**PSALM 22**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Psalm 22 is considered a Psalm of David, He knew suffering and pain. He experienced loneliness and how it felt to be forsaken. This Psalm is ultimately fulfilled in the Messiah.

**BODY:**

1. **His Rejection** Psalm 22:1-10

Psalm 22: 1-2 “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear; And in the night season, and am not silent.” NKJV David feels that God has abandoned him in his time of suffering and feels he is far away. He feels hopeless, continually crying out. (Psalm 6:6) “I am weary with my groaning; All night I make my bed swim; I drench my couch with my tears.” NKJV Jesus cries out on the cross. (Matthew 27:46) “And 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?’” NKJV The Father had to temporally turn his back on the Son. This was demanded by the Father’s holiness. (2 Corinthians 5:21) “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” NKJV But Jesus knew the Father would not permanently forsake him. (John 16:32) “Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.” NKJV

Psalm 22:3-5 “But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in You; They trusted, and You delivered them. They cried to You, and were delivered; They trusted in You, and were not ashamed.” NKJV David reminds himself of God’s goodness in the past. When delivering His people, He provided for and sustained them. We must continually remind ourselves of God’s help for us in past circumstances.

Psalm 22:6-8 “But I am a worm, and no man; A reproach of men, and despised by the people. All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!” NKJV

“Worm” shows the feeling of not having worth, of being lowly. Then note the feelings of reproach, being despised, ridiculed. This was how Christ was treated. (Matthew 27:39-44) “And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads and saying, ‘You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross.’ Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, ‘He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for he said, I am the Son of God.’ Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing. NKJV

Psalm 22:9-10 “But You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother’s breasts. I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother’s womb You have been My God. NKJV David knows his existence comes from God. God has been with him since birth. Christians need to remember, especially in difficult times, that they are new creatures in Christ with great worth in God’s sight. Christians are special prized possessions.

1. **His Suffering** Psalm 22:11-18

Psalm 22:11-12 “Be not far from Me, For trouble is near; For there is none to help. Many bulls have surrounded Me; Strong bulls of Bashan have encircled Me.” NKJV Bashan is rich pastures for strong bulls. Often we can feel surrounded by brutish animals – our enemies. Our lord was surrounded at his crucifixion. They were angry and ready to kill.

Psalm 22:13 “They gape at Me with their mouths, Like a raging and roaring lion.” NKJV The crowd was ready to devour like vicious lions roaring at the sight of their prey.

Psalm 22:14-15 “I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.” NKJV This description is the sad picture of Jesus on the cross. His life is ebbing away. His heart is melting; His bones are out of joint. His mouth is parched as He said, “I thirst.”

Psalm 22:16 “For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;” NKJV Enemies are seen as a pack of wild dogs. His hands and feet were pierced. Psalm 22:17-18 “I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.” NKJV Jesus is described as getting weaker and weaker. One can see His bones because he’s so thin. They cast lots for his clothes.

1. **His Plea**

Psalm 22:19-21 “But You, O Lord, do not be far from Me; O My Strength, hasten to help Me! Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion’s mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me.” NKJV The writer, David, pleads for help from God. He feels beaten and broken. Christ knew the Father could deliver Him but He also knew He had to die so we could live. (Hebrews 9:26-28) “He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.” NKJV

1. **His Praise**

Psalm 22:22-26 “I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You. You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And fear Him, all you offspring of Israel! For He has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; Nor has He hidden His face from Him; But when He cried to Him, He heard. My praise shall be of You in the great assembly; I will pay My vows before those who fear Him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; Those who seek Him will praise the Lord. Let your heart live forever!” NKJV “Declare your name” – While David declared God’s character and nature, no one did it to the degree that Jesus did. He said, “He came to reveal the Father.” Christ is telling us to glorify and praise Jehovah. We must tell the world about Him. Also, God has always been concerned with the afflicted, the poor, the needy. We must be concerned as well. In addition, those in “the assembly,” the kingdom, feast upon all spiritual blessings.

1. **His Prophecy**

Psalm 22:27-31 “All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the Lord, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You. For the kingdom is the Lord’s, And He rules over the nations. All the prosperous of the earth Shall eat and worship; All those who go down to the dust shall bow before Him, Even he who cannot keep himself alive. A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this.”NKJV

* “King of Kings” The Lord’s Kingdom is the greatest of all kingdoms. (Revelation 11:15) “Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!’ ” NKJV
* All kinds of men, rich and poor, healthy or sick, will worship the Lord. They will praise Him for all their blessings.
* Generation after generation will hear the gospel’s message and be blessed. God’s righteousness will be declared by one generation to another generation. (Isaiah12:4-5) “And in that day you will say: Praise the Lord, call upon His name; Declare His deeds among the peoples, Make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the Lord, For He has done excellent things; This is known in all the earth.” NKJV

**INVITATION:**

All people will be blessed in this life and the next, if they will come to Him in obedience, regardless of how difficult their life may be.

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