

Psalm 22 – VICTORIOUS SUFFERER

A. **A Psalm** of David literally fulfilled at the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

1. But it also relates to many sufferings experienced by David.

B. **The gospels** give a historical record of Jesus' suffering; this psalm reveals His thoughts.

1. It begins with a cry of Jesus from the cross ([Matt 27:46](#)), depicted as an injured beast roaring or groaning in the wilderness.

C. **First** half depicts a Sufferer surrounded by his enemies & who feels forsaken by God.

D. **Second** half expresses his joy after being delivered from his trials.

E. **Perhaps** you have questions about the words of David or Jesus in verse one.

1. David gives us the answer to your question in verse 21 of this psalm.
2. God is not deaf to our prayers nor is He blind to our grief, He answers, He is aware.
3. He is not a forsaker, He is a Helper to His people, & their Deliverer from trouble.

[This psalm, **first**, expresses David's thoughts during a difficult ordeal...and **secondly**, they are words that shed light on the trial & crucifixion of our Lord.

Throughout we are shown the scene that He sees with His eyes followed by the inner thoughts of His heart.]

I. SUFFERER *FEELS FORSAKEN BY GOD* (22:1-21)

WE HEAR HIS DESPONDENT CRY (1-2)

Why has God forsaken me? Why does He not help me? – 1

Day & night my cry is made...why does God not hear? – 2 (The silence of a parent will stimulate a child to cry louder, cf. [Matt 15:22-23](#))

HE TURNS THOUGHTS FROM DESPONDENCY TO HOPE (3-5)

God is holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel – 3 (David proclaimed God's holiness at a time when it seemed that He was disregarding the prayers of faith. God is surrounded by the worship of His people)

Our fathers trusted in Him, & He delivered them – 4 (starting in Egyptian bondage)

They cried to Him, & He did not disappoint them – 5

BUT HE CANNOT IGNORE HIS PRESENT TORMENT (6-8)

Reduced to be like a worm, not a man – 6

The object of reproach, despised by others – 7

Ridiculed & taunted by those who mock his trust in God ([Matt 27:39-43](#)) – 8

YET HIS FAITH IN GOD COMES BACK INTO FOCUS (9-11)

He acknowledges that God has been with him since birth – 9-10

He looks to God as his only helper (when in trial, remember back to a time when you had no doubt of God's presence & concern for you) – 11

ENEMIES & SUFFERING DESCRIBED (12-18)

His *enemies* – (troubles without)

They surround him like strong bulls of Bashan – 12 (A hilly region east of Gilead & north of Jordan, known for its rich soil, green pastures & healthy cattle. Being in the open range made them untamable, wild & always wanting more)

Their mouths opened like a raging & roaring lion – 13 (lions roar after catching their prey & devouring it)

His *suffering* – (troubles within)

Poured out like water, bones out of joint – 14

Heart like wax, melted within him – 14

Strength dried up, tongues clinging to his jaws – 15

Brought to the dust of death – 15

His *affliction* – (torture)

Like a pack of wild dogs, they surround him; like a gang of evildoers they encircle him; they have pierced his hands & feet – 16

He can count all his bones; they feast their eyes on him in pitiless concern – 17

They divide his garments, & cast lots for his clothing – 18 (a form of mockery, as if to say, “It’s all over for you.” [Matt 27:35](#))

HIS FINAL CRY (19-21)

For God to *not* be far away

To be his strength, to hasten & help him – 19

To deliver his life from the sword, his precious life (soul) from the power of the dog – 20

To save him from the lion’s mouth & horns of wild oxen – 21

Then, a sudden declaration that God has answered him!

b. Sometimes God actually favors us by denying our immediate wishes.

II. 1ST SUMMARY: GOD DOES SEE & RESPOND TO HIS SUFFERING SERVANTS – (22:1-21)

A. In verse one David suggested that God did not hear him because there was no apparent response to his request.

1. This is an example of human weakness, & it expresses a thought that most of us have had at one time or another.
2. But perhaps the human weakness is that we cannot always accept God's answer & response to our prayers.
 - a. Paul's prayer was heard but denied, but for his own good & growth in the service of Christ (2 Cor 12:7-10).

B. Verse one seems to represent more the feelings of David than Jesus.

1. Jesus DID say these words on the cross; but perhaps He said them to remind us (as those people at the cross) of this prophetic psalm.
2. Bear in mind that Jesus put himself on that cross & nothing could prevent Him from doing His Father's will (John 10:17-18; 12:23, 27-30).

C. The Bitterness of Calvary – (22:16-18)

1. Like David in his trials, Jesus went to the cross, dreading the agony.
2. But unlike David, Jesus went through His trials willingly & confident that God would achieve His purpose.

Isa 53:7 – He was oppressed & He was afflicted, *yet He opened not His mouth*; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, & *as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth*.

NOT BECAUSE HE WAS WEAK OR HELPLESS BUT BECAUSE HE POSSESSED THE STRENGTH OF GOD!

[NEXT: 2nd half of the psalm]

III. THE SUFFERER DELIVERED BY GOD (22:22-31)

[**Consider:** Jesus resurrection, His ascension into heaven, the proclamation of the gospel & the answering of that call]

GOD IS PRAISED! (22-25)

After the sufferer sees deliverance, he praises God with his whole heart:

Proclaiming His name (power, faithfulness & love) to his brethren – 22

In the middle of the assembly he calls on them to praise God also: to honor Him & to stand in awe of Him – 23

Reasons for this praise:

God has NOT despised nor abhorred his affliction – 24

God has NOT hidden His face from him, but rather heard his cry – 24 (What about the idea that God turned His face away from Jesus on the cross?)

The sufferer will praise God & pay his vows in the great assembly, before them that fear Him – 25

GOD WILL BE WORSHIPPED! (26-31)

...By the poor (in spirit), & those who seek the Lord – 26 (the character of those in the kingdom)

They shall eat & be satisfied

They shall praise Him forever

...By people from the ends of the earth – 27 (the expansion of His kingdom)

Who remember & return to the Lord

All families of the nations will bow down before Him

For the kingdom is the Lord's, & He is the Ruler among the Nations

...*By the prosperous & the dead* – 29 (all men are subject to Him & will confess Him – [Phil 2:11](#))

The prosperous will eat, & worship Him

The dying shall bow before Him

...*By the generations to come* (this should be you & I)

A posterity (those who come after) shall serve him – 30

For men shall tell of what God has done

People yet born shall hear of God's justice ([Jn 10:16](#); [Acts 2:39](#)) – 30

IV. 2ND SUMMARY: GOD ANSWERS PRAYER – THE SUFFERER PRAISES & PROMISES – (22:21b-31)

A. **David** learned what Jesus always knew (22:21):

1. God does not forsake his servants, & He answers their prayers ([Luke 22:39-44](#)).

B. “**I will declare Your Name**” (22:22)

1. The Hebrews' writer quotes this verse & applies it to our high priest ([Heb 2:9-18](#)).
2. Jesus declared the name of God **before, on & after** the cross.

a. **The lesson:** *we should never let our circumstances determine our faith.*

[**God** will not forsake His faithful people; He will answer their prayers. **Therefore**, let us declare His name as we encounter every circumstance in life—no matter how difficult.]

CLOSING

A. **The message is the comforting assurance that God does not abandon His faithful people, any more than He deserted David or Jesus.**

1. It is simply our duty, then, to trust & obey in every circumstance.

Psa 55:22 (David) – Cast your burden on the LORD, & He shall sustain you; *He shall never permit the righteous to be moved.*

Remember this as we take our stand in this world against religious error & worldliness!

2 Chron 15:1-5 (The Prophet Azariah once told a king in Judah) – ***The LORD is with you while you are with Him.*** If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you. 3 For a long time Israel has been without the true God, without a teaching priest, & without law; 4but when in their trouble they turned to the LORD God of Israel, & sought Him, He was found by them. {1 Pet 5:8; Heb 13:5-6}
