they will barter every heavenly portion for gold and silver!" You see, what the world has to offer is empty and limited compared to the full and enduring Word of God. And in the end, all the precious metals a man can obtain will be worthless when they spend eternity apart from God!

2. Now here is an important question, "Where is our reward found?" It is not found in just hearing the Word of God, but also by keeping the Word of God. There are many today who hear what God has to say and as they leave the church they live contrary to what God has said. There is no reward in that.

And David tells us that it is God's Word that warns us when we have gone astray, it helps to keep us in line. David said in Psalm 119:9-11, "**How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.**" May we not only hear those words, but may we apply them to our lives!

VERSES 12-13

1. Like we have seen, God's Word exposes our sins, even those sins that we are unaware that we have committed. Sin is a word that means "to miss the mark", it was an archery term, and thus, these unknown sins would be like having bad aim, missing the target, and because of your eyesight, not able to see what you hit.

There are all those sins that are willful or deliberate on our part. You know what God has said and you go the other way. It would be like shooting away from the target, on purpose.

2. And David is crying out to God to help him to live a life that would be pleasing to God, to live a holy life. And that is our cry also. The one who created the heavens and the earth knows what is in our heart and He is the one who can purge that wickedness from us if we allow Him to!

VERSE 14

1. I want you to notice the prayer of David here. David is calling for his actions and his desires to be in line with God's will for his life, which would be pleasing to God. And that will only happen as we saturate ourselves in His Word asking God's Spirit to teach us the things we need to know and to conform our life into His image. You see, the more you spend time with Him, the more He will be seen in you! And in these short 14 verses we have seen the glorious God of creation and revelation who is also the glorious God of personal relationship and redemption for His people. King David knew this; so should we.

PSALM 20

Many feel that this Psalm was spoken prior to David and his men entering into battle. In verses 1-5 it is the prayer of his people wishing King David success in the battle. In verse 6 we see the King express his confidence in the Lord who will give them the victory. And in verses 7-9 we see all join in with confidence in the battle, that God will deliver them from their enemy!

VERSES 1-5

1. Here we have David's men praying for their King, that God would protect him and give him the victory as they go into battle under the banner of David, under his leadership. What is interesting is that they speak of "**the God of Jacob**" instead of the God of Israel. The name "Israel" means governed by God and the name "Jacob" means supplanter, heel catcher, conniver. Thus, it seems to indicate that even when the nation was not doing well, that God would see them through these battles!

2. Now in verse 4 they speak of God giving their King his desires and that may seem strange. But this is not speaking of what the King wants, his will but the Lord's will in the situation. You see, when we say that God will grant us our desire, the reality is, our desire should be His desire, for that is what is best for our life. It is as Psalm 37:4 says, "**Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**" If you delight in the Lord and are doing His will, then His desire will be your desire!

VERSE 6

1. Here King David expressed the great confidence he had that God would answer the prayers of His people.

VERSES 7-9

1. Here we see David and his men encouraged and they are trusting totally in the Lord to give them the victory in this battle. It is amazing the weapons of war that nations can gather together, and yet, when you are fighting against God, they amount to nothing. The strength of any nation does not come from its military might, but through godly men who seek the Lord. Remember when Elijah was taken up into heaven, Elisha said, “**... ‘My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!’ ...**” (II Kings 2:12). Elijah was truly the strength of Israel, more than the chariot and more than horses.

And when Elisha was on his death bed, Joash, King of Israel came to see him and spoke the same words to Elisha, why? Because these men of God were the strength of the nation and not their military might. (II Kings 13:14). That is what will make this nation strong and great, people who trust in the Lord and are seeking direction from Him.

2. Now as you read this Psalm you need to understand that the battle was before them and yet, they felt secure in their victory because their victory was in the Lord. It is as Morgan wrote, “This is the language of faith, not after the battle, but before it.” May we learn to walk by faith and not by sight, trusting in the One who loves us so much and will give us the victory in the battles we face!

PSALM 21

As we have seen in Psalm 20, that this Psalm was a prayer going into battle and now here in Psalm 21 it is the rejoicing after the battle as they came home in victory, singing praises unto God.

VERSES 1-2

1. No mention of military weapons, only the Lord and His strength which has given them the victory. God is the one who strengthens us. I think that is important for us as Christians to understand. Our weapons are not carnal, they are not physical. Why is that? Because it is a spiritual warfare that we are fighting and thus, we need spiritual weapons for this battle, we need to put on the armor of God as Paul tells us in Ephesians chapter 6!
2. Remember back in Psalm 20 that God would give David his hearts desire. We now see that prayer answered because it was the will of God in this situation!

VERSES 3-7

1. Now just relating this to King David, we see that God protected him in battle and preserved his life. But there is much more to this Psalm than just David's victory. In fact, we also see here resurrection life that is only found in Jesus Christ. I think we have a picture here of Jesus and the victory He has given to us through His death and resurrection.

Boice points this out to us when he wrote, “The ancient Jewish Targum (the Chaldean paraphrase of the Old Testament) and Talmud render the word *king* in verse 1 by *melek mashiach* (King Messiah), which means that the Jews in an early period understood these words to be spoken of the Messiah. A change came in the Middle Ages as a result of a judgment by Rabbi Solomon Isaaci, known as Rashi (A. D. 1040). He endorsed the early view but suggested it be dropped, saying, ‘Our old doctors interpreted this psalm of King Messiah, but in order to meet the Schismatics [that is, the Christians] it is better to understand it of David himself.’” So even the Jews believed this was speaking of the Messiah but because they saw Jesus as the fulfillment of this, because they denied that Jesus was the Messiah, they said that this is what the Christians believed. Thus they said it just spoke of David because they refuse to see Jesus! Just as God used David to defeat his enemies, Jesus will return one day and deal with those who have rejected Him.

VERSES 8-10

1. If you remember from Psalm 2, how the nations gathered together to fight against the Lord and His Messiah, here that rebellion is put down and it is very similar to what we read in Revelation chapter 19 as the Lord destroys His enemies with the Words that proceed from the mouth of God.

We are told starting in verse 11 of Revelation chapter 19, **“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”** Revelation 19:11-16.

2. Now here’s the thing. David speaks of **“the time of Your anger”** or the Lord’s anger and yet today, we are living in the age of grace. A time where God is gracious and merciful to us and has extended that free gift of life that is only found in Jesus. But God’s grace is coming to an end and judgment will come upon the earth dwellers or those who have rejected Jesus. How much better to receive His grace than His anger!

VERSES 11-12

1. Now in the verses we just read, verses 8-10, they seem to be very strong in regards to the judgment of God upon people. Why such harsh judgments? Why such severe judgments? Because they intentionally rebelled against God and His people and God is just giving back to them what they deserve. You see, they thought they could come up with a plan to defeat God but they were not able to do that, they never will be able to defeat Almighty God! That is foolishness and that is what we see in Psalm 2 and we are told that God laughs at their attempt to fight against Him. Creation is trying to fight against their creator, and they will not win. Talk about the arrogance of man!

VERSE 13

1. God does not need our help, even though He chooses to work through us. But we need His help and as David came home in victory, he sung of the power of God as he praised His holy name. Yes we see a picture of Christ in this Psalm, but also this is what David went through, the victory he saw in battle and the praises he gave unto the Lord who gave him that victory! In fact, as you read through this Psalm it is full of praises unto God for the blessings of victory, deliverance, and answered prayer. This attitude should always be among the people of God. May we have that kind of heart of worship towards the Lord as David did!

2. Now as we move into Psalms 22, 23 and 24 they each give a picture of Christ from a different perspective. In Psalm 22 we see Jesus as the Savior who was crucified for our sins. In Psalm 23 we see Jesus as Shepherd of His sheep. And in Psalm 24 we see Jesus as Sovereign King of kings and Lord of lords! And think of these three Psalms like this. In Psalm 22 we see Jesus' death. In Psalm 23 we see Jesus in the Incarnation you might say, in His life. And in Psalm 24 we see Jesus coming again.

PSALM 22

As you read this Psalm it is almost eerie or supernatural in that in this Psalm you get a more graphic picture of the cross than in any New Testament book. And when you think about that and how amazing that statement is because this Psalm was written around 1000 B. C., and some 800 years before crucifixion was even invented. The interesting thing about this Psalm is that it is not one that is looking up at the cross, but the view is that of Christ hanging from the cross and what He sees around Him, how He feels as He hangs there. In Acts 2:30 we read of David being called a prophet, and thus, here in Psalm 22 he prophetically speaks of the cross by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

J. Vernon Mcgee had this to say regarding this Psalm. He wrote, “There are several Scriptures with which I never feel adequate to deal. This is one of them. When we come to Psalm 22 I feel that we are standing on holy ground, and we should take off our spiritual shoes. This psalm is called the Psalm of the Cross. It is so named because it describes more accurately and minutely the crucifixion of Christ than does any other portion of the Word of God.” I agree with his observation of this Psalm, it truly is holy ground as we get a glimpse into what the Lord went through as He hung on the cross of Calvary.

Also keep in mind that Jesus quoted out of this Psalm several times as He hung on the cross and many feel that He quoted the whole Psalm on that day, which is possible since it was fulfilled that day by Him and those who had gathered around Him. Luther put it like this, “This is a kind of gem among the Psalms, and is peculiarly excellent and remarkable. It contains those deep, sublime, and heavy sufferings of Christ, when agonizing in the midst of the terrors and pangs of divine wrath and death which surpass all human thought and comprehension.” (Luther, cited in Spurgeon).

VERSES 1-2

1. Yes, these are the words of David during a time he was going through a heavy trial and he is trying to explain the pain, the separation he was going through during this time. But it is also a Psalm speaking of Jesus and all that He went through on the cross of Calvary for us. You see, this Psalm opens up with the words that Jesus cried from the cross. His cry during the daytime, from 9 am to 12 noon and in the night season when the sky was darkened, from 12 noon to 3 pm. As He cried out to the Father His voice seemed to fall on deaf ears, why? What was going on here? Why did God the Father turn His back on God the Son?

Remember what Isaiah 59:1-2 says, **“Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”** That is the reason God can not look upon sin, He is holy.

Now please understand that it was not the sins of Jesus that separated Him from the Father, but the sins of the world, our sins that were placed upon Jesus. And it was then that this fellowship was broken between the Father and the Son. You see, in the garden, prior to the cross, Jesus sweated drops of blood, he was in agony regarding what was ahead of him, not because of the pain of crucifixion, which was intense, but that of the separation, which He never experienced before. It is as Trapp points out, “Then it was that he felt in soul and body the horror of God’s displeasure against sin, for which he had undertaken.”

And you need to understand that it was not just this broken fellowship that had never happened in eternity past nor will ever happen again in eternity future but it was also the outpouring of the Father's wrath upon Him as He not only took our sins but also the wrath that was do us! Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 5:21, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”** That is what the Lord has done for us. Spurgeon put it like this, “This was the blackness and darkness of his horror; then it was that he penetrated the depths of the caverns of suffering.”

VERSES 3-5

1. As you read this you can feel the pain that Jesus was going through. He was forsaken by the Father and because of what Christ has done we will never be forsaken. Mickey shared that with me several weeks back and it hit me hard to see what the Lord has done for me and what was done to Him!

But here is the thing. Even though Jesus was going through all of this He continued to lift the Father up. He did not curse God or blaspheme God and no matter what He had to go through to redeem man it did not change God's holiness or greatness! And make no mistake about it, this was not easy. Jesus speaks of the children of Israel crying out to God and God not only heard their cries, He delivered them and yet, Jesus cried and He was ignored because He became sin for us!

And so as you read Isaiah 53:6 you can see what God has done for us. He can't look upon sin because He is a holy God and thus, He bore our iniquity! And so we read, **“All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”**

VERSES 6-8

1. Jesus called Himself a worm, a *tolaiith* and this word was used for both a “worm” and “scarlet” because this was the worm that was used to make the red dye. You see, when you crushed it you could dye your garments scarlet. Also, as this worm was ready to give birth it would climb up a tree and attach itself to a branch. And as it gave birth it would burst open and die, but in the process it would bring forth new life. And as it died and fell off the tree, it would leave a scarlet stain on that tree. Not only that but after about three days the crimson spot would dry up and turn white, and then flake off like snow.

Remember what the Lord said in Isaiah 1:18, **“Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.’**” And I think that is what Jesus is saying to us here. That in His death He gives new life, the new birth. Without it, there is no new life; there is no forgiveness of our sins!

2. As Jesus hung on that cross of Calvary what were the people down below doing? They mocked Him as He hung on the cross just as David said some 1,000 years before this event ever took place!

VERSES 9-11

1. Again, we need to understand that David was writing this about himself and through inspiration of the Holy Spirit it looked to the Son of David, to Jesus. We know that Jesus was aware of His ministry at least from the age of 12 when He was teaching in the Temple and I think much younger than that. (Luke 2:49). In fact, He may have recognized in some way we don't understand from before He was born as John the Baptist leaped in his mother's womb when Mary came by when she was pregnant with Jesus! And thus, I think this implies that He was aware long before that time.

2. Now think about this for a minute. The creator of heaven and earth, who was surrounded by angels for eternity, was never alone but now, as Jesus hung on the cross He was alone. The only ones standing with Him were John, Mary the mother of Jesus, and a few other women. Even God the Father turned His face from Jesus for a time, when He bore our sins upon Him. When I think about this it blows me away seeing how much God loves me and what He was willing to go through to set me free from my sin!

VERSES 12-18

1. The bulls of Bashan were made into Canaanite deities, they became idols. And Paul said in his letter to the Corinthian church, "**Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.**" I Corinthians 10:20. Thus, Jesus may be giving us some spiritual insight here as the demons began to rejoice in the victory they thought they had obtained in killing the Messiah.

2. Now as you read this you can just picture in your mind what Jesus was going through, it is very detailed! You see, Crucifixion is one of the most painful ways to die. As you hung on that cross, anywhere from hours to several days, until you died, you would become dehydrated, delirious and your bones would be pulled out of joint. Just to breath you would have to push yourself up on that splinted wooden cross and the back of Jesus was like raw meat from the scourging He had endured.

3. I think that the dogs spoken of in verse 16 refer to the Gentiles and specifically the Roman soldiers.

4. Now here is a question I will ask you, "What did Jesus die from?" It seems He died of a ruptured or broken heart, as the pericardium or sac around the heart filled with blood. Then, as the spear was thrust into His side, blood and water came flowing out. The blood signifies His atoning death for us, and the water, of baptism. In that we see come from His side His bride, just as in the garden, from the side of Adam came his bride. Something to think about!

5. One more point here and that is this. How did the Jews deal with criminals, how did they put them to death, what was their form of capital punishment? They stoned people to death and yet here, some 1,000 years before crucifixion was even invented, David tells us that the hands and feet of Jesus were to be pierced as He hung on the tree, pulling his bones out of joint. Again, the description here is even more graphic than what we read in the New Testament!

VERSES 19-21a

1. With criminals, like Jesus was, or so they wrongly accused Him, they would remove their bodies and throw them into a common grave, an open grave, and dogs would come and eat their flesh. But the body of Jesus was taken by Joseph of Arimathea, and placed in a new tomb and sealed. And as you read this you can feel the agony of what Jesus was going through and you can get a better idea of His prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, **“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”** (Matthew 26:39).

2. Now we move from the crucifixion to the resurrection. You see, as we move on into verse 22 the prayer turns into praise because it is not about crucifixion, but about resurrection as the sob of our Savior becomes a song of salvation.

VERSES 21b-24

1. As you read this you see the pain, the agony gone as Jesus knows that the Father will answer His prayer. And after Jesus was crucified, as He was placed in the tomb, He spent 3 days and 3 nights in Hades, a place known as Abraham’s bosom, where those who died believing in the promises of God waited for the Messiah. And when He was done sharing with them the truths of God, this place was emptied as Jesus rose from the grave, and the only part of Hades that remains occupied is the place where the unfaithful are until the Great White Throne Judgment when they will be cast into the Lake of Fire or outer darkness!

VERSES 25-26

1. David promises to praise the Lord for His miraculous salvation among other believers, this great assembly. And I look at this and remember the thief on the cross. He deserved death and he cried out to the Lord to remember him and the Lord said to him, “**Today you will be with me in paradise.**” I don’t care who you are or what you have done, if you cry out to Jesus He will receive you into the Kingdom!

VERSE 27

1. All those entering into the Kingdom Age shall praise Him. Now we are told in Romans 14:11, “**For it is written: ‘As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.’**” Now please understand that is not saying that everyone will be saved. What it is saying is that everyone will admit or acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. Those that are saved and those that are not saved will all understand that. The problem for the unsaved is they make that acknowledgement after they have died and then it is too late. They will then see Jesus as God and what He has done for them, but again, it is too late! And for those who make that acknowledgement now, they will enter into that Kingdom Age with Him and we will never be apart from Him! Don’t wait till you see Him to acknowledge Him as Lord, it will be too late!

VERSES 28-31

1. Again we see Paul makes this same point in Philippians 2:9-11 where he wrote, **“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”**

That is speaking of both the saved and unsaved. For the saved, they will enter into eternity with Him. For the unsaved, even though they now bow before Him at the judgment, since they rejected Him in this life, He will reject them and they will enter into eternity separated from Him.

2. Now this is interesting because it seems to be saying that the stories of what God has done will be retold to those born in the Kingdom Age and God will be known throughout the land. Why would they have to hear of these stories when the Lord will be with them? The reason is simple; they will have to make a choice. They will have to choose either for Christ or against Him. There will be those who will be born in the Kingdom Age and they will have to make a decision for themselves. You see, at the end of the Kingdom Age there will be one last revolt, believe it or not, and those who have rejected Jesus will be cast into the Lake of Fire and the rest will enter into that eternal state with Him!

3. The words, "**He has done this**" is the Hebrew word ASAH and it can be translated "finished." I find that as an interesting way to close out this Psalm. You see, the closing words of Jesus as He hung on the cross of Calvary, were TETELESTAI or "**paid in full**" "**It is finished.**" All our sins were paid for on the cross by Jesus, and we should tell others not only what He has done for us, but what He has done for them. We started out with a cry "**O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent**" and now we end with the Kingdom Age and the work completed, *IT IS FINISHED!*