

Psalm 22: From Trial to Triumph

I. Introduction: How Should We Read Ps 22?

- A. Ps 22 is David's lament and thankful cry, arising from a trial or a period of suffering in his lifetime.
- B. Ps 22 is a model for Israel's suffering, a song to teach the nation how to approach difficulty.
- C. Ps 22 is a kind of "commentary" of the cross of Christ! Both Christ and the NT see Ps 22 related to Him.

"The difference between these three approaches is quite like the difference between reading one chapter of a book and reading the whole of the book. After taking into account the whole book, we understand the one chapter as well as the whole book more deeply. But it does not mean that our understanding of the one chapter by itself was incorrect." – Dr. Vern Poythress on Ps

II. Ps 22:1-21a: The Lament

TO THE CHOIRMASTER: ACCORDING TO THE DOE OF THE DAWN. A PSALM OF DAVID.

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! (vv. 1-21a)*

1. What kind of pattern occurs between vv. 1-2, 6-8, 12-18 and vv. 3-5, 9-11, 19-21? What does this teach us when we go through trials? Have you ever experienced this?

2. Draw out the amazing parallels to the cross. What does this say about the character of Scripture? Did God answer Jesus' cry on the cross? Why or why not?

"No incident recorded of David can even begin to account for this." - Derek Kidner, Psalms 1-72, 105
"Being therefore a prophet...he foresaw and spoke about...the Christ" (Acts 2:30-31)

Ps 22:18	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>	Matt 27:35
Ps 22:7	All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads.	And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads.	Matt 27:39
Ps 22:8	“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”	He saved others; he cannot save himself. . . Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. <i>He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him.</i>	Matt 27:42-3
Ps 22:1	My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?	And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is, <i>“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”</i>	Matt 27:46

II. Ps 22:21b-31: The Divine Answer

You have answered 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. (vv. 21b-31)*

1. In the OT, an Israelite would hold a celebration should God answer his cry for deliverance (see vv. 22, 25). How is this related to Christ? Who gets invited to the feast?

“For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹ For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹² saying, ‘I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.’” (Heb 2:10-12)

2. How do Jesus’ final words on the cross (John 19:30) give you assurance in the midst of suffering (see v. 31)?

“Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied...” (Is 53:10-11)

“...looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb 12:2)

