

Turn in your Bibles to **Psalm 22**.

- **Verses 1-2** -David is in serious distress. He feels like God has abandoned him! He cries out but there is no answer and he can't get any rest. We also know this was said by Jesus on the cross like in **Matthew 27:46**. So this has an obvious connection to David and to Jesus.
- **Verses 7-8** – David is being mocked by other people because he trusts in the Lord and they obviously don't. We also know this refers to Jesus being mocked when he is on trial in **Matthew 27:29-31** and when he is on the cross in **Matthew 27:38-44**. So, there is this connection between David and Jesus.
- **Verses 11-14** – David feels all alone. He is surrounded by others who are against him and has nobody to help him. We also know this refers to Jesus when he is being crucified because he is surrounded by those who are against him and even the thieves on the crosses next to him are mocking him in **Matthew 27:44**. So there is this connection between David and Jesus.
- **Verses 16-18** – David continues his description of all they are doing to him while he is alone. And this one is pretty clearly seen in Jesus with the pierced hands and feet of crucifixion and over in **Matthew 27:35**. So again there is this obvious connection between David and Jesus.
- BUT, what about **verse 6**? David says that he is a worm. Is Jesus a worm and not a man? We have seen all these other connections between David and Jesus, so wouldn't it be logical that this is one too?

The word that is used for worm here is the Hebrew word "towlah." This is specifically what is called the Crimson Worm. All the other worms in the OT are the Hebrew word "Shaniy" and are just maggots or normal worms. But "towlah" is the very worm that in the OT is used for making dye used in the crimson or scarlet thread of the priest's robes, or for Rahab's scarlet thread, or according to Jewish tradition, the scapegoat in **Leviticus** had a scarlet cord around its neck. So for a couple minutes I'd like to talk about part of the Crimson Worm's life cycle:

1. When the female worm is ready to give birth, it climbs onto a specific tree all by itself. Nobody forces the worm to get on it, but it willingly searches for an oak tree.
2. The worm knows that once they get on the tree they will not come back off of it. The female worm dies shortly after giving birth. So, the worm goes to the tree to birth a family and to do that, it must die.
3. Once the worm gets on the tree it attaches itself to the tree. It is firm and secure because the body of this worm will be a shelter for her young which will soon be born.
4. While this worm is giving birth, she makes a crimson liquid or gel and it covers her entire body and the eggs that she lays. It also leaves a stain on the tree which never goes away with the passing of time.
5. After dying for her family, the worm's body protects the offspring.
6. After three days if the worm hasn't been scraped off, the worm pulls its head and its tail together and looks like a heart on the tree. It is no longer crimson but it is now a wax that is very bright white, like snow. This wax is used as a preservative for wood.
7. When the worm is crushed up you may think it smells bad, but it is very fragrant and it smells sweet. It can also be used in medicine for heart regulation.

Are you seeing the connections to Jesus? Let's walk through the stages of the worm's life again:

1. Climbs Willingly on the Tree
  - This is exactly what Jesus did. Nobody forced Jesus to go to the cross. He did it by his own choice. **Matthew 26:49-53**. We sing this song every now and then and it is so powerful! Jesus says I don't need you to fight for me, I could ask for 10,000 angels and at once they would be here! But Jesus chose rather to go to the cross. Nobody forced him, but he climbed on the cross willingly.
2. Knows Death Will Come
  - In the same passage we just read, Jesus in **verse 50**, tells Judas . Jesus already knew! And he had told his apostles many times before that! **26:2 and 16:21-28**. Jesus knows that this means death for him! Remember when he prayed in Gethsemane and it says he was greatly grieved and distressed? We have to remember Jesus was human too and he went through this for us. Jesus knew he was about to face death.
3. Fastened to the Tree

- Jesus was fastened to the cross with nails but we know that is not what really held him there. He could have called 10,000 angels, he could have destroyed the world, and set himself free but he died alone for you and me. What actually fastened Jesus to the cross is love. "Greater love has no man than this, than he lay down his life for others," **John 15:13**, "God shows his own love toward us, that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us," **Romans 5:8**, "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life," **John 3:16**. Love held our Savior on that cross.
4. **Crimson Fluid Covers Children**
    - That crimson fluid is the blood of Christ that covers his children when we are baptized in his blood. **Matthew 26:28** says ". His blood is shed for forgiveness of sins, and we are baptized for the forgiveness of sin into his blood so we can share in his death, burial, and resurrection. **Romans 6:3-5**. We sing a song sometimes and the words are "what can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus." And later in the song it says, "O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow." Amen to that. The blood of Christ covers his children.
  5. **Death Protects the Children**
    - Christ's death accomplished many things for us: 1) Christ removes our sin and guilt. In **John 1:29**, John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." 2) Jesus removes God's wrath from us by becoming the propitiation for our sins - **Hebrews 2:17**. 3) We are no longer separated from God – **Romans 5**. 4) We have been redeemed, we have been bought by his blood – **Galatians 3:13-14**. 5) Jesus defeated all the powers of darkness – **Colossians 3:15**. 6) Christ did all of this as our substitute! He died for us and to protect us when he never sinned once. Christ died to protect his children.
  6. **After 3 Days, Used as Preservative**
    - After three days, Christ was brought back to life! The resurrection is the preservative of the Gospel, of the message of the cross. Without the Resurrection, everything we do would be pointless. **1 Corinthians 15:12-19**. Paul says that if Christ has not been raised then preaching is in vain, our faith is in vain, the apostles are false witnesses, the dead will never be raised, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, all who have already died have perished forever, and we are to be most pitied above all else. Without the Resurrection, without that empty tomb, everything we do is pointless but thanks be to God for the resurrection that preserves the Word and our faith.
  7. **Crushed Body used as Medicine**
    - Jesus' body is the medicine of our worst illness. That's the illness of our souls. He has the power to break the curse of sin and save our souls from destruction. **Hebrews 7:25**. Jesus is able to save those who draw near to him. Jesus is the healer who always intercedes for us. Praise be to Jesus who can heal us from the sickness of the soul and save us from our sins through his power and mercy.

I don't believe for one moment this is just a coincidence or a mistake that this worm here is in the Messianic Psalm and describes Jesus perfectly. But the question is, what do we do with this knowledge? How can we change who we are because of it? For application, we're only going to look at **Luke 9:23**.

1. **Deny Ourselves** – Jesus denied himself completely while he was on this earth. He willingly went to the cross of shame and willingly stayed there for us. Jesus is God and he denied all of his power and ability to save us! When we see how powerful that is why wouldn't we deny ourselves? The world tells us to "be who you are" or "you do you." And I say forget that, that's not what God wants. Forget "you do you" and do what God wants you to do. Denying ourselves involves giving up what we want and doing what God wants.
2. **Take Up Our Cross** – Jesus took the actual death on the cross for us and tells us to take up our cross daily. This doesn't mean we take our burdens up every day or the things we struggle with. Back then the cross only meant one thing. Death. So, what Jesus is saying is "Be willing to die for me, daily." I know that because in **verse 24** he says ". This idea is that no matter what I will serve the Lord every day.
3. **Follow Him** – We need to be like the apostles when Jesus called them. They were willing to drop everything they had, their family, their personalities, their livelihoods all to follow Jesus. We have just seen how Jesus has provided so much for us all while looking at a worm! Jesus has done so much for us, why wouldn't we follow?

Remember with this worm, the protection and benefits came only to her children, the same with Jesus.