

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expositional Study of **The Gospel According to Luke**
Chapter 18- Luke 18:31-34
294- Jesus Came to Die

November 1, 2015

Luke 18:31-34

31 Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.

32 "For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon,

33 and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

34 But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of this* statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.

To the Glory of God

Now the reason why I began this "journey" through Luke back in October of 2008 is so that we could behold the Lord Jesus in His Beauty, and marvel at Who He is and what He did. I love Jesus, and so I want to see Him more clearly and more distinctly. And I want to so value and enjoy what I see when I gaze upon Him that my life may honor Him and bring Him the Glory that He is entitled to receive.

You see, I believe that true and genuine and deep and abiding love is the product of three things being true:

1. Respect
2. Admiration
3. Awe

And those three things come forth from two things:

1. Knowledge
2. Nearness

So if my knowledge of Jesus Christ from Scripture increases, and if my nearness to Jesus in fellowship is real and genuine, and if it is ever increasing- the result will be that I will *respect* Jesus- which is simply another way of understanding "reverential fear"- and I will *admire* Jesus and I will be in *awe* of Jesus.

And if those three things grow in me- then my love for Jesus will also grow. And here's how I will know if my love for Jesus is growing- whatever degree of sacrifice my Lord requires of me, whatever level of devotion He would demand- will *not* be a burden to me or something grievous- but will be my privilege, my honor, and I will see it as the pathway to my own everlasting Joy.

But until that happens in me- I must know that I am shallow and superficial and lukewarm, and my love for Jesus is paper thin, and therefore, my ability to honestly enjoy my Savior and take pleasure in my Master, and my ability to worship Him in the manner in which He deserves to be worshipped will be sporadic and haphazard at best, and the fruit of my life will reflect that.

You see, dear friends, I think that Jesus is more important than anything or anyone else in my life- including myself. And that is because I think that Jesus is better than anything or anyone else- including me. And so the goal of my "journey" through **Luke** is to see Jesus as absolutely irresistible, and to enjoy what I see. And *that* is why we are now entering into our eighth year of this "journey" with the Passage that Brother Andy just read to us here in **Luke 18**.

Now, right off the bat- we have to understand that Jesus was and is the single most unique Person Who ever lived. *Nobody* is like Jesus. Nobody could ever be like Jesus. Jesus stands alone as the most important and most valuable Being in the Universe. And it is His *uniqueness*- His "otherness", the fact that He is different from everybody else that makes Him worthy of our worship and adoration and obedience.

Now as I have told you many times- the Church of Jesus spent the better part of the first thousand years of its existence trying to

comprehend Jesus Christ- *biblically*. The Church agonized over the Scriptures for many, many decades trying to get a handle on the Man who was God Almighty in human flesh. And during that time- they came up with some amazing statements about Him that we need to know and ponder.

For example- during the turn of the Third Century- a man by the name of Tertullian was used by God to hammer out the understanding of how God could be "one", and yet God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit could all be God. And this man formulated a Biblical response to the many heresies and false teachings of his day concerning the Nature of God and the full Deity of the Godhead by developing a very simple but profound statement:

God is one in His Essence and is eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of
God the Father; God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

And that statement and the theology behind it has come to be known as "The Doctrine of the Trinity", and is still used today to help us understand how what both the Old and New Testaments teach about God are not contradicting one another.

Another great figure of Church History- the golden tongued preacher named John Chrysostom who lived and proclaimed Jesus Christ back in the Fourth Century developed another simple but profound statement to help the Church understand Jesus when he said:

"Christ is fully God and fully Man in the same body at the same time-
without conflict or contradiction"

And we saw two weeks ago that Athanasius was used by God in the Fourth Century to defend the Church against a false understanding about Jesus and to develop a Biblical comprehension of Jesus full Humanity and full Deity by saying that Jesus was:

God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.
Who, for us men for our Salvation, came down from Heaven, and was
incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man, and was
crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried, and

the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

From its earliest days- the Christian Church has consistently maintained that the Scriptures teach repeatedly and clearly that there was a moment in time- when God Almighty took on flesh and became Man. And since that had never happened before or since- the early Church had to literally *create* a word to describe this miraculous and mysterious Event- “Incarnate” which means: the “in-fleshing” of God.

And all of this makes Jesus to be both God and Man. It makes Jesus to be a “never created and always existing God- Who was nevertheless born of woman”. And this creates great paradoxes in our minds as we see Jesus able to forgive sins and yet not know when He is coming back. We stagger over the fact that Jesus was able to walk on water and command demons and yet bleed and die. And that is why we sing things like:

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy Presence my Light.
Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

In fact, there are three things that the Bible says is going to happen when Jesus returns to this earth. **2 Thessalonians 1:9&10a** says:

9 These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed —

So first of all- we see that “**these**”- the unrepentant- will pay the penalty of eternal destruction while Scripture tells us that two other things will happen with Jesus when He comes back:

1. King Jesus will be glorified in His saints.
2. He will be marveled at among all who have believed.

The Return of Jesus to this earth at some point in the future has been described in various places in the Bible as:

“great and glorious”

“fearful and powerful”

... and yet as true as that is- when Jesus was here on the earth the first time- He was *not* here to be glorified in His saints, nor was He here to be marveled at among all who believed. But Jesus was here the first time to be rejected, to be scorned, to be vilified and to die.

And ever since **Luke 9:51** when the good doctor wrote:

When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem;

... Jesus has been working His way to the great capitol city of Jerusalem so all of the many OT Prophecies concerning how Messiah would be rejected and killed would come to pass.

And it was this way from the very beginning. The shadow of the Cross hung over the Manger because as mysterious as it was at that time- the Divine Purpose of why God took on human flesh was *not* to be received and celebrated- but to give His Life as a Ransom for many. From the very beginning- He was Jesus- Who would save His people from their sins by offering the full and final and perfect Sacrifice that would satisfy the Justice of God. So it has *always* been about the Cross. And it has been a long journey to get us to this point where we are now- as Jesus Himself begins to tell His Disciples and Apostles:

31 ... "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.

**32 "For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon,
33 and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."**

And so Jesus Himself is actually prophesying His Own Death and Resurrection here. And from this prophecy- we can know some very important facts of history:

- ✓ Jesus will be rejected by the religious elites.
- ✓ Jesus will be handed over to unbelievers.
- ✓ Jesus will be tortured.
- ✓ Jesus is going to die.
- ✓ His Death is intentional.
- ✓ His Death will not be suicide- it will be murder.
- ✓ He will rise from the dead.

And His Resurrection will *not* be a "spiritual resurrection"- but a *literal* and *physical* one. And this Resurrection will *not* occur at some undefined date in the distant future- but Jesus promised that His Resurrection would occur at a very specific point in time- three days.

So we can see that both the Death and Resurrection of Jesus are "appointed"- they are "foreordained", they are "predestined", they are promised by a God Who cannot lie to occur. And both His Death and Resurrection will happen right on schedule. And this is one of the very best examples of the great tension between "human decisions" and "human choice"- in contrast with "God's absolute Sovereignty" that we have anywhere in the entire Bible. Please turn with me to read about this from **The Acts 2:22-24:**

**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.
24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.**

Now verse 23 tells us that Jesus died because of two things:

A. the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God

B. by the hands of godless men

So the Holy Bible says right here that godless and evil men made the conscious decision to murder Jesus Christ. And the way that the Greek language is constructed here shows us that this conscious decision by these people was not in any way *coerced* or *forced* upon them. So godless men *chose* to kill Jesus. These evil men *voluntarily* and *willfully* made the conscious decision to murder the sinless Lamb of God.

And by choosing to kill Jesus *voluntarily*- these men were completely accountable for committing this horrendous sin, and they were fully culpable for what they did, and were judged by God for doing so.

Now it would be wonderful if we could stop at this point- because everybody understands this. "Bad" people do "bad" things, and they are judged by God for doing those "bad" things. Yet the Bible also says in this very same verse that the "conscious decision" of these godless men to willfully and voluntarily murder Jesus without any coercing or force was:

... the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God

... and that statement just messes everything up. Because now we have to do the hard job of reconciling human decisions with God's Sovereignty- which I would suggest is much harder job than to merely believe that bad people do bad things and that good people do good things- which isn't even true.

Now because the Apostle Peter used *two* words here to describe this Event- we have to take notice of it. For example- if Peter had only said "**foreknowledge**"- then we might could argue that this is simply addressing God's *Omniscience* whereby God *knew beforehand* that godless men would murder Jesus. But people who buy into that would still maintain that God didn't do anything *sovereignly* to make sure that these evil people would do the evil that they did.

You see, most people look at the word “**foreknowledge**” and *wrongly* conclude that since the prefix “fore” means: *before*, and the word “knowledge” means: *to know*- that, therefore, the word “foreknowledge” means: *God knew before*.

But in actuality- the word “**foreknowledge**” has a far *deeper* and more *profound* meaning than God simply *knew* that something was going to happen before it actually happened. The word “**foreknowledge**” actually means: *God loved before*. So this is God “setting His Love” upon unworthy individuals- *before* they were ever born, *before* they did anything good or evil, and even *before* God created the world.

And *that* deeper and more *profound* definition was made abundantly clear when Peter added the phrase “**predetermined plan**” to what he said here. And by adding *that* phrase, we see that not only did God “know” that godless men were going to murder Jesus at some point in the future- but that God sovereignly made sure that they would.

And so we are then forced to say that the betrayal and torture and murder of Jesus was God’s Plan, it was His Will, it was His Delight, it was what God *wanted*. And then we have to further say that it was also what displayed His Sovereign Love. And Peter says here that this Plan to brutally torture and murder Jesus was “**predetermined**”- meaning that it was *ordained* and *determined* to occur *before* God ever made the world!

And so far we have found out several things. We have found out that evil godless men voluntarily choosing to torture and murder Jesus were:

- ✓ A wicked and evil sin
- ✓ Something by which God could judge them for committing
- ✓ God’s Will
- ✓ God’s Predetermined Plan
- ✓ God “setting His Love” upon individuals

Now we have to be careful here to include all that we know about God that is true. And so I want you to turn with me to read what James said about this from **James 1**:

James 1:13-16

13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

14 But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

15 Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.

Now as we use the Bible to interpret the Bible- lets us understand what James says here- read verse 13 again:

Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

So James was moved along by God the Holy Spirit to teach us three things in this verse:

1. Nobody is tempted (forced/coerced) by God to sin.
2. God *cannot* be tempted by evil.
3. God does not tempt anyone.

Because God is perfectly Holy and Righteous- He does not possess either the *inclination* or the *ability* to act or even think in any way that is contrary to His Own Perfect Character and Nature. So James doesn't say that God *does not* tempt people and that He Personally *is not* tempted by evil- but rather James says here that God *cannot* be tempted by any evil. He does not possess the *ability* or the *power* to be tempted by evil in any way- and *that* is why He does not tempt anyone.

Now read verse 14 again:

But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.

Here we see that when people are tempted to sin it is because satan has done two things:

1. Carried them away
2. Enticed them

And they are “**carried away**” and “**enticed**” by one very powerful thing:

by his own lust

You see, the Bible teaches that the lust or the desire to rebel against God and to do what is right in our own eyes- is *already resident inside* the nature of the lost and fallen person. So having an internal desire to rebel and sin against God is part and parcel to what it means to be lost and fallen. And so this internal lust is inherent in the depraved nature of *everyone* who is born of woman since the Fall.

So “temptation” is merely satan giving people an opportunity to do what they already want to do anyway. Satan *does not* and he *cannot force* people to sin. People sin because they *want to*. The Bible teaches that people sin because satan presents them with an opportunity to act out on their *own* internal lusts and evil desires that is resident in their depraved nature and fallen flesh, and they are “**carried away**” from the Truth of God and the Truth of His Word, and they are “**enticed**” at that moment to believe that sinning and rebelling against God is better for them than cheerful obedience.

And that fact makes human beings entirely *responsible* for the sins they commit. And they are entirely responsible because they are entirely guilty. And because they are entirely responsible and guilty- God is correct to damn them for their willful sin.

So James teaches here that the birth of sin is brought about by satan providing a “meeting” between our own internal lust and an opportunity to act out on that lust. And James calls that meeting- “**temptation**”. And so when lust is conceived- it brings forth sin, and when sin is accomplished- it brings forth eternal damnation.

So here James teaches us how godless people could *willfully* and *voluntarily* torture and murder Jesus- while all the while it was God’s predetermined Plan for them to do so. This gives us great insight into just how people can make choices all day long and yet God’s sovereignly controls the outcome. So we have to take this slowly:

- ✓ It was God’s Will for Jesus to die for the sins of God’s people.
- ✓ Godless men wanted to torture and kill Jesus anyway.

- ✓ Satan presented an opportunity for these godless men to act out on their internal desire to do Jesus harm.
- ✓ God didn't stop them- even though He could have.

Now we have studied at great length to understand that the Holy Scriptures declare that God is *Sovereign*. The Bible says that God is *absolutely* Sovereign, and that He is absolutely Sovereign over *everything*. And we have found out that God is absolutely Sovereign over everything- *all the time*. So there is nothing that operates *outside* of God's Sovereignty- and that includes satan and the desires of evil men. And there is no time in which God is not Sovereign.

Now the way in which this manifests His absolute Sovereignty is two-fold:

- ✓ God sovereignly and actively *causes* some things.
- ✓ God sovereignly and passively *allows* other things.

And the Bible teaches that God sovereignly and actively *causes* that which is Good. And so everything that is "good" and "lovely" and "correct" and "holy" and "righteous" *originates* from God and from God alone. And so the only reason why anybody ever does anything that is good or righteous is because God sovereignly and actively *caused* them to do it. God sovereignly and actively invaded their mind and heart and body, and empowered and enabled them to do the Good thing that they did. And because that is true- God receives all the Glory, all the Praise, and all the Honor for everything that is Good and Perfect.

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Now most people would agree with *this* part of God's Sovereignty. But God being absolutely Sovereign also means that God is in total and absolute control over everything that we would also call "evil" and "terrible" and "unjust" and "sinful". And *this* is a side to God's Sovereignty that most people do not understand at all.

But for God to be Sovereign at all- means by definition that God is Sovereign over *everything*- and not only over those things that are Good

and Perfect. But what is difficult for people to understand is how this Good and Holy God could be in charge of sinful and evil things- even the evil intentions and sinful desires and wicked actions of godless people.

Almost 600 years before Jesus was born- God moved upon the Prophet Isaiah to say:

Isaiah 45:5-7

5 "I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me;

6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other,

7 The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.

And that is why the Apostle Peter said:

The Acts 2:23

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.

.. and why Jesus said,

Luke 18:31b-33

31 ... all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished.

32 "For He will be handed over to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon,

33 and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and the third day He will rise again."

So, *how* does God *control* evil while still maintaining His Own Purity? How is God absolutely sovereign over evil and yet *never* forcing or coercing anyone to sin? How do we reconcile what Isaiah and Peter and Jesus says with what James says? By understanding Sovereignty to be manifested in two different ways:

- A. Actively
- B. Passively

For example- God sovereignly and actively *caused* the Universe to come into being. **Genesis 1:1** says

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

God *sovereignly* created everything- meaning that He created it all by Himself- without any help or assistance from anyone else. And He also *actively* created everything- which is why the Apostle John said:

John 1:3

All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

And the Bible teaches that everybody who is saved- is saved because God sovereignly and actively *caused* them to know and love and obey Him. Look at **Ezekiel 36:23-27**:

23 "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord," declares the Lord God, "when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.

24 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.

25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols.

26 "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

But then look what Solomon wrote in **Proverbs 16:4**:

The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.

So, in addition to sovereignly and actively *causing* Good and Perfect things to come to pass- God also sovereignly and passively

allows godless men to do what is in their hearts to do anyway. Now we must understand that God doesn't *make* them do these evil things- He doesn't *cause* evil actions to be manifested- but He also doesn't stop them- even though He could.

So why would this Good and Righteous God sovereignly and passively *allow* the evil that is already in people's hearts to be manifested on the earth? For only one reason: Because by allowing that evil- a greater Good comes forth.

So even though God *allows* godless people to do their wickedness- He always *limits* that wickedness to only that which will be in accord with His Will.

And even though there are several Biblical examples of this- I want to stick with the example that Luke gave us. Jesus said in **Luke 18:31-34** that it was His Father's Will for Him to go to Jerusalem and to be rejected and tortured and killed and then rise again on the third day.

And what we get out of all of this is several things:

- God is absolutely sovereign over everything –all the time
- Men are absolutely responsible for what they do and can and will be judged if they do not do the right thing

So men must act and yet God is sovereign, and God is sovereign and yet men are not robots. And this is a mystery and this is deep- in fact- the correlation between human choice and God's Sovereignty is probably the deepest water in the Bible. And yet the Bible teaches both and says that they do not contradict one another.

But it is a mystery- which is why Dr. Luke tells us in **Luke 18:34**:

But the disciples understood none of these things, and *the meaning of this statement was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.*

These men had waited their whole lives for the Messiah to appear and now that He is here- He is talking about dying! How could that be a good thing? They didn't understand. How could it possibly be God's Will for the sinless Lamb of God to be rejected by evil men? How would God ever receive glory for godless men to torture the Incarnate God?

How could God be magnified by dying? It just didn't make any sense to these men.

And I suggest that if we would have been there with them- it wouldn't have made any sense to us either. The only reason why this makes any sense to us today is because we have 27 inspired and inerrant Books to read and study that gives us insight into how God could be sovereign and Man can make choices that are evil, and God 's Will still is carried out. And we have 2,000 years of preaching and teaching that helps us sort it all out.

So what Good could possibly come forth as a result of God sovereignly and passively allowing the evil in the hearts of godless men to be manifested on Jesus? Nothing less than the magnification of the Glory of His Grace in saving unworthy sinners by Grace through Faith in the finished Work of Jesus Christ.

And so God allowed the evil that was already in their hearts to be carried out so that the Good that was in His Heart could be manifested to a thousand generations.

And so even though these evil men made a conscious decision to reject and torture and kill Jesus- God predetermined it all to be done- way before any of them was ever born- and God moved upon men who lived under the Old Covenant to prophesy that this would happen.

1,000 years before Jesus was ever born- King David was moved along by God the Holy Spirit to pen down **Psalm 22**- and I want you to please turn with to that Psalm- **Psalm 22:1-18**

1 My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

2 O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest.

3 Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

4 In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You delivered them.

5 To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted and were not disappointed.

6 But I am a worm and not a man, A reproach of men and despised by the people.

7 All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, saying,

8 "Commit *yourself* to the Lord; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him."

9 Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust *when* upon my mother's breasts.

10 Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb.

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 open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a 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 me.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.

17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me;

18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

Here we see a prophecy about Jesus being murdered by Crucifixion at least ten centuries before Jesus was born. And the details here are astounding. In this Psalm we find:

- ✓ The exact quote that Jesus made while He was dying (**Psalm 22:1**).
- ✓ The venomous rejection of Jesus by the people (**Psalm 22:7**).
- ✓ The mocking of Jesus by the people (**Psalm 22:8**).
- ✓ The Incarnation (**Psalm 22:9**).
- ✓ The eternality of Jesus (**Psalm 22:10**).
- ✓ The forsaking of Jesus by everyone (**Psalm 22:11**).
- ✓ A vague reference to Gentile Romans actually doing the murder (**Psalm 22:12**).
- ✓ More persecution and reviling (**Psalm 22:13**).
- ✓ A specific reference to the manner of death of Jesus (**Psalm 22:14&15**).
- ✓ A reference to Jesus' Crucifixion before crucifixion was invented (**Psalm 22:16**).

- ✓ A Prophecy showing that contrary to the custom- the soldiers did not break Jesus' legs (**Psalm 22:17**).
- ✓ A Prophecy about casting lots for Jesus' Garments (**Psalm 22:18**).

Now along about the same time that David wrote **Psalm 22**- he also wrote **Psalm 16**, and in that Psalm- the Holy Spirit spoke through him to say:

Psalms 16:8-11

8 I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely.

10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

11 You will make known to me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

And David also wrote **Psalm 110** that says:

Psalms 110:1

The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

And David himself had no idea what he was writing or what the Holy Spirit meant by what He had given him. And for 1,000 years- Jewish rabbis and scholars and doctors of the Law were completely baffled by what David meant in these Psalms. Nobody knew and nobody understood.

And after an entire millennia had gone by- with these verses still not being understood by anybody- an uneducated fisherman, named Peter, was endued with Power from on High, and this man walked out on the balcony of that Upper Room on that day, and I want you to turn with me to **The Acts 2**- and read what Peter proclaimed- without any notes- what David meant in those three Psalms when he said this in **The Acts 2: 22-39**:

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.

24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.

25 "For David says of Him, '*I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.*

26 '*THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;*

27 *BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.*

28 '*YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.*'

29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that *GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one IF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE,*

31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that *HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY.*

32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

33 "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear.

34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: '*THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,*

35 *UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET."*

36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ — this Jesus whom you crucified."

37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?"

38 Peter *said* to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

Peter was sovereignly given the ability here to fully understand and to put into context the prophecies of King David that neither David himself nor anyone since David had been able to figure out. And Peter said that all of these OT Prophecies came together in one single man- Jesus Christ.

Now one thing is crystal clear. This is very important to Dr. Luke and to Jesus. In fact- this is the great central fact of all human history- Jesus, the Son of Man, the exalted human, Divine God/Man, came- He was sent by God the Father- to give His Life as a Ransom for many.

You see, our sin had, as it were, kidnapped us and put us in a prison of our own making, far from God, in the chains of iniquity, under God's holy Wrath, and powerless to free ourselves. And one of the images the Bible uses for our liberation is ransom. And so for any sinner to be saved- a Ransom had to be paid.

And that's what is happening here as Jesus prophesies His Own Death and Resurrection. Evil and godless men make a conscious decision to torture and kill Him. And yet this was all God's idea! So they made a choice and yet it was the predetermined Plan of God that was prophesied about 1,000 years before Jesus was ever born!

So, even now- as Jesus speaks about His coming Death and Resurrection- He is in complete and total control over it all. And as He works His way down to Jerusalem to offer willingly Himself as the Scapegoat for our sins- Jesus shines as the Omnipotent Incarnate God!

And so the great mystery is that it was God's Will to magnify the Glory of His Grace by saving unworthy sinners by Grace alone through Faith alone in the finished Work of Christ alone. But in order for that to happen- Jesus had to die at the hands of godless men. And this is the God Who holds your eternal soul in His Hands.

It was the evil intention of godless men to reject Jesus and to torture Him and to kill Him all along. But it was God's Predetermined Plan to sovereignly and passively *allow* them to carry out the evil that was already in their hearts and not stop them. But only because by allowing this evil- a greater Good would come forth.

And that Greater Good was that three days later- God would raise Jesus from the dead and Salvation would be given to every single human being who would repent of their sins and trust in Jesus alone!

Amen. Let's pray.

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The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.