

righteousness to a people that shall be born", a new people, the Christians, recruited from Jews and Gentiles, Romans and Greeks; a new people to be born is to hear the word of what Christ has done on Calvary's cross. This wonderful description of the crucifixion of Christ and the glory that shall follow. You remember how Christ said in Luke 24:44, "Oh, fools and slow of heart to believe all the prophets have written! Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into his glory?" You should have understood this 22nd Psalm and these others, with their wonderful organic prediction of the progress of Christ's kingdom as Christ died on Calvary's cross and was resurrected from the dead in order that we might be saved and that our justification might be made evident through His resurrection.

But in this Psalm there is one verse which is an inorganic, or incidental, prediction, and that is verse 18: "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture". How did it increase the suffering of Christ to see those paltry garments divided off among the soldiers and to see there is one on which they are casting lots because they don't want to tear it up? How did that increase His suffering? How did that help our justification? How does it increase the efficacy of the death of Christ? This is inorganic, it is incidental, just a little thing that happens and that is all. The rest of it you might say might happen at most any crucifixion, but there is a specific thing that happened at this one particular crucifixion, a little incidental fact mentioned, as if to say "This is the one that is predicted" - - "I the Lord am describing even this little detail far in advance as a sign and a seal that I have predicted, that God has declared it, that it has come to pass exactly as God said". A little incidental prediction to enable us to see with certainty that it is not accident, and that is not our wonderful knowledge of that which is necessary for the progress of God's kingdom, but that God is doing it and His hand is in it.