

## Psalm 22

### The Crucifixion of Jesus

**Text: Psalm 22**

**Introduction:**

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. Psalm 22 reveals the details of the crucifixion of the Messiah...

I. THE SETTING OF THE PSALM

- A. The introduction to this psalm states that it was written by David.
- B. It is titled "Aijelet Shajar" - meaning, "Hind of the Morning" or "The Deer or Dawn."
  1. The imagery is of a deer in the morning going out to feed only to be stalked by hunters, chased by dogs, ensnared, and killed.
  2. It represents the pursuing, persecuting, suffering, and sacrifice of Jesus.
- C. It is assigned to the "chief musician" - the overseer of the singers, "choirmaster," or "director."
- D. It is divided into two parts: Suffering and Salvation or Crucifixion and Resurrection.

II. THE SUFFERING OF CRUCIFIXION (PSALM 22:1-21)

- A. Suffering in relation to God (vs. 1-5)
  1. It seems that God has forsaken His servant and does not hear his prayers.
    - a. Of course, this statement was made by Jesus on the cross (Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34).
    - b. Though God allowed this suffering, it was for a great purpose (Luke 22:44; Hebrews 2:9; 5:7-10).
  2. This seems inconsistent with the character of God but is explained by the vicarious nature of Jesus' suffering.
  3. In spite of this suffering, God is holy and trustworthy - He always does what is right.
- B. Suffering in relation to man (vs. 6-21)
  1. He was despised and mocked by man (vs. 6-8; cf. Matthew 27:29, 39-43; Luke 23:11, 35-39).
  2. Yet, He maintained His hope in God (vs. 9-11).
  3. He was surrounded and threatened by man (vs. 12-13; cf. Matthew 27:1; Acts 4:27).
  4. He was attacked and made to suffer intensely by man (vs. 14-18).
    - a. The language of verses 14-15 could be applied directly to the suffering endured during crucifixion.
    - b. His hands and feet were pierced (cf. John 20:25, 27; 19:37; Zech. 12:10).

## Prophecy of Jesus

- c. The crowd stared intently upon Jesus at the cross.
- d. They cast lots for His garments (Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24).
- 5. In His faith, He cried to God for help (vs. 19-21; cf. Luke 23:46; John 19:30).
- C. Charles Spurgeon wrote: *“He had long been a fountain of tears; in Gethsemane his heart welled over in sweat, and on the cross he gushed forth with blood; he poured out his strength and spirit, so that he was reduced to the most feeble and exhausted state.”*

### III. THE SALVATION OF RESURRECTION (PSALM 22:22-31)

- A. If the story ended here, it would be sadly tragic, but leave man without hope.
  - 1. The Gospel is described as a bridge that spans the chasm between sin and salvation, between Earth and Heaven, between time and eternity.
  - 2. This bridge rests upon three pillars – the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).
  - 3. If one of these pillars is removed, the bridge will collapse, and man will be left hopeless.
- B. Thankfully, following the horror of crucifixion comes the victory of resurrection!
- C. God is praised because fellowship is restored through the resurrection (vs. 22; cf. Hebrews 2:11-12).
- D. God is revered because of the power exercised in the demonstration of His faithfulness (vs. 23-24; cf. Romans 1:4). *{Jesus’ sufferings were not in vain!}*
- E. God is honored because of the establishing of the church by the power of the resurrection (vs. 25-26; cf. Acts 2:32-33).
- F. God is remembered because the Gospel of the resurrection is preached in all the world (vs. 27-31; cf. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16).

Conclusion: This detailed prophecy demonstrates the foreknowledge of God and the inspiration of the Bible.