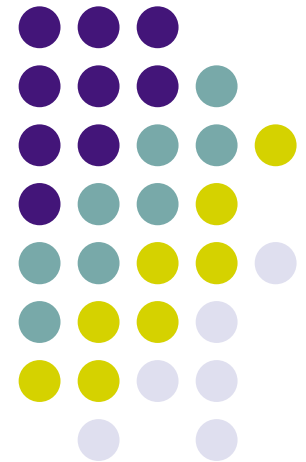


Psalm 22: The Crucified Messiah

Robert C. Newman





Introduction

Jesus' cry of desolation from the cross:

- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- What does it mean?
- Psalm 22 gives us insight here.
- The psalm was fulfilled in Jesus in a most notable and striking way!
- We will go thru the psalm section by section, explaining as we go.

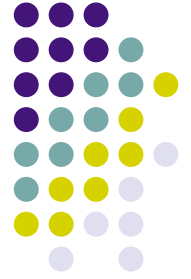
Psalm 22:1-2



1 (NIV) My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?

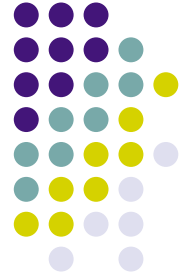
2 O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, and am not silent.

Psalm 22:1-2



- Jesus is abandoned by God
- His prayers are not answered
- Daytime: on the cross
- Night-time: Gethsemane, arrest, trial

Psalm 22:3-5



3 (NIV) Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the praise of Israel.

4 In you our fathers put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them.

5 They cried to you and were saved; in you they trusted and were not disappointed.



Psalm 22:3-5

- Jesus doesn't charge God with wrongdoing in not answering him, as Job does.
- Instead, he recites the experiences of God's people.



Psalm 22:6-8

6 (NIV) But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by men and despised by the
people.

7 All who see me mock me;

they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

8 "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD
rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he
delights in him."

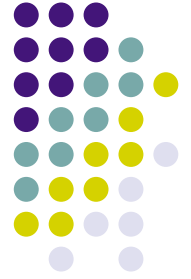


Psalm 22:6-8

Jesus wonders:

- Does he qualify for an answer in this humiliating situation?
- Being put to death for crimes?
 - Which we now understand to be ours?
- Mocked by Jews & Gentiles alike?
 - Their mockery is vividly pictured
 - But even the mockery admits that Jesus trusts God!

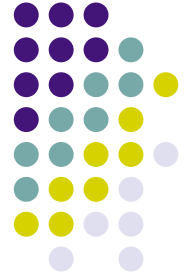
Psalm 22:9-10



9 (NIV) Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.

10 From birth I was cast upon you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.

Psalm 22:9-10



- Jesus recalls that God has, in fact, always helped him, even from the very time of birth
- Probably referring to his rescue from Herod

Psalm 22:11



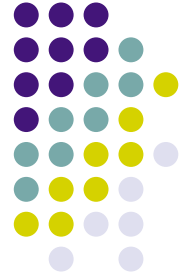
11 (NIV) Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

Psalm 22:11



- Jesus renews his cry for help.
- He will now begin to elaborate his distress and lack of help.

Psalm 22:12-13



12 (NIV) Many bulls surround me;
strong bulls of Bashan encircle
me.

13 Roaring lions tearing their prey
open their mouths wide against
me.



Psalm 22:12-13

- Jesus characterizes his adversaries as bulls and lions, both ferocious animals with superhuman strength.
- Perhaps he is including demonic forces here.



Psalm 22:14-15

14 (NIV) I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint.

My heart has turned to wax;
it has melted away within me.

15 My strength is dried up like a
potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the
roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust
of death.

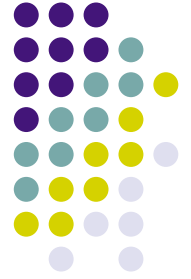


Psalm 22:14-15

Jesus describes his physical helplessness:

- No strength
- Body stretched on the cross
- Agonizing thirst
- Humiliating death

Psalm 22:16-18



16 (NIV) Dogs have surrounded me;
a band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.

17 I can count all my bones;
people stare and gloat over me.

18 They divide my garments among them
and cast lots for my clothing.



Psalm 22:16-18

- Jesus describes his enemies: dogs, evildoers
- Pierced hands and feet
 - Liberals try hard to get around this.
- 'Count bones' fits stretching on cross
- 'Gaze' shows mockery, shame
 - Person is crucified naked.
- Clothing divided
 - Victim won't be using it again.

Psalm 22:19-21

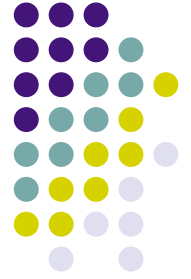


19 (NIV) But you, O LORD, be not far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

20 Deliver my life from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the
dogs.

21 Rescue me from the mouth of the
lions; save me from the horns of the wild
oxen.

Psalm 22:19-21



- Jesus makes his final plea to God.
- He ends with strong confidence that the Lord has heard him and will answer.



Psalm 22:22-24

- At this point, the whole atmosphere of the psalm changes:
 - Prayer for deliverance (vv 1-21)
 - Psalm of praise (vv 22-31)
- The speaker:
 - previously dying in agony
 - now living in victory
 - formerly surrounded by enemies
 - now in the presence of God and his people

Psalm 22:22-24



22 (NIV) I will declare your name to my brothers; in the congregation I will praise you.

23 You who fear the LORD, praise him!

All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!

Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one;

he has not hidden his face from him

but has listened to his cry for help.



Psalm 22:22-24

- Jesus calls on his 'brothers' to praise God.
- The scene is some sort of assembly:
 - Perhaps heavenly
 - More likely (see further) an earthly scene at his second coming

Psalm 22:25-26



25 (NIV) From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.

26 The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the LORD will praise him –
may your hearts live forever!



Psalm 22:25-26

- Jesus is here pictured as praising God in a temple scene
 - A banquet
 - Apparently the culmination of a vow-offering
- Guests are invited to share in eating the offerings, here pictured as a great assembly of those who are humble and fear God.
- They will live forever!

Psalm 22:27-29



27 (NIV) All the ends of the earth
will remember and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
will bow down before him,

28 for dominion belongs to the LORD
and he rules over the nations.

29 All the rich of the earth will feast and
worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel
before him – those who cannot keep
themselves alive.



Psalm 22:27-29

- The results of Jesus' death and rescue are here pictured.
- It will be remembered all over the earth
- It will cause many to turn to God:
 - Some from every tribe and nation
 - Both rich and poor

Psalm 22:30-31



30 (NIV) Posterity will serve him;
future generations will be told about
the Lord.

31 They will proclaim his
righteousness
to a people yet unborn –
for he has done it.



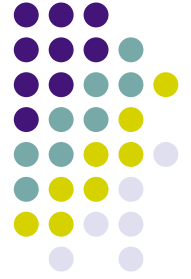
Psalm 22:30-31

- The result will be a new 'seed'
 - A new people
 - Those who can be called God's children
- These children will spread the message far and wide, and also to future generations.



Conclusions

- Look at the striking fit of Psalm 22, written centuries before the coming of Jesus, to the details of his death!
- Look at the results it has already produced!
- Look at the suffering Jesus went through, not because he couldn't have avoided it, but because he loved us and suffered to rescue us from our sin and deserved punishment!



Conclusions

- Look at Jesus' example of patient trusting in God, recalling God's faithfulness rather than complaining or doubting.
- May we cast ourselves upon him, so that we can do the same in our troubles.

The End

We are saved by
The Crucified Messiah!

