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The
Songs
22

PSALMS - The SONGS

Twenty-two

God Hears the Cry of the Afflicted

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every reference to the LORD, including pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every reference to the psalmist, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a blue capital "P".

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every reference to glorifying the LORD or His Name with a yellow box filled in with light purple.

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every reference to deliverance with a purple box filled in with pink.

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every reference to fear with a pointy purple circle surrounded by yellow.

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every reference to the nation of Israel with a blue star of David.

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every reference to the nations with a purple flag.

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every time phrase with a blue box.

Read through **Psalm 22** and mark every contrast with a pink diagonal line.

Read through **Psalm 22** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Trusting cry to God for deliverance
2. My relationship to God is mocked

3. My relationship to God is sure
4. Trouble surrounds me
5. Be near to me, God
6. I will tell of Your Name to my brethren
7. The LORD has performed it!

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 22:1-5

To Whom is the psalmist speaking?



The psalmist cries out God's Name not once, but twice. Some see this as simply the normal Jewish format for showing intensity, while others see a possible allusion to the other two persons of the Trinity— God, the Father, and God, the Holy Spirit because Jesus quoted this Psalm while on the cross.

Matthew 27:46

About the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?"

What question does the psalmist ask?

Have you heard these words before?

Where?



The Hebrew word for "forsaken" is *azab* and is a primitive root that means to forsake, leave, loosen, relinquish, or permit.

Because the psalmist, in his grief and suffering, feels that God's presence has left him, what does he feel about his deliverance?

How long, and how often, has the psalmist been crying to God for help?

1.

2.

Has God answered him?

Despite the fact that the psalmist hasn't heard from God in his dire circumstances, what certainty does he choose to hold on to? (Hint: What is the main thought in **verses 3-5?**)

How does he describe God?

How is God connected with Israel, according to the psalmist?

What was true about the "fathers" of Israel?

Was their trust in God merited? How do you know?

What did the fathers of Israel do because they trusted in God?

What happened when they cried out to God?



The Hebrew word for "disappointed" is *bush* and means to be ashamed.

If they had not been delivered, all who saw their situation would have believed

**their God was not powerful enough to deliver them
and thus, they would have been ashamed.**

Put these four words (actions and results) in their chronological order—cried, delivered, trusted, and not disappointed.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Psalm 22:6-8

How does the psalmist describe himself?

1.

2.

How does he say others see him?

1.

2.

What does he say others do to him?

1.

2.

3.

What does he say they say to him?

How do they mock him regarding his relationship to the LORD?

Do these words sound familiar?

Where have you heard them before?



Matthew 27:38–44

***At that time two robbers were crucified with Him,
one on the right and one on the left.
And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him,
wagging their heads and saying,***

***“You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days,
save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.”***

***In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders,
were mocking Him and saying,***

“He saved others; He cannot save Himself.

He is the King of Israel;

let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe in Him.

***“HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE Him now, IF HE DELIGHTS IN HIM;
for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”***

***The robbers who had been crucified with Him
were also insulting Him with the same words.***

Psalm 22:9-10

How long of a relationship has the psalmist had with the LORD?

How long has the psalmist trusted in the LORD?

When was the psalmist cast upon the LORD?

How long has the LORD been the psalmist's God?

Do you see **verse 9-10** as a contrast to **verses 7-8**?

What is the contrast?

In contrast to the lies spoken by his mockers, what truth does the psalmist lay hold of?

Psalm 22:11-18

What does the psalmist want from the LORD?

Why does he want the LORD to be near to him? (What *has* been near to him?)

Is there anyone who can help other than the LORD?

What picture does the psalmist paint for us in **verses 12-13**?

What does the psalmist say has surrounded and encircled him?

What does he say they are doing?

What does it remind him of?



**We live on a large piece of land with forest reserve timbers all around us.
Consequently we have many predators which regularly roam the property.**

**I love living in the country,
but sometimes the harshness of nature can be a difficult encounter for me...**

**Many times we hear a group of coyotes
(seemingly right outside our door)
begin their advance on their chosen victim.
The sounds are horrifying, both from the predator and the prey.**

I try not to,

**but it is hard not to imagine both the entire pack and the one little hunted animal.
In my mind's eye I see the hunters with predatory gleams in their eyes,
their heads and shoulders lowered with their front legs forward,
circling around and finally surrounding the victim,
growling and yipping in their mania,
opening their mouths wide, their teeth dripping with saliva,
all in anticipation for the kill...**

**Bulls... strong bulls of Bashan,
ravaging and roaring lions,
dogs of prey,
a human band of evildoers...**

all surrounded my Jesus as He waited for His death...

How does the psalmist describe himself?

What has happened to his bones?

How does he describe his heart?

What has happened to it?

What has happened to his strength?

What has happened to his tongue?

In what condition does he find himself?

Who has put him there?

The psalmist takes up his picture of predators and the trapped prey once again. What does he say has surrounded him?

Who does he say has encompassed him?

What have the evildoers done?

He mentions his bones again; what does he tell us?

What are the evildoers doing?

1.

2.

What do the evildoers do with his garments?

How do they decide who takes what?

 **Point of Reference**

John 19:23-24

***Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus,
took His outer garments and made four parts,
a part to every soldier and also the tunic;
now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece.***

***So they said to one another,
“Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be”;
this was to fulfill the Scripture:
“They divided my outer garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.”***

 **Point of Depth**

**We know the Bible is inspired by God (God breathed)
and yet it is amazing to see the prophecies God has made in His Word
through human men.**

**Sometimes we don't think of David as a prophet, but that is far from the case—
he was one of the greatest of them all—just look at the book of Psalms!**

Did David know that he was prophesying far beyond his own human circumstances?

In Acts 2:30-31 Peter said of David, “And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY”.

Psalm 22:19-21

Compare **verse 19** with **verse 11**. What do you see?

The psalmist contrasts the help of the LORD with the dangers he has just described. What request does he make of LORD once more?

What danger is the psalmist in?

What does he picture as endangering his life?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

In **verses 3, 4, and 5**, and then again in **9 and 10**, the psalmist places his hope in His God for deliverance despite his horrific circumstances. But now, a dramatic change takes place in **verse 21** and he is assured of certain salvation—why?

Psalm 22:22-24

Due to the fact the the LORD has answered the psalmist (which secures his deliverance), the rest of the **Psalm** is filled with vowed gratitude and praise. What does he say he will tell to his brethren?

Who are his brethren?

What does he say he will do in the midst of the assembly?

What is the assembly?



Hebrew 2:11-12

For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim Your Name to My brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will sing Your praise."

To whom does he now speak?

1.

2.

3.

What does he tell the his brethren to do?

1.

2.

3.

Why are they to praise, glorify, and stand in awe of the LORD?

1.

2.

3.

Who is the afflicted?

What did the LORD do when the afflicted cried to Him for help?

Psalm 22:25-31

From Whom does the psalmist receive his praise in the great assembly?

What vows will he pay?

Before whom will he pay them?

Who is the afflicted in **Psalm 22**?

What is true of the afflicted?

1.

2.

What is true of those who seek Him?

What encouragement does the psalmist give to the listener?

What will all the ends of the earth eventually do?

What will all the families of the nations eventually do?

Why?

1.

2.

What will eventually be true of the prosperous of the earth?

1.

2.

What will eventually be true of those who go down to the dust?

Who are those who go down to the dust?

What, or who, will serve the LORD?

What will be told to the coming generation?



Psalm 102:18-22

***This will be written for the generation to come,
That a people yet to be created may praise the LORD.
For He looked down from His holy height;
From heaven the LORD gazed upon the earth,
To hear the groaning of the prisoner,
To set free those who were doomed to death,
That men may tell of the name of the LORD in Zion
And His praise in Jerusalem,
When the peoples are gathered together,
And the kingdoms, to serve the LORD.***

What will the coming generation do?

1.

2.

Come where?

To whom will it be told?

What will be told?

Who will tell it?

READ AND REASON

We know this **Psalm** was written by David and therefore **Psalm 22** has to do with him.

We know this **Psalm** is Messianic (referring to Jesus, the Messiah) because it is so well documented in the New Testament. The greatest significance of **Psalm 22** is most definitely the Messianic import.

However, there is another “character”, if you will, that is clearly spoken of in these beautiful lines of Scripture. Can you detect her... or him? Let me give you a few hints by asking a few “helpful” questions.

Let’s start in the middle of **Psalm 22** at the beginning of its second segment. Who are the brethren in **verse 22**? Who is assembling? (We’ll get to the “when” once we have figured out the “who”!) While the book of **Hebrews** quotes this verse and applies it to the church, does it apply *only* to the church or does it apply to the righteous remnant of the Jews, as well? What does **verse 23** show us when it speaks to the descendants of Jacob and Israel? It certainly applies to the Jews in **Psalm 22**! Interesting, huh? When would this assembly take place? Well... **verses 27** through the end will give us the answer. Hang on...

What about **verse 24**? Who is the afflicted? Obviously it refers to David in the simplest sense and Jesus in the Messianic sense, but we can’t just let the reference to Jacob and Israel drop into nothingness because **verse 24** starts with the word “for”—a connecting word. Soooo... who could the afflicted be in relation to Jacob or Israel?

Well, the afflicted, or the him, could be the nation of Jacob or Israel, “himself”—God very often refers to Israel as “him”. Who would God not be hiding His face from? Israel! Who would be crying to him for help? Israel!

Here is just a quick reference so you don't think I'm going off the deep end! ***“O people in Zion, inhabitant in Jerusalem, you will weep no longer. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry; when He hears it, He will answer you. Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, He, your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher.”***
Isaiah 30:19-20

Let me explain. Isaiah talks about the time when the LORD will hear the cry of His people. He will hear them, and answer them. Why are they crying to Him for help? Because they are in the period of Jacob's Distress, or what we often term the Great Tribulation. The LORD is the One Who has put His people in their distress and tribulation—He has given them the “bread of privation and water of oppression”.

Why? To bring them back to Himself! When they finally cry out to Him, they will be at the lowest point in their history, but they will finally return to Him with all their hearts—and He will hear and save them!

This is the point when He will send their Messiah, Jesus Christ, to earth again. Jesus will destroy the antichrist and deliver his brethren, the Jews, from the nations of the world. Then God will be their God, and they will be His people—forever and ever...

If you will go back and read **Psalm 22** with the idea of the nation of Israel in mind, you will see it also applies to them in every aspect, including the groaning of **verses 1-5**, the mockery of **verses 6-8**, the birth of **verses 9-10**, and the suffering of **verses 11-21**.

Now, let's continue with **verses 25-26**. It talks about the great assembly again. When will this happen? Once Jesus has taken control of the earth and set up His throne in Jerusalem. He will then rule and reign for 1,000 years from Zion. There will be a great assembly of all the peoples worshipping the LORD. In fact, they will ritually worship Him in Jerusalem when they make their annual required trek.

Zechariah 14:16

Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.

The afflicted (the Jews who had been through the Great Tribulation) will eat and be satisfied at that time. Those who seek Him (the righteous remnant) will praise the LORD. Their hearts, which had been in despair and agony, will now “live forever”, a phrase which speaks of God's eternal favor.

Verses 27-28 speak of the time when all the earth, not just the Jews, will remember and turn to the LORD. All the families of the nations (Gentiles) will worship before Him, because the kingdom is the LORD'S! The Bible prophesies of this time in abundance!

Psalms 47:1-9

*O clap your hands, all peoples;
Shout to God with the voice of joy.
For the LORD Most High is to be feared,
A great King over all the earth.
He subdues peoples under us and nations under our feet.
He chooses our inheritance for us,
The glory of Jacob whom He loves.*

Selah.

*God has ascended with a shout,
The LORD, with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises;
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the King of all the earth;
Sing praises with a skillful psalm.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits on His holy throne.
The princes of the people have assembled themselves
as the people of the God of Abraham,
For the shields of the earth belong to God;
He is highly exalted.*

Verse 29 tells us that all the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship. The Jews, who were once the afflicted, have been made “fat” and prosperous by the hand of the LORD and they will worship Him. Where, once they would not bow the knee to Him, and were subjected to near death at the hand of the their God, they have now repented and praise Him.

Verse 30 speaks of the assured longevity of the Jews. Whereas once they were seemingly destined to be extinguished, now they would serve and proclaim the LORD generation after generation!

And not only would they declare Him to their own, **verse 31** tells us they will declare His righteousness to a people who were not born in the days of David—the church—made up of Jew and Gentile.

And what exactly would they tell these people? That the LORD had performed it! Performed what? He has performed the accomplishment of the ages—He has redeemed and reconciled those God has chosen for Himself with His Own blood...

That, my friends, is the Gospel...

 Segment by Segment

**Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.**

Verses 1-5

Verses 6-8

Verses 9-10

Verses 11-18

Verses 19-21

Verses 22-24

Verses 25-31

~ Purpose of Psalm 22

**Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 22.
The purpose simply states “why the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.**

~ Theme of Psalm 22

**Try giving Psalm 22 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “what the Psalm is about”.**
