

PSALM 22

My God my God, O where have You gone? For Your deliverance, I rumble and moan.

- 2 O God I call, but no day do You heed; at night I cry, I can't rest or sleep.
- 3 For You Lord are holy, in all things; You sit in praise, where Israel ever sings.
- 4 Our fathers put their trust, before Your face; confident You, caused them all to escape.
- 5 They called to You, and they were all saved; trusted in You, and were never ashamed.
- 6 But I am a grub, and have no human kin; a shame unto Adam, despised by all men.
- 7 For all who see me, mutter words for my sake; stick out their lips, and make their heads to shake.
- 8 They say "He trusted, in the Lord to save. As His delight, now let him escape!"
- 9 For You caused me, to gush forth from the womb; kept me while nursing, in my mother's room.
- 10 Thrown on Your mercy, from that very day; since forth from my mother's, womb I then came.
- 11 Go not far from me, when trouble is near; for no other one, protects me from my fear.
- 12 Those strong and wild, surround me each day; like Bashan's bulls, beset every way.
- 13 They bite at me, open their mouths to tear; pluck as a lion, roars in his lair.
- 14 Poured forth as water, all my bones they rack; my heart within me, flows as melted wax.
- 15 My vigor's a dried pot, tongue to my jaws set; broken and distraught, to the dust of death.
- 16 Now curs are all round me, the spoilers all strike; my hands and feet driven, deep down with a spike.
- 17 For every bone, I can enumerate; I'm scanned by the cruel, watched by all who hate.
- 18 They sep'rate my clothes, a booty of despair; throwing lots to win, the garments I wear.
- 19 Be not far away, O Lord I pray; hurry unto me, with power and aid.
- 20 Snatch my soul away, from their deadly swords; Your precious one, from the power of the dogs.
- 21 Rescue me from, the lion's mouth's scorn; hear me from the, wild bulls' piercing horns.
- 22 I will make known, Your name to my kin; within the assembly, my praise will begin.
- 23 Revere God and praise Him, all of Jacob's seed; Israel glorify, Him in your deeds.

- 24 For He's not despised, or loathed my dismay; He hid not His face, when I cried in that day.
- 25 I will praise Him before, all those when we meet; and show them all, my vows I complete.
- 26 The meek are filled, and praise the Lord; the hearts of His people, shall live evermore.
- 27 From the end of the earth, they shall turn unto Him; the nations shall worship, with all of their kin.
- 28 The Lord is King, over every man; and the Lord rules, every nation and land.
- 29 The rich will adore Him, the dying bow low; for no one can keep, alive his own soul.
- 30 A seed a people, shall serve Him as one; counted to Him, a generation.
- 31 They shall come and declare, His rightness to all; to those still unborn, that He's worthy of awe!

Background

Enormous physical suffering and intense mental pressure marked the opening and closing of the Messiah's earthly ministry. Jesus Christ began "in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts" (Mark 1:13), where both his mind and body were under attack. Yet, he responded with "It is written" (Matthew 4:4,7,10) and quoted the scriptures concerning what he was to do.

The same was true during his final temptation of nearly forty hours, being whipped, mocked, paraded, and crucified before those who hated him. Once again, Jesus Christ responded with the Word of God he had memorized and made his own. Psalm 22 contains some of what he said while hanging on the tree. Perhaps he quoted this entire Psalm. Did one of the men dying with him hear him recite Psalm 22 about his coming kingdom? One of them did say, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23:42).

This Psalm declares the Messiah's suffering (verses 1-21) and then his glory (verses 22-31). Notice how the New Testament scriptures only include the suffering of Christ if his glory is immediately mentioned. The same is true for born-again believers:

Romans 8:18:

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Philippians 3:10,11:

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Hebrews 2:9:

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Hebrews 2:10:

For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

I Peter 1:11

Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

I Peter 4:13:

But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

I Peter 5:1:

The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed.

It was the joy and hope of victory set before him that allowed Jesus Christ to endure such horrific torture and death (Hebrews 12:2). He would have learned so much about both by reading Psalm 22. Just imagine the first time he read this Psalm and saw what he was to do. We remember what Christ has done for us, so that we too can claim what our heavenly Father says we are today!

Structure

SUFFERING (Verses 1-21)

(Verses 1-5) Messiah's prayer and trust in God's ultimate deliverance

(Verses 6-8) Messiah's enemies mock his trust in God's ultimate deliverance

(Verses 9-11) Messiah's prayer and trust in God's ultimate deliverance

(Verses 12-18) Messiah's enemies like beasts (bulls, lion, dogs)

(Verses 19-21) Messiah's prayer for deliverance from enemies (dog, lion, bull)

GLORY (Verses 22-31)

(Verses 22-27) Messiah leads others in praise to God for His goodness

(Verses 28-31) God's great authority and His completed work in the Messiah

Key Scriptures

Verse 1—“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Jesus spoke those words from the cross (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34). Matthew 27:45 says there was darkness over all the land from about noon until 3 p.m. It was then that Jesus spoke these words. Perhaps it was at the close of this period of darkness that the Messiah began to quote Psalm 22. For he was in the midst of his wretched sufferings, and knew he would soon (after three days and nights) be in his glory.

Verse 8—“He trusted on the Lord *that* he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.” Verse 7 says they laughed him to scorn, shot out their lips, and shook their heads when they said this. The religious leaders, soldiers, others being crucified, and the crowd all carried out this prophecy (Matthew 27:43-44; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-37). This was the absolute humiliation that Satan could muster against the Christ. Hebrews 12:3 says that Jesus Christ “endured such contradiction of sinners against himself.” **Isaiah 53:3 says that** “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

Verse 18—“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.” This prophecy is shown to be fulfilled in all four gospels (Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23,24). This specific deed was done by the soldiers who crucified Jesus Christ.

Verse 22—“I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.” This is quoted in Hebrews 2 in the context of the Messiah’s suffering and glory. Hebrews 2:9-11 tell of Christ tasting death for every man and becoming the leader of our salvation, so that he is not ashamed to call us brothers. Then Psalm 22 is quoted. Next, verse 14 says that all people share in flesh and blood (egg and sperm), but Jesus Christ only took part (the egg from his mother). God was his Father. See the blog [“Was Jesus in the Beginning?”](#) for additional details. Verses 15-18 say that our as our brother, Jesus Christ delivered us from fear of death and made reconciliation for our sins. He suffered temptation so that, by Christ’s help and completed work, we can overcome the Devil’s attacks in this present evil age.

Verse 31—“shall declare...that he hath done *this*.” John 19:30 declares that Jesus said, “**It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.” He has “done this”—all that the Father sent him to accomplish. Jesus Christ so loved that he gave himself for us. Psalm 22 opens and closes with Jesus Christ’s bold declaration from the cross.