



2. Predicting the Cross

I love basketball ... was co-captain of my league-winning high school team ... and played in college. I was good at not telegraphing a pass ... not telling my opponent where the ball was going by my eyes and body-language ... not predicting it. I even remember a behind-the-back bounce pass to a power forward driving the lane in a playoff game. Nobody knew ahead of time where I'd pass the ball. But you know ... the Bible telegraphed the crucifixion of Jesus in one of my favorite Psalms ... Psalm 22 ... written ~ 1,000 BC.

Originally the Psalms weren't numbered. They were known by their opening words. It's like your knowing Psalm 23 by its first words ... "*The Lord is My shepherd.*" In the same way, Psalm 22 starts with:

“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”

Jesus said that from the cross, *“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?”* That’s Matthew 27:46. It was as if Jesus was saying, *“Hey guys, I’m the one predicted in Psalm 22.”* When that Psalm was written, executions were by stoning ... not by nailing someone to a cross. But Psalm 22 says, *“They pierced my hands and my feet.”* Read that Psalm ... it’s amazing ... *brutal* but amazing. And read Matthew 27 starting at verse 33 ... they match. You’d think both chapters were written by the same author ... 1,000 years apart. Actually, they were ... they were both God-breathed ... just through different human writers.

The Old Testament’s telegraphing the crucifixion of Jesus is why we can know that He died for us. He was the predicted one ... executed for our sins. He shed His blood, took our place, was separated from the Father, gave His life ... for us ... so we could be right with God.

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