

Prophesied, Planned, and Produced
(Psalm 8:2, 4-6; 16:10; 22; 34:20, 68:18; 110:1-7)

- I. Nothing about Jesus was by accident, and most was foretold.
 - A. The genre of the Psalms is poetry. It is written in experiential language.
 - B. The psalms in today's lesson are messianic psalms. They tell us about Jesus.
 - 1. In most cases, the writers probably did not know that they were writing psalms about their coming Messiah.
 - 2. The Jews also probably did not know that many of them were about Jesus.
 - C. Introduction
 - 1. The ancestry of Jesus was prophesied, planned, and produced.
 - 2. The rejection of Jesus was prophesied, planned, and produced.
 - 3. The sufferings of Jesus on the cross was prophesied, planned, and produced.
 - 4. The redemption Jesus offers was prophesied, planned, and produced.
 - 5. The reconciliation of sinners to God was prophesied, planned, and produced.

Question: Try to comprehend the challenge to the prophets as they did the Lord's bidding. Have you ever felt the Lord/Holy Spirit leading you to minister to someone else? If so, how did you know that it was of the Lord?

- D. We have an abundance of prophecy about Jesus in the Old Testament because of faithful prophets that transmitted God's words to His people.
- E. Psalm 8:2, 4-6 (A Humble Acclamation) - A psalm of David
 - 1. Notice the bookends in verses 1 and 9. In Scriptures, bookends are used to enclose important truths that the author wants to emphasize.
 - 2. In verses 1-2, God's glory is revealed in His creation.
 - a. Dr. Willem A. VanGemeran indicated that the wicked on earth cannot outdo the evidence of God's glory on earth and in heaven.
 - b. He wrote that verse two literally means that God has "established a bulwark" and that the voices of children give evidence to that bulwark. He wrote, "The sound of opposition is silenced by the babbling and chatter of children."
 - 3. In verses 3-4, David is in awe as he peers into the sky at the Lord's handiwork.
 - a. How can the God that created everything ever lower himself to reach down to me?
 - b. Who are we that God even takes an interest in us?
 - 4. Verses 5-6 say that man is a little lower than the angels and that we have dominion over God's creation.
 - a. The Quarterly pointed out the efforts of modern scientists and philosophers to reduce the importance of human beings.
 - b. They have produced theories that they cannot prove and in many cases even made up evidence that does not exist in the required quantities (i.e., dark matter).

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- 1) The Hubble spacecraft is searching the universe for dark matter.
 - 2) Scientists are searching for evidence of life on other planets because they now know that macroevolution could not have ever happened the way that they have previously presented.
 5. Verse 5 makes Psalm 8 a messianic psalm in that that verse also speaks of the incarnation.
 - a. Old Testament Jews would probably have not known that that verse was foretelling the coming of their Messiah.
 - b. We can look back at it and sort of see it, but the verse was probably too vague for them.
- II. Psalm 22: 1, 7, 8, 15, 18, 27-31 (A Suffering Savior) - A psalm of David
- A. Jesus made seven statements from the cross. Each was significant.
1. "Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.'" (Luke 23:34).
 2. "Jesus answered him, 'I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise.'" (Luke 23:43).
 3. "He said to his mother, 'Dear woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'" (John 19:26-27 and Matthew 28:20)
 4. "About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, 'Eloi,Eloi, lama sabachthani?'-- which means, **'My God,my God, why have you forsaken me?'**" (Matthew 27:46 and Psalm 22:1-31).
 5. "Jesus said, 'I am thirsty.'" (John 19:28, Psalm 69:7-21, and Matthew 27:34).
 6. "When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (John 19:30).
 7. "Jesus called out with a loud voice, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.' When he had said this, he breathed his last." (Luke 23:46).

Question: Why did Jesus say **"My God,my God, why have you forsaken me?"**?

- B. Two ways to understand Matthew 27:46.
1. The first way is the obvious way, which shows the sadness that Jesus felt because He was separated by sin from His Father.
 2. The second comes from the organization of the Bible.
 - a. The Hebrew Old Testament was not divided into chapters the way our Bible is.
 - b. If Jesus had wanted to reference Psalm 23, He would have simply called that psalm, "The Lord is my Shepherd."

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- c. Because He named Psalm 22 by the name that it would have normally been referenced, He was probably trying to communicate a particular message to those that heard Him.
- C. What would Jesus have wanted people to know about Psalm 22 as it related to Him on the cross?
 - 1. Verse 1 would have shown them that Jesus felt forsaken. If they had understood that He was without sin, then they might have figured out that He was on the cross for them.
 - 2. Verses 7-8 would have shown them that Jesus was living the experience that David had written about.
 - a. When David wrote about being scorned and laughed about, he was writing about himself, but Jesus was also scorned and laughed at.
 - b. Both displayed an open trust in the Lord, and both appeared for that moment to have been forsaken. But neither were forsaken forever. Both returned to their places of glory.
 - 3. Verse 15 expressed that David was at a point of extreme thirst, and Jesus' fifth statement from the cross indicates that He was very thirsty.
 - 4. Verse 18 expressed that David saw others recklessly going through his things, and Jesus shared the same experience.
 - 5. Verses 27-31 show that the Lord will prevail in the end.
- D. The important point of Psalm 22, Isaiah 53, and other such passages is that diligent Bible students would eventually realize that the cross of Christ was not an accident or an example of where God had lost control.
 - 1. Jesus uttered the first verse of Psalm 22 to the onlookers probably because He intentionally and lovingly wanted His followers to understand that His crucifixion was not an accident.
 - 2. As a Teacher, He was also pointing His disciples to the single passage in the Bible that would most help them understand what was happening.

III. A perfect offering and a miraculous death

- A. Psalm 34:20 (A Miraculous Death) - A psalm of David
 - 1. David wrote this psalm after he fooled Achish, king of the Philistines. He would later become part of their army (see I Samuel 21:10-15).
 - 2. In this psalm, notice the difference between Saul and David.
 - a. Saul may have been saved. That is questionable, but David clearly had a relationship with the Lord.
 - b. Saul tried to hard to please people rather than the Lord. David tried to please people too, but his devotion was to the Lord.
 - c. Saul feared an enemy that was not really an enemy (David), while David feared an enemy that was very real (Saul).
 - d. David ran from Saul for a number of years before finally becoming king.

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3. Verses 19-22 describe how David felt after his experience with Achish. Verse 20 specifically describes Jesus as the Passover lamb without blemish, without any broken bones.
 - a. The Passover lamb was to be without blemish.
 - b. Leviticus 22:24 says, "Ye shall not offer unto the LORD that which is bruised, or crushed, or broken, or cut; neither shall ye make any offering thereof in your land."
 - c. Jesus' legs were not broken (see John 19:31-33).

Question: Why is the Lord so particular concerning His offerings? Do we have to be perfect when we come to Him? Why or why not?

- B. Psalm 16:10 (A Promised Resurrection) - A michtam of David
1. Notice that this is a michtam psalm. According to Dr. Harold Wilmington, that means that it holds a deep doctrinal and spiritual truth that is a mystery. Other michtam psalms are 56, 58, 59, and 60.
 2. Notice again in this psalm how close David is to the Lord. He clearly does not act self-righteously or like the powerful king that he is.
 3. "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell." - (*sh@'owl*) - the OT designation for the abode of the dead. All of the dead went there (see Luke 16:19-31).
 4. David knows that he will not stay in *sheol* forever, but that he will go to be with the Lord (see Matthew 27:51-53).
 5. This psalm is messianic because Jesus did not stay in *sheol* either. He was resurrected on the third day after being crucified.
 6. Ten facts concerning the resurrection, which are accepted by virtually all scholars who study the resurrection - Christian and non-Christian (source: Dr. Gary Habermas, The Resurrection of Jesus, University Press of America, page 25.)
 - a. Jesus died because of crucifixion.
 - b. He was buried.
 - c. The disciples became very discouraged, having lost hope because of His death.
 - d. Jesus' tomb was found empty soon after His burial.
 - e. A few days after Jesus' death, the disciples had experiences that they believed were literal appearances of the risen Jesus.
 - f. Because of those experiences, the disciples' lives were completely transformed to the point of being willing to die for their belief.
 - g. The disciples' public testimony concerning the resurrection took place in Jerusalem, where Jesus was crucified and buried shortly before.

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- h. The Christian church had its beginning at this time.
- i. **Sunday became the primary day of worship.**
- j. A few years later, Paul became a believer because of an experience that he also believed to be an appearance of the risen Jesus.

Question: Why do we worship on Sunday rather than the sabbath?

C. Psalm 68:18 (A Victorious Ascension) - A psalm of David

- 1. This psalm teaches that God is a Father to the oppressed. For quite a while, David was the oppressed because of Saul and again because of Absalom.
- 2. According to Dr. Willem A. VanGemen, the psalm looks forward to when God will defeat all His enemies, and they will pay homage to Him.
- 3. In verse 18, David wrote about the Lord ascending on high after victoriously leading Israel out of Egypt (VanGemen). As a messianic psalm, David also prophesied that Jesus would again ascend on high and lead captivity captive as He sets up His kingdom.
- 4. Some good points from the Sunday School Quarterly. Paul wrote about this prophecy in Ephesians 4:8-12.
 - a. Jesus ascended into heaven and left believers on earth to fulfill all things.
 - b. Each believer has been given a spiritual gift.
 - c. We should use our gifts to bring others to Christ.

IV. Psalm 110:1-7 (An Exalted Savior) - A psalm of David

- A. In verses 1-3, Jesus is our exalted Lord.
 - 1. Verse 1 shows the eternal nature of Jesus. He used this verse in Matthew 22:42-45. The first "LORD" is Jesus. The second "Lord" is David.
 - 2. Verses 2-3 speak of the coming of Jesus.
- B. In verses 4-7, He is our High Priest, King, and Judge.
 - 1. He shall be a Priest after the order of Melchizedek.
 - 2. He will destroy His enemies in the day of His wrath.
 - 3. He shall judge the heathen.

VI. Next week's lesson: I Samuel 17 ("Defeating Life's Giants")