**Psalm 22** My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You so* far from helping Me,
*And from* the words of My groaning? **2**O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent. **3**But You *are* holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. **4**Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them.**5**They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed. **6**But I *am* a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. **7**All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying,* **8**“He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!” **9**But You *are* He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust *while* on My mother’s breasts. **10**I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother’s womb You *have been* My God. **11**Be not far from Me, For trouble *is* near; For *there is none* to help. **12**Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled Me.
**13**They gape at Me *with* their mouths, *Like* a raging and roaring lion. **14**I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.
**15**My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. **16**For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; **17**I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. **18**They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. **19**But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! **20**Deliver Me from the sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog. **21**Save Me from the lion’s mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me. **22**I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. **23**You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! **24**For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him;
But when He cried to Him, He heard. **25**My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. **26**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever! **27**All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the Lord, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.
**28**For the kingdom *is* the Lord’s, And He rules over the nations. **29**All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive. **30**A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the *next* generation, **31**They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done *this*

 We’re back in Psalm 22 this week. Last week, you recall that we aligned the Psalm with many of the New Testament scriptures, showing that Jesus was the fulfillment, knowing that those who choose not to believe do so by their own will and not through confusion. We need not throw our ability to think away to believe in Jesus… in fact, time and again, the Bible is proven through archaeology and prophecy fulfillment. Daniel told of the Assyrians, the Babylonians, the Medo-Persians, the Greeks, and then the Romans rising as world powers in Daniel Chapter 2 and it came to pass just as he said. The temple was destroyed in 70AD just as Jesus foretold. Make no mistake that the book of Revelation will be fulfilled perfectly. The Bible has either been fulfilled, is being fulfilled, or will be fulfilled. The one thing we know – not one word will return void… it will all come to pass.

 Last week, we looked at Psalm 22:1-18. This week, we’ll look at Psalm 22:19-31. The Psalm shifts gears. Look at verse 19 But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! Listen to the praise here! There is a certainty of help here. It reminds us of Psalm 121:1 – I lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. The praise here is that God is our ultimate help and salvation… everything else is temporary. Our heart gets better, then worse. The cancer is in remission, then not. Money is in the account, then not. God is our Hope through Jesus Christ. Verses 20 & 21 Deliver Me from the sword, My precious *life* from the power of the dog. **21**Save Me from the lion’s mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me. Some read this as a call for rescue, but the word nawtsal used for deliver has the idea powerfully snatching away. The word suggests a hand that can choose to save at will. There is confidence in this deliverer! The word used for dog means immoral man. Notice at the end of verse 21 – the psalmist is answered. He knows that God will answer. We too know that God will answer, not always the way we want to hear, not always as we expect, but He will always, always answer.

 We shift again, from a certainty of deliverance to praise. Verses 22-25 **22**I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. **23**You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! **24**For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard. **25**My praise *shall be* of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. It occurred to me, as I studied this, that there is praise for deliverance before deliverance has taken place. So certain is that psalmist in the deliverance that he begins to lay out how he will praise before the deliverance has taken place. In all prayers, there comes a time to thank God for what we know He has already done. We must pray as if our prayers have been answered. I don’t have any idea how God will help my mother, but my prayers have shifted now… I pray not asking Him to do it, but thanking Him for doing it. He has healed her… what that will look like… whether she will remain with me on earth… I have no idea. My confidence is in His healing. We spend too much time pleading and not enough time praising. God is not there to serve, but be served. When we tell Him what should happen, He’s become our servant and we have become our own god. Notice how the praise ripples outward – I will praise ripples outward to all who fear God. Praise has that impact. Our praise of God will always impact others, our faith will always speak to others. God does not forget us in our affliction. Hawlal is the Hebrew word used there for praise and it means to shine – we are being told to shine for God. Our praises must always shine – smiles while we sing, a glow while we speak of Christ, a confidence that our Redeemer lives.

 Verses 26 – 31 seem reflect the coming day when Jesus rules forever **26**The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever! **27**All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the Lord, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You. **28**For the kingdom is the Lord’s, And He rules over the nations. **29**All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust Shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive. **30**A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the *next* generation, **31**They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done *this.* Revelation 7:14 tells us that there will be a remnant, 7:9 tells us that it will be a multitude from all nations, 7:16 says that they will eat and never hunger again 7:17 says that Jesus will lead as the eternal king of Kings and lord of Lords and God will wipe away every tear.

 Easter is a time to reaffirm our faith in Jesus. More so than at any other time, people are open to the Truth of Christ. Our Lord is not just the Lord of the New Testament Gospels. He is seen in the Old Testament, He is seen in the book of Revelation. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. Scripture verifies scripture. The Word of God agrees – from the beginning to the end. Many will quote verse 16, but verse 17 is so very critical in our walk with God. The word of God makes us complete… thoroughly prepares us… to do the work we are called to do. We are called to bring the good news of Jesus to a lost world, through our praise shining that beautiful light into the darkness. We need not hesitate. God is still working His Story through our history. We already know Who won. We already know the enemy is defeated. We are part of the mop up operations… introducing the lost to the only One that can powerfully deliver.