

## Psalm 22

### Introduction

- This psalm has been called “The psalm of the cross”, or has been referred to as a messianic psalm.
- John MacArthur: The strongest objective argument for the validity of scripture comes from fulfilled Bible prophecy.
- Only God knows the future. This is because only God ordains the future and only he can bring it to pass. Students of scripture understand that many events were recorded in Scripture hundreds of years before they came to pass and each one fulfilled brings indisputable confirmation that the scripture is what it claims to be - the inspired, infallible word of God.
- No where is this validation of the Bible more true than those prophecies which were fulfilled at the first coming of Christ. Although recorded many centuries before his incarnation, more than 100 old testament prophecies concerning the life and ministry of Christ were perfectly fulfilled in the New Testament. Each one documents the authenticity of Scripture.
- This is what makes Psalm 22 so amazing. Written 1000 years before the first coming of Christ, this psalm reads as if it were actually recorded by a person standing at the foot of the cross. The very words spoken by Christ from the cross, as well as his thoughts and the injuries he suffered, are recorded here.
- David sets forth in this psalm a graphic portrayal of the cross hundreds of years before crucifixion was even invented as a form of capital punishment.
- There are differing opinions that exist about whether David wrote this psalm to describe a particular suffering that he himself experienced or is a prophetic psalm looking forward to the Messiah. That this is a prophetic messianic psalm is supported by several facts.
  - There are no recorded events in the life of David that correspond to this event.
  - The psalm has a specific phrases that could only be used of crucifixion.
  - Unlike other Psalms this psalm contains no mention of the Psalmist’s personal sin, confession, or even regret for the pains he was suffering.
  - There is no call to God for vindication of the wrong suffered.

### Christ’s separation from God. 22:1-2

- God was distant from Jesus as he hung on the cross and did not answer his plea, yet he trusted God for his deliverance.
- The intimate call by the Son was like a call of a lost child searching for the father whose face he longed to see again.
- The first sentence was the fourth saying of Jesus on the cross and the first spoken under the shroud of darkness. These were the exact words of Christ is quoted in the ninth hour of the day, 3 PM, at the end of the three hour period of darkness ( Matt 27:46; Mark 15:34).
- God purposely distanced himself from Jesus as he poured out his wrath on the sin bearer of his people (Isaiah 53:10).

#### Christ's Strength from God. 22:3-5

- Jesus affirms his trust in God to deliver him, knowing he will not be disappointed.
- V.3a. Yet you are enthroned. An affirmation of Jesus' understanding that the silence of God did not mean that God had abdicated his position as the sovereign ruler over the affairs of men. When Jesus became sin for the many God hit his face from his own beloved son. Jesus understood that a holy God would not have fellowship with one who was sinful and unclean.
- V.3b-5. The Psalmist brings to remembrance things of the past: that Israel had put their faith and trust in God, and God has been faithful in the past when dealing with Israel. Three times the verb for trust is used as a synonym for faith in God. Realizing the past faithfulness of God, the Psalmist could confidently assert, "they trusted and you delivered them". The implication was that since God had rescued them in the past he would do so again with Christ.

#### Christ's Scorn from God. 22:6-8.

- V.6. This certainly describes the callous attitude of the people as they shouted to Pilate, "Crucify him". It would also describe the inhuman treatment he suffered: a farce of a trial, false witnesses, the whipping, mocking of the soldiers, spat upon, rejected by the people he came to save.
- V.7-8. Describes the crowd, including the religious leaders, as Jesus hung on the cross (Matt 27:43). Even the robbers who were crucified with him hurled insults at him.

#### Christ's Submission to God. 22:9-10.

- Jesus remembers God's faithfulness to him at birth and throughout his life.
- V.22:9-10. Contrary to the accusations of the mockers, Jesus knew that God brought him out of the womb, a reference to the virgin birth, and that God had made him trust as a child.
- Jesus trusts in God's faithfulness, displayed since his birth.

#### Christ's Suffering. 22:11-18.

- The anguish and misery placed on the Lord Jesus when he was on the cross attest to the depraved condition of the human heart and the attitudes of men toward God and his Christ.
- V.11-15. The suffering Son calls out to the Father to remain near to him. There is no one to help because all of the disciples had run away. The imagery here is of being surrounded by a pack of wild ravenous animals, wild bulls to gore and trample him and roaring lions to tear him apart with sharp teeth and claws. He was mocked, spat upon, beaten, whipped and crucified by the soldiers. The religious leaders came to mock and taunt him.
- Poured out, indicates his strength waning. Bones literally came painfully out of joint as he hung on the cross.
- My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. Jesus was dehydrated from the whole ordeal and cried out "I thirst" (John 19:28).
- Pierced my hands and feet, an obvious reference to crucifixion, though it was not known to be practiced at that time.

- Count my bones, perhaps because he could feel pain in each one.
- Cast lots... We see this literally fulfilled in in all four of the gospel accounts.

#### Christ's Supplication to God. 22:19-21.

- As Christ was crucified, he implored the father to come to his aid and to save him from those who sought to destroy him. As Christ was crucified, he implored the father to come to his aid and to save him from those who sought to destroy him.
- Again, Jesus calls on God to be near and help him. He again references to his enemies as wild animals.

#### Christ's Salvation for God. 22:22-31.

- Having fulfilled his work of redemption, Jesus declares his victory at the cross to his disciples who will proclaim it to the nations.
- V.22-24. There is a major shift at this point from a plea for deliverance to an affirmation of praise to God for his faithfulness. These verses imply a future resurrection of Christ in which he would announce his triumph over sin and death. Verse 22 is quoted in Hebrews 2:12 as being from Jesus, with Jesus being the speaker through the rest of the psalm.
- Jesus calls on the Jewish nation to praise, honor, and revere the Lord. God has not rejected Christ but listened to his cry for help and Christ was raised from the dead.
- V.25-29. The imagery here is of a great celebration and thank offerings which would allow the people to eat the meat from the sacrifice. There is also reference to the nations, not just the Jews, coming to salvation. This foreshadows the great banquet in heaven where people from every tongue and nation will be together to celebrate and praise God.
- V.30-31. Posterity refers to future generations yet unborn who would serve God because of the remnant's faithfulness to tell them about the Lord and proclaim his righteousness. He has done it... Christ has completed the sacrifice, it is finished, the doors of heaven have swung open wide.