

Daily Encouragement from Gordon – Friday 10th April

Psalm 22

Yes, I know I've missed out Ps 21.... we'll come back to that later.
But it's Good Friday, so Psalm 22 fits. We see again what it cost Jesus to die for us,

For the director of music. To the tune of 'The Doe of the Morning'. A psalm of David.

This is a lovely song. Like Good Friday, lovely because of what the Saviour has done for us.

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

Quoted by Jesus on the cross (Matthew 27:46). The Son was separated from the Father, because our sin was laid on Him, and Jesus was suffering punishment for sin that we deserve. Yet he willingly died in my place.... How greatly He loved me!

3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
you are the one Israel praises.

4 In you our ancestors put their trust;
they trusted and you delivered them.

5 To you they cried out and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

Two things here:

- a) why didn't God rescue Jesus? The answer comes below, because God's plan was fulfilled through Jesus' suffering
- b) how can a holy God save sinners? The answer comes below, because justice was fulfilled as Jesus suffered in my place

Now we get the crucifixion described. Jesus went through all this so he could forgive us, purify us and welcome us into his presence for ever.

6 But I am a worm and not a man,

(The word used is a particular species of worm that was dried and crushed to produce a red dye)

scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

7 All who see me mock me; Matt 27:41
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

8 'He trusts in the Lord,' they say,
'let the Lord rescue him.

Let him deliver him,
since he delights in him.'

9 Yet you brought me out of the womb;
you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast.

10 From birth I was cast on you;
from my mother's womb you have been my God.

11 Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

12 Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.

13 Roaring lions that tear their prey
open their mouths wide against me.

14 I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted within me.

15 My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, John 19:28 "I thirst"
and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
you lay me in the dust of death.

16 Dogs surround me,
a pack of villains encircles me;
they pierce my hands and my feet. Matthew 27:4

17 All my bones are on display; Not broken, John 19:36
people stare and gloat over me.

18 They divide my clothes among them
and cast lots for my garment. John 19:24

19 But you, Lord, do not be far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to help me.

20 Deliver me from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dogs.

21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

22 I will declare your name to my people;
in the assembly I will praise you. John 20:26. Resurrection!!!!!!

23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!
All you descendants of Jacob, honour him!
Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!
We praise God for the cross and the empty tomb.

24 For he has not despised or scorned
the suffering of the afflicted one;
he has not hidden his face from him
but has listened to his cry for help.

25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows.

26 The poor will eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord will praise him –
may your hearts live for ever!
The fruit of Christ's suffering is our new life.

27 All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him, Rev 5:9

28 for dominion belongs to the Lord
and he rules over the nations. Rev 19:15

29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;
all who go down to the dust will kneel before him – Phil 2:10
those who cannot keep themselves alive.

30 Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about the Lord. Acts 1:8

31 They will proclaim his righteousness,
declaring to a people yet unborn: this one's our job!
He has done it! and this is God's doing.

A remarkable Psalm. It goes way beyond any situation David knew to unpack the trials of the cross. It is prophetic, one of the proofs that the Bible is God's word, but it also deepens our appreciation of what Jesus went through for us.

Gordon

Give me a sight, O Saviour,
Of Thy wondrous love to me,
Of the love that brought Thee down to earth,
To die on Calvary.

Oh, make me understand it,
Help me to take it in,
What it meant to Thee, the Holy One,
To bear away my sin.

2

Was it the nails, O Saviour,
That bound Thee to the tree?
Nay, 'twas Thine everlasting love,
Thy love for me, for me.

3

Oh, wonder of all wonders,
That through Thy death for me,
My open sins, my secret sins,
Can all forgiven be.

4

Then melt my heart, O Saviour,
Bend me, yea, break me down,
Until I own Thee Conqueror,
And Lord and Sov'reign crown.