

My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?

– Matthew 27:46

This is a quotation from the first line of Psalm 22, a Psalm which is ascribed to Jesus Christ in particular by the author of the Book of Hebrews, who quotes from it several times.

Hebrews 4:14-16 [New King James] *“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Jesus Christ, to fulfil His office as the perfect high priest, had to experience everything that every human being could endure, including being cut off from God the Father, because of our sin.

Isaiah 59:2 [New King James] *“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”*

Although Jesus Christ had lived a perfect sin-free life, [**1 Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5**].

2 Corinthians 5:21 [New King James] *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

This had to include the personal experience of what it was like to be cut off from God the Father, something Jesus Christ had not experienced in His life up till this moment of anguish.

Matthew 26:36-39 [New King James] *“Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, ‘Sit here while I go and pray over there.’ And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’ He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, ‘O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.’”*

Was this being cut off from God the Father the “cup” that Jesus Christ wanted His Father to remove?

Hebrews 12:2 [New King James] *“looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

To die on the cross for the forgiveness of the sins of all humanity was something Jesus Christ did out of love for all humanity with an attitude of joy, [John 3:16-17].

Hebrews 5:7-9 [New King James] *“who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. **And having been perfected**, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,”*

Jesus Christ as God was always morally perfect, by obeying God the Father as a human Son of Man he demonstrated His perfection to all humanity, **not** to God the Father or to Himself.

In the Christian Bible, perfection usually means completeness or maturity; by sharing our experience of suffering, Jesus Christ shared our human experience completely.

Philippians 2:5-11 [New King James] *“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

This shows the humble, loving attitude of mind that our Saviour took on when in human form as part of His experience to be the Perfect High Priest.

Jesus Christ totally involved Himself in the human lot so is completely qualified to be our sympathising helper in times of extreme need.

Even if we feel like crying out, *“why have you forsaken me, God?”* Jesus Christ has *“been there”* and can remind us that it is **not** the end, for He has died and been resurrected that all humanity can also experience a resurrection to an even better life in the Kingdom of God.