

PROPHECY OF THE CRUCIFIXION

Our lesson text (1 Pet. 1:10-12) helps us understand that David wrote Psalms 22 as a messianic prophesy regarding the crucifixion suffering of Christ.

David wrote it as a prophet rather than as a king 1000 years before its fulfillment.

“Psalms 22 is the most quoted Psalms in the NT.” (NAS, Ryrie, pg.848)

This lesson will study four aspects of David’s prophetic details of the crucifixion of Christ in Psalms 22.
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1. Psalms 22 became immortalized as messianic when Jesus Christ quoted it while on the cross (Ps.22:1).

“Now from the sixth hour (noon) darkness fell upon the land until the ninth hour (3pm). About the ninth hour **Jesus cried out** with a loud voice, saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?’ that is, **My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?**” (Matt.27:45-46) [Hebrew- Aramaic]

The Hebrew word for forsaken is azab (kal pf/ completed state or condition). It means to be abandoned or to be left behind (Ps.16:10; Gen.2:24).

The Greek word is enkataleipo (a.a.ind). It is a triple compound word meaning to leave behind in a strait or helpless.

(Ps.22:1) goes on to say, “Far from My deliverance are the words of My groaning (sheagah) (Job 3:20-24).” Groaning was the human cry associated with the physical and spiritual agony of the crucifixion. **His greatest pain was being forsaken** -“O My God, I cry by day, but Thou dost not answer (lo anah / kal impf), and by night but I have no rest.” (Ps.22:2)

2. “In the 22nd Psalms, we find the great atoning work of our Savior in its deep Godward aspect; the source of grace, unfathomable grace, for guilty, lost sinners.” (A.C.Gaebelen. pg.104)

At the end of the conversation with the Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-34), Jesus took the disciples aside and spoke in terms of the fulfillment of Psalms 22 (Luke 18:31-34). “All things which are written through the **prophets about the Son of Man** will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles, and will be mocked and mistreated and spit upon, and after they have scourged Him, they will kill Him; and third day He will rise again. And **they understood none of these things**, and this saying was hidden from them, and they did not comprehend the things that were said.”

“For I delivered to you as of first importance what I have also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” (1 Cor.15:3-4; Ps.22; Isa.53)

“But **God** demonstrated His own love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ** died for us.” (Rom.5:8) “But He, having offered **one sacrifice for sins for all time**, sat down at the right hand of God.” (Heb.10:12)

3. What is interesting to this study is that Psalms 22 was written in 8 musical lines or stanzas.

In the Hebrew Bible, the following introduction is verse one. But in the English Bible, it is an introduction to the Psalms. “For the choir director; upon Aijeleth Hashshahar (the hind of the morning). A Psalms of David.”

In today’s lesson, we will use them as 8 short bursts or gasps of Jesus Christ during His crucifixion suffering. It was this type of prophetic messianic word of God that sustained Jesus while suffering for the sins of the entire world (Ps.22; Isa.53).

22:1-2	Forsaken	22:12-13	Suffering for sin
22:3-5	Trust God	22:14-16	Suffering for sin
22:6-8	Despised	22:17-18	Suffering for sin
22:9-11	Trust God	22:19-21	Trust God

“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29; Rev.5:12)

“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.” (Eph.1:7)

“And He himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for our only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

4. We will study four fulfillments of these 8 gasps during the suffering of Jesus Christ for the sins of the entire world (Ps.22:1-21).

22:1-2	Forsaken by the Godhead	(Matt.27:46; Ps.37:25)
22:6-8	Despised by man	(Matt.27:39-44)
22:12-16	Suffering for sin	(John 19:28, 34; 20:25)
22:17-18	Suffering for sin	(Matt.27:35; Luke 23:34-35; John 19:23-24)

Note carefully how Ps.22:1-21 ends:

“Thou dost answer (anah / kal pf) Me.” (22:21) – **Note the change in grammar from (anah / kal impf) [incomplete state] in 22:2 to (anah / kal pf/) [completed state] in 22:21.**

This grammar change was based on the fulfillment of the plan of God regarding the crucifixion.

“When Jesus therefore has received the sour wine, He said, **‘It is finished!’** And He bowed His head, and gave up His spirit.” (John 19:30)

“Yet **He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death,** in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.” (Col.1:22)