

## PSALM 22 CHRIST ON THE CROSS

### I. Psalm 22:1-31

#### A. Psalm 22:1-31 (ESV) reads as follows:

*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.

B. We're reminded that prophecies often have an initial fulfillment followed by their ultimate fulfillment in Christ. But do the Psalms contain prophecy? Do they foretell? Do they point to Jesus? 1 Chronicles 25:1 (NKJV) gives us a hint: *"Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was:"* (The rest of the chapter lists their names.)

C. The fact that Jesus utters Psalm 22:1 while on the cross is actually more than a hint. If I were to merely say, *"We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal..."* You'd immediately know I was invoking the Declaration of Independence. If I were to quote, *"Four score and seven years ago..."* You would know I was referencing Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. In a similar way, Jesus invokes the entirety of Psalm 22 when He cries out. *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* This would not have been lost upon the Jewish leaders standing beneath the cross!

D. Let's take a look at a few verses from Psalm 22 and see if they match up with any of the Gospel narratives. Perhaps some of you will be surprised.

1) V22:1: 1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from saving Me, from the words of My groaning? Matthew 27:36 (ESV) says: **46** *And about the ninth hour (6pm) Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* Mark 15:34 (ESV) says: **34** *And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* (A mix of Hebrew and Aramaic...)

2) V22:7-8: 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!"* Matthew 27:39-44 (ESV) says: **39** *And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying, 42 "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He desires Him. For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 And those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way.* Mark 15:29-32 (ESV) reads similar: **29** *And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, 30 save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" 31 So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. 32 Let the Christ,*

the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him. **Luke 23:35-37 (ESV) echoes: 35** And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!" **36** The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine **37** and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!" **(Coincidence? Deliberate imitation? Fulfilled Prophecy?)**

**3) V22:16-18: 16** For dogs encompass Me; a company of evildoers encircles Me; they have pierced My hands and feet--**(crucifixion wouldn't come along for another 600 years!)** **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. **(All Four Gospels weigh in!)** **Matthew 27:33-36 (ESV) says: 33** And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), **34** they offered Him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when He tasted it, He would not drink it. **(Narcotic-like pain killer)** **35** And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by casting lots. **36** Then they sat down and kept watch over Him there. **Mark 15:23-25 (ESV) dittos: 22** And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). **23** And they offered Him wine mixed with myrrh, but He did not take it. **24** And they crucified Him and divided His garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. **25** And it was the third hour **(9am)** when they crucified Him. **Luke 23:32-34 (ESV) says: 32** Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with Him. **33** And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on His right and one on His left. **34** And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide His garments. **John 19:23-24 (ESV) actually references the Psalm: 23** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, **24** so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." **This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,** "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." So the soldiers did these things... **John 20:24-25 (ESV) happens with Thomas after the resurrection: 24** Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into His side, I will never believe." **(At Jesus' next visit Thomas will be present!)**

**4) V 22:14-15: 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. **(Crucifixion leads to dehydration.)** **John 19:28-30 (ESV) says: 28** After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." **29** A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. **(cf Ps 69:21) (Thirst-quenched drink)** **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," **(Tetelestai: "Paid in full!")** and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

## II. Communion

**A. Psalm 22 was written 1000 years before Jesus. The Gospels are closing in on 2000 years old. But these were written for you that you might believe. God made man and mankind rebelled. Enmity was the result. But God sent His Son to restore peace between us and Him. Our sin that caused the enmity was imputed to Christ on the cross. His suffering was vividly described in our text. His agony and shed blood were the punishment for our sins. (The Bread & Cup remind us.)**

**B. But even as He came to die, He came that we might live. By grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone we are saved. Undeserved and incapable of being earned, He has declared us "not guilty" and has reckoned us "righteous" and has forgiven our sins, and has won us to Himself, and has adopted us as His own, and bestowed upon us everlasting life. (The Bread & Cup remind us.)**

\* Close with Prayer...

\* Psalm 22:27-31 is our Benediction...

## Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

### Psalm 22:1-31 (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.

#### **1 Chronicles 25:1 (NKJV)**

**1** Moreover David and the captains of the army separated for the service some of the sons of Asaph, of Heman, and of Jeduthun, who should prophesy with harps, stringed instruments, and cymbals. And the number of the skilled men performing their service was...

#### **Matthew 27:36 (ESV)**

**46** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

#### **Mark 15:34 (ESV)**

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#### **Matthew 27:39-44 (ESV)**

**39** And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads **40** and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross." **41** So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked Him, saying, **42** "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in Him. **43** He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now, if He desires Him. For He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" **44** And the robbers who were crucified with Him also reviled Him in the same way.

#### **Mark 15:29-32 (ESV)**

**29** And those who passed by derided Him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, **30** save Yourself, and come down from the cross!" **31** So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked Him to one another, saying, "He saved others; He cannot save Himself. **32** Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with Him also reviled Him.

#### **Luke 23:35-37 (ESV)**

**35** And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at Him, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself, if He is the Christ of God, His Chosen One!" **36** The soldiers also mocked Him, coming up and offering Him sour wine **37** and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself!"

#### **John 19:28-30 (ESV)**

**28** After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), "I thirst." **29** A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to His mouth. **30** When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

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### **John 19:23-24 (ESV)**

**23** When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also His tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, **24** so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says, "*They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.*" So the soldiers did these things...

### **John 20:24-25 (ESV)**

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### **Film Clips & Article Links**

"At the Cross (Love Ran Red)" - Chris Tomlin (Acoustic Sessions)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORyXT2ZRwUE>

Cross Examination - Psalm 22 - Skip Heitzig (Full Sermon)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny6kbvQdUE8>

"My God, My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?" - Joel Beeke - Ligonier Ministries

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/christ-forsaken/>

The Wine Jesus Drank (On the Cross) - Article by David Mathis

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-wine-jesus-drank>

Fulfilled Prophecy Demonstrates the Divine Inspiration of Scripture - Nathan W. Bingham

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/fulfilled-prophecy-demonstrates-divine-inspiration-scripture/>

### **Bonus Stuff**

#### **Exodus 20:3-6 (NASB)**

**3** "You shall have no other gods before Me. **4** "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. **5** You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, **6** but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

#### **Quote by Charles Swindoll**

"[Jesus] tilted His head back, pulled up one last time to draw breath and cried, "*Tetelestai!*" It was a Greek expression most everyone present would have understood. It was an accounting term. Archaeologists have found papyrus tax receipts with "Tetelestai" written across them, meaning "paid in full." With Jesus' last breath on the cross, He declared the debt of sin cancelled, completely satisfied. Nothing else required. Not good deeds. Not generous donations. Not penance or confession or baptism or...or...or...nothing. The penalty for sin is death, and we were all born hopelessly in debt. He paid our debt in full by giving His life so that we might live forever."

### **Quote by Charles Spurgeon**

"They bewailed innocence maltreated, goodness persecuted, love bleeding, meekness about to die; but my heart has a deeper and more bitter cause to mourn. My sins were the scourges which lacerated those blessed shoulders, and crowned with thorn those bleeding brows: my sins cried "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" and laid the cross upon His gracious shoulders. His being led forth to die is sorrow enough for one eternity: but my having been His murderer, is more, infinitely more, grief than one poor fountain of tears can express."

### **Quote by John Piper**

"Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us — a crucified God — must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world."

### **Quote by Martin Luther**

"Learn to know Christ and Him crucified. Learn to sing to Him, and say, 'Lord Jesus, You are my righteousness, I am your sin. You have taken upon Yourself what is mine and given me what is Yours. You have become what You were not so that I might become what I was not.'"

### **Theological Note on Matthew 27:35**

The ESV Study Bible

*"And when they had crucified Him, they divided His garments among them by casting lots." - Matthew 27:35 (ESV)*

**27:35 crucified Him.** Crucifixion was widely practiced by the Romans, and the early Jewish historian Josephus mentions thousands of people crucified in first-century Palestine (mostly during rebellions against Rome). There are stories of Roman soldiers cruelly playing with different postures for crucified victims (e.g., Josephus, *Jewish War* 5.449-551), though the use of nails and a crossbar appear to have been common. Modern medical explanations for the cause of death on a cross have focused on either asphyxiation or shock. Crucifixion was widely believed to be the worst form of execution, due to the excruciating pain and public shame. Hanging suspended by one's arms eventually caused great difficulty in breathing, which could be alleviated only by pushing up with one's feet to take weight off the arms. But that motion itself would cause severe pain in the feet, arms, legs, and back, causing the exhausted victim to slump down again, only to be nearly unable to breathe once more. Eventually, the victim would succumb to suffocation, if he had not already died as a result of the cumulative effect of the physical trauma inflicted on him.

***They divided His garments among them by casting lots*** is a clear reference to Ps. 22:18. Matthew alludes to Psalm 22 throughout much of the narrative without his typical fulfillment formula (see note on Matt. 1:22). His readers would know that the soldiers' actions fulfill Scripture.

- Theological note on Matthew 27:25, *The ESV Study Bible*, Crossway, p. 1886.

### **Theological Note on Mark 15:24**

The NIV Study Bible

*"And they crucified Him. Dividing up His clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get." - Mark 15:24 (NIV)*

**15:24 crucified.** A Roman means of execution in which the prisoner was nailed to a cross (see note on Jn. 19:17). Heavy, wrought-iron nails were driven through the wrists and the heel bones. If the victim lingered too long, death was hastened by breaking their legs (see Jn. 19:33 and note). Archaeologists have discovered the bones of a crucified man, near Jerusalem, dating between A.D. 7 and 66, which shed light on the position of a person when nailed to a cross. Only slaves, the basest of criminals, and offenders, who were not Roman citizens were executed in this manner. First-century authors vividly describe the agony and disgrace of being crucified.

***Dividing up His clothes.*** It was the accepted right of the executioner's squad to claim the minor possessions of the victim. Jesus' clothing probably consisted of an under and outer garment, a belt, sandals, and possibly a head covering (see note on Jn. 19:18).

***Cast lots.*** See Ps. 22:18 and introduction to that psalm; see also Jn. 19:23-34 and notes.

- Theological note on Mark 15:24, *The NIV Study Bible*, Zondervan, p. 1561.