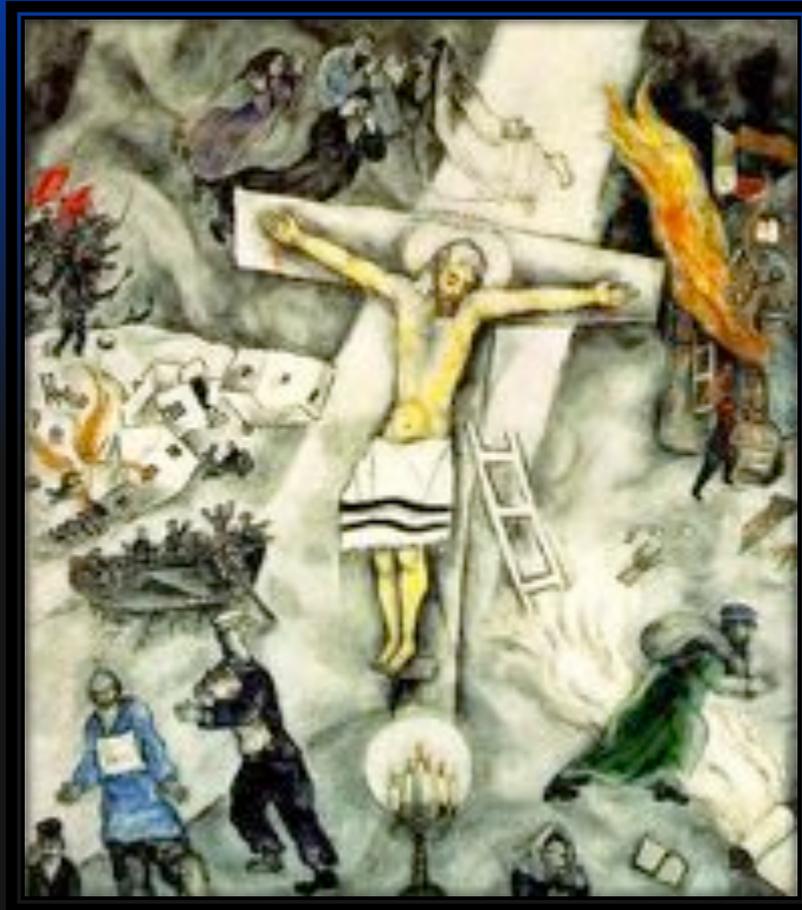


# Psalm 22



*Marc Chagall White Crucifixion 1938*

Translation and Outline taken from Dr. Bruce Waltke  
Bruce K. Waltke and James M. Houston, *The Psalms as Christian Worship, A  
Historical Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2010), 396-413.

# I. Translation: Dr. Bruce K. Waltke

A psalm by David

**1** My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why are you so far from saving me,  
from the words of my roaring?

**2** My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,  
by night, and am not silent.

**3** Yet you are the Holy One;  
the One enthroned on the praises of Israel.

**4** In you our fathers put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.

**5** To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

- 6 But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mortals and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me mock me;  
they split open their lips; they shake their heads:
- 8 “Commit [yourself] to *I AM*; let *I AM* rescue him.  
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”
- 9 Yet you are the one who brought me out of the womb;  
the one who caused me to trust at my mother's breast.
- 10 From the womb I was cast upon you;  
from my mother's belly you are my God.

## Psalm 22

- 11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near;  
surely there is none to help.
- 12 Many bulls surround me;  
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
- 13 Lions, tearing their prey and roaring,  
open their mouths wide against me.
- 14 I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.  
My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted away within me.
- 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue is made to stick to the roof of my mouth;  
and you lay me in the dust of death.

## Psalm 22

- 16** Surely, dogs surround me,  
a band of evil men encircle me;  
they bore holes my hands and my feet.
- 17** I can count all my bones;  
people stare; they gloat over me.
- 18** They distribute my garments among them,  
and cast lots for my clothing.
- 19** But you, *I AM*, do not be far off;  
my Help, come quickly to help me.
- 20** Deliver my life from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dogs.
- 21** Save me from the mouth of the lions;  
answer me from the horns of the wild oxen.

# Psalm 22

- 22** I will declare your name to my brothers;  
in the congregation I will praise you.
- 23** You who fear *I AM*, praise him!  
All you seed of Jacob, honor him!  
Revere him, all you seed of Israel!
- 24** For he has not despised  
or abhorred the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him,  
but when he cried to him for help, listened.
- 25** From you comes my act of praising you in the great assembly;  
I will fulfill my vows before those who fear you.
- 26** Let the poor eat and be sated;  
let those who seek *I AM* praise him—  
Let your hearts live forever!

# Psalm 22

- 27** All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to I AM,  
and all the clans of the nations will bow down before you.
- 28** for dominion belongs to I AM  
as ruler over the nations.
- 29** Surely to him all the rich of the earth will bow down,  
before him all who go down to the dust will kneel,  
those who did not preserve their lives.
- 30** Their seed will serve him;  
it will be told to their generations about the Lord of all.
- 31** They will come and proclaim his righteousness;  
to a people yet unborn [they will say]: “Surely, he has acted.”

## II. Form, Structure & Message

Psalm 22 contains the typical motifs of a petition psalm:

- direct address (v. 1a, 19a)
- complaint/lament (vv. 1b-2, 6-8, 11a-18)
- confidence (vv. 3-5, 9-10)
- petition (vv. 11b, 19-21)
- praise (vv. 22-31)

# Outline

- I. Complaint and Confidence 1-10
  - A. First Strophe: 1-5
    - 1. **Complaint:** Abandoned by God 1-2
    - 2. **Confidence:** God's covenant fidelity with fathers 3-5
  - B. Second Strophe: 6-10
    - 1. **Complaint:** Abandoned by people 6-8
    - 2. **Confidence:** God chose psalmist for covenant fidelity 9-10

# Outline

<b>II. Lament and Petition in a beastly world</b>	<b>11-21</b>
Transition:	11
<b>A. Lament</b>	<b>12-18</b>
1. First unit: zoomorphic enemies and self	12-15
a. Enemy lament: bulls and lions	12-13
b. Personal lament: bones, heart, tongue	14-15
2. Second unit: zoomorphic enemies and self	16-18
a. Enemy lament: dogs	16
b. Personal lament: bones and garments	17-18
<b>B. Petition</b>	<b>19-21</b>
a. Be not far off	19
b. Deliver from sword, dogs, lion and oxen	20-21

<b>III. Psalmist's Praise</b>	<b>22-31</b>
<b>A. Let Covenant Community Praise / AM</b>	<b>22-26</b>
1. First unit: word of praise	22-24
a. Psalmist's praise and Israel called to praise	22-23
b. Cause for praise: God answered prayer	24
2. Second unit: sacrifice of praise	25-26
a. Psalmist pays vows	25
b. Let afflicted eat	26
<b>B. Nations will Praise / AM forever</b>	<b>27-31</b>
1. First unit	27-28
a. Promise of spatial universal praise	27
b. Cause for praise: / AM rules	28
2. Second unit	29-31
a. Promise of social praise	29-30
b. Cause for praise: / AM does right	31

## II. Form, Structure & Message

- The psalm consists of **three stanzas of ten verses** each: 1-10, 12-21, 22-31, moving from torment to turmoil to triumph.
- The first and last stanzas consist of two strophes of five verses each: vv. 1-5, 6-10; vv. 22-26, 27-31.
- Stanza II also consists of two strophes: lament of seven verses (vv. 12-18) and petition of three verses (vv. 19-21), each number representing **completeness**.
- Although this analysis obscures the psalmist's anguish and the fervency, its **symmetry reveals his spiritual composure**, even as he imagines himself enduring a cruel and unjust death.

## II. Form, Structure & Message

- The song's essential message is summarized in verse 24. In a word, in spite of God's awful delay in answering prayer, he answers and upholds ultimate **justice**.
- The murderers testify that the psalmist trusts God and is blameless but mock his faith.
- Nevertheless, the psalmist emerges on the other side of death praising God for hearing his prayer and rescuing him.
- His gospel message is so wonderful that eventually it reaches the **ends of the earth**, and all the world joins together in the worship of *I AM* forever.

# First Strophe:

## Complaint: Abandoned by God

A psalm by David

1 My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?

Why are you so far from saving me,  
from the words of my roaring?

2 My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,  
by night, and am not silent.



# First Strophe:

## God's covenant fidelity with fathers

- 3** Yet you are the Holy One;  
the **One enthroned on the praises of Israel.**
- 4** In you our fathers put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.
- 5** To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.



# First Strophe:

## God's covenant fidelity with fathers

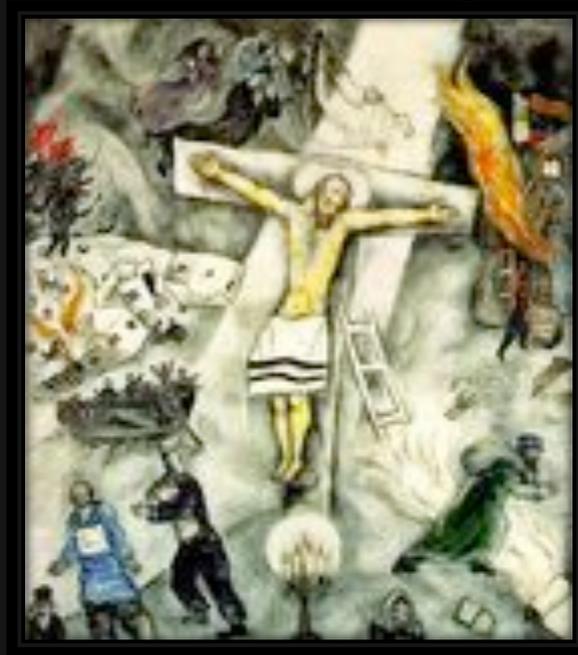
- 3** Yet you are the Holy One;  
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- 4** In you our fathers put their trust;  
they trusted and you delivered them.
- 5** To you they cried out and were saved;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Strophe:

### Abandoned by the People

- 6 But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mortals and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me mock me;  
they split open their lips; they shake their heads:
- 8 “Commit [yourself] to I AM; let I AM rescue him.  
Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”



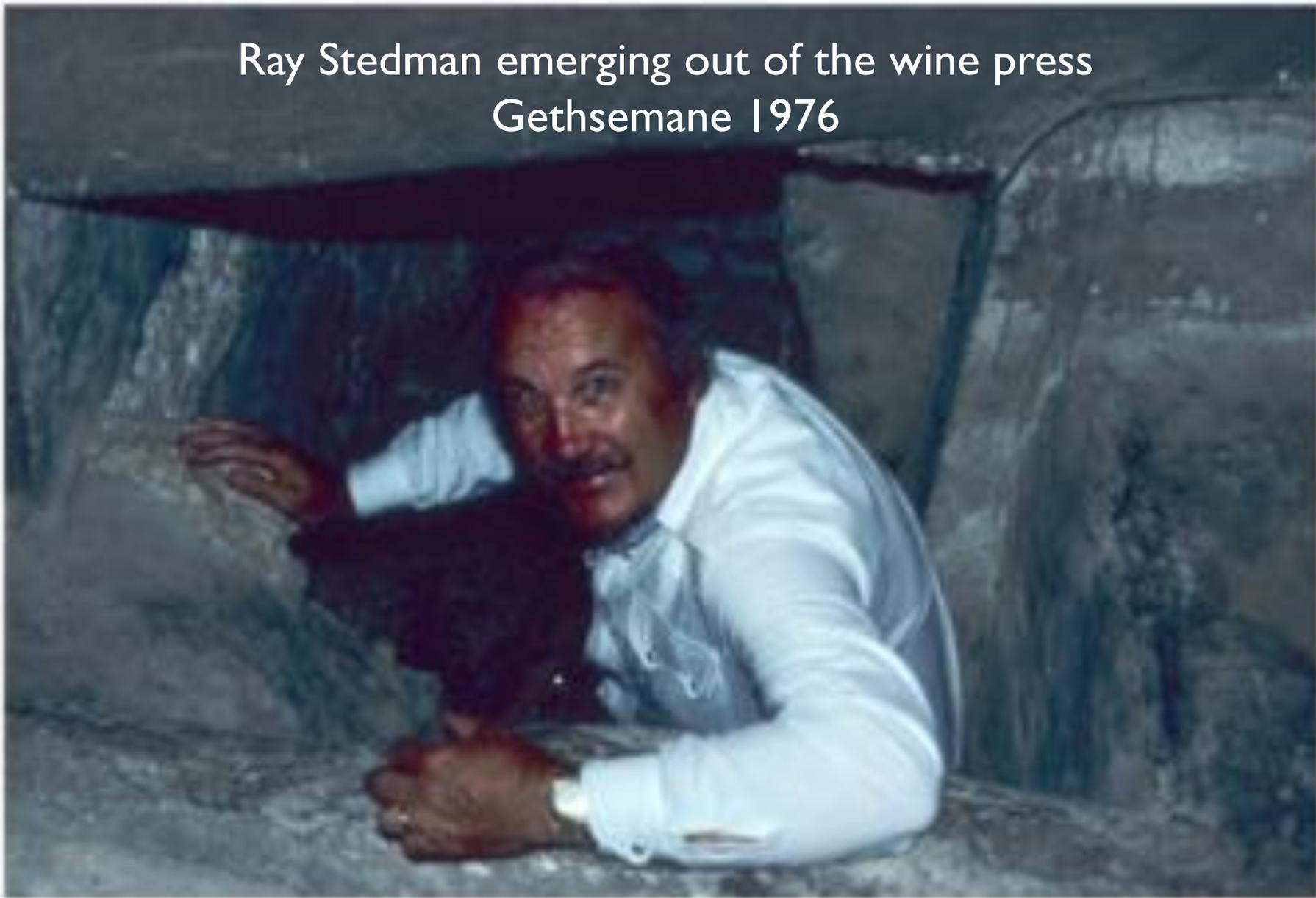
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Strophe:

### God chose him for covenant fidelity

- 9 Yet you are the one who brought me out of the womb;  
the one who caused me to trust at my mother's breast.
- 10 From the womb I was cast upon you;  
from my mother's belly you are my God.
- 11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near;  
surely there is none to help.



Ray Stedman emerging out of the wine press  
Gethsemane 1976



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stanza – Lament and Petition

### A beastly world

#### The Beasts:

- 12** Many bulls surround me;  
strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
- 13** Lions, tearing their prey and roaring,  
open their mouths wide against me.

#### Personal Impact:

- 14** I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.  
My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted away within me.
- 15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue is made to stick to the roof of my mouth;  
and you lay me in the dust of death.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stanza – Lament and Petition

### A beastly world

#### The Beasts:

**16** Surely, dogs surround me,  
a band of evil men encircle me;  
they bore holes my hands and my feet.

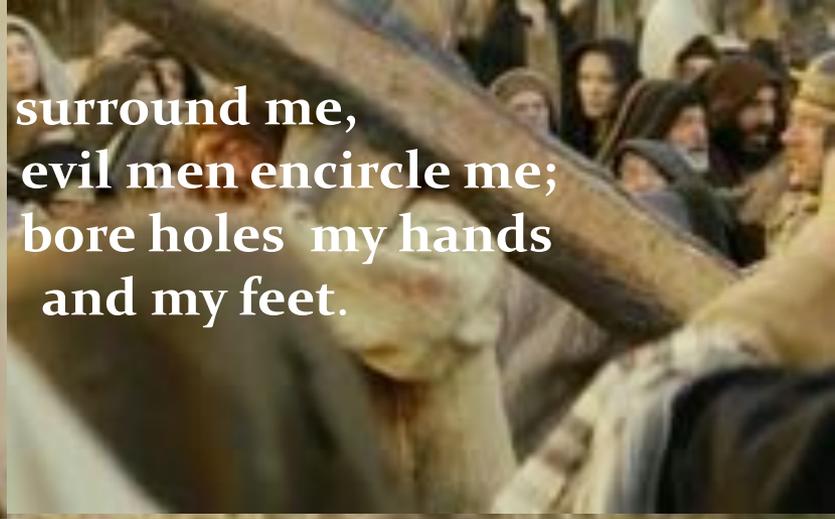
#### Personal Impact:

**17** I can count all my bones;  
people stare; they gloat over me.

**18** They distribute my garments among them,  
and cast lots for my clothing.



Surely, dogs  
a band of  
they



surround me,  
evil men encircle me;  
bore holes my hands  
and my feet.





Lithostrotos





# Our Response

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Zech 12:10

# Our Response

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Zech 12:10

On that day there shall be a fountain opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and uncleanness.

Zech 13:1

## Vow and Call to Praise to Covenant Community

- 22** I will declare your name to my brothers;  
in the congregation I will praise you.
- 23** You who fear *I AM*, praise him!  
All you seed of Jacob, honor him!  
Revere him, all you seed of Israel!
- 24** For he has not despised  
or abhorred the suffering of the afflicted one;  
he has not hidden his face from him,  
but when he cried to him for help, listened.
- 25** From you comes my act of praising you in the great assembly;  
I will fulfill my vows before those who fear you.
- 26** Let the poor eat and be sated;  
let those who seek *I AM* praise him—  
Let your hearts live forever!

# Nations will Praise I AM Forever

- 27** All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,  
and all the clans of the nations will bow down before you.
- 28** for dominion belongs to I AM  
as ruler over the nations.
- 29** Surely to him all the rich of the earth will bow down,  
before him all who go down to the dust will kneel,  
those who did not preserve their lives.
- 30** Their seed will serve him;  
it will be told to their generations about the Lord of all.
- 31** They will come and proclaim his righteousness;  
to a people yet unborn [they will say]: “Surely, he has acted.”



## IV. Canonical Context

- In the light of the canon, Franz Delitzsch classified Psalm 22 as **typico-prophetic**.
- As a **type**, innocent David's suffering at the hands of the likes of Saul and God's deliverance of him is a divinely intended type of the antitype: the passion and glorification of Christ. David's rare failure to call for redress against his enemies matches the prayer of Christ.
- As a **prophecy**, David uses the language of his culture (e.g., his offering of an animal sacrifice in the liturgy), but he expresses his passions and glorification in terms that find unique fulfillment in Christ's death and resurrection.

## IV. Canonical Context

The Lord Jesus took this psalm upon his lips as his first words on the cross (Matt. 27:46), and the gospel writers, especially Matthew and John, frequently allude to this psalm in their accounts of Christ's passion:

- the casting lots for his garments (v. 19; Mark 15:24; 19:23-24)
- the parching thirst (v. 16; John 19:28-29)
- the agony of the stretched bones (v. 15)
- the digging holes into the hands and feet (v. 17; John 20:27)
- the mocking of his enemies (v. 9; Matt 27:43; Luke 23:35)

## IV. Canonical Context

- David prayed to be delivered from the experience of death; Christ prayed to be delivered from real death.
- The vision of universal salvation is fulfilled uniquely in the Church.
- No psalm is alluded to more frequently in the New Testament.
- Significantly, this psalm is not handed over in a postscript to the chief musician for all God's people to sing; it is no ordinary lament – ex. the casting lots for his garments

# Sacred Sobbing

Lynn Gibson

Sobbing

Lots.

Lately.

Not tearing up;

Not crying.

Weeping.

Deep swells of emotion,

From soul into the stratosphere.

It is good.

It is very good.

# Sacred Sobbing

Head down, cupping cheeks, shoulders shaking,  
Heart declaring emotion.

Wet water flowing from eyes that see;  
Finally see.

Whole self ushered into an orchestra of song:  
Song of sobbing.

Sobbing for reasons of celebration.

Surrounded by a realm of ministering angels.

Weeping where God is near.

Where God hears.

Transcendence.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Stanza – Lament and Petition

### A beastly world

- 19** But you, *I AM*, do not be far off;  
my Help, come quickly to help me.
- 20** Deliver my life from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dogs.
- 21** Save me from the mouth of the lions;  
answer me from the horns of the wild oxen.

"It is finished!"



*Marc Chagall White Crucifixion 1938*