

Psalm 22 (ESV)

To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,

and by night, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are holy,

enthroned on the praises of Israel.

4 In you our fathers trusted;

they trusted, and you delivered them.

5 To you they cried and were rescued;

in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

6 But I am a worm and not a man,

scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

7 All who see me mock me;

they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

8 "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;

let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

9 Yet you are he who took me from the womb;

you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

10 On you was I cast from my birth,

and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

11 Be not far from me,

for trouble is near,

and there is none to help.

12 Many bulls encompass me;

strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

13 they open wide their mouths at me,

like a ravening and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water,

and all my bones are out of joint;

my heart is like wax;

it is melted within my breast;

15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd,

and my tongue sticks to my jaws;

you lay me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs encompass me;

a company of evildoers encircles me;

they have pierced my hands and feet—

17 I can count all my bones—

they stare and gloat over me;

18 they divide my garments among them,

and for my clothing they cast lots.

19 But you, O Lord, do not be far off!

O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

20 Deliver my soul from the sword,

my precious life from the power of the dog!

21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!

You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;

in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!

All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,

and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or abhorred

the affliction of the afflicted,

and he has not hidden his face from him,

but has heard, when he cried to him.

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;

my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;

those who seek him shall praise the Lord!

May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember

and turn to the Lord,

and all the families of the nations

shall worship before you.

28 For kingship belongs to the Lord,

and he rules over the nations.

29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;

before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,

even the one who could not keep himself alive.

30 Posterity shall serve him;

it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet

unborn,

that he has done it.

I. Historical Context

- a. Persecution from Saul/Absalom?
- b. Mere direct prophecy?
 - i. **Acts 2:29-31** 29 “Brothers, I may say to you with confidence about the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. 30 Being therefore a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would set one of his descendants on his throne, 31 he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.
- c. We don’t know exactly, but we shouldn’t dismiss Psalm 22 as JUST a prophecy that is completely unrelated to David, Israelite singers, and us.

II. Literary Context

- a. Genre(s)
 - i. Lament/Cry for Help
 - ii. Thanksgiving/Praise
- b. Structure
 - i. Lament: The psalmist’s trial (vv. 1–21)
 1. The psalmist’s torment: his seeming rejection (vv. 1–10)
 2. The psalmist’s turmoil: his suffering rehearsed (vv. 11–21)
 - a. Verse 1 & 21 = brackets
 - i. Saving theme

- ii. Thanksgiving: The psalmist’s triumph (vv. 22–31)

1. The psalmist’s praise (vv. 22–26)
2. The psalmist’s prophecy (vv. 27–31)
 - a. Verse 22 & 31 = brackets
 - i. Proclaiming theme

III. Verses 1-10 Preaching to himself during seeming rejection

- a. V.1-2 Common experience of believers
 - i. 1
 1. “My God, why” = covenantal tension
 2. forsakenness = far from saving and hearing groaning
 - ii. 2: No answer, no rest (“I am not silent, why are You?”)
- b. v.3-5 YET YOU...
 - i. Holy and sovereign (enthroned) and delivered those who trusted You in the past
- c. V.6-8 BUT I...
 - i. Could it be that my situation is worse and more hopeless than my fathers’?
 - ii. Worm = worthy of destruction
 - iii. Mocked for even trusting YHWH
- d. V.9-10 YET YOU...
 - i. Midwife imagery describing YHWH
 1. “made me trust” – all I had
 2. always been my God – covenant

IV. Verses 11-21 Cry for help and description of suffering

- a. Cry for help (v.11, 19, 20, 21)
- b. Language of an execution
 - i. Surrounded, pierced, stare/gloat, dust of death, divide garments
- c. V.11 Trouble is near, so I need You to be near too
- d. 12-18
 - i. Imagery: surrounded by vicious animals
 - ii. Imagery: physical weakness

- e. 19-21
 - i. Cry for help, casting all cares on YHWH
 - ii. Result?
 - 1. V.21 “You have rescued [answered] me.”

V. Verses 22-26 Praise

- a. Prayer turns to praise
 - i. V.1 & 24 “far from the words of my groaning” & “but has heard, when he cried to him”
 - ii. V. 6 & 24 “despised by the people” & “he has not despised...”
 - iii. V.7 & 27-29 “all” & “all”
 - iv. V.22
 - 1. Being rescued makes us want to tell other people of the good news
 - 2. Being rescued means we can continue worshiping
 - v. V.23 calls fellow covenant community members to praise
 - vi. Why? V.24
 - vii. V.25: Even our praise comes from Him
 - 1. Every good and perfect gift
 - 2. Eph 2:10 ordained good works
 - viii. V.26 gospel characteristic

VI. Verses 27-31 Prophecy

- a. “All the ends of the earth”
 - i. Gen 1:26-28
 - ii. Babel Gen 11
 - iii. Abrahamic Covenant Gen 12:1-3
 - iv. Christ/Pentecost/New Heavens/Earth
 - 1. Rev 5:9
- b. V.29
 - i. Rich and poor made equals
 - ii. “could not keep himself alive” – all humanity
- c. v.30-31

- i. His praise will continue on forever and ever in His ever-living covenant community
- ii. He has done it*

VII. Christ the ultimate Psalm singer

- a. Heb 2:9-12
- b. Scripture interprets Scripture

	They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.	And when they had crucified him, they <i>divided his garments among them by casting lots.</i>	
<u>Ps.</u> <u>22:18</u>			<u>Matt.</u> <u>27:35</u>

	All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads.	And those who passed by derided him, <i>wagging their heads.</i>	
<u>Ps.</u> <u>22:7</u>			<u>Matt.</u> <u>27:39</u>

	“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”	<i>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, “I am the Son of God.”</i>	
<u>Ps.</u> <u>22:8</u>			<u>Matt.</u> <u>27:43</u>

	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?	And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli,	
<u>Ps.</u> <u>22:1</u>			<u>Matt.</u> <u>27:46</u>

Why are you	lema sabachthani?"
so far from	that is, "My God,
saving me,	my God, why have
from the	you forsaken me?"
words of my	
groaning?	

c. David and Israel were types and shadows of Christ as they sang this Psalm during their times of forsakenness and triumph

i. **1Pet1:10-12** "10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

d. Christ sang and experienced this Psalm in a way that we will never have to.

i. meditation on Scripture and saturated with it

e. Forsakenness = wrath

f. my God – Christ knew "my God" in a way we don't...only one that truly deserved to say "my God"

i. not my head my head, my hands my hands, my feet my feet, or my friends my friends...

1. what is your understanding of hell? What do you most fear?

g. "why" – the only truly innocent one that deserved to ask "why"

h. What was the answer to Jesus' question? "To save sinners"

i. Dry mouth, pierced, mocked, afflicted, divided garments

j. Scarlet Worm

i. when it died, used for red dye

ii. mother would die shortly after giving birth...gave birth by sticking to a tree and then would die and stain the tree with her red dye.

k. Execution language: David was never actually executed, but Jesus was.

i. Execution/Death leading to Praise

ii. Who would've thought? Victory, praise, and glory through death.

l. His rescue came through resurrection...literally rescued from the dust of death and triumphed over the gloating powers and authorities (Col 2:15)

VIII. How do we sing this Psalm?

a. Expressing true and real emotions and experiences of suffering to God, and preaching His truths to ourselves, while remembering that He has rescued and will rescue us, therefore causing us to praise Him in the end.

i. If glory and praise resulted in the execution of Jesus, why will it not also result from our suffering in Him

ii. Because of the forsakenness of Christ and His resurrection:

b. Remembering Christ who sang this Psalm in a way that we will never have to sing it.

i. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

1. Amazed at the gospel we should say: "I am a sinner, my God, my God, why HAVEN'T you forsaken me?"

- a. He says “My son screamed in agony, so you can sing in adoration”
- 2. That cry belonged to us...
- ii. Jesus screamed so we could sing.