

PSALM 22

This psalm was written by David during a time of distress. In such times, although our minds tell us one thing, emotionally we feel abandoned. In the psalm David relates his feeling of abandonment, of being under attack and despairing of life. What he did not likely know was that his words would be quoted by our Lord on the cross or that the situation that he described would so closely parallel the crucifixion of Christ. David closes this psalm with a call for God's people to praise Him for He does not abandon or reject His own but saves.

1. A cry for help

1-18

- a. God's afflicted servant is in distress and feeling forsaken (abandoned). 2 Cor 5:21 Our Lord took upon Himself our sin and guilt and bore God's wrath for us.
 - He needs help but does not see it coming.
 - He prays constantly ("day and night") yet does not sense any answer.
- b. Yet God rules and delivered His people in the past. (David remembers God's faithfulness).
 - They (fathers/ancestors) trusted Him (e.g., Gen 15:6).
 - They cried out to Him and were not disappointed.
- c. David was humbled ("worm") and reviled (scorned/despised) as was our Lord (Is 53:3).
 - He was mocked.
 - He was insulted.
 - His faith was ridiculed.
- d. Yet David had served God all his life and he needed Him desperately.
 - He was surrounded by ferocious men (bulls, lions)
 - He was poured out like water (his life was ebbing away fast).
 - His heart was melting away (like wax).
 - His strength dried up and he was approaching death.
 - Dogs (fierce, cruel and evil men) had surrounded him and had pierced his hands and feet.
 - He could count all his bones (relative to the crucifixion and scourging, many would have been visible on our Lord's battered body).
 - Even his garments were being divided up among his enemies. (Matt 27:35, Mk 15:24 etc.)

Prayer is an act of faith

2. But - He calls out to God for swift deliverance ("Be not far away")

19-25

- a. Rescue from the vicious men who assailed him (dogs, lions, wild oxen) Ps 35:17.
- b. He states his desire to declare God's name to his brethren publicly (Heb 2:12).
- c. He calls on God's people to fear, honor and revere Him.
 - For He had not despised or hidden Himself from His afflicted servant (Ps 34:15-22).
 - He had listened to his cry for help (1 Jn 5:13-15).

3. God is the theme (focus) of David's praise

26-31

- a. He would praise God and fulfill his vows publicly.
- b. The people that sought the Lord would find sustenance and praise Him (Mtt 6:19-34).
- c. The nations would turn and worship Him (Is 56:7, Phil 2:5-11).
 - They will bow down (Phil 2:5-11).
 - For dominion belongs to the Lord.
 - The rich will feast and worship - all humanity, in fact.
 - All will hear of Him and serve Him, proclaiming His name to the unborn generations to come.

God alone is Savior