

Psalm 22

For the director of music.
To [the tune of]
"The Doe of the Morning."
A psalm of David.

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? 2 O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

3 Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel. 4 In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. 5 They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.

6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: 8 "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

9 Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast. 10 From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

11 Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no-one to help. 12 Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me. 13 Roaring lions tearing their prey 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 sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. 16 Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. 18 They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

19 But you, O LORD, be not far off; O my Strength, come quickly to help me. 20 Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. 21 Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

22 I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you. 23 You who fear the LORD, praise him. All you descendants of Jacob, honor him. Revere him, all you descendants of Israel. 24 For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help. 25 From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.

26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him—may your hearts live for ever. 27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, 28 for dominion belongs to the LORD and he rules over the nations. 29 All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—those who cannot keep themselves alive. 30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. 31 They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn— for he has done it.

The Psalm of the Cross

PSALM 22

The CROSS of CHRIST will forever stand as the central figure in all of human history.

- ▶ THE CROSS is the dividing line between the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- ▶ THE CROSS is the most radical intervention of God into the arena of human life since creation.
- ▶ THE CROSS is the ultimate plan of God for the salvation of mankind – no one comes to God except through the cross.
The ground is level at the cross – no room for self-exaltation, no room for pride or prejudice, no room for boasting.
The only room for boasting is IN THE CROSS and in the work that was accomplished there – hear Galatians 6:14—

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

We are CHARGED with REMEMBERING the CROSS until Jesus comes again.

- ▶ We are charged to remember the cross in our times of communion together – listen to 1 Corinthians 11:26—
Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- ▶ We are charged to preach the cross as the central theme of our message – listen to 1 Corinthians 2:2—
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.
- ▶ We'll be singing about the powerful work of the cross through the aeons of eternity – hear Revelation 5:9—
And they sang a new song: "You are worthy...because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."
- ▶ The Cross is the highest theme of our worship and our praise – hear the familiar words of some songwriters...

At the cross, at the cross, Where I first saw the light, And the burden of my heart rolled away. It was there by faith, I received my sight, And now I am happy all the day.

Lest I forget Gethsemane; Lest I forget Thine agony; Lest I forget Thy love for me, Lead me to Calvary.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross Till my trophies at last I lay down. I will cling to the old rugged cross, And exchange it some day for a crown.

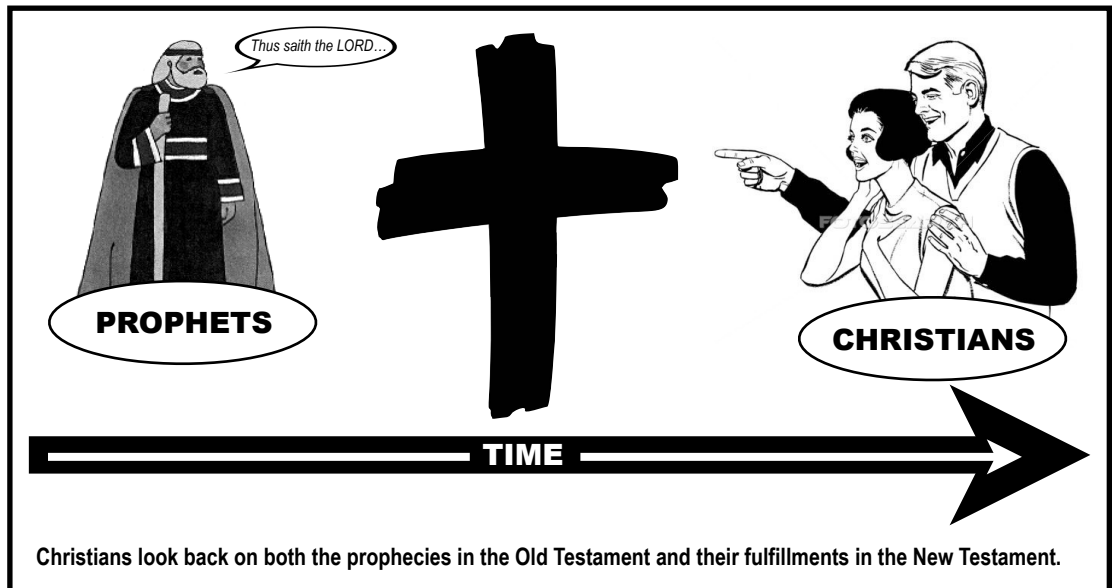
In the cross, in the cross, Be my glory ever, Till my raptured soul shall find Rest beyond the river.

He was nailed to the cross for me. He was nailed to the cross for me. On the cross crucified, For me He died. He was nailed to the cross for me.

Mercy there was great and grace was free; Pardon there was multiplied to me; There my burdened soul found liberty: At Calvary.

TODAY we REMEMBER by looking back at PSALM 22, the PSALM of the CROSS.

- ▶ Many of the psalms are *Messianic* in that they looked, prophetically/predictively, toward the coming Messiah, Jesus.
- ▶ In his Pentecost sermon, Peter referred to David as a prophet (Acts 2:30) because of the many prophecies in his psalms.
- ▶ And though most of the psalms were written a thousand years before Christ, they are powerfully pointed and accurate.
- ▶ Some examples of psalms with strong Messianic themes are Psalms 2, 16, 45, 68, 69, 110, 118, 132.
- ▶ What a joy it is, then, as New Testament believers, to look back upon both the prophecy and the fulfillment.



- ▶ How clear and complete the plan of God becomes to us as we look back upon the prophets with New Testament light.
- ▶ What was a mystery to the Old Testament saints has been revealed to us – hear Paul in Colossians 1:25-26—
I have become the church's servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.
- ▶ In fact, Peter says the prophets served us more than they served the people of their own day – listen to 1 Peter 1:12—
They were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you...
- ▶ So, today, gratefully, we allow the psalmist David to serve us with Psalm 22, a picture of our crucified but victorious Lord.

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The VALLEY and VICTORY

in PSALM 22

TRAGIC PERSECUTION (Psalm 22:1-18)

- ▶ Psalm 22 is a story of tragic persecution and rejection – vicious enemies rise against the psalmist.
- ▶ And within his heart, he feels forsaken even by his God – listen to his desperate cries to the LORD...
 - Psalm 22:2 – *I've cried to You, LORD, but there's no answer!*
 - Psalm 22:3 – *You are God, You can do something about all of this!*
 - Psalm 22:4 – *You came through for the forefathers, why not for me?*
 - Psalm 22:6 – *I'm desperate and I'm a laughingstock!*
 - Psalm 22:15 – *I'm at the very point of death!*
- ▶ What terrible and traumatic trial – he must be Job's cousin – at the end of his rope – alone and forsaken.
- ▶ The psalmist is rejected, ravaged, and ridiculed – his pain is threefold: physical, emotional, and spiritual.

TURNING POINT (Psalm 22:19-21)

- ▶ Such terrible trial causes the psalmist to cry out to God for deliverance – listen to his prayer in verses 19-21.
- ▶ Prayer turns the psalm around – and after tragedy comes a turning to God and a turning of the situation.
- ▶ And faith-filled prayer is the turning point in every Christian's valley – we look to the LORD for deliverance.

TRIUMPHANT PRAISE (Psalm 22:22-31)

- ▶ When the psalmist cries to the LORD, the LORD hears him and delivers him from his enemies.
- ▶ Though he FELT forsaken during the trial, the LORD had not forsaken him after all – and deliverance came.
- ▶ Yes, the valley was deep – the suffering was severe – the pain was piercing – the grief was great.
- ▶ But GOD heard this man's cry and came to his rescue – and now his heart rises up within him.
- ▶ As a result, the psalmist changed the tone and tune of the psalm – what started with pain ended with praise.
- ▶ And this grateful psalmist declares... "In the congregation I will praise You."

The VARIOUS VIEWPOINTS

On PSALM 22

THE VIEW OF DAVID, THE PSALMIST

- ▶ These were not just words of prophecy written by David – this was an experience David went through himself.
- ▶ This psalm was written out of some valley of great rejection, paralyzing fear, loneliness, and desperation.
- ▶ Perhaps it was when he fled from King Saul – or worse yet, when he fled from his son Absalom – we don't know.
- ▶ But in the midst of the valley, David called upon the LORD HIS GOD – he trusted God for deliverance.
- ▶ And David's FAITHFUL GOD delivered him – and David's grief and groaning were turned into victorious praise.

THE VIEW OF JESUS, THE MESSIAH

- ▶ Without any doubt, Psalm 22 is more than an expression of David's own trouble and triumph.
- ▶ Psalm 22 is indeed the Psalm of the Cross – for it lays out the sufferings of Christ in dramatic detail.
- ▶ And Jesus recognized this psalm as his own – no doubt He had learned it as He studied the Scriptures.
- ▶ And there must have been a growing revelation for Jesus – this psalm was meant for Him.
- ▶ This would be HIS trial, this would be HIS cup, this would be HIS valley, this would be HIS crucible.
- ▶ And when the crucified Jesus hung between heaven and earth, the words of Psalm 22 flowed from Him (MT.27:46)...

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?

- ▶ Some believe that Jesus may have quoted this entire psalm from the cross – prophetically, it was written for that day.
- ▶ Listen to the telling prophecies written about the suffering Messiah a thousand years before the crucifixion.
 - Psalm 22:7 – *All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.* – see MATTHEW 27:39
 - Psalm 22:8 – *He trusts in the LORD, let the LORD rescue him...* – see MATTHEW 27:43
 - Psalm 22:14 – *I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.*
 - Psalm 22:16 – *They have pierced my hands and my feet.* – see JOHN 20:25
 - Psalm 22:17 – *I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.* – see MATTHEW 27:36
 - Psalm 22:18 – *They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.* – see MATTHEW 27:35
- ▶ BUT GOD THE FATHER BROUGHT JESUS THROUGH TO VICTORY AS WELL – HE DIED, BUT.....
- ▶ And Jesus would declare about His Father, "He has not despised...the suffering of His afflicted One..."
- ▶ And the TERRIBLE TRIAL of the CROSS was indeed TURNED into a TOWERING TRIUMPH.

THE VIEW OF THE GOSPEL WRITERS

- ▶ The gospel writers looked back and saw fulfillment of prophecy – David had written about Jesus.
- ▶ And under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they wrote, and linked for us the prophecies to their fulfillment.

THE VIEW OF THE CHRISTIAN

- ▶ And we see so clearly the message of TRAGEDY and TRIUMPH in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ▶ But as we examine Psalm 22, we see – it's not only Christ's victory – it's ours – He wrought it for us.
- ▶ David wrote about US in Psalm 22 – the suffering and victory of Christ has brought US to the LORD.
 - Psalm 22:27 – *All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD...*
 - Psalm 22:30 – *Future generations will be told about the Lord.*
 - Psalm 22:31 – *They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn—for he has done it.*
- ▶ By HIS victory, Jesus has delivered US from the guilt of sin and from the penalty and finality of death.
- ▶ And we SING with HEARTS lifted HIGH — O victory in Jesus, My Savior forever!