

Birth of the New Kingdom: The Final Path of Suffering to the Cross

Matthew 27:27-50 / November 28, 2020

BEFORE JESUS' DEATH: A SUMMARY OF THE SUFFERING SERVANT

1. Overwhelmed with Sorrow in the Garden	26:36-46	10. Scourged by the Romans	27:26
2. Betrayed by Judas with a Kiss	26:47-55	11. Taunted by the Soldiers	27:27-31
3. Abandoned by the disciples	26:56	12. Crucified by the Soldiers	27:35
4. Arrested by the High Priest	26:57	13. Mocked by the Crowds	27:39-40
5. Betrayed by False Witnesses	26:59-68	14. Mocked by the Jewish Leaders	27:41-43
6. Denied by Peter	26:69-75	15. Ridiculed by the Two Criminals	27:44
7. Condemned by High Priest	27:1-2	16. Forsaken by God	27:45-46
8. Betrayed by Judas	27:3-10	17. Misunderstood by the crowd	27:47-49
9. Condemned by Pilate	27:11-25	18. Suffered Six Hours on the Cross	27:50

BEFORE THE CROSS: *BLATANT RIDICULE BY THE SOLDIERS*

Matthew 27:27-31

- A** Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And
- B** they stripped him and
- C** put a scarlet robe on him, and
- D** twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand.
- E** And kneeling before him,
- F** they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!"
- E¹** And they spit on him and
- D¹** took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him,
- C¹** they stripped him of the robe and
- B¹** put his own clothes on him and
- A¹** led him away to crucify him.

The Ruling Suffering Servant

Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice,

"Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?"

And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

And one of the elders said to me, **"Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."**

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw

1. a Lamb standing,
2. as though it had been slain, with
3. seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
4. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

And they sang a new song, saying,

“Worthy are you to take the scroll / and to open its seals, / for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God / from every tribe and language and people and nation, / and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, / and they shall reign on the earth.”

Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, / to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might / and honor and glory and blessing!”

And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb / be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!”

And the four living creatures said,

“Amen!”

and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a voice like thunder,

“Come!”

And I looked, and behold, a white horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he came out conquering, and to conquer. (Revelation 5:1-6:2)

The Suffering High Priest: Perfect Empathy for Victims

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

AT THE CROSS: NEGATIVE REACTION BY THE CROWDS

Matthew 27:32-44

Simon

As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.

Soldiers

1. And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull),
2. **they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.**
3. And when they had crucified him,
4. they divided his garments among them by casting lots.
5. Then they sat down and kept watch over him there.
6. And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, “This is Jesus, the King of the Jews.”
7. Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left

Crowds

And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads 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.”

Jewish Leaders

So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying,

“He saved others; he cannot save himself.

And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”

But he answered, “It is written,

“‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:2-4)

He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him.

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."
Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" (Matthew 4:8-10)

He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "'He will command his angels concerning you,' and "'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" (Matthew 4:5-7)

Robbers

And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

Prayer of Suffering: David, Jesus, The Church (Psalm 69:1-28)

A) THE TRAUMA OF SUFFERING

Save me, O God!

For the waters have come up to my neck.

I sink in deep mire, / where there is no foothold;

I have come into deep waters, / and the flood sweeps over me.

I am weary with my crying out; / my throat is parched.

My eyes grow dim / with waiting for my God.

More in number than the hairs of my head / are those who hate me without cause;

mighty are those who would destroy me, / those who attack me with lies.

What I did not steal / must I now restore? (1-4)

B) GOD'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUFFERING

O God, you know my folly; / the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you. (5)

C) THE DISGRACE OF SUFFERING

Let not those who hope in you be put to shame through me, / O Lord GOD of hosts;

let not those who seek you be brought to dishonor through me, / O God of Israel.

For it is for your sake that I have borne reproach, / that dishonor has covered my face.

I have become a stranger to my brothers, / an alien to my mother's sons.

For zeal for your house has consumed me, / and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

When I wept and humbled my soul with fasting, / it became my reproach.

When I made sackcloth my clothing, / I became a byword to them.

I am the talk of those who sit in the gate, / and the drunkards make songs about me. (6-12)

C¹) THE DELIVERANCE FROM SUFFERING

But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD. / At an acceptable time, O God, / in the abundance of your steadfast love answer me in your saving faithfulness.

Deliver me / from sinking in the mire;

let me be delivered from my enemies / and from the deep waters.

Let not the flood sweep over me, / or the deep swallow me up, / or the pit close its mouth over me.

Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good; / according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.

Hide not your face from your servant, / for I am in distress; make haste to answer me.

Draw near to my soul, redeem me; / ransom me because of my enemies! (13-18)

B¹) GOD'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUFFERING

You know my reproach, / and my shame and my dishonor; / my foes are all known to you.

Reproaches have broken my heart, / so that I am in despair.

I looked for pity, but there was none, / and for comforters, but I found none.

They gave me poison for food, / and for my thirst they gave me sour wine to drink. (19-21)

A¹) GOD'S JUDGMENT UPON THE PREDATORS OF SUFFERING

Let their own table before them become a snare; / and when they are at peace, let it become a trap.

Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see, / and make their loins tremble continually.

Pour out your indignation upon them, / and let your burning anger overtake them.

May their camp be a desolation; / let no one dwell in their tents. /

For they persecute him whom **you have struck down,** / and they recount the pain of those you have wounded.

Add to them punishment upon punishment; / may they have no acquittal from you.

Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; / let them not be enrolled among the righteous. (22-28)

Praise of Suffering: David, Jesus, The Church (Psalm 69:29-36)

A) OUR PRAISE

But I am afflicted and in pain; / let your salvation, O God, set me on high!

I will praise the name of God with a song; / I will magnify him with thanksgiving.

This will please the LORD more than an ox / or a bull with horns and hoofs.

When the humble see it they will be glad; / you who seek God, let your hearts revive. (29-32)

B) GOD'S PROMISE

For the LORD hears the needy / and does not despise his own people who are prisoners. (33)

A¹) CREATION'S PRAISE

Let heaven and earth praise him, / the seas and everything that moves in them. (34)

B¹) GOD'S PROMISE

For God will save Zion / and build up the cities of Judah,

and people shall dwell there and possess it; / the offspring of his servants shall inherit it, / and those who love his name shall dwell in it. (35-36)

ON THE CROSS: DESPAIRING CRIES BY JESUS

Matthew 27:45-50

Jesus Cries Out: I am Abandoned by God

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour.

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?"

Psalm 22: Forsaken by God

A) COMPLAINT: GOD DOES NOT HEAR MY SUFFERING

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, / and by night, but I find no rest.

Yet you are holy, / enthroned on the praises of Israel.

In you our fathers trusted; / they trusted, and you delivered them.

To you they cried and were rescued; / in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

But I am a worm and not a man, / scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me; / they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

"He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; / let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" (1-8)

B) APPEAL FOR HELP

Yet you are he who took me from the womb; / you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

On you was I cast from my birth, / and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Be not far from me, / for trouble is near, / and there is none to help. (9-11)

C) DESCRIPTION OF SUFFERING

Many bulls encompass me; / strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

they open wide their mouths at me, / like a ravenging and roaring lion.

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.

For dogs encompass me; / a company of evildoers encircles me;

they have pierced my hands and feet—
I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them, / and for my clothing they cast lots. (12-18)

B¹) APPEAL FOR HELP

But you, O LORD, do not be far off! / O you my help, come quickly to my aid!
Deliver my soul from the sword, / my precious life from the power of the dog! / Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen! (19-21)

A¹) PRAISE: GOD HAS HEARD MY CRY

I will **tell** of your name to my brothers; / in the midst of the congregation I will **praise** you:
You who fear the LORD, **praise** him!
All you offspring of Jacob, **glorify** him, / and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!
For he has not despised or abhorred / the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him, / but has heard, when he cried to him.
From you comes my **praise** in the great congregation; / my vows I will perform before those who fear him.
The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; / those who seek him shall **praise** the LORD! / May your hearts live forever!
All the ends of the earth shall remember / and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations / shall worship before you.
For kingship belongs to the LORD, / and he rules over the nations.
All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; / before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, / even the one who could not keep himself alive.
Posterity shall serve him; / it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;
they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn, / that he has done it. (22-31)

Crowds Cry Out: Prove Your Deity

And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, “This man is calling Elijah.”
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.
But the others said, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him.”

Do Not Test the Lord

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,
“‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”
Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Matthew 4:5-7)

Jesus Cries Out: I Surrender to Death

And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

The Suffering of the Birth of Jesus: Previewing The Birth of the New Kingdom

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.
And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.
But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying,
“Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, / and they shall call his name Immanuel”
(which means, God with us).
When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until **she had given birth to a son**. And he called his name Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25)