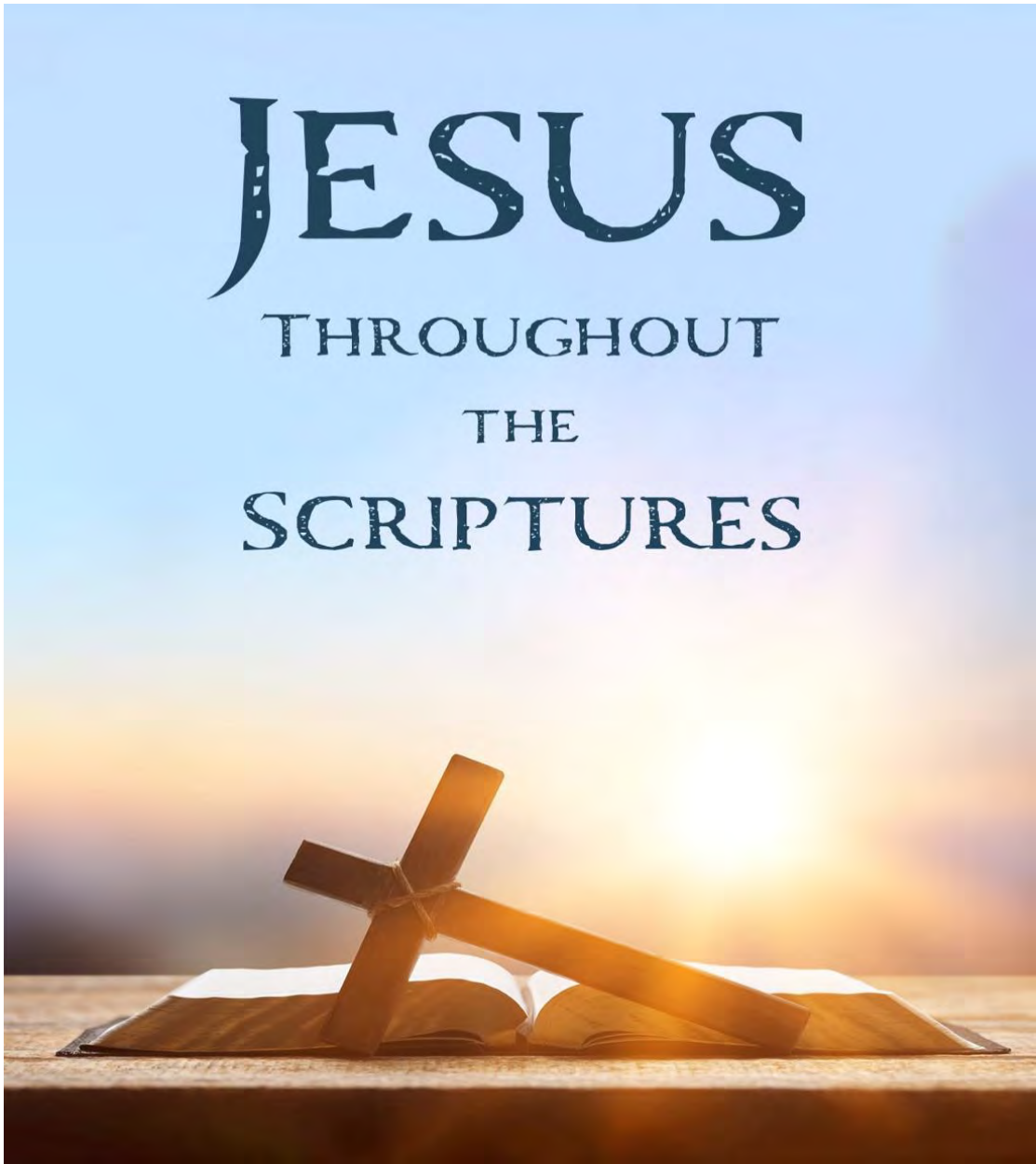


# JESUS

THROUGHOUT  
THE  
SCRIPTURES



Part 9: The Psalms (2)

T. M. and Susie Moore

*A Scriptorium Study from The Fellowship of Ailbe*

Jesus throughout the Scriptures  
Part 8: The Psalms (2)  
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## Jesus throughout the Scriptures: The Psalms (2)—Introduction

In Part 2 of our study of Jesus throughout the Psalms the images and foreshadowings of Jesus become much clearer. He is the King of glory, and yet He suffers on a cross. He sees His Kingdom coming and summons us to be His disciples and rest in Him. He is our gentle Shepherd and our firm Defender.

We are pleased to offer this resource at no charge to readers, but we encourage to pray and seek the Lord whether He might have you join in supporting the work of The Fellowship of Ailbe. You can use the contribute button at our website to give online, or you may send a check to The Fellowship of Ailbe, P. O. Box 8213, Essex, VT 05451.

We hope you find these studies helpful so that you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to increase in love for God and your neighbors.

T. M. Moore  
Principal

## 1 He Come Down

*Pray Psalm 18.1-3.*

I will love You, O LORD, my strength.  
The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer;  
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;  
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.  
I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised;  
So shall I be saved from my enemies.

*Sing Psalm 18.1-3.*

(St. Columba: *How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place*)

I love You, LORD, my Strength, my Rock, my Savior and my Fort;  
my God, my ever-shelt'ring Rock, You shield my trembling heart.

My Stronghold, LORD, my Saving Horn, I call to You with praise!  
From those who Your salvation scorn You save us all our days.

*Read Psalm 18.1-19; meditate on verses 13-17.*

*Preparation*

1. How did David refer to God?
2. What did God do for him?

*Meditation*

An old, beautiful, and beloved spiritual features the words, as part of the refrain, “He come down.” This is echoed by “He come from the glory!” Then again, “He come down” and “He come from the glorious Kingdom!”

And that seems just impossible. But the song continues, “O yes, believer! O, yes, believer!” Because those who believe in Jesus know that what David experienced is what we have all experienced, how God “come down” from His glorious Kingdom in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ, fought and bound the devil, and took us as plunder to Himself (Ps. 18.9-15; cf. Matt. 12.22-29). He drew us out of the murky waters of sin (v. 16) and reached us while we were in the snares and pangs of death (vv. 4, 5). He spoke His Word to us from heaven (v. 13) and sent His Spirit to take us to Himself (v. 16; cf. Gal. 4.4-6).

Psalm 18 gloriously portrays in David’s experience what happens when a person comes to faith in Jesus Christ.

Jesus has come down for us in the flesh to fulfill all the righteous requirements of God’s Law and bear all His wrath against lawless sinners such as we. Now Jesus has returned to His throne, but He continues to come down to us, by His Word and Spirit, to lift us out of our fears and folly, set us on the broad place of His love (v. 19), and send us forth as rulers in His Kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

O yes, believer: Rejoice! He come down!

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

*The virgin Mary had a baby boy*

*The virgin Mary had a baby boy*

*The virgin Mary had a baby boy  
And they say that His Name is Jesus.  
Oh yes, believer!*

“I will love You, O LORD, my strength” (Ps. 18.1)  
My Rock, Fortress, Deliverer, Trust, Shield, Stronghold, and Praise (Ps. 18.2, 3).

“David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul” (superscript to Psalm 18). An expanded version of this psalm is found in 2 Sam. 22.2-51.

“...but David strengthened himself in the LORD his God” (1 Sam. 30.6).  
“The LORD is the strength of His people, and He is the saving refuge of His anointed” (Ps. 28.8).  
“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Ps. 27.1).

Oh yes, we believers cherish these same promises.  
“My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12.9).  
“I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me” (Phil. 4.13).

“For You are my rock and my fortress;  
therefore, for Your Name’s sake, lead me and guide me.  
Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me,  
for You are my strength” (Ps. 31.3, 4).  
“Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints!  
For the LORD preserves the faithful, and fully repays the proud person.  
Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart,  
all you who hope in the LORD” (Ps. 31.23, 24).

“Jesus has come down for us” to bear our sins, to conquer death, because He chose to give us life and to strengthen, protect, secure, and deliver us here and now, and there and then. And He left glory to do that for us. “...Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2.6, 7).

“Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 Jn. 4.11) and, if we love Jesus, we will keep His commandments (Jn. 14.15).

Jesus and His amazing love.

*He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh yes, believer!  
Oh yes, believer!  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.*

Oh yes, for you and for me!

#### *Reflection*

1. Do you remember when Jesus came down to save you? Share your testimony of His grace with someone

today.

2. What does it mean to say, as David did, that God is our Rock and our Fortress? When do you experience Him like this?

3. Whom will you encourage today to remember when Jesus came down for them?

*This psalm, therefore, is the first of those psalms in which David celebrates, in lofty strains, the wonderful grace which God had shown towards him, both in putting him in possession of the kingdom, and in afterwards maintaining him in it. He also shows that his reign was an image and type of the kingdom of Christ, to teach and assure the faithful that Christ, in spite of the whole world, and of all the resistance which it can make, will, by the stupendous and incomprehensible power of the Father, be always victorious. John Calvin (1509-1564), Commentary on Psalm 18.1*

*Pray Psalm 18.31-36.*

Thank God the Father that He sent Jesus to “come down” and bring salvation to the world and to you. Pray for His gentleness to strengthen you and enlarge your steps as you follow along the Jesus Path.

*Sing Psalm 18.31-36, 49.*

*(I Am Thine: I Am Thine, O Lord, I Have Heard Thy Voice)*

Who is God but You, there's no other Stone where we find the strength to stand.

Let my hands and feet be for You alone as I walk in Your commands.

*Refrain v. 49*

I will thank You, thank You gracious LORD, I will lift Your Name in praise  
'til the nations hear Your saving Word and amend their sinful ways.

You have saved me, LORD, and Your gentleness holds me up and makes me strong.

You enlarge my steps as You guide and bless and preserve me all life long.

*Refrain*

## 2 The Lord Lives!

*Pray Psalm 18.46-48.*

The LORD lives!

Blessed be my Rock!

Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

It is God who avenges me,

And subdues the peoples under me;

He delivers me from my enemies.

You also lift me up above those who rise against me;

You have delivered me from the violent man.

*Sing Psalm 18.46-48.*

(St. Theodulph: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*)

You live, our Rock, our Savior, exalted by our God!

Upon Your foes with vengeance Your holy feet have trod.

Delivered from Your enemies and lifted high above,

we rescued and redeemed are by Your eternal love.

*Read Psalm 18.46-50; meditate on verse 46.*

*Preparation*

1. What all did David say about the LORD?

2. How did he respond to this?

*Meditation*

The high-water mark of Psalm 18 is verse 46: “The LORD lives!” And because David knew this, he could only respond with praise, thanksgiving, a recitation of God’s mighty works, a celebration of His mercy, and a glance (and implied prayer) for the future.

Throughout the second part of Psalm 18 (vv. 20-50), David rehearsed the favor of the LORD toward him, how God rewarded his faithfulness, taught him His Word, kept him (at last!) free from sin, and would guide and strengthen him for his remaining days. This is a good discipline, friends, and one we do not engage as often as we should. For the more specific we are in praising God and rehearsing His good works toward us, the more real and close and thrilling and transforming will be our knowledge that He really lives.

Jesus and the Father have sent the Holy Spirit to live within us. The Spirit filled David during much of His life, but He was not given to indwell him permanently. Nevertheless, David knew His Presence, knew that God lives and blesses and keeps those who trust in Him, and knew that He would be the same for the generations to come.

“Jesus lives, and so shall I!” So goes an old hymn we rarely sing, but which captures a great measure of the truth of what His resurrection and reign mean for us. The Lord Jesus lives, and so shall we—forever and ever, hallelujah!

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162.*

“The LORD lives!” (Ps. 18.46)

“I AM He Who lives,

and was dead, and behold,  
I AM alive forevermore.  
Amen.  
And I have the keys  
of Hades and of Death” (Rev. 1.18).

“I AM the resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in Me,  
though he may die,  
he shall live.  
And whoever lives and believes in Me  
shall never die.  
Do you believe this?” (Jn. 11.25, 26).

O Yes! “Lord, I believe that  
You are the Christ,  
The Son of God,  
Who is to come into the world” (Jn. 11.27).

*Jesus lives and so shall I.  
Death! Thy sting is gone forever,  
He who deigned for me to die,  
Lives the bands of death to sever.  
He shall raise me with the just;  
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.*

*Jesus lives, I know full well,  
Naught from Him my heart can sever,  
Life nor death nor powers of hell,  
Joy nor grief henceforth forever.  
None of all His saints is lost;  
Jesus is my Hope and Trust.  
(Christian F. Gellert, 1757)*

*Reflection*

1. Do you think people today understand that Jesus is really alive from the dead? How are they supposed to know that?
2. How is it apparent in your life that Jesus lives in you?
3. Whom will you encourage today with the message that Jesus lives?

*If we belong to him, he conquers and reigns for us, and we shall conquer and reign through him, and partake of the mercy of our anointed King, which is promised to all his seed for evermore. Amen. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on Psalm 18.26-50*

*Pray Psalm 18.49, 50.*

Give praise to Jesus Who lives and reigns forever, and give Him abundant thanks for saving you and providing mercy and grace for all your daily needs.



*Sing Psalm 18.49, 50.*

(St. Theodulph: *All Glory, Laud, and Honor*)

Let nations rise and praise You, and give You thanks, O LORD!

Deliv'rance, grace, and favor You grant us by Your Word.

Bestow Your lovingkindness upon us as before,

and bless and keep Your people henceforth and evermore.

### 3 The Lord Will Save

*Pray Psalm 20.5, 6.*

We will rejoice in your salvation,  
And in the name of our God we will set up *our* banners!  
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.  
Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed;  
He will answer him from His holy heaven  
With the saving strength of His right hand.

*Sing Psalm 20.5, 6.*

(St. Leonard's: *May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*)

In Your Name we raise our banners; LORD, fulfill our every prayer!  
Saved are we in glorious manner, free from every care.

*Read Psalm 20; meditate on verses 7-9.*

*Preparation*

1. To whom is this psalm addressed?
2. On what did David say He would rely?

*Meditation*

This psalm makes my head spin because of the various changes of perspective. All the “yous” of verses 1-5 are singular. To whom is David talking? The “we” in verse 5—does that include David and the one he’s addressing or some other group? The “I” in verse 6 is David, but who is “His anointed”, the “him” (v. 6) whose prayers God answers from heaven? “We” again in verse 7, but who? “They” in verse 8 is contrasted with “we” in that verse who “have risen and stand upright.” And who is the “King” in verse 9 who answers “we” when they call?

See what I mean? Perhaps David is speaking to himself (“you”), using himself as a representative of the whole of God’s people (“we”), or thinking of himself (the King) in the third person? Is David the “anointed” one— anointed as king over God’s people, or does this refer to God’s Messiah, as in Psalm 2? And is the King in verse 9 also the LORD in that same verse?

The one solid focal point in this prayer is God, the LORD, the King Who answers prayer, Who hears the prayer of His anointed king (David) and His Anointed One (v. 6: “Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations...” Ps. 2), and Who turns the saving strength of His right hand to fulfill that request.

God sees. God hears. God answers. God saves. That’s all we need to know. Nothing else can save us. Trust Him (v. 7)

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

David first makes these observations about God’s care for His Own:

“May the LORD answer you...defend you...send you help...strengthen you...remember all your offerings... May He grant you according to your heart’s desire, and fulfill all your purpose” (Ps. 20.1-4).

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved” (Rom. 10.1).

“Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness.

Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (Ps. 37.3, 4).

“Obey and observe all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever, when you do what is good and right in the sight of the LORD your God” (Deut. 12.28).

Then He writes about trust:

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses;  
but we will remember the Name of the LORD our God” (Ps. 20.7).

“Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses,  
who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong,  
but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD!” (Is. 31.1).

“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD” (Prov. 21.31).

Then he expounds upon the Holy One Who will redeem us:

“Save, LORD!  
May the King answer us when we call” (Ps. 20.9).

“Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near” (Is. 55.6).

“I AM the Good Shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.  
As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father;  
and I lay down My life for the sheep” (Jn. 10.14, 15).

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His Name JESUS,  
for He will save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1.21).

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!  
What more can He say than to you He hath said,  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

*The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,  
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;  
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I'll never, no, never, no, never forsake!”*  
(Rippon's selection of Hymns, 1787)

#### *Reflection*

1. Which part of Psalm 20 most speaks to you about God's loving and saving care?
2. What can you do to stay more focused on Christ and His salvation throughout the day?
3. Whom will you encourage today to rejoice in the saving love of Jesus?

*The Spirit of prophecy rises from what related to the king, to that which is peculiar to Christ; none other is blessed for ever, much less a blessing for ever. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on Psalm 20.1-6*

*Pray Psalm 20.1-5, 7-9.*

Rejoice in the Lord and His salvation as you lay your troubles, trials, disappointments, setbacks, and failures at His feet. Renew your commitment to Him and to being His witness, and call on Him to keep you upright in His path throughout the day.

*Sing Psalm 20.1-5, 7-9.*

(St. Leonard's: *May the Mind of Christ, My Savior*)

Jesus, Savior, hear my pleading, set me safely, LORD, on high;  
help me by Your gracious leading and receive my cry.

May You by Your Church support me; gladly, LORD, receive my praise  
may my thanks a good report be with You all my days.

Grant my every earnest longing. Let my counsel be fulfilled.  
May I joyous song be strong in, living in Your will.

Answer from Your holy heaven, save us by Your mighty hand!  
Some to earthly boasts are given; in Your grace we stand.

They have bowed and fallen, Savior, while we rise and stand upright;  
grant to us Your royal favor, hear us day and night.

## 4 See Jesus

*Pray Psalm 22.1-5.*

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?  
*Why are You so far from helping Me,  
And from the words of My groaning?*  
O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;  
And in the night season, and am not silent.  
But You *are* holy,  
Enthroned in the praises of Israel.  
Our fathers trusted in You;  
They trusted, and You delivered them.  
They cried to You, and were delivered;  
They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.

*Sing Psalm 22.1-5.*

(St. Christopher: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*)  
Upon the cross of Calv'ry He suffered 'neath the rod;  
alone, He cried out, "Why have You forsaken Me, My God?"  
As day to bitter darkness turned, the Savior of the blessed  
cried, "Father, answer Me, I pray; restore Me to Your rest!"

But You, O God are holy, enthroned on Israel's praise;  
our fathers trusted You and You were faithful all their days.  
They cried to You; they trusted You, and never came to shame;  
for You delivered them, O God, by Your great holy Name.

*Read Psalm 22.1-21; meditate on verses 19-21.*

*Preparation*

1. How many ways does this psalm foretell the suffering of Jesus?
2. What did David—who wrote this psalm—want God to do for him?

*Meditation*

Psalm 22 is precious to every believer. Whatever David was undergoing at the time, and it must have been a deep trial or affliction, the Spirit of God led him to cast his sufferings in forms and images that would be inflicted on Jesus as He died to pay the debt we owed to God.

Jesus must have been praying this—and other—psalms amid His suffering. He cried out the first verse of Psalm 22 both as an expression of agony at being separated from the Father but also to cue those who were standing around gawking and mocking to consider the divine purpose for His suffering. Those people would have been familiar with Psalm 22, and as Jesus started them off, many would have begun reciting the entire psalm to themselves. What an impact that must have made on some!

The first part of this psalm is terrifying, gloomy, dark, and hopeless. But suffering and affliction could not shake David's faith, as we see in verses 19-21, and they would not shake Jesus' trust in the Lord, either. And in the second part of this psalm, as we shall see, the gloom is dissipated with the anticipated coming of a new day, bursting forth from the darkness of suffering like "The Deer of the Dawn" to herald the coming of the Kingdom of light.

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

“Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands, saying, ‘Prophesy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?’” (Matt. 26.67, 68).

“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His own clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified” (Matt. 27.27-31).

“Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots...and those who passed by blasphemed Him...Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders...Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him...” (Matt. 27.35-44).

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, ‘My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?’” (Matt. 27.46).

“And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit” (Matt. 27.50).

“You have answered Me” (Ps. 22.21).

Jesus declared, amidst all the abuse, pain, and suffering, that God had answered His prayer.

“...Who for the joy  
that was set before Him  
endured the cross,  
despising the shame,  
and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.  
For consider Him Who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself...” (Heb. 12.2, 3).

And Who knew for certain that God had answered Him.

See Jesus. See Assurance. See Faith. See Hope. See Love. See Life (Jn. 10.10).

#### *Reflection*

1. What is the value to you of seeing Jesus in psalms like this?
2. Jesus obviously prayed the psalms. Should we? Explain.
3. How can praying psalms like this buoy us during times of trial or affliction?

*To God the things that are to come are present, and for him who foreknows all things, they are as though they were past and over; as it is written, “Who has made the things that are to be.”* Ambrose of Milan (333-397), *On the Christian Faith* 1.15.97

*Pray Psalm 22.6-18.*

Pray slowly, meditating on each image that points to the suffering of Jesus. Give thanks to Jesus at each point. Call on the Lord to strengthen you for serving Jesus today.

*Sing Psalm 22.6-18.*

(St. Christopher: *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*)

Despised by men, the Savior was more a worm than man.  
They mocked, "He trusted God, let Him redeem Him if He can!  
Let God deliver Him if He indeed delights in Him!"  
Thus scorned they Jesus as He died in pain and anguish grim.

Like raging bulls they bellowed, like lions set to feast.  
Each gaping mouth raged loudly like an all-consuming beast.  
Like water slipped His life away, disjointed hanged He high;  
His tongue clung to His jaws as He prepared His heart to die.

His foes, like dogs around Him, with glee did gloat and stare.  
They pierced His hands and feet; they stole the garments He did wear.  
Though not a bone was broken as He promised in His Word,  
yet, wounded for our sins, thus died creation's sov'reign LORD.

## 5 See Jesus' Kingdom

*Pray Psalm 22.23-25.*

You who fear the LORD, praise Him!  
All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,  
And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel!  
For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;  
Nor has He hidden His face from Him;  
But when He cried to Him, He heard.  
My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly;  
I will pay My vows before those who fear Him.

*Sing Psalm 22.23-25.*

(Darwall: *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*)

All you who fear the LORD, now praise His holy Name!  
You children of His glorious Word, declare His fame!  
We stand in awe of our eternal God, and on His mercy call.

For He has not despised the anguish of our King,  
nor from Him hid His eyes, Who knew such suffering.  
Let praise arise from all who love and serve the Ruler of the skies!

*Read Psalm 22.21-31; meditate on verses 30, 31.*

*Preparation*

1. Where do these verses describe?
2. Who is the speaker in these verses?

*Meditation*

We mentioned that we do not know the historical circumstances that provoked this psalm. We know it is by David and that he was facing some opposition and struggle. In the second part of the psalm, David declared that God had heard his prayer, and he was back on track seeking the fuller realization of his kingdom. And, in the larger context, we can hear Jesus, agonizing on the cross, but rejoicing in the Father's answer to His prayers and in what He saw as a result (vv. 21, 24).

We mentioned previously that Jesus, from the cross, was able to see great joy set down before Him. Verses 21-31 describe the sources of that joy. In short, what Jesus could see from the cross was the coming of the Kingdom promised to Him from before the foundation of the world. He could see a people gathered with Him to praise the heavenly Father (vv. 22-25).

Further, He could see the blessings of grace and truth spreading to the neediest of the earth, who, in turn, would give thanks and praise to God (v. 26; cf. 2 Cor. 4.15). Jesus could see the good news of His saving work reaching to and converting people all over the earth (v. 27), the result of His Kingdom coming and His gracious rule being extended everywhere (v. 28).

From the cross Jesus saw all peoples, here represented by the rich and poor as a *merism* (v. 29), worshiping and rejoicing in God. Finally, the coming of this Kingdom would be no mere moment in time; rather, it would extend for generations to come, declaring the works of God for salvation (vv. 30, 31). The coming of the Kingdom was the result of Jesus' work and the promised fruit for all who believe in Him.



No wonder He insisted that seeking this Kingdom is the first and defining priority of our lives (Matt. 6.33).

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162.*

“Your Kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6.10).

And Your Kingdom keeps on coming, with each generation  
of those who seek it first and foremost in their lives (Matt. 6.33).

And when they do Revival comes into their Personal Mission Field:

“All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before You.  
For the Kingdom is the LORD’s, and He rules over the nations” (Ps. 22.27, 28).

And then moves on to the next generation:

“This will be written for the generation to come,  
that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD” (Ps. 102.18).  
“One generation passes away, and another generation comes...” (Eccl. 1.4).

“Instead of Your fathers shall be Your sons, whom You shall make princes in all the earth.  
I will make Your Name to be remembered in all generations;  
therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever” (Ps. 45.16, 17).  
“The children of Your servants will continue,  
and their descendants will be established before You” (Ps. 102.28).

“The coming of this Kingdom would be no mere moment in time; rather, it would extend for generations to come, declaring the works of God for salvation.”

*When we at last Your palace gain,  
and others take our place,  
then let our children with You reign,  
a legacy of grace!  
(Psalm 45.16,17 The Ailbe Psalter)*

See Jesus’ Kingdom.

Watch it grow from generation to generation,  
as eyes are opened, and hearts are revived.

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.  
This was the LORD’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.  
This is the day the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it” (Ps. 118.22-24; Lk. 20.17).

*Reflection*

1. How is the Kingdom Jesus glimpsed coming in your life these days? How are you experiencing more of what Jesus saw in Psalm 22?
2. In what ways is the Kingdom coming *through* you into your Personal Mission Field?
3. When you pray, “Thy Kingdom come...”, what specifically are you seeking?

*The Savior now speaks as risen from the dead. The first words of the complaint were used by Christ himself upon the cross; the*

*first words of the triumph are expressly applied to him, Hebrews 2:12. All our praises must refer to the work of redemption. The suffering of the Redeemer was graciously accepted as a full satisfaction for sin. Though it was offered for sinful men, the Father did not despise or abhor it for our sakes. This ought to be the matter of our thanksgiving. All humble, gracious souls should have a full satisfaction and happiness in him. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on the Psalm 22.21-31*

*Pray Psalm 22.29-31.*

Rejoice in the Lord and in His victory! Thank Him for conveying you into His Kingdom and making you an ambassador of that glorious Good News realm. Commit your day to advancing His rule on earth as it is in heaven.

*Sing Psalm 22.29-31.*

*(Dix: For the Beauty of the Earth)*

All the prosp'rous of the earth shall before His mercy fall;  
bending low before His worth, hear them humbly on Him call.  
Even those low in the grave He will by His mercy save.

Let the generations all witness to His saving grace;  
let them to all nations call, "Bow before His holy face!"  
Let the children of the earth hear of Jesus' saving worth!

## 6 The Good Shepherd

*Pray Psalm 23.4, 5.*

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil;  
For You *are* with me;  
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
You anoint my head with oil;  
My cup runs over.

*Sing Psalm 23.4, 5.*

*(The Gift of Love: Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire)*  
The LORD is ever by my side; His rod and staff with me abide.  
A table rich for me He spreads; with oil my LORD anoints my head.

*Read Psalm 23.1-6; meditate on verses 1 and 6.*

*Preparation*

1. How did David refer to the Lord?
2. What did the Lord do for him?

*Meditation*

Psalm 23 is one of a handful of passages in the Old Testament that every believer recognizes as pointing to Jesus, our Good Shepherd (Jn. 10). David knew a thing or two about being a shepherd. He understood what his flocks needed—green, tender grass and fresh water to rest beside. He knew the right paths his sheep must walk to get where they could feed and rest. He protected them against all harm, using humble weapons to fend off ferocious attackers, giving comfort to his sheep.

In verse 5 the shepherding metaphor breaks off and is replaced by a feast of anointing, such as a king might know. David knew he was God's chosen and anointed king, and he trusted that, despite his failings, God would bring him home to His eternal dwelling place.

Jesus embraced the shepherding image that is frequently applied to God in the Old Testament. He not only fulfills the imagery of Psalm 23.1-4, but He Himself is the Lamb of God, sacrificed for our sins. And He is even now preparing a banquet for all His sheep (Rev. 19), a foretaste of which we enjoy each time we take the Lord's Supper. And He is preparing a place for us to which He will take us to live with Him forever.

Jesus is our Shepherd, having sent His Spirit to guide and fill us, defending us against all evil by the staff of His Word, and leading us along the righteous paths of God's Law to feed on and rest in Him. He meets all our needs by His own riches in glory, and even when we are afflicted or tried, He is with us always, to comfort and encourage.

Truly, in Jesus Christ our cup overflows with goodness and mercy.

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

“The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not want” (Ps. 23.1).

Our God is The Good Shepherd.  
What more could we want?

“The young lions lack and suffer hunger;

but those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing” (Ps. 34.10).

“I will feed them in good pasture, and their fold shall be on the high mountains... There they shall lie down in a good fold and feed in rich pasture on the mountains... I will feed My flock, and I will make them lie down,’ says the Lord GOD. ‘I will seek what was lost and bring back what was driven away, bind up the broken and strengthen what was sick...’” (Ezek. 34.14-16).

“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young” (Is. 40.11).

“I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep” (Jn. 10.11).

“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4.19).

In view of all this tender, loving, care, by the Good Shepherd of our souls, our desire should be, in thankfulness, to make sure that “goodness and mercy [will] follow [us] all the days of [our lives]” (Ps. 23.6).

What does the LORD require of us?

“To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God” (Mic. 6.8).

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man” (Prov. 3.3, 4).

“He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor” (Prov. 21.21).

“What shall I render to the LORD for all His benefits toward me?

I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all His people” (Ps. 116.12-14).

“...he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice...” (Ps. 32.10, 11).

“Then your light shall break forth like the morning, your healing shall spring forth speedily, and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard” (Is. 58.8).

“For we are to God the fragrance of Christ  
among those who are being saved  
and among those who are perishing” (2 Cor. 2.15).

Our Shepherd’s promise to us, His sheep:

“Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; they will see the land that is very far off...

Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet home, a tabernacle that will not be taken down...

There the majestic LORD will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams...

For the LORD is our Judge, the LORD is our Lawgiver, the LORD is our King; He will save us...

The people who dwell in it will be forgiven their iniquity” (Is. 33.17-24).

And our Shepherd’s goal for His flock:

That we would be strengthened for Kingdom work “through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph. 3.16-19).

The LORD is my Shepherd—surely goodness and mercy will follow me.

### *Reflection*

1. Why is “shepherd” a good way for us to think about Jesus?

2. How does the Lord's Supper prepare us for life with Jesus there and then? How do we benefit from it here and now?

3. How does Jesus shepherd His flock through you?

*Past experience teaches believers to trust that the goodness and mercy of God will follow them all the days of their lives, and it is their desire and determination, to seek their happiness in the service of God here, and they hope to enjoy his love for ever in heaven. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on Psalm 23.6*

*Pray Psalm 23.1-4, 6.*

Give thanks to the Lord for His shepherding care. Call on Him to guide and guard throughout the coming day and keep you unto the day of His return.

*Sing Psalm 23.1-4, 6.*

*(The Gift of Love: Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire)*

Because the LORD my Shepherd is I shall not want, for I am His!  
He makes me lie in pastures green; He leads by waters cool, serene.

My soul He quickens and will bless; He leads in paths of righteousness.  
Though I may walk in death's dark vale, I shall not fear—He will not fail!

Goodness and mercy, full and free, shall ever after follow me,  
and in the house of God, my LORD, shall I abide forevermore!

## 7 Who Is This King?

*Pray Psalm 24.3-6.*

Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?  
Or who may stand in His holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,  
Nor sworn deceitfully.  
He shall receive blessing from the LORD,  
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.  
This *is* Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him,  
Who seek Your face.  
*Selah*

*Sing Psalm 24.3-6.*

(Foundation: *How Firm a Foundation*)  
O who may ascend to the LORD's holy place?  
And who may appear to His glorious face?  
All they who are clean in their hearts and their hands  
and true in their souls with the Savior shall stand.

A blessing all they from the LORD shall receive  
who seek Him and on His salvation believe.  
For these are His people, the children of grace,  
who earnestly, eagerly seek for His face

*Read Psalm 24.1-10; meditate on verses 7-10.*

*Preparation*

1. To what do the “gates” and “doors” refer?
2. From the psalm, what do we know about this King?

*Meditation*

This psalm of David may have been used to celebrate his bringing the ark back to Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6.12-15). The ark of the tabernacle was the “mercy seat” where God sat to receive the petitions of His people made by the high priest. It was regarded as the Presence of the Lord, making God “Immanuel”, the God Who dwelled among His people and was with them.

All were allowed to come before the holy of holies in the tabernacle, behind which the ark was situated, to bring praise, worship, and offerings to the Lord. If they came with clean hands and a pure heart, and if they had not lifted their hands up to an idol nor sworn deceitfully to their neighbors, they could be assured of a blessing from the Lord: He would declare them righteous and grant them His salvation.

Now that King of glory has taken up residence in the soul of everyone who believes in Him. Jesus dwells in us by His Spirit and Word in all their fullness. Yet He arrives day by day, as it were, to claim more of His dwelling as His own—more of our soul and life, that we might be made more like Him and be more faithful in our calling to His Kingdom and glory (1 Thess. 2.12).

We open the gates and raise the doors of our soul as we come humbly, expectantly, earnestly, and with

rejoicing before the Word of God, that it may penetrate the depths of our being to show us Jesus and make us more like Him.

*Treasure Old and New: Matthew 13.52; Psalm 119.162*

The Word of God penetrates “the depths of our being to show us Jesus and make us more like Him.”

“The Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account” (Heb. 4.12, 13).

So, we may as well go into it willingly, determinedly, and joyfully, so that we may become more like Jesus. For there is nothing more important than that. Spending intimate time in, and with, the Word of God is the most important thing we can do to grow, and to work out our own salvation in fear and trembling (Phil. 2.12). “They are not just idle words for you—they are your life” (Deut. 32.47 NIV).

As Solomon encouraged his own son, God also encourages us, about His words:  
“My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings.  
Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart;  
For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.  
Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life” (Prov. 4.20-23).

When we dwell on this King of glory, we see what living in the Kingdom is all about.  
When we meditate on, when we watch Jesus, in all the ways He lived within His Personal Mission Field, we get a glimpse of what it is like to please the Father.

Jesus had clean hands and a pure heart.  
Jesus never lifted up His soul to an idol.  
Jesus never lied.  
Jesus never broke one commandment.  
Not inwardly or outwardly.  
Our King is perfect.

Jesus, the Word, became flesh and dwelt among us, “and we beheld His glory,  
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1.14).

And we behold His glory in the Word.

“Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD?  
Or who may stand in His holy place?  
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.  
He shall receive blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation” (Ps. 24.3-5).

“And the King of glory shall come in” (Ps. 24.9)!

*Into my heart, into my heart,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus;  
Come in today,  
Come in to stay,  
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.  
(Wieand/Clarke, 1924)*

*Reflection*

1. Why is Jesus the “King of glory”? What is glory and how does it relate to your walk with and work for Jesus?
2. What can you do to encourage your fellow Christians to spend more time with Jesus in His Word?
3. Since the earth and everything in it belongs to Jesus, how does that obligate you in your part of His world?

*We may apply it to Christ's entrance into the souls of men by his word and Spirit, that they may be his temples. Behold, he stands at the door, and knocks, Revelation 3:20. The gates and doors of the heart are to be opened to him, as possession is delivered to the rightful owner. Matthew Henry (1662-1714), Commentary on Psalm 24.7-10*

*Pray Psalm 24.1, 2, 7-10.*

Pray that the Father will open the gates and doors of your soul to receive more of Jesus, as He is revealed in His Word, so that you may be made more like Him day by day.

*Sing Psalm 24.1, 2, 7-10.*

*(Foundation: How Firm a Foundation )*

The earth is the LORD's, as is all it contains;  
all the world and its peoples He daily sustains.  
He founded it fast on the seas long ago,  
and bid gentle rivers throughout it to flow.

O lift up your heads, all you gates of the soul,  
for the Savior would enter and render you whole!  
The LORD strong and mighty in battle draws nigh;  
He rules in His glory above us on high.

O Who is this King, Who approaches our gate?  
His might is before us, His glory is great!  
This King is the LORD of all glory above,  
Who comes to indwell us in mercy and love!



*Questions for Reflection or Discussion*

1. How many roles have we seen Jesus assume in the psalms for this installment?
2. How would you describe the salvation He brings to those who believe?
3. What do we learn from these psalms about the purpose of Jesus' incarnation and His ministry?
4. How can you know more of the King of glory living in you?
5. What's the most important lesson you have learned from seeing Jesus in these psalms?

*For Prayer:*

## The Fellowship of Ailbe

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Thank you.