

Forsaken

We speak fairly often about the importance of staying connected with one another during this time of physical isolation. The opposite of being connected is being isolated and alone. The word, "forsaken" comes to mind. It carries the idea of being abandoned by everyone. Jesus uses this word to express His anguish on the cross:

Matt 27:46

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

Jesus' words here match the beginning of Psalm 22, written about 1000 years before Jesus was born. It is well worth reading this whole Psalm, but to keep this from getting too long I'll just show a few verses and how amazingly they predict Jesus' death.

Psalm 22:7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. 8 "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

Fulfilled in Matthew 27

39 And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying, 42 "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him. 43 He trusts in God; let God rescue Him now, if He delights in Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'"

Psalm 22:15 My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death.

Fulfilled in John 19 (dehydration and extreme thirst was a normal result of crucifixion)

28 After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, "I am thirsty."

Psalm 22:16 Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.

Fulfilled by Jesus being crucified. All the gospels mention crucifixion, and Acts 2 mentions nails specifically.

Acts 2:22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know - 23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Psalm 22:18 They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.

Fulfilled in John 19

23 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and also the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. 24 So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be"

All of those details and more were contained in Psalm 22, written about 1000 years before Jesus came to earth. These prophecies and others like them are alluded to many times in the new testament as those who preached the gospel used the “Scriptures” (old testament) to convince people Jesus was the messiah.

Jesus went through all of this suffering for us. His sacrifice gives us a hope that will never disappoint. Jesus was forsaken so that we would never have to be. Matthew’s gospel ends with these words: Matt 28:20 “...I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
If He is always with us, then we are never really alone; never forsaken.

Prayer:

Wonderful Father, thank you for the hope we have through the sacrifice of Jesus; that He was forsaken so we don’t have to be. Thank you that He took the wrath that we deserve on Himself. Thank you for this time when we can focus our minds specifically on His sacrifice, death and resurrection. Please bless the bread that reminds us of His body and the real suffering He experienced. Please bless the juice that reminds us of His blood, giving His life to save our souls and cleanse us from our sins. Lord, please forgive us for every way we have sinned against you and enable us to participate in this remembrance in a worthy manner. We confess that we are entirely unworthy on our own. Help us to keep these things in mind not only today, but every day of our lives. In Jesus’ holy name we pray, amen.