



## — “My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?” —

I'll bet lots and lots of believers are still pondering the question Jesus asked just before He died. We'd like to find a definitive answer, too. More than a half-hour of one of our large conference-styled Bible discussions was consumed by our wrestling with it. The participants collectively offered an array of possible answers, including these—

1. Both Jesus' perception of The Father's abandonment and the abandonment were real...and a legally necessary part of the atonement sacrifice for our sins.
2. Only Jesus' perception of The Father's abandonment was real; i.e.: The Father hadn't "really" abandoned Him, but His sacrifice necessarily included that agonizing perception.
3. That was Jesus' final attempt to confirm that His inevitable sacrifice was not limited to extreme physical pain, but the excruciatingly raw emotional pain that one might experience when one's very best friend has clearly joined "the crowd" in abandoning him.
4. By QUOTING His widely-acclaimed human ancestor, David, Jesus fulfilled another Old Testament prophecy about Him. It was His final pre-resurrection proclamation to confirm His unique identity: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why [art] thou so far from helping me, [and from] the words of my roaring?" —Psalm 22:1

Because that conference was on a Saturday morning and many of us started feeling hunger around mid-day, we never settled on just one answer. For each of us, though, the curiosity wheels continued to churn...and they're still churning, without resolution, today. You may find that to be reminiscent of something that Jesus' famous ancestor treasured...meditation.



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