

Psalm 22 ¹

"THE SUFFERING AND PRAISE OF THE ANOINTED KING"

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For the choir director; upon Aijeleth Hashshahar. A Psalm of David.

A1 THE SUFFERING OF THE ANOINTED KING 22:1-21

B1 The Prayer of the Forsaken King 22:1-11

C1 His Sense of Rejection by God 22:1-5

D1 The pain of loneliness: The cry of anguish for the remoteness of God 22:1-2

E1 His perception that God has forsaken him: My God, my God, Why have You forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning. 22:1 (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34)

E2 His perception that God is ignoring him: O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer; And by night, but I have no rest. 22:2

D2 The pain of past memories: The lament for God's answer in times past 22:3-5

E1 His insistence on God's holiness 22:3

F1 Yet You are holy

F2 O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel

E2 His references to God's helping the fathers: They trusted and You delivered! 22:4-5

F1 In You our fathers trusted; They trusted, and you delivered them. 22:4

F2 To You they cried out, and were delivered; In You they trusted, and were not disappointed. 22:5

¹ Psalm 22: I have analyzed the psalm in terms of its understanding by David, the author. Obviously David, for reasons unstated, was under spiritual, emotional, and physical distress. From the New Testament, we understand that this psalm typifies many of the agonies Jesus Christ endured in His crucifixion. It also looks ahead to the triumph of the Messiah. Psalm 22, 23, and 24, prophetically speaking, constitute a trilogy. They typify Christ as the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep (Ps. 22; John 10:11, 14-15); as the Great Shepherd who leads His sheep (Ps. 23; Heb. 13:20-21); and as the Chief Shepherd who enters the gates of Jerusalem in all His glory, there to reign as King of Israel and King of the world (Ps. 24; 1 Peter 5:4).

- C2 His Sense of Rejection by Man 22:6-11
 - D1 The pain of rejection 22:6-8
 - E1 But I am a worm, and not a man, 22:6a
 - E2 A reproach of men, and despised by the people 22:6b
 - E3 Specifics of rejection 22:7-8
 - F1 Their reproachful body language: All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head, *saying*, 22:7
 - G1 They sneer ² at me
 - G2 They curl their lip in scorn
 - G3 They wag their head ³ in mockery
 - F2 The mockery of their speech 22:8
 - G4 Commit *yourself* to the LORD! Let Him deliver him! ⁴
 - G5 Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him!
 - D2 The pain of past memories: His references to God's helping him in times past as an infant 22:9-11
 - E1 Yet You are He who brought me forth from the womb; You made me trust *when* upon my mother's breasts. 22:9
 - E2 Upon You I was cast from birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb. 22:10
 - D3 The plea for present help 22:11
 - E1 The nearness of trouble: Be not far from me, for trouble is near;
 - E2 The absence of help: For there is none to help.

² Psalm 22:7: "sneer" - Luke 23:35

³ Psalm 22:7: "wag their head" - Matt. 27:39; Mark 15:29

⁴ Psalm 22:8: "Let Him deliver him" - Matt. 27:43

B2 The Grievance of the Beleaguered King 22:12-18

- C1 The emotional pain of rejection 22:12-13
 - D1 Encircled by power: Many bulls have surrounded me; strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled me. 22:12
 - D2 Surrounded by cruelty: They open wide their mouth at me, as a ravener and a roaring lion.
- C2 The physical pain of rejection 22:14-15
 - D1 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint;⁵ my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. 22:14
 - D2 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and You lay me in the dust of death. 22:15
- C3 The emotional pain of rejection: For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; 22:16a
- C4 The physical pain of rejection
 - D1 They pierced my hands and my feet.⁶ 22:16b
 - D2 I can count all my bones 22:17a
- C5 The emotional pain of loss 22:17b-18
 - D1 Of loss of privacy: They look, they stare at me 22:17b
 - D2 Of loss of possessions: They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.⁷ 22:18

B3 The King's Plea for Deliverance from Death 22:19-21

- C1 The prayer for help 22:19-21a
 - D1 For nearness: But You, O Lord, be not far off; 22:19
 - D2 For assistance: O You my help, hasten to my assistance.

⁵ Psalm 22:14: “bones are out of joint” - A physiological effect of crucifixion. Yet no bones were broken. Psalm 34:20; John 19:36.

⁶ Psalm 22:16: “pierced my hands and my feet” - Consistent with crucifixion (Matt. 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:33; John 19:18; 20:25)

⁷ Psalm 22:18: “divide my garments;” “for my clothing they cast lots” - Matt. 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:24.

D3 For safety 22:20-21a

E1 Deliver my soul from the sword, my only *life* from the power of the dog. 22:20

E2 Save me from the lion's mouth; From the horns of the wild oxen ... 22:21a

C2 The assurance of deliverance: You answer me! 22:21b

A2 THE PRAISE OF THE ANOINTED KING 22:22-31

B1 The Practice of Praise 22:22-24

C1 The promise of praise before the brothers in the assembly 22:22

D1 I will tell of Your name to my brethren;

D2 In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.⁸

C2 The call to the righteous in Israel to join in praise 22:23

D1 You who fear the Lord, praise Him;

D2 All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him,

D3 And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.

C3 The reason for praise: The response of God 22:24

D1 For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;

D2 Neither has He hidden His face from him;

D3 But when he cried to Him for help, He heard.

B2 The Celebration of Praise 22:25-26

C1 The sacrifice of praise 22:25

D1 From You *comes* my praise in the great assembly;

D2 I shall pay my vows before those who fear Him.

C2 The feast of praise 22:26

D1 The afflicted will eat and be satisfied;

D2 Those who seek Him will praise the Lord.

D3 Let your heart live forever!

⁸ Psalm 22:22: "I will tell of Your name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You." - Taken by the writer of Hebrews to refer to Christ as the elder brother of believers. Together He, and they, are sons of the one Father (Heb. 2:11-12).

B3 The Universality of Praise 22:27-29

- C1 Worship from all the Nations 22:27
 - D1 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord,
 - D2 And all the families of the nations will worship before You.
- C2 Praise for the Kingdom of Yahweh 22:28
 - D1 For the kingdom is the LORD'S,
 - D2 And He rules over the nations.⁹
- C3 Worship from the prosperous: All the prosperous of the earth will eat and worship, 22:29
- C4 Worship from the mortal: All those who go down to the dust will bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep his soul alive. 22:29
- C5 Worship from the future generations 22:30-31
 - D1 The service of posterity 22:30
 - E1 Posterity will serve Him;
 - E2 It will be told of the Lord to the *coming* generation.
 - D2 The telling of His righteousness to the next generation 22:31
 - E1 They will come and will declare His righteousness
 - E2 To a people who will be born, that He has performed *it*.

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 22
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⁹ Psalm 22:28: “kingdom is the LORD’S and He rules over the nations” - This will be true of Messiah Jesus when He reigns over all the earth (Zech. 14:9; Rev. 19:15-16; 20:1-6).