

The Seventh Collective

Where Were You? · Week 2 of 4

My God, My God

Henry Johnson · August 29, 2026 · NASB 1995

KEY VERSE

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

Psalm 22:1 (NASB 1995)

SETTING THE SCENE

Last week Psalm 10 asked *where is God?* — the question of someone who cannot locate the God who is supposed to care. This week the question shifts. Psalm 22 does not ask where God is. It addresses Him directly and asks *why* — which is a more intimate and more painful question. You do not ask *why have you forsaken me?* of someone you never expected anything from.

Congregational readings: Deuteronomy 31:6 · Romans 8:35–39

THE BIG IDEA

The cry of forsakenness addressed directly to God is not a failure of faith. It is faith — argued, honest, covenantal faith that takes God's own character and record seriously enough to hold them against the present silence. Lament is not venting. It measures the present darkness against the character of God and the future of His redemption, and presses forward. The cry is the faith.

MY NOTES

Use this space however is most helpful — jot words, questions, anything that lands.

THE FOUR P'S — YOUR RESPONSE GUIDE

P POINT

Write it in one sentence — in your own words.

What is the main lesson from this passage?

P PERSON

Look for something about His character, heart, or action you might have missed.

What does this passage show us about Jesus or God that we may not have noticed before?

P PRAYER

Write a one-line prayer response to what you've heard.

What prayer rises from this text?

P PRACTICE

Be concrete. Not "be better" — what action, when, with whom?

What is one specific thing you will do differently this week?

GOING DEEPER — DISCUSSION & REFLECTION

■ HEAD

What is the difference between lament and venting? Where do you see that distinction in the structure of Psalm 22 — the "yet" of verse 3, the rehearsal of covenant history, the volitional turn at verse 19?

■ HEART

David's argument is: the ancestors cried and were not disappointed — You owe me consistency with Yourself. Where in your own life have you held God's past faithfulness against His present silence?

■ HANDS

Jesus prays this psalm from the cross — not as a detached exercise, but as a man in the worst moment of history, shaped by words He knows. What does it change about your suffering to know He has been inside this psalm before you?

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