

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PSALMS

LESSON 6

PSALM 22

WEEK OF OCTOBER 19–OCTOBER 24

PSALM OF THE CROSS

Psalm 22 expresses David's anguish over his hardship and suffering both physically and emotionally which is compounded by his feeling that God has abandoned him. It seems to David that God is silent in his dark and trying circumstances. While David is writing of his personal anguish and personal experience with God, David's Holy Spirit inspired Words also express the Messianic prophetic message of the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ in his death on the Cross. (**Psalm 22:1-21**).

The Psalm concludes in **verses 22-31** with David's praise for God's faithful deliverance from his dark circumstances; and prophetically concludes with a chorus of praise for the glorious resurrection and reign of the risen Savior.

In this Psalm, we will look at both the application to the psalmist and to the grander prophetic message of the suffering of the Messiah on the cross followed by the great celebration of praise following the resurrection of our Savior.

Read Psalm 22:1-10. Cry of Anguish – Yet Confident Trust

1. What was David's cry of anguish in **verses 1 and 2**?
2. In **verses 3 to 5**, David abruptly turns from anguish over God's apparent abandonment and silence to his cry of suffering to an expression of confidence in God. This abrupt change and contrast is introduced by the word "Yet". What did David recall in **verses 3-5** which provided help and encouragement in his present trials and moments of anguish?
3. In **verses 6–8**, David once again returns to an expression of lament. What were people doing to inflict additional suffering upon David?
4. In **verses 9 and 10**, David again provides a contrast between his expression of pain and anguish and his confidence in the Lord that is introduced with the word "Yet". How does David express his confidence in God's provision and protection in these verses?
5. How have you seen God work in a past dark and difficult time when God appeared to be silent and uncaring? What hope might these verses give you in a current trial?

The words of **Psalm 22:1-10** also carry significant meaning as one of the Messianic prophecies about the suffering of Christ on the cross at the hands of His taunting enemies.

6. How do the following verses show the fulfillment of this Messianic prophecy from **Psalm 22:1-10**:
 - a. **Matthew 27:46**

b. **Matthew 27:39, 43**

c. **Luke 23:35**

Read Psalm 22:11-18. Description of Great Pain and Distress Inflicted by Enemies

7. Trusting in God's care, David, in his dark times of pain and anguish, perseveres in prayer. What is David's petition in **vs 11**?
8. How does David describe the threats and actions of his enemies and the pain and suffering they inflicted in **verses 12-18**?

This section of **Psalm 22** also applies to the suffering, pain and anguish of the greater David, the Messiah.

9. From **Psalm 22:11-18**, what Messianic prophecies are fulfilled by Christ's suffering and death on the cross:
 - a. **Matthew 27:35**
 - b. **Luke 23:34,35**
 - c. **John 19:24**

Read Psalm 22:19-31. God Answers and Provides Deliverance Producing Praise and Salvation to the Ends of the Earth

In verses **19-21a**, David continues with his petition without answer or relief from his difficulties and hardship and suffering. Then in **vs 21b**, David exclaims "*You answer me.*" He has persevered in prayer, trusting God and suddenly God breaks the silence. As a result, in **verses 22-31** David bursts into explosive praise.

10. In **verses 22-31**, David expresses great praise to God for the end of his suffering and for God's mercy, grace and deliverance as he answered David's prayer. From this portion of **Psalm 22**, what verses do you find most meaningful or significant and why?

Considering **verses 19-31** prophetically, many commentators place Christ's resurrection between **verses 21 and 22**. The end of Christ's suffering at the time of the resurrection is the glorious reason and explanation for the dramatic change in the tone of **Psalm 22** from a series of laments to great praise that impacts the entire world.

11. When facing dark days and trials when God seems distant and there seems to be no hope for deliverance from your troubles, what comfort and security do you find in the following promises of God?
 - a. **Isaiah 41:10**
 - b. **Psalm 34:17-19**
 - c. **Romans 8:38-39**
 - d. **Romans 5:3-9**