

Sermon Title: **“FROM PAIN TO PRAISE!”**

Sermon Text: **Psalm 22**

Introduction:

GOOD MORNING TO ALL! WE THANK THE LORD FOR ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL SUNDAY MORNING THAT HE HAS GIVEN US. IF YOU ARE COMING FOR THE FIRSTTIME WE ARE NOW STUDYING THE BOOK OF PSALMS UNDER THE THEME “PONDERING THE PSALMS: FINDING MEANING & PURPOSE IN THE PANDEMIC!” FOR THOSE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE BOOK OF PSALMS, THIS BOOK IS ACTUALLY A BOOK OF PRAYERS & IT CONSISTS OF ALL KINDS OF PRAYERS – FROM ADORATION TO WORSHIP, FROM COMPLAINTS TO THANKSGIVING, FROM PRAISE TO LAMENT, & FROM CONFESSION TO PETITION OR SUPPLICATION. AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT THE TEMPLE WORSHIP, THESE PSALMS WERE ALSO USED AS PART OF THE WORSHIP CEREMONY IN THE TEMPLE.

TODAY, WE ARE GOING TO REFLECT ON A VERY IMPORTANT PSALM OR PRAYER OF DAVID, PSALM 22. IN FACT, IT IS THE MOST QUOTED PSALM AND OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT. FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW IT YET, IT IS THE PSALM THAT OUR LORD JESUS QUOTED IN ONE OF HIS MOST TRYING MOMENTS IN HIS EARTHLY LIFE WHEN HE WAS HANGING ON THE CROSS. LET US PRAY!

A. DAVID cries out IN HEART-WRENCHING pain OVER GOD'S SILENCE!

A HISTORICAL CHECK OF THIS PSALM WILL POINT US TO THE TIME WHEN DAVID WAS BEING HARASSED AND HUNTED DOWN BY KING SAUL AND HIS ARMY AS WELL AS OTHER EVIL MEN WHO HAVE INTEREST IN HIS DOWNFALL. REMEMBER THAT KING SAUL DUE TO INSECURITY AND JEALOUSY OF DAVID WAS TRYING TO KILL HIM THAT IT PERPLEXED DAVID TO THE MAX AND EVEN SAUL'S SON JONATHAN, BECAUSE DAVID HAD BEEN VERY GOOD TO SAUL AND HAD NO “SIN” WITH SAUL.

THIS SITUATION SEPARATED DAVID FROM HIS FAMILY, FROM HIS FRIENDS, AND HIS PEOPLE. HE HAS BECOME A FUGITIVE. PERHAPS, IN ONE OF THOSE TIMES WHEN HE WAS RUNNING AWAY

AND HIDING FROM SAUL AND HIS MEN THAT DAVID WROTE THIS HEARTBREAKING PRAYER. BUT WHAT WAS REALLY HURTING AND PAINFUL TO DAVID WAS THAT GOD WAS SILENT AND NOT ANSWERING HIS PRAYERS. NOTE THAT DAVID HAD EXPRESSED “FEELINGS/EMOTIONS OF ABANDONMENT.” LISTEN TO HIS PRAYER AGAIN:

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.”
(vv. 1-2)

DAVID WAS SAYING HERE THAT HE HAD BEEN PRAYING & CALLING TO THE LORD NIGHT & DAY. DAVID WAS NOT SILENT BUT THE LORD WAS NOT ANSWERING & IS THE ONE SILENT. SO, DAVID HERE FELT THIS INTENSE FEELINGS OF ABANDONMENT BY THE LORD!

B. DAVID COMFORTS HIMSELF BY RE-AFFIRMING GOD’S SOVEREIGN POWER!

But noticed the word “YET” in verse 3. David, in these next verses, after expressing his heart-wrenching pain, proceeds to remind himself that the Lord had not forgotten His covenant with him and his people. SPECIFICALLY, David reaffirmed WHO THE LORD IS AND WHAT HE DOES FOR HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE IN THE PAST.

“Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.” (vv. 3-5)

HE AFFIRMED SPECIFICALLY THAT THE LORD IS STILL SITTING IN HIS THRONE & STILL SOVEREIGNLY RULING THIS WORLD & STILL IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS INCLUDING WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW IN HIS LIFE. HE IS STILL THE SOVEREIGN & ALMIGHTY/ALL-POWERFUL GOD OF THE UNIVERSE! DAVID REMINDED HIMSELF OF THIS & HOW HIS FATHERS TRUSTED IN THE

LORD AND THEY CRIED OUT TO HIM AND HOW HE SAVED THEM EVERY TIME. THEY WERE NOT DISAPPOINTED.

DAVID ALSO REMINDED THE LORD THAT HE AS ONE OF PEOPLE IS NOW TRUSTING IN HIM TOO. IN FACT, HE TOLD THE LORD THAT HE WAS BEING DESPISED BY MEN BECAUSE HE TRUSTED IN HIM (SEE v.8).

*“But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: **“He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”** (vv. 6-8)*

C. DAVID **CALLS BACK** TO THE LORD HIS DIVINE **PLAN** FOR HIS LIFE!

IN VERSES 9-10, DAVID REMINDED THE LORD OF HIS DIVINE PLAN FOR HIS LIFE! IN HIS SPIRIT, DAVID KNEW THAT THE LORD HAS CALLED & PREPARED HIM FOR HIS PURPOSE. HIS PLAN IS NOT TO HARM BUT TO PROPER HIM & GIVE HIM A FUTURE & HOPE.

*“Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. **From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.**” (vv. 9-10)*

TAKE NOTE HERE THAT DAVID HAD A SENSE OF REVELATION FROM GOD THAT HIS LIFE HAD BEEN MARKED OUT BY HIM AND THAT THE LORD HAS A DIVINE PLAN FOR HIS LIFE. THIS IS NOT JUST AN ISOLATED CASE FOR DAVID FOR WE SEE THIS ALSO IN THE LIVES OF OTHER SERVANTS OF THE LORD LIKE JEREMIAH.

The word of the Lord came to me: “I chose you before I formed you in the womb; I set you apart before you were born. I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” (Jer. 1: 4-5)

BECAUSE OF THIS REVELATION, DAVID IS STEADFAST IN TRUSTING THAT HE WILL DO SOMETHING IN ORDER TO FULFILL THIS DIVINE PLAN. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE TEACHING OF THE REST OF THE BIBLE. THIS IS WHAT THE PROPHET JEREMIAH

DID WHEN THE PEOPLE WAS DOUBTING THE WORD OF THE LORD TO STAY IN EXILE IN A FOREIGN LAND FOR THE LORD WILL BRING THEM BACK TO THEIR FORMER LAND IF ONLY THEY WILL BELIEVE AND TRUST HIS WORD THROUGH JEREMIAH. JEREMIAH TOLD THEM THIS TRUTH:

This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my gracious promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." (Jer. 29:10-14)

THEREFORE, DAVID HERE IS REMINDING THE LORD OF HIS PROMISE THAT HE HAS A GOOD PLAN FOR HIS LIFE - NOT TO HARM BUT TO PROSPER & TO GIVE HIM A FUTURE & A HOPE! AND THAT HE IS TRUSTING IN HIM! SO, WITH THESE IN MIND, DAVID CALLS ON THE LORD TO DELIVER AND SAVE HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES...

D. DAVID CALLS ON THE LORD TO SAVE HIM FROM HIS ENEMIES' EVIL PLOT!

In vv. 11-21, David describes the difficult situation he was in and the enemies who were threatening and plotting evil against him. Allow me just to quote vv. 19-21 because these verses somehow give us the summary of the rest of vv. 11-18.

"But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen." (vv. 19-21)

TAKE NOTE OF THE METAPHORS OR PICTURES THAT DAVID USED TO DESCRIBE HIS ENEMIES. HE REFERRED TO THEM AS: (1) STRONG BULLS, [v. 12], (2) ROARING LIONS [vv. 13&21], (3)

POWERFUL DOGS [vv. 16&20], & (4) WILD OXENS [v. 21]. NOW, WE KNOW THAT STRONG BULLS OVERWHELM. ROARING LIONS PARALYZE. POWERFUL DOGS VENOMOUS BITE. WILD OXENS HARMS YOU WITH THEIR POINTED AND SHARP HORNS!

CHURCH/FRIENDS, THIS REMINDS US THAT AS BELIEVERS OF THE LORD, WE HAVE AN ENEMY AND WE COULD NOT AFFORD TO BE AT EASE AND RELAX! YOU CAN NOT AFFORD TO BE A FENCE SITTER. YOU EITHER FIGHT OR JOIN THEM!

REMEMBER THAT SATAN'S AIM/GOAL FOR YOU IS TO MAKE YOU AN UNFRUITFUL AND UNPRODUCTIVE BELIEVERS. THIS IS BECAUSE THE LORD HATES UNFRUITFULNESS. REMEMBER THE FIG TREE THAT HAS NO FRUIT, HE CURSED IT!

TAKE NOTE ALSO THE "NAME" & THE METAPHOR DAVID USED FOR THE LORD IN VERSE 19 – "LORD" & "STRENGTH"! "LORD" OR "YAHWEH" IS ACTUALLY THE TRANSLITERATED COVENANT NAME OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT "I AM." THIS NAME REFERS TO LORD AS THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR & LORD OF ALL!

THE METHAPOR "STRENGTH" TELLS US THAT DAVID KNOWS THAT THE LORD IS THE ONE WHO CAN GIVE HIM THE STRENGTH & POWER TO OVERCOME HIS STRONG & POWERFUL ENEMIES. IN OTHER WORDS, DAVID IS APPROPRIATING WHAT THE LORD CAN DO FOR HIS PARTICULAR SITUATION. DAVID IS SHOWING US HERE A VERY IMPORTANT INSIGHT/TRUTH. AS THE GREAT "I AM", THE LORD IS SUFFICIENT & IS ALL THAT WE NEED FOR OUR EVERY SITUATION IN LIFE. IF YOU ARE HUNGRY, HE IS THE BREAD IOF LIFE, HE IS JEHOVAH JIREH! IF YOUR LONELY OR DEPPRESSED, HE IS THE LIFTER OF YOUR HEAD! HIS NAME "I AM" MEANS – HE IS WHAT WE NEED FOR OUR EVERY NEED!

BY DOING THIS, DAVID KNEW THAT THE ONLY WAY TO WIN OVER SATAN AND HIS FORCES IS TO APPROPRIATE THE NAMES & PROMISES OF THE LORD TO HIS PEOPLE!

E. DAVID COMMITTS TO GIVE THE LORD UNENDING PRAISE!

FINALLY, DAVID RESOLVES TO GIVE THE LORD UNENDING PRAISE WHEN THE RIGHT TIME COMES!

“I WILL declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I WILL praise you. You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live forever!” (vv. 22-26)

OBSERVE THAT DAVID, LIKE JOB, DID NOT CURSE OR BLAME THE LORD FOR ALL THE TROUBLES THAT HE WAS IN. EVEN THOUGH HE OPENLY POURED OUT THE BITTERNESS OF HIS HEART TO GOD BUT HE REMAINED PERSISTENT IN BELIEVING AND TRUSTING THAT THE LORD IS GOOD AND FAITHFUL. HE STILL BELIEVES THE LORD WILL FULFILL WHAT HE PROMISED TO DO AND HE WILL DECLARES HIS PRAISE IN DUE TIME! FURTHERMORE, DAVID EXHORTS & ENCOURAGE THE LORD’S PEOPLE TO DO THE SAME IN THE SAME VERSES.

AND FINALLY, IN VERSES 27-31, DAVID ENDS HIS PSALM MAKING A PREDICTING THAT HIS DELIVERANCE FOR HIS ENEMIES WILL CAUSE ALL THE FAMILIES OR NATIONS OF EARTH TO BOW DOWN BEFORE THE LORD & HE WILL RULE OVER THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH. DAVID ALSO PREDICTS THAT A PEOPLE NOT YET BORN WILL DECLARE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LORD!

“All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs, to the LORD and he rules over the nations. All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn—for he has done it.” (vv. 27-31)

THEREFORE, WHAT WE SAW IN THIS PSALM OF DAVID THAT OPENED & STARTED IN HEART-WRENCHING PAIN & BITTERNESS OF SPIRIT ENDED IN ETERNAL PRAISE & GLADNESS OF HEART!

PRACTICAL APPLICATION:

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS PSALM?

(1) (1) SINCE THE LORD IS FAITHFUL & TRUSTWORTHY, WE CAN TURN OUR PAIN INTO PRAISE BY HONESTLY RELEASING OUR PAIN TO HIM THRU PRAYER & PERSISTENTLY RE-AFFIRMING OUR TRUST IN HIM & IN HIS WORD!

BY HINDSIGHT, WE KNOW THAT THIS PRAYER OF DAVID WAS EVENTUALLY ANSWERED BY THE LORD BY ELIMINATING HIS ENEMIES INCLUDING SAUL. WE KNOW THAT SAUL WAS THE GREATEST SOURCE OF DAVID'S SUFFERING & PAIN BUT WE SAW SAUL SUFFERING A TRAGIC DEATH AS WELL AS LOST THE KINGSHIP TO DAVID. DAVID SAW THE SOVEREIGN HAND OF THE LORD WORKING FOR HIM ALL BECAUSE HE CHOSE TO STEADFASTLY HOLD ON TO TRUST IN THE FAITHFULNESS OF THE LORD & HIS WORD. THEREFORE, DAVID THROUGH HONEST & PERSISTENT PRAYER & TRUSTING WAS ABLE TO TURN HIS PAIN INTO PRAISE!

THIS PSALM TEACHES US THAT PAIN IS PART & PARCEL OF OUR HUMANITY! BUT AS SEEN & SHOWN IN THE LIFE OF DAVID, BY GOD'S GRACE & HELP, WE TURN OUR PAIN INTO GAIN! WE CAN TURN OUR BLEEDING INTO A BLESSING! AND WE CAN WE TURN OUR CRUCIFIXION INTO CORONATION!

(2) THIS PSALM TEACHES US THE DEPTH OF THE LORD'S LOVE FOR HIS PEOPLE AS A MESSIANIC PSALM, IT FORETELLS THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO WILL BE OUR SAVIOR AND WILL BE THE KING OF KINGS & LORD OF LORDS!!

THIS PSALM IS NOT JUST A PRAYER OF DAVID BUT ALSO A PROPHECY! IT IS A MESSIANIC PSALM THAT PREDICTS THE HORRIBLE SUFFERINGS & DEATH THAT THE MESSIAH IS GOING TO SUFFER IN HANDS OF EVIL MEN IN ORDER TO SAVE GOD'S PEOPLE. IN FACT, THIS PSALM CONTAINS SEVERAL PREDICTIONS ABOUT

THE MESSIAH THAT WAS FULFILLED IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST'S SUFFERINGS & DEATH AT THE CROSS OR HIS CRUCIFIXION. LET'S LOOK AT SEVERAL OF THEM.

a. VERSE 1 – THESE WORDS IS ONE OF THE LAST SEVEN WORDS/STATEMENTS THAT THE LORD JESUS CRIED OUT & SPOKE BEFORE HE DIED AT THE CROSS.

*From noon until three in the afternoon, darkness came over the whole land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out with a loud voice, **"Elí, Elí, lemá sabachtháni?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"** (Matt. 27: 45-46)*

b) VERSE 7-8 – NOTICE THE HEDETAILS OF THIS VERSES ARE DIFFERENT ENOUGH FROM THE GOSPEL WRITERS THAT THERE IS NO REASON TO THINK THAT THEY JUST COPIED FROM THE PSALM. BUT TAKE NOTE STRIKING SIMILARITY OF THESE WORDS WITH THE ACCOUNT OF THE GOSPEL WRITERS.

***Those who passed by were yelling insults at him, shaking their heads,** and saying, "Ha! The one who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself by coming down from the cross!" In the same way, the chief priests with the scribes were mocking him among themselves and saying, "He saved others, but he cannot save himself! (Matt. 27: 39-43 & Mark 15: 29-32)*

c. VERSE 16 – DAVID HERE SAYS THAT DOGS SURROUNDED HIM & A BAND OF EVIL MEN PIERCED HIS HANDS & FEET. DOCTOR LUKE RECORDS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

"Though he was delivered up according to God's determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him." (Acts 2: 23)

d. VERSE 18 – HERE, DAVID TELLS US THAT HIS ENEMIES DIVIDED HIS CLOTHES by CASTING LOTS. TAKE NOTE THAT THIS TOOK PLACE ALSO DURING THE CRUCIFIXION AS RECORDED BY THE GOSPEL WRITERS.

*“After crucifying him, they divided his clothes by casting lots.”
(Matt. 27:35; Mark 15: 24; Lk. 23:34; Jn. 19:24)*

e. VERSES 14-15, 17, 29 – THESE VERSES ALLUDE TO THE PROCESS OF CRUCIFIXION EVEN THE DEATH & RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS – JESUS BEING THIRSTY, NOT MISSING A BONE IN HIS BODY.

f. VERSES 27-31 – THESE VERSES PREDICTS THAT THE SUFFERING & DELIVERANCE OF THE PSALMIST OR DAVID WILL LEAD TO THE BLESSINGS OF THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH! BUT IS THIS TRUE?
DID DAVID FULFILLED THIS PROPHECY OR HE WAS JUST “SEEING” & “PREDICTING” WHAT THE MESSIAH WILL DO FOR THE NATIONS?

I THINK HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE LORD JESUS WHOM WE KNOW DID BECAME THE MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN IN HISTORY. IN FACT, HE IS FOREVER ETCHEDED IN HISTORY FOR HE DIVIDES HISTORY & TIME INTO TWO SECTIONS – THE B.C. & THE A.D.

THEREFORE, THIS ONLY CONFIRMS THAT DAVID WAS PREDICTING WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LIFE OF THE COMING MESSIAH WHICH WAS FULFILLED IN THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST & THEN IN HIS SUFFERING & DEATH AT THE CROSS 2000 YEARS AGO! AND WE KNOW THAT THE MESSIAH, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST CAME NOT ONLY AS SAVIOR BUT ALSO TO BE THE KING OF KINGS & LORD & LORDS! AND THE LORD JESUS COMMISSIONED HIS PEOPLE, THE CHURCH, TO PROCLAIM HIS GOSPEL WHICH WILL OFFER TO THE NATIONS A RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM GOD THAT IS NOT BASED ON THE LAW BUT BASED ON FAITH IN JESUS AS GOD’S ANOINTED SAVIOR FOR HIS PEOPLE!

“These will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will conquer them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings. Those with him are called, chosen, and faithful.” (Rev. 17: 14)

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, first to the Jew, and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith

to faith, just as it is written: The righteous will live by faith."

(Rom. 1: 16-17)

This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Rom. 10: 9-10)

CHURCH/FRIENDS, IN THIS PSALM, WE SEE THE AWESOME LOVE OF THE FATHER FOR YOU & ME IN ABANDONING HIS SON NOT BECAUSE HE DOES NOT LOVE HIM, BUT BECAUSE HE WANTS HIM TO BE THE SIN OFFERING OR ATONEMENT OR COVERING FOR THE SINS OF HIS PEOPLE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE FATHER SENT JESUS HIS SON & BECAME A HUMAN BEING & EXPERIENCE ABANDONMENT OF THE FATHER & A HORRIBLE DEATH SO THAT YOU & I SINNERS COULD BECOME HIS SONS & DAUGHTERS!

THE LORD JESUS BECAME A SON OF MAN SO THAT YOU & I COULD BECOME SONS OF GOD!

PRAISE BE TO HIS NAME! BLESSED BE HIS NAME FOREVERMORE! HALLELUJAH!

CHALLENGE/CLOSING WORDS:

CHURCH/FRIENDS, ARE YOU EXPERIENCING A SENSE OF ABANDONMENT AS WELL AS FEELINGS OF PAIN OR ANGUISH TO DAY BECAUSE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW? THEN, AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THIS PSALM, THAT FEELINGS SHOULD NOT STOP US FROM COMING TO THE LORD, BUT ALL THE MORE WE BEING ENCOURAGED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO HONESTLY EXPRESS WHAT WE FEEL TODAY TO THE LORD! YES! OUR HEAVENLY FATHER WANTS US TO PRAY & TALK TO HIM!

KNOW ALSO THAT TODAY THE LORD IS REMINDING YOU OF WHO HE IS! THAT THE LORD IS THE SOVEREIGN & ALL POWERFUL GOD AND YET AWESOMELY GOOD & LOVING! IN FACT, WE HAVE SEEN THIS IN HIS GIFT TO US OF A SAVIOR IN JESUS. AND THAT HE WANTS YOU TO FULLY TRUST HIM & PERSIST IN TRUSTING HIM & HIS WORD! FOR AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE LIFE OF DAVID & THE

LORD JESUS, BY GOD'S GRACE & HELP, WE CAN TURN OUR EARTHLY PAINS INTO ETERNAL PRAISE! GLORY BE & PRAISE TO THE FATHER & THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! HALLELUJAH! AMEN!!!

CLOSING PRAYER:

“OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU FOR REMINDING US THAT PAIN IS PART & PARCEL OF OUR LIFE HERE ON EARTH AND THAT YOU ARE OUR SOVEREIGN & POWERFUL GOD WHO IS STILL IN CONTROL OF ALL THINGS IN THIS WORLD. THANK YOU ALSO FOR YOUR SERVANT DAVID WHOSE LIFE DEMONSTRATED TO US THAT BY YOUR GRACE & HELP, WE CAN TURN OUR PERSONAL PAIN INTO UNENDING PRAISE THROUGH HONEST PRAYING & PERSISTENT TRUSTING IN YOUR GOOD PLAN & PURPOSE FOR OUR LIFE!

“FATHER GOD, TEACH US TO TRUST YOU LIKE DAVID DID. INCREASE OUR FAITH & CONFIDENCE IN YOUR PRESENCE & POWER IN OUR LIFE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF CHAOS & CRISIS. LORD GOD, TEACH US TO BE OPEN, HONEST, & PERSISTENT IN OUR PRAYING EVEN THOUGH WE FEEL YOU ARE SILENT & NOT ANSWERING US. MAKE US ALSO TO BE PERSISTENT IN OUR TRUST IN YOU. THAT NO CRISIS & TROUBLE SHOULD STOP US FROM TRUSTING YOU & YOUR PROMISE.

BUT MOST OF ALL, FATHER GOD, THANK YOU FOR SHOWING US TODAY HOW MUCH YOU LOVED US, HOW DEEP & WIDE IS YOUR LOVE FOR US YOUR PEOPLE BY SENDING US THE MESSIAH EVEN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! FATHER GOD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR ETERNAL LOVE & FOR YOUR UNDESERVED GRACE THAT YOU POURED OUT INTO OUR LIVES THROUGH JESUS. FATHER, WE PRAISE & WORSHIP YOU & GIVE YOU ALL THE HONOR & GLORY!

FATHER GOD, MAY YOU CONTINUE TO MOLD US TO BE HUMBLE & GRATEFUL PEOPLE BEFORE YOU! TO LIVE LIVES THAT ARE PLEASING & GLORIFYING BEFORE YOU DECLARING & PROCLAIMING THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF THE LORD THROUGH THE GOSPEL OR GOOD NEWS. INDEED, USE US MIGHTILY TO SHARE YOUR LOVE & GRACE TO OTHERS! TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION IN CHRIST & THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE OFFERS TO ALL WHO WILL BELIEVE. THIS WE PRAY IN JESUS' NAME. AMEN!”