

The Quotations Bible Study: Series I: The Person of Jesus

© Robert McAnally Adams, 2009

Appendix: Suggestions as to answers to the study questions

Week 7. The Atonement: Jesus on the Cross

- Q1: What is David's basic complaint? (Ps. 22:1,2)** The LORD is not answering David's prayers and pleas. The LORD seems not to hear him.
- Q2: What reassurance occurs to David? (Ps. 22:3-5)** The LORD is holy and can be trusted. David's ancestors trusted the LORD, and they were delivered.
- Q3: What does he mean by "I am a worm and not a man"? (Ps. 22:6)** David has reached the point in his affliction where he feels dehumanized.
- Q4: How do other people look on David? (Ps. 22:6,7)** David has become the object of scorn and ridicule.
- Q5: How is reliance on God rewarded by society? (Ps. 22:8)** Public reliance on God can and often will be met with scorn and ridicule, as David is experiencing it. The more desperate the circumstances, the more ridicule is aimed at the one with faith.
- Q6: What is David's bedrock of assurance? (Ps. 22:9,10)** David's bedrock of assurance is the knowledge that the LORD has cared for him from the earliest moments of his life.
- Q7: In comparison to his relationship to God when he was young, how does David see his current situation and resources? (Hint: the bulls of Bashan were legendary for their size and strength due to their generous feeding on the lush vegetation of Bashan, now known as the Golan Heights.) (Ps. 22:11-13)** When David was young and helpless, he was cared for and protected by the LORD. Now there is trouble and there is no family or community to help, as they are perhaps even on the other side. A well-understood danger confronts David, one which his community understands and refuses him help against.
- Q8: Is the threat immediate? (Ps. 22:12-13)** Absolutely. David is within the reach of his enemies.
- Q9: What faculties have failed David in this extremity? (Ps. 22:14,15)** David has lost strength. His body will no longer obey him. He is near death, and he cannot respond to the threats arrayed against him.
- Q10: Whose hand does David see as having brought him to the brink of death? (Ps. 22:15)** David has been addressing the LORD all along. Therefore "you" means the LORD. David sees the LORD as the one who is ultimately behind all his difficulties. In essence, David is saying that the LORD is permitting David to be tested with adversity.
- Q11: How are the "dogs" and the "band of evil men" related? (Ps. 22:16)** The "dogs" are an image of "band of evil men," perhaps in that they attack him with the tactics of a pack.
- Q12: What is David's appearance, and how do people react to it? (Ps. 22:17)** David has lost weight and strength, so much so, that people stare at him in his affliction.
- Q13: Why would anyone be dividing David's clothes or gambling for them? (Ps. 22:18)** Because it is clear to them that David will not survive this affliction. Therefore he will not need his clothes.
- Q14: Do we understand the urgency of David's cry for help now? (Ps. 22:19-21)** David is about to lose everything. Yes, we understand how one can be in so extreme and urgent a position. Thus, David's cries are very touching.
- Q15: In contrast to the public spectacle of Ps. 22:6-8, David is now prepared to render public praise. What will he do? (Ps. 22:22,23)** The truth is, there are still those in David's community that

Quotations Bible Study—Series I, Week 1, Suggested Answers

are faithful. In anticipation of his delivery, David is declaring to them the confidence he has in the LORD.

- Q16: What confidence can Israel have during affliction? (Ps. 22:24)** Ultimately, the LORD hears and responds to those cry out to Him. In spite of David’s expressions at the beginning of the psalm, he knows that the LORD has pity on those who are afflicted.
- Q17: Whom does David look to in affliction? (Ps. 22:25)** David looks to the LORD in his affliction, and he does so publicly.
- Q18: Whom does the LORD’s provision extend to? (Ps. 22:26,27)** Particularly, the meek, but all the world comes within the bounds of the LORD’s care and provision. Thus, they will all turn or return to the LORD in worship.
- Q19: What is the LORD’s position? (Ps. 22:28)** The LORD is in charge of the whole situation. He is sovereign in all things.
- Q20: What parties will join in the praise and thanksgiving? (Hint: the dust is the dust of poverty but may also be the dust of death, as in v.15.) (Ps. 22:29)** Everyone, from the successful and prosperous to the poor and those near death will join in the praise and worship. They all recognize that they cannot keep themselves alive, and thus the lesser matters, like prosperity and poverty are in His hands as well.
- Q21: What does “those who cannot keep themselves alive” suggest? (Ps. 22:29)** It suggests that all people rely (whether they admit it or not) on God for every breath, every moment of life.
- Q22: How does God’s service proceed through the ages? (Ps. 22:30)** Towards a particular descendent, who will serve the LORD in a special way.
- Q23: Whom is David speaking about when he says “a people yet unborn”? (Ps. 22:31)** A particular generation of people will come, who will witness to the LORD’s deliverance, in accordance with His righteousness. The people to whom they witness are you and I, among others.
- Q24: “He has done it.” What has the LORD done? (Ps. 22:31)** The LORD has delivered His people from the forces that would destroy them. In other words, the LORD has provided for salvation.
- Q25: Did Jesus intentionally quote Psalm 22, thus invoking the entire context of Psalm 22, or was the outcry of “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me” a cry of ultimate despair? It was both.**
- Q26: We noticed numerous parallels between the crucifixion story and Psalm 22 in the course of the survey above. Did Jesus comprehend these as well? In this, His final, brief sermon to His followers before death, Jesus deliberately raised the matter of Psalm 22, through which He had been living in the previous hours, so that they might understand not only the suffering but the promise that lay beyond it, in Ps. 22:22-31.**
- Q27: Was Jesus’ suffering reflected in the expression of despair in Ps. 22:1? Yes.**