

**Easter Trilogy – Part 1**  
**The Cross Trilogy**  
**Psalm 22:1 – 31**

**I. Intro**

- A. **Illustration:** Star Wars movie trilogy – episodes 4, 5, 6**
- B. Next few weeks leading to Easter – trilogies; today – the cross; then – trilogy of good Shepherd, Sovereign Savior, on Easter Sunday morning – post Easter trilogy; first three - Psalms**
- C. Today, Psalm 22, early picture of Christ’s crucifixion described 1000 years before it happened, 500 years before first crucifixion took place; some look at passage as prophecy, some see passage more as Christ referencing these verses while hanging on the cross giving them deeper meaning; this Psalm certainly viewed as Psalm of individual lament/anguish/suffering**
- D. Read Psalm and match verses up with crucifixion events, specifically given in Matthew’s gospel, chapter 27**

**II. 1<sup>st</sup> part of trilogy – the Prophecy of the Cross**

**A. **READ Psalm 22:1 – 8****

**B. 1<sup>st</sup> part divided into 3 parts**

**C. 1 – Separation of Jesus**

**i. All recognize words in v. 1; Matthew 27:45–46 (ESV)**

<sup>45</sup>Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

<sup>46</sup>And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

**ii. Only time in scripture where Jesus cries out to His Father and the Father does not hear**

**iii. Because Jesus is bearing on Himself the weight of the sins of the whole world, because God is perfectly holy/righteous, there is a separation/gulf between God the Son and God the Father at this point; David (who wrote this Psalm) recognizes/confesses God’s holiness – **REFER v. 3****

**iv. But Jesus on the cross is made the “sin substitute” for us; 2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)**

<sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**D. 2 – Alienation of Jesus**

**i. term *scapegoat* – one who takes blame for another**

- ii. Aaron, the priest under Moses, had two sons – Nadab and Abihu; Leviticus 10 told how they offered sacrifice to God in a way that disobeyed the Law of God, and God sent fire to consume them and they both died; then Ch. 16, God instructs Moses what needs to be done to atone for sins of Aaron’s sons so it doesn’t lead to God’s judgment upon Aaron, the rest of his family, and even the whole nation of Israel
- iii. **READ Leviticus 16:3 – 10, 20 - 22** (*Azazel* – compound word from two Hebrew words means “goat that goes away” or “scapegoat”)
- iv. Jesus became our sin scapegoat on the cross, symbolized in two ways: He took our sin upon Himself just as goat bore on himself the sins of God’s people through Aaron laying his hands on the goat’s head; also, just as goat was sent out into the wilderness, away from the Israelites camp – Jesus’ crucifixion took place on hill of Golgotha outside the holy city of Jerusalem

**E. 3 – Humiliation of Jesus**

- i. **REFER v. 6, 7; Matthew 27:36–40 (ESV)**
  - <sup>36</sup>Then they sat down and kept watch over him there.
  - <sup>37</sup>And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”
  - <sup>38</sup>Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.
  - <sup>39</sup>And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads
  - <sup>40</sup>and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”
- ii. **(v. 6) worm** – refers to a *tolah worm*, red-blooded worm used to make red dye for clothing
  - a) Female *tolah worm* ready to give birth, would attach her body to trunk of tree permanently – never become detached from that tree
  - b) Deposit her eggs between her body and tree; eventually the larvae would hatch
  - c) After birth, as mother worm died, a red/bloody fluid would stain her body and surrounding tree bark
  - d) The dead worm would then be removed from the tree, and would be crushed in order to extract more of the red fluid, then made dye for clothing
- iii. **Jesus on the cross served as our *tolah worm* – very humiliating description/analogy; Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)**
  - <sup>5</sup>But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was **crushed for our iniquities**; upon him was the chastisement [*punishment*] that brought us peace, and **[by] his wounds we are healed**.

**F. Prophecy of cross of Christ is the first part of this cross trilogy**

### III. **2<sup>nd</sup> part of the trilogy – Agony of the Cross**

#### A. **READ Psalm 22:12 - 18**

B. **The cross, far from a pretty painting portrayed by many artist over the centuries; gruesome, horrific scene; inflicted unimaginable pain/suffering on the individual being crucified – this was intentional; if a person inflicted any pain/suffering on another undeserving person then to pay for their crime they would have to endure even greater suffering**

C. **But Jesus committed no crime deserving of this kind of cruel/agonizing punishment**

D. **For sake of time, not going to give detailed description of suffering take place by one being crucified; but, crucifixion caused agonizing pain on person's body externally and internally – said to cause slow drowning from a person's own bodily fluid**

E. **From the agony suffered by our Savior on the cross we see ...**

#### F. **1 – Indignity of man**

i. **The cross not the only punishment Jesus suffered**

ii. **Matthew 26:67–68 (ESV)**

<sup>67</sup>Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him,

<sup>68</sup>saying, “Prophesy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?”

iii. **Matthew 27:27–31 (ESV)**

<sup>27</sup>Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him.

<sup>28</sup>And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him,

<sup>29</sup>and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

<sup>30</sup>And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head.

<sup>31</sup>And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

iv. **Jesus – the Son of God stripped naked, beaten, bloodied, humiliated and crucified before pagans, mockers, and unbelievers of society; in today's passage described as strong bulls, ravenous and roaring lions**

#### G. **2 – Inhumanity of man**

i. **(v. 18) Fulfilled as described: Matthew 27:35 (ESV)**

<sup>35</sup>And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots.

ii. **It's unbelievable to see what sinful man is capable of doing to man; witnessed today in the senseless killing of infants/young children/innocent people running for safety by the Russians in their assault on Ukrainian people**

iii. **Law being proposed in California called Abortion Accessibility Act; prevents private insurance companies from charging any out-of-**

**pocket costs for anyone having an abortion at any point during pregnancy term; protects a mother from being charged criminally for any “actions or omissions” related to her pregnancy includes miscarriages, stillbirth, abortion or “perinatal” death – means immediately before or even after birth (who would have ever thought we’d see, or even be talking about, this kind of inhumanity in our own country)**

#### **H. 3 – Inequity of man’s cruelty**

**i. Even the Son of God cries for help, deliverance, rescue**

**ii. Luke 23:34–38 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”  
And they cast lots to divide his garments.

<sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!”

<sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine

<sup>37</sup>and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

<sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

**iii. John 19:28–30 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup>After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”

<sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.

<sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.;

**I. So far, trilogy of the cross we’ve seen the prophecy and the agony of the cross**

### **IV. 3<sup>rd</sup> part of the trilogy – **Victory** of the Cross**

**A. 1 – Victory of the cross leads the people to Praise; **READ Psalm 22:23 – 25****

**B. 2 – Victory of the cross stirs up Passion within us; passion to seek, serve, and live a life of obedience to the Lord; **READ Psalm 22:27 – 29****

**C. 3 – Victory of the cross brings Pleasure to people of God, and even to God Himself; John 19:30 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup>When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.; **READ Psalm 22:31**

**i. It should be an inexpressible pleasure for us to serve the Living God because of His great love that He demonstrated on the cross through sacrifice His one and only Son for us**

### **V. Close**

- A. The greatest tragedy that could happen in the life of any human being is to reject the cross, reject the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ for their sin**
- B. The reality and incomparable significance of the cross of Christ is quickly fading in our society, and even in the church**
- C. Today, don't let that occur in your life; the Prophecy, Agony, and the Victory of the cross was all for you and me**
- D. "Softly and Tenderly" words**

*O for the wonderful love He has promised  
Promised for you and for me  
Though we have sinned He has mercy and pardon  
Pardon for you and for me*