

ELOI, ELOI, LAMA SABACTHANI
(Subtitle-“My God, my God. Why have you forsaken me?)
Text-Psalm 22 (Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34)

| QUESTION | MY ANSWER |
|--|-----------|
| Who is the speaker in the New Testament verses? | |
| What’s the condition and situation of this speaker? | |
| Who is the speaker in the Old Testament verses? | |
| What’s the condition and likely situation of this speaker? | |
| What do Christians think these New Testament verses mean? | |
| What do Jews think Psalm 22 means? | |
| What do Messianic Jews <i>know</i> that these set of verses mean? | |
| How should this understanding shape my knowledge of Jesus and the cross? | |

DISCOVERY

- The Bible, as faith literature, isn't as clear to modern day readers
 - ✓ Gen 3: 14
 - ✓ Isa 7:14
 - ✓ Isa 61: 1-2
- The ancient civilizations valued oral histories and memorization. Although the Jews were literate, many people groups were not.
 - ✓ Consider Native American chroniclers
 - ✓ Consider the "weaving together" the family history of Alex Haley
- There were "hooks" for the listener to more easily "connect the dots"
 - ✓ Allegory
 - ✓ Rhyming
 - ✓ Alphabetization
 - ✓ "Wading into a passage"-especially a lengthy or involved one
- Let's explore one of these key "hooks"
 - ✓ The REMEZ (Hebrew term meaning "hint", "hidden, deeper message", "a treasure found beneath the surface or behind the words")
 - Jesus uses this tool quite often in his ministry. (Luke 4 with the adversary and in His hometown)
 - This occurs when Jesus begins referencing a scripture passage but does not recite the WHOLE passage
 - Unlike modern day Christians, Jesus' listeners and followers mostly knew to what he was referring
 - It's like using the phrase "I know an old lady who swallowed a fly..." or "This is land is your land. This land is my land..." or even "Yankee Doodle came to town a riding on a pony..."
 - And because Jesus quoted from ALL the Old Testament books, that is an additional endorsement for them being included in the Bible cannon
 - Jews, especially the modern day Hasidim, are very familiar with this term and application because they are still required to memorize many passages of Scripture
- So how does this relate to the utterance at the top of the page?
 - ✓ This is NOT a disconnect from Yahweh God, especially because HE orchestrated this situation from before the creation of the world. He knew what was coming and, unlike Jesus the man, He experienced this the Almighty, creator and maker of all things-(Psalm 22: 24)
 - ✓ Some significance for David-dying at a young age was considered a type of "god forsakenness"
 - ✓ Verse 6 states "I am a worm and no man" This particular worm, mostly in Israel, yields a scarlet, crimson {the color of blood} dye for cloths. The female of this worm attaches herself to a tree (to lay eggs), forms an attachment that would kill the worm if detached, then forms a hard shell over herself and her eggs. The newborn worms feed on the mother's living body and are crimson colored/stained for their life.
 - ✓ The dyed wool was used in the High Priest's robes.
 - ✓ Jesus became a lowly worm for our sake
 - ✓ There's a promise of hope even given the dire conditions
 - ✓ So, the more important component of this utterance has to do with Jesus becoming like the referenced worm

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| Who is the speaker in the New Testament verses? | Jesus |
| What’s the condition and situation of this speaker? | Jesu being crucified. One his last 7 statements from the cross |
| Who is the speaker in the Old Testament verses? | David/later to become King David |
| What’s the condition and likely situation of this speaker? | Being persecuted, hunted by King Saul. Hungry, afraid, stressed, miserable, on the run. |
| What do Christians think these New Testament verses mean? | Yahweh God “turned his back on” Jesus. Yahweh cannot countenance sin. The only time in history that Jesus and Yahweh have been separated. Deep sorrow (from Jesus) resulted because of this. |
| What do Jews think Psalm 22 means? | David, eventually to be King David, experiences great hardships being declared an enemy/target of King Saul. |
| What do Messianic Jews <i>know</i> that these set of verses mean? | This a REMEZ reference. There is a deeper, hidden meaning within. A “buried treasure” for the listener. Typically NOT the beginning of a passage but some item contained within the body of scripture. |
| How should this understanding shape my knowledge of Jesus and the cross? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like the worm’s attachment, the nails did not hold Jesus. It was His desire • Like the worm’s attachment is a design of nature, Jesus crucifixion was Yahweh’s plan and design (from before man’s beginning) • Like the crushed worm excretes a crimson dye that marks her offspring, Jesus blood washes our sins and marks us as His offspring • Like the baby worm is dependent on the mother for life and sustenance, so should Jesus offspring be dependent on Him for life and daily living |