***Psalm 22:14-18 I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. 15My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. 16For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; 17I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. 18They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.***

Last week, we spent time drawing straight lines from the Old Testament in Isaiah to New Testament verses. The prophet Isaiah lived 750 years before Christ. This morning, we’re in Psalm 22. King David lived 1000 years before Christ, yet the prophecies found in this Psalm are not vague, but very specific. He describes with accuracy crucifixion – a form of execution that will not be invented for another 600 years. He describes one of the statements that Jesus will make from the Cross. He tells of specific actions recorded in the Gospels. Let’s draw some more straight lines this morning, as we continue our journey of trust to the Cross.

Verse 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.*King David is speaking of Jesus. I am poured out like water. Many of us have used the expression weak as water. It holds the idea that Jesus is utterly exhausted and suffering from extreme weakness. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell us that Simon, the Cyrenian, was compelled to carry Jesus’ Cross to Golgotha, indicating the suffering that Jesus is enduring. Luke 23:26 says - *Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.* All My bones are out of joint. When a person is hung on a cross, the strain on the joints is incredible. Picture in your mind the position, arms outstretched, supported only by the nails in hands and feet. As the person hangs, the ability to breathe is taken. The lungs and heart are pressed by fluid, making it hard for the heart to beat. Jesus would have felt as though his bones were coming out of joint. His heart would have felt like a lump of wax.

Verse 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.* As Jesus suffers, His strength continues to leave Him. My tongue clings to My jaws, indicating extreme thirst. John 19:28 says *After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!”* Imagine the thirst, after the blood loss, the sweat, the exertion? You have brought Me to the dust of death. John 19:30 *So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit*. He gave up His spirit, bringing Him to the dust of death.

Verses 16-17 *For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet. I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.*Dogs, Christ’s enemies, surround and threaten Him. Matthew 27:27 *Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him.* Mark 15:29-31 *And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself, and come down from the cross!” Likewise the chief priests also, mocking among themselves with the scribes, said, “He saved others; Himself He cannot save.* The wicked surrounded and blasphemed Him. Crowds gathered and gawked, looking and staring, hoping that He might perform some miracle. The piercing of the hands and feet can be nothing other than crucifixion, but at the time of David crucifixion was still 600 years away. Jesus hung bare legged, armed, chest. It’s likely in that day that Jesus was a gaunt man so, as He hung, the people could see ribs, tendons, shoulder and hip bones. Stretched out and suffering, His bones would not have been hard to number, for the crowd or the Man hanging there for the sins of the world.

Verse 18*They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.* Jesus - exhausted, weak as water, pain wracking His body, hanging gaunt before the people, while they gather and gawk, slowly suffocating from the fluid building around His heart and lungs, His heart is thudding heavily in His chest, he pushes up with His feet to grab a breath, before dropping back down to hang by the nails again. Below Him, soldiers cast lots. John 19:23-24 *– Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. They said therefore among themselves, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be,” that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.” Therefore the soldiers did these things.* 1000 years before this day, God knew. As Jesus hung above between heaven and earth, the soldiers knelt below and cast lots for His clothing.

God knew and God knows today. He knows the ending from the beginning. He knows the details. He knew the details of the crucifixion and the resurrection. He knows our details today. Specifics, not surprises. Straight lines we can trust. God said they’d cast lots, they’d gawk, they’d crucify. They did. Jesus says – I’m coming again. My friends, He will. If you have never given your life to the One that knows and can be trusted, do it today!