

THE DOE OF THE DAWN, THE SONG OF THE CROSS

I. Psalm 22:1-31 & Various Gospel Passages

A. Psalm 22:1-31 (ESV) Let me read through Psalm 22 and see if it's foretelling about anyone familiar: *To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.* **1** My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning? **2** O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. **(Sounds horrific!)** **3** Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. **4** In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them. **5** To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and were not put to shame. **(That's hoping in God!)** **6** But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. **7** All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads; **8** "He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!" **(What anguish!)** **9** Yet You are He who took Me from the womb; You made Me trust You at My mother's breasts. **10** On You was I cast from My birth, and from My mother's womb You have been My God. **11** Be not far from Me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. **(That's a cry for help!)** **12** Many bulls encompass Me; strong bulls of Bashan surround Me; **13** they open wide their mouths at Me, like a ravening and roaring lion. **14** 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; **15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws; You lay Me in the dust of death. **(What's that describing?)** **16** For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me; they have pierced My hands and feet--**17** I can count all My bones--they stare and gloat over Me; **18** they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. **(Who are we talking about here?)** **19** But You, O LORD, do not be far off! O You My help, come quickly to My aid! **20** Deliver My soul from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog! **21** Save Me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen! **22** I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You: **23** 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! **24** 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. **25** From You comes My praise in the great congregation; My vows I will perform before those who fear Him. **26** The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! **27** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. **28** For kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations. **29** 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. **30** Posterity shall serve Him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; **31** they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn, that He has done it. **(Once again, who are we talking about here?)**

B. Some ask the question: Do the Psalms, the Bible's hymnal, contain prophecy? Can poetic songs foretell? Can a lament with praise point to Jesus? 1 Chronicles 25:1 (NKJV) gives us a hint: "Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was:" (The rest of the chapter lists their names...)

C. If I were to quote, "Four score and seven years ago..." You'd know I was referencing Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. If I recited, "We hold these truths to be self

evident that all men are created equal..." You'd immediately know I was invoking the Declaration of Independence. Jesus claims the entirety of Psalm 22 for Himself when He cries out the first line: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" The Jewish leaders not only caught this, they turned it to mockery!

D. So let's take a look at a few other verses from Psalm 22 and see if they align with the Gospel narratives. Perhaps some of you will be surprised. Remember these words are 3,000 years old and were written 1,000 years before Christ!

1) Psalm 22:1: 1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning? Matthew 27:46 (ESV) says: 46 And about the ninth hour (6pm) Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Mark 15:34 reads almost identical.) (Please read the other gospel accounts I'm sending you with your notes today.)

2) Psalm 22:7-8: 7 All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads; 8 "He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!" Matthew 27:39-44 (ESV) says: 39 And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads 40 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." 41 So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying, 42 "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He desires Him. For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 And the robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way. (Mark 15:29-32 and Luke 23:35-37 affirm the same. Coincidence? Deliberate imitation? Fulfilled Prophecy?)

3) Psalm 22:16-18: 16 For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me; they have pierced My hands and feet--(Crucifixion wouldn't come along for another 600 years! The Persians invented it and the Romans perfected it to its cruelest form. How'd the Psalmist know?) 17 I can count all My bones--they stare and gloat over Me; 18 they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. (All Four Gospels weigh in!) Matthew 27:33-36 (ESV) says: 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall, (Narcotic) but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. 35 And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by casting lots. 36 Then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. (Read Mark 15:23-25 and Luke 23:32-34 as they ditto Matthew.) John 19:23-24 (ESV) actually references our Psalm: 23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, 24 so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things... (Remember, John was an eyewitness!) (More from John) John 20:24-25 (ESV) happens with Thomas after the resurrection: 24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. (Jesus' first appearance) 25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe." (Thomas doesn't make the piercing-connection to Psalm 22, or the one in Isaiah 53:5 or Zechariah 12:10, but he

knows Jesus' hands & feet were nailed to that cross and His side was pierced with a Roman spear. At Jesus' next post-resurrection appearance Thomas is present and invites Thomas to check out the wounds. Thomas believes. And says, "*My Lord and My God!*")

4) Psalm 22:14-15: *14 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; 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws; You lay Me in the dust of death. (Crucifixion leads to dehydration.) John 19:28-30 (ESV) says: 28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." 29 A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. (cf Ps 69:21) (A different drink than the wine mixed with gall.) 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," (Tetelestai: "Paid in full!") and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.*

E. Who put Jesus on that cross to be pierced and forsaken as He was? Yes, the Jewish leaders did. Yes, the Roman soldiers did. Yes, we did because our sin put Him there. But ultimately God the Father put Him there. Our God is holy and just. We were guilty of sinning against Him. Justice demanded punishment. But love compelled God to place His Son on the cross to receive our punishment that we might be made righteous before Him. (The Bread & Cup remind us...)

F. Stephen Charnock, English Puritan (1628-1680) put it this way: "Never did divine holiness appear more beautiful and lovely than at the time our Savior's countenance was most marred in the midst of His dying groans--when God had turned His smiling face from Him, and thrust His sharp knife into His heart, which forced that terrible cry from Him, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me!"

G. Jerry Bridges said it so powerfully: "Christ exhausted the cup of God's wrath. For all who trust in Him there is nothing more in the cup. It is empty."

H. "The Doe of the Dawn," Psalm 22, is the Song of the Cross. This lament begins like a dirge but morphs into a victory song. Weeping indeed endured for that night when darkness fell on Golgotha, but joy came on Sunday morning! Demons choked on their laughter when the bruised heel of Jesus' atonement crushed the serpent's head. When we take the Bread & Cup we remember the agony that led to the victory; the forsaking that led to our forgiveness and acceptance; the piercing, suffocating, and blood-shedding that extinguished the fire of God's wrath against our sin; that cruel and heinous death that birthed our eternal life. (2 Cor. 5:21)

* Pray & Officiate Communion...

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Psalm 22:1-31 \(ESV\)](#)

To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning? **2** O My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. **3** Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. **4** In

You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them. **5** To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and were not put to shame. **6** But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. **7** All who see Me mock Me; they make mouths at Me; they wag their heads; **8** “He trusts in the LORD; let Him deliver Him; let Him rescue Him, for He delights in Him!” **9** Yet You are He who took Me from the womb; You made Me trust You at My mother's breasts. **10** On You was I cast from My birth, and from My mother's womb You have been My God. **11** Be not far from Me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help. **12** Many bulls encompass Me; strong bulls of Bashan surround Me; **13** they open wide their mouths at Me, like a ravening and roaring lion. **14** 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; **15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue sticks to My jaws; You lay Me in the dust of death. **16** For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me; they have pierced My hands and feet--**17** I can count all My bones--they stare and gloat over Me; **18** they divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots. **19** But You, O LORD, do not be far off! O You My help, come quickly to My aid! **20** Deliver My soul from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog! **21** Save Me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued Me from the horns of the wild oxen! **22** I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You: **23** 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! **24** 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. **25** From You comes My praise in the great congregation; My vows I will perform before those who fear Him. **26** The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall praise the LORD! May your hearts live forever! **27** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. **28** For kingship belongs to the LORD, and He rules over the nations. **29** 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. **30** Posterity shall serve Him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; **31** they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn, that He has done it.

1 Chronicles 25:1 (NKJV)

1 Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was...

Matthew 27:46 (ESV)

46 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?”

Matthew 27:39-44 (ESV)

39 And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads **40** 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.” **41** So also the chief priests, with the scribes

and elders, mocked Him, saying, **42** “He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. **43** He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He desires Him. For He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’” **44** And the robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way.

Matthew 27:33-36 (ESV)

33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), **34** they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when He tasted it, he would not drink it. **35** And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by casting lots. **36** Then they sat down and kept watch over Him there.

John 19:23-24 (ESV)

23 When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, **24** so they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, “*They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.*” So the soldiers did these things...

John 20:24-25 (ESV)

24 Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe.”

John 19:28-30 (ESV)

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.” **29** A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Quote by Stephen Charnock

"Not all the vials of judgment that have or shall be poured out upon the wicked world, nor the flaming furnace of a sinner's conscience, nor the irreversible sentence pronounced against the rebellious demons, nor the groans of the damned creatures – give such a demonstration of God's hatred of sin – as the wrath of God let loose upon His Son! Never did divine holiness appear more beautiful and lovely than at the time our Savior's countenance was most marred in the midst of His dying groans – when God had turned His smiling face from Him, and thrust His sharp knife into His heart, which forced that terrible cry from Him, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me!”
- Stephen Charnock, (1628 - 1680) English Puritan, Presbyterian Pastor, Christian Author.

Quote by Jerry Bridges

"Christ exhausted the cup of God's wrath. For all who trust in Him there is nothing more in the cup. It is empty."

Bonus Goodies

"At the Cross (Love Ran Red)" - Chris Tomlin (acoustic Sessions)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORyXT2ZRwUE>

"My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" - Joel Beeke - Ligonier Ministries
<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/christ-forsaken/>

The Wine Jesus Drank (On the Cross) - Article by David Mathis
<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-wine-jesus-drank>

Cross Examination - Psalm 22 - Skip Heitzig (Full Sermon)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny6kbvQdUE8>

Create Cultures Not Strategies - Al Gooderham
<https://algooderham.wordpress.com/2022/05/>

More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras

Isaiah 53:3-6 (NIV)

3 He was despised and rejected by mankind, a Man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces He was despised, and we held Him in low esteem. **4** Surely He took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered Him punished by God, stricken by Him, and afflicted. **5** But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on Him, and by His wounds we are healed. **6** We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Zechariah 12:10 (NASB)

10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn."

Mark 15:34 (ESV)

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Mark 15:29-32 (ESV)

29 And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, **30** save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31** So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. **32** Let the Christ, the King

of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him.

Luke 23:35-37 (ESV)

35 And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!” **36** The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine **37** and saying, “If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!”

Mark 15:23-25 (ESV)

22 And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). **23** And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. **24** And they crucified Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. **25** And it was the third hour when they crucified Him.

Luke 23:32-34 (ESV)

32 Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. **33** And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. **34** And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide His garments.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NLT)

21 For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.

1 Peter 2:24-25 (ESV)

24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. **25** For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

Galatians 3:13 (ESV)

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us--for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree...”

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

“They bewailed innocence maltreated, goodness persecuted, love bleeding, meekness about to die; but my heart has a deeper and more bitter cause to mourn. My sins were the scourges which lacerated those blessed shoulders, and crowned with thorn those bleeding brows: my sins cried “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” and laid the cross upon His gracious shoulders. His being led forth to die is sorrow enough for one eternity: but my having been His murderer, is more, infinitely more, grief than one poor fountain of tears can express.”

Quote by Charles Swindoll

"[Jesus] tilted His head back, pulled up one last time to draw breath and cried, "Tetelestai!" It was a Greek expression most everyone present would have understood. It was an accounting term. Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with "Tetelestai" written across them, meaning "paid in full." With Jesus' last breath on the cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied. Nothing else required. Not good deeds. Not generous donations. Not penance or confession or baptism or...or...or...nothing. The penalty for sin is death, and we were all born hopelessly in debt. He paid our debt in full by giving His life so that we might live forever."

Quote by John Piper

"Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us — a crucified God — must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"In one word the great fact on which the Christian's hope rests is substitution. The vicarious sacrifice of Christ for the sinner, Christ being made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him, Christ offering up a true and proper substitutionary sacrifice in the place of as many as the Father gave Him, who are recognized by their trusting in Him. This is the cardinal fact of the gospel."

Quote by John MacArthur

"...Whether you're talking about redemption, justification, reconciliation; whether you're talking about the removal of sin and transgression, whether you're talking about propitiation or covering--all of those are corollaries in a sense to the great truth of substitution, that Christ took our place on the cross... To put it as simply as I can put it, if Christ is not my substitute, then I still occupy the place of a condemned sinner. If my sins and my guilt are not transferred to Him and He does not take them, then they remain with me. If He did not deal with my sins, then I must deal with them. If He did not bear my penalty, then I must bear it. There is no other possibility. It is either Him or me... The bottom line is this: either Christ took my sins and bore them or I will. Either He paid the penalty for my sin, or I will pay it in hell forever."

- John MacArthur, Sermon titled, *"The Suffering Jesus: Our Substitute and Shepherd,"* June 11, 1989.

Quote by John Calvin

"This is our acquittal: the guilt that held us liable for punishment has been transferred to the head of the Son of God... We must, above all, remember this substitution, lest we tremble and remain anxious throughout life--as if God's righteous vengeance, which the Son of God has taken upon Himself, still hung over us... To take away all cause for enmity and to reconcile us utterly to Himself, He wipes out all evil in us by the expiation set forth in the death of Christ; that we, who were previously unclean and impure, may show ourselves righteous and holy in His sight."

- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Vol. 2, p.p. 506, 510.

Quote by Leon Morris

"Redemption is substitutionary, for it means that Christ paid that price that we could not pay, paid it in our stead and we go free. Justification interprets our salvation judicially. As the New Testament sees it, Christ took our legal liability, took it in our stead. Reconciliation means the making of people to be at one by the taking away of the cause of hostility. In this case, the cause is sin and Christ removed that cause for us. We could not deal with sin, He could and did, and did it in such a way that it is reckoned to us. Propitiation points us to the removal of the divine wrath and Christ has done this by bearing the wrath for us. It was our sin which drew it down. It was He who bore it. Was there a price to be paid, He paid it. Was there a victory to be won, He won it. Was there a penalty to be borne, He bore it. Was there a judgment to be faced, He faced it."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"If you believe in Jesus, that is to say, if you trust Him, all the merits of Jesus are your merits, are imputed to you; all the sufferings of Jesus are your sufferings. Every one of His merits is imputed to you. You stand before God as if you were Christ because Christ stood before God as if He were you--He in your stead, you in His stead. Substitution! That is the word! Christ the Substitute for sinners--Christ standing for men and bearing the thunderbolts of the divine opposition to all sin, He "being made sin for us who knew no sin." Man standing in Christ's place, and receiving the sunlight of divine favor, instead of Christ."

Quote by John Stott

"The concept substitution may be said, then, to lie at the heart of both sin and salvation. For the essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man. Man asserts himself against God and puts himself where only God deserves to be; God sacrifices Himself for man and puts Himself where only man deserves to be. Man claims prerogatives which belong to God alone; God accepts penalties which belong to man alone."

Quote by J.C. Ryle

"Christ would have lived, and taught, and preached, and prophesied, and wrought miracles in vain, if He had not crowned all by dying for our sins as our Substitute! His death was our life. His death was the payment of our debt to God. Without His death we should have been of all creatures most miserable."

Quote by Martin Luther

"Learn to know Christ and Him crucified. Learn to sing to Him, and say, 'Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You have taken upon Yourself what is mine and given me what is Yours. You have become what You were not so that I might become what I was not.'"

Excerpt from J.I. Packer (Packer Quoting Luther)

Martin Luther wrote: *"All the prophets did foresee in Spirit that Christ should become the greatest transgressor, murderer, adulterer, thief, rebel, blasphemer, etc., that ever was or could be in all the world. For He, being made a sacrifice for the sins of the whole world is not now an innocent person and without sins...but a sinner."* He was, of course, talking about the imputing of our wrongdoing to Christ as our substitute.

Luther continues: *"Our most merciful Father...sent His only Son into the world and laid upon Him...the sins of all men saying: Be thou Peter that denier; Paul that persecutor, blasphemer and cruel oppressor; David that adulterer; that sinner which did eat the apple in Paradise; that thief which hanged upon the cross; and briefly be thou the person which hath committed the sins of all men; see therefore that thou pay and satisfy for them. Here now comes the law and saith: I find Him a sinner...therefore let Him die upon the cross. And so He setteth upon Him and killeth Him. By this means the whole world is purged and cleansed from all sins."*

The presentation of the death of Christ as the substitute exhibits the love of the cross more richly, fully, gloriously, and glowingly than any other account of it. Luther saw this and gloried in it. He once wrote to a friend: "Learn to know Christ and Him crucified. Learn to sing to Him, and say, 'Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am Your sin. You have taken upon Yourself what is mine and given me what is Yours. You became what You were not, so that I might become what I was not.'"

What a great and wonderful exchange! Was there ever such love?

- J.I. Packer, *Your Father Loves You*, Harold Shaw Publishers, 1986.