

# *Psalm 22—David, Messiah, and Me*

## *Cries of Anguish—and Hope (verses 1-11)*

Psalm 22 is a Messianic Psalm—a psalm that points to Christ. The psalm applies to David and the circumstances of his life AND it is fulfilled perfectly in the life of Christ. From *God's Word for Today—Psalms*: “While this psalm is the experience of David, who cried out in despair, ‘My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?’ it is also the experience that belongs to all believers and has been felt by saintly sufferers in all ages. Yet the voice that rang through the darkness on Calvary was the cry of Christ, who experienced death’s force in supreme measure and in a unique manner. Only He knew the mortal agony of utter separation from God. Only He clung to God in absolute trust, even in the darkest moments.”

1. David is suffering from vicious and prolonged attacks from his enemies. What two questions does he ask of God in verse 1?
2. What is the result of his crying out to God in verse 2?

This part of the psalm moves back and forth between “I” and “You” sections. The “I” sections (verses 1-2, 6-8, 12-18) describe the speaker’s dire circumstances while the “You” sections (verses 3-5, 9-10) remind God of His former actions and plead with Him to act again.—Concordia Commentary on Psalms

3. What repeated word describes the relationship of Israel to God in verses 4-5?
4. David is scorned and mocked and he continues to trust in the Lord. What was David’s relationship to God from his very birth in verses 9-10?

## *Surrounded by Enemies (verses 12-21)*

5. How does David describe his condition in verses 14-15? What do these expressions mean to you?
6. David uses animal descriptions to complete the picture of his suffering. What image is he trying to show with each of these:
  - a. Verse 12:
  - b. Verse 13:
  - c. Verse 16:

“2 Samuel 15 tells of David’s people rejecting him in favor of Absalom and how because of this he fled for his life. In verses 23 and 30 we read that David wept as he passed over the brook Kidron and went up the Mount of Olives, despised and rejected.” On the night when Jesus was betrayed, John 18:1 tells us that Jesus and His disciples went across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden. Gethsemane was on the Mount of Olives.—God’s Word for Today: Psalms

7. There are a number of parallels between this psalm and the crucifixion of Jesus. Match up the accounts from Psalm 22 with the various Gospel accounts:

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|--|-------------------|
| a. v 1: “My God, why have you forsaken me?” _____          | 3. Matthew 27: 46 |
| b. v 7: mock and insult _____                              | 4. Mark 15: 17-20 |
| c. v 8: “He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him” _____ | 5. Luke 23: 33    |
| d. v 15: “tongue sticks to my jaws” _____                  | 6. Luke 23: 35-37 |
| e. v 16: “pierced my hands and feet _____                  |                   |
| f. v 18: divided garments/cast lots for clothing _____     |                   |

1. John 19: 23-24

2. John 19: 28

### *Cries of Exultation and Praise (verses 22-31)*

8. Feelings of oppression and helplessness have changed to hope and praise. Trace the ever-widening circle of people and nations that the psalmist invites to join in his doxology following his deliverance:

- a. v 22: I will...
- b. v 23: You....praise Him
- c. v 25:
- d. v 27:
- e. v 28:
- f. v 29:
- g. v 30:
- h. v 31:

9. What foresights of Christ’s ministry and the spread of His Gospel do you see in verses 22-31?

10. How did Jesus fulfill the last four words of the psalm? See John 19:30. What important thought did this psalm leave with you?

**John 19: 23-24** -- When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots."

**John 19: 28** -- After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst."

**Matthew 27: 46** -- And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

**Mark 15: 17-20** -- And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

**Luke 23: 33** -- And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

**Luke 23: 35-37** -- And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!"

**John 19: 30** -- When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.