PSALM 22:27 KJV ALL THE ENDS OF THE WORLD SHALL REMEMBER AND TURN UNTO THE LORD : AND ALL THE KINDREDS OF THE NATIONS SHALL WORSHIP BEFORE THEE.

Studies in the Psalms

PSALM 22

A PHOTOGRAPH OF JESUS

QUICK REVIEW

LESSON ONE

» David foretold the crucifixion of Jesus 2,000 years before it happened

LESSON TWO

» The crucifixion of Jesus was God D-Day (it marked the beginning of his most important victory)

LESSON THREE

» There is a crown of righteousness for all who love his appearing

ABOUT THIS PSALM

Psalms 22, 23, and 24 are all prophecies of the coming of Jesus. It has been said that a picture can paint a thousand words. Psalm 22 is a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd, Psalm 23 is a picture of Jesus as the Great Shepherd, and Psalm 24 is a picture of Jesus as the Chief Shepherd. Psalm 22 contains four of the seven sayings of Jesus on the cross, as well as many other facts about the crucifixion.

AUTHOR

We are informed in the title that the author of Psalm 22 is David, the son of Jesse from Bethlehem. The title also tells us that David recommended this psalm be sung to the tune of the song "The Deer of the Dawn." It is however an unknown tune today.

THEME

Psalm 22 is a prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus. It is amazingly incredible to see here how God anointed David to describe so much about an event that would not take place until approximately one thousand years later. Ancient traditions say that Jesus may have recited the entire Psalm on the cross.

Psalm 22 is full of parralels to the cross and includes, nearly word for word, four of the statements that Jesus would make as He hung on the cross. Verse one states, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me." In Matthew 27:46 the writer records the essence of these same words. Verse fifteen states, "My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws." In John 19:28 the writer records, "I thirst." Psalm 31:5 states, "Into Your hands I commit My spirit." In Luke 23:46 the writer records the essence of these same words. In Psalm 22:31 it says, "He has done this." In Luke 23:46 the writer states, "It is finished." Psalms twenty-two also describes several more events that took place as Jesus hung on the cross. Psalm 22:7-8 tells about those who taunted Jesus about saving Himself, Matthew 27:39 tells us it happened just as it was prophesied. Psalm 22:16 & 18 states that they pierced His hands and His feet, and that they divided His garments among them, Matthew 27:35-36 records this same thing happening too. Finally Psalm 22:17 states that they stared at Him, and Matthew 27:36 tells us that this also came to pass.

PERSONAL APPLICATIONS/PSALM 22

A PHOTOGRAPH OF JESUS

NOTE: This being such a long Psalm we will only read a few of the verses for discussion.

PSALM 22:1-2: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out day by day, but You do not answer, by night, and am not silent."

QUESTIONS

David felt abandoned by God - can anyone share a time when you, too, felt abandoned by the Lord -- or maybe even your brothers or sisters in Christ? Have a discussion about how important it is that we always do our best to look after the welfare of not only our own family members, but also the members of our church.

PSALM 22:16-18: "... They have pierced My hands and My feet ... people stare and gloat over me ... they divide my garments among them and cast lots for them."

QUESTIONS

What do you think the chances are of someone stating facts about something so vivid and detailed, and then having that very thing take place on a day approximately one thousand years later in the span of just a few hours? Have a discussion of any time in your life that an incredible answer came to you from out of the Bible that was just what you needed in that very moment of time.

PSALM 22:27-29: "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, for dominion belongs to the LORD and He rules over the nations. 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."

QUESTIONS

Have a discussion about the power of God's Word to prevail. God was able to inspire David to write these words approximately one thousand years before they came into being through the cross of Jesus. Shouldn't that also build our faith to believe in the words of the New Testament, that Jesus did come and fulfill these prophecies? Shouldn't that also strengthen our faith to the fact the Jesus is indeed coming back and that every knee will be bowing and every tongue will be confessing that Jesus Christ is indeed Lord.

PSALM 22:30-31: "A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the LORD to the next generation, they will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done this."

QUESTIONS

Have a discussion about how important it is that we as Christians be a witness to the world around us, and how that we need His power to help people understand that Jesus is indeed coming again.

CLOSING SCRIPTURES

» Acts 1:8:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be witnesses in Jerusalem, an in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."