

*Why?*

# Why?

## The Ultimate Question:

“Why is this happening to me?”

“God - why are you letting this happen?”

“Why aren't You doing something?”

“Why aren't You answering my prayer?”

“My God, My God, WHY have you forsaken me?

Why have you abandoned me?”

**Why** has God forsaken His anointed king? Doesn't that go against His covenant? Is He breaking His promise?

“My God” and “abandon” do not fit easily into the same sentence. Goldingay, p.325

# *Why?*

## **God's Abandonment:**

**WRONG:** “Jesus just felt like God wasn't with Him”

**TRUTH:** Jesus became sin and was separated from God.

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➤ Our salvation is completely dependent on this moment.

# *Why?*

## **Christ's Suffering:**

- Day and night he cries out - God doesn't answer.
- Israelite fathers trusted in the Lord and were delivered - but He is not delivered.
- The Lord cared for Him all His life - but not now.
- He expresses the brutality of his enemies.
- Christ's physical bodily suffering: life is slipping away.
- Jesus says: "You lay me in the dust of death."

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- *Fragmented words and phrases indicate grief as well as poetry and even the mystery of prophecy.... Like a lion... my hands... my feet....*



# *Why?*

## **Christ's Prayer:**

**Psalm 22:19** But You, LORD, don't be far away. My strength, come quickly to help me.

- He doesn't just want God's presence; He wants God's power.

**Psalm 22:20-21** Deliver my life from the sword, my very life from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen!

# *Why?*

## **Christ's Last Words on the Cross:**

Nailed to the cross - 9:00am Mark 15:25

1. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."  
Luke 23:34
2. "This day you shall be with me in paradise." Luke 23:43
3. "Woman, behold thy son. Son, behold thy mother."  
John 19:26
4. "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? My God, My God why have you forsaken me?"  
Matt 27:45, Mark 15:34 (sky is dark from 12:00 noon - 3:00pm)
5. "I thirst." John 19:28
6. "IT IS FINISHED." John 19:30
7. "Father into Thy hands I commend my Spirit." Luke 23:46

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All of Jesus' last words show us that He never stopped trusting God.

# Why?

## God's Answer:

<sup>NAS</sup> **Psalm 22:21** Save me from the lion's mouth; And from the horns of the wild oxen Thou dost answer me.

<sup>KJV</sup> **Psalm 22:21** Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

<sup>NIV</sup> **Psalm 22:21** Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen

.....

<sup>NKJ</sup> **Psalm 22:21** Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! **You have answered Me.**

<sup>CSB</sup> **Psalm 22:21** Save me from the mouth of the lion! **You have rescued me** from the horns of the wild oxen.

<sup>ESV</sup> **Psalm 22:21** Save me from the mouth of the lion! **You have rescued me** from the horns of the wild oxen.

# *Why?*

## **God's Answer:**

**NKJ Psalm 22:21** Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen!

**You have answered Me!**

- Something happened in between the prayer to be saved, and the statement “You’ve answered me.”
- Jesus heard from God. Even this verse shows us the mystery of prophecy.

**Acts 2:23-24** This Man, delivered up by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. <sup>24</sup> "And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

# *Why?*

## God's Answer:

“My God, My God why have You forsaken Me?”

- The “WHY” was never answered.
- Even though Jesus was not delivered from the suffering of death, His prayer for God to help was heard.

**Psalm 22:24:** For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Neither has He hidden His face from him; But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.

# *Why?*

## God's Answer:

- Did Jesus experience the abandonment of God during His suffering?
  - Yes. For a time.
  
- Did God deliver Him from his suffering?
  - Not from physical death, but from eternal death.
  
- Did God answer His prayer to help Him?
  - Yes. In His perfectly planned way.

# *Why?*

## **Christ's Trust:**

- You may experience painful:  
emotional  
mental  
physical suffering.
- Will God abandon you? NO.  
He has promised never to leave you or forsake you. You have the permanent comforter dwelling in you - the Holy Spirit.
- But God may “abandon” you in the sense of not acting when you want Him to.



# *Why?*

## **Christ's Trust:**

### **Remember what Jesus remembered:**

- God is “YOUR GOD”
- Call out to Him that way - MY GOD
- Don't disown Him or distance yourself from Him.
  
- Remember that GOD is HOLY: enthroned... sovereign.
- Remember that He has been faithful in the past, and will be faithful now.
- Remember that He does hear your prayers, and He answers them, in His perfect way.

## Why?

**Isaiah 53:3-7** says: <sup>3</sup> He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him. <sup>7</sup> He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

# Why?

## Christ's Trust:

- Jesus is the Lamb of God, and His Father is the Shepherd of Israel.
- The Lamb never stopped trusting in His Shepherd.

## *The suffering of Psalm 22:*

**Psalm 23:4:** “Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear, for Thou are with Me, Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort Me.”

- Psalm 22 shows us that God may choose not to act during a particular time of suffering.
- Psalm 23 shows us that God will always be with us and care for us, protect us and deliver us

# *Why?*

## **Christ's Trust:**

- When we are experiencing the suffering of abandonment, we are still to trust the protection and provision of the Shepherd.

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