

The Forsaken Son of David

Richard Allen Bodie: “The Bible has its quarters of mystery which refuse to yield their secrets to anyone, even the most brilliant theologians, but nowhere in all the Bible do we encounter any mystery that so staggers the mind and shocks the Christian consciousness as this ...”

Psalm 22: 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

The Forsaken-ness of David

we are going to see that this line applies to Jesus, but first it applies to David

Ross: “Apparently forsaken by God, the God of the fathers and the God of his youth, and surrounded by scornful enemies who were killing him, the suffering psalmist laments his desperate plight, petitions God to deliver him from death, and suddenly, when confident that God finally heard his prayer, praises God for not abandoning him and predicts that believers in all ages will join him in praising God for this great salvation.”

David is describing:

- A time when his enemies were attempting to kill him
- Significant emotional distress: My God, My God = Romeo, Romeo ...
- A time of intense suffering, *and yet it seems to describe an experience beyond what David experienced.*
- **Ps 22:14-15** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

Yet, this goes beyond David:

So much so that commentator Dale Ralph Davis notes...

- **Davis:** “David spoke out of his suffering and yet beyond his suffering and into the suffering of another.”

The Forsaken-ness of David's Son ⇒ the "beyond" that this points to is David's greatest heir... Jesus

First of all,

Why does this apply to Jesus

It goes beyond David according to David

- Moyter: The psalm goes beyond any experience of David's. While it could arise from some time of suffering it goes far beyond such to torture and death. We are listening to David the prophet looking forward to the suffering Messiah."

- Acts 2:25, 29-31:

(Jesus)

²⁵ For David says concerning him, [Peter quotes Psalm 16] ... ²⁹ "Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.³⁰ Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.

↳ The NT confirms that David prophetically spoke of Jesus

Jesus is the Fulfillment of the Psalms

- Luke 24:44-48

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, 46 and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, 47 and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

↳ Jesus confirms that the entire OT, and even specifically the Psalms, point to him and are fulfilled by him

Jesus Appropriates Psalm 22

As we enter the Easter season, let's take some time to hear the story, or part of the story, of Jesus's crucifixion

- **Matthew 27:1-2, 11-50 (ESV)**

¹ When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. ² And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" ²³ And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." ²⁵ And all the people

answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ 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!" ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ 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.

³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ 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." ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ 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?” ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.” ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.” ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

How was Jesus Forsaken by God?

What does Jesus mean when he cried out in a loud voice: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

What this cry isn't:

- This was not a cry of unbelief
 - This denies the moral perfection of Jesus – he was perfect and unbelief is a sin
- This was not a cry of confusion
 - Jesus knew exactly what was happening – he had foretold it many times: Luke 24:45-46 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,
- This was not a cry of despair
 - To despair means we have turned our backs on hope. We have chosen to disbelieve God and His many promises to deliver – but Jesus on the cross: Luke 23:46 Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.

And then confirmed it after he had risen from the dead

What Jesus didn't mean by asking why he had been forsaken: *What this forsaking was NOT*

- Not a forsaking of his divinity – God cannot cease to be God, he necessarily exist as God eternally
- Not a forsaking of the union of his two natures – Jesus from the time of the Incarnation, remains fully God and fully man...had he died a solely a man or *solely* God, his sacrifice would not have accomplished redemption
- Not a forsaking of the Holy Spirit – God eternally exists a Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Not a forsaking of Jesus as the means of salvation – this was part of the plan, had this not happened we might have reason to doubt

What this cry is:

Stott: “The fourth explanation is simple and straightforward. It is to take the words at their face value and to understand them as a cry of real dereliction [the state of having been abandoned].”

- It was a cry indicating his physical agony – blindfolded and beaten (14:65), struck by the officers (14:65), a sleepless night (15:1), bound (15:1), scourged (15:15), crown of thorns (15:17), struck on the head with a reed by the soldiers (15:19), crucified (15:24)
- It was a cry indicating emotional anguish – Being spit upon (14:65; 15:19), The denial of Peter (14:68,70,71), The soldiers' mockery (15:20), The passers by's blasphemy (15:29), The chief priests' mocking (15:31), The reviling of the two criminals crucified on either side of Him (15:32), The feeling of God's having forsaken Him (15:34) *BUT MANY HAD BEEN CRUCIFIED!*
- It was a cry indicating his spiritual alienation – coming under the sins of *(Bishop Ridley)* humanity and the wrath of God
 - **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *- big man becoming small - leafs fair*
 - **Romans 1:18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Forsaken for Us

Why was Christ forsaken? He was forsaken for us.

In his physical agony he paid the price in his body that our sins deserved. We see in his physical agony the evilness and harmfulness of sin. And we see in his death the death our sins deserved.

- **Isaiah 53:5** But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.
- **Romans 5:8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

In his emotional anguish we see his reaction to sin which should have been our reaction as those who have rebelled and resisted God. And his recoil at taking on our sins shows us are depravity because we loved sin.

- **Isaiah 53:4** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
- **Romans 1:24** Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity,

The wrath of God that was directed towards us, ^{yet} he absorbed the punishment that we deserved; a punishment that was, ultimately, ^{going to be} eternal separation from God in a place of suffering.

- **Colossians 1:19-22** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

He was forsaken for us!

- 1) Avail yourself of the salvation that required the physical anguish, emotional agony, and spiritual alienation of the most perfect Son of God.
 - a. Flavel: “The hiding of God’s face is certainly the greatest misery that can possibly befall a gracious soul in this world
 - b. Jesus was forsaken so that you do not have to be. He was forsaken for a time so that you need not be forsaken for eternity!
- 2) Prepare yourself for times when you may feel forsaken
 - a. Flavel: “Did God forsake his own son upon the cross; then the dearest God’s people may, for a time, be forsaken of their God. Think it not strange when you, that are the children of light, meet with darkness, yea, and walk in it; neither charge god foolishly; nor say he deals hardly with you ... Oh, prepare for spiritual troubles; I am sure you do enough every day to involve you in darkness.”
- 3) Celebrate the God-forsaking work of Jesus Christ on our behalf at the Lord’s Table.
 - Fence
 - Speak less