

The Forsaken King

Psalm 22; Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34

KEY IDEA: Psalm 22 shows David as a sufferer crying out to God in what he believes is deep abandonment, yet ultimately being heard and delivered—turning despair into praise and personal rescue into grateful worship. In David’s day, this psalm described his own anguish as God’s anointed king, surrounded by enemies and seemingly forsaken. But the Holy Spirit carried David’s words far beyond his own life—painting a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ, the greater Son of David, whose cry of forsakenness on the cross (Matt. 27:46) brought about the world’s redemption and the gathering of all nations in praise (Phil. 2:9–11; Rev. 7:9–10). In David’s suffering, we see a shadow of the cross; and in Christ’s cross, we see the fulfillment of David’s song. Today, it becomes the believer’s assurance—He was forsaken so that we never will be.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT: Psalm 22 was written by David, possibly in a time of danger or betrayal, when he felt surrounded by enemies and believed himself to be forgotten by God. This psalm moves from desperation to deliverance—from “My God, why?” to “He has done it!” It functions on three levels: **(1) Historical:** David’s real suffering as Israel’s anointed king. **(2) Typological:** David’s suffering foreshadows the Messiah’s greater suffering (about ‘typology’ in Scripture, see sermon on 11/2). **(3) Prophetic:** The psalm directly anticipates the cross and the worldwide mission that follows. At Calvary’s cross, Jesus became the true Righteous Sufferer. He cried, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*” (Matt. 27:46; Mark 15:34) as He took our sin and faced the Father’s wrath in our place. Because He was forsaken, we are accepted; because He was crushed, we are saved.

1. The Descent Into Agony (vv. 1–21) – *The Cry of Forsakenness*

A. The Pain of Forsakenness (v.1)

- David feels utterly alone—his prayers go unanswered, and his circumstances seem to mock his faith. David, as God’s anointed king, represents the righteous sufferer who experiences isolation even while belonging to God. Jesus takes this cry upon His own lips at the cross (Matt 27:46). He was not just feeling abandoned; He truly bore the curse of sin and separation so we could be brought near to God.
→ *When you feel forgotten, remember: Jesus entered that darkness for you. You may feel forsaken, but in Christ, you never are.*

B. The Struggle of Silence (vv. 2–5)

- David remembers God’s faithfulness to his ancestors but wonders why he isn’t experiencing it now. The faithful sufferer trusts God even in divine silence—a pattern repeated in Christ’s obedience unto death. Though God was silent at Calvary, His silence was not indifference—it was part of the plan to save sinners.
→ *God’s silence is never His absence. Faith remembers what feelings forget.*

C. The Depth of Humiliation (vv. 6–11)

- He is mocked by men. David faced ridicule and rejection from his enemies, who mocked his trust in God. This prefigures the greater King’s humiliation. The mockery of God’s servant always points to the world’s hatred of God’s rule. The crowd used these exact words to taunt Jesus at the cross (Matt 27:41–43). The Righteous One endured the scorn that sinners deserved.
→ *When you are mocked for your faith, remember—you share in the sufferings of Christ, and He will vindicate His people.*

D. From Desperation to Deliverance (vv. 9–21)

- This section of Psalm 22 paints one of the most vivid and moving portraits of human suffering in all of Scripture. It begins with the horror of agony

and ends with a plea for help, showing both the depth of pain and the flicker of faith that refuses to die (Jn. 19:24, 20:25; Lk. 23:34–35; Mt 27:35; 2 Tim 4:17)

• NT Connection: John 19:23–24; 28; Luke 23:33; Acts 2:23–24 —

Each element of this psalm finds direct fulfillment in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. The New Testament writers see Psalm 22 not merely as poetry from David but as prophecy—God’s detailed blueprint for redemption.

- ✓ Jesus’ body is stretched and broken; His bones pulled out of joint as He hangs upon the cross. (Jn 19:17–36; Mt. 27:32; Ex. 12:46, Num 9:12)
- ✓ His thirst burns as He cries, “*I am thirsty*” (John 19:28).
- ✓ His hands and feet are literally pierced by nails (Luke 23:33).
- ✓ Soldiers gamble for His garments at the foot of the cross (John 19:23–24).

• The Son of God experiences not only physical torment but also the full weight of divine wrath and human cruelty. Yet, in His dying breath, He prays as David did:

“*Do not be far from Me... come quickly to help Me.*” Though He dies, the Father answers that prayer through the resurrection (Acts 2:23–24). What looked like a defeat became an eternal victory—as the cry for deliverance was heard three days later when the stone rolled away from Jesus’ tomb. “*He is not here. for He is risen!*”

• David’s agony becomes Christ’s passion, and Christ’s passion becomes our assurance.

“Passion of Christ” refers to the suffering, death, and crucifixion of Jesus. The cry for help that rose from a cross was met with an empty tomb (Mt. 28:1–10).

→ *God knows your pain. His plan is sure. His rescue is coming! Like David and like Jesus, you can cry, “Be near, Lord.” He may not remove the trial right away, but Hope is never lost for those who belong to Christ.*

2. The Ascent into Victory (vv. 22–31) – *The Song of Deliverance*

- Psalm 22 begins in despair but ends in deliverance. The one who cried, “*My God, why have You forsaken me?*” now declares, “*I will proclaim Your name!*”
- **After God delivers him, David promises to tell everyone what the Lord has done.** He envisions the whole community gathered in worship, thanking God for rescue. What began as one man’s cry of anguish becomes the song of a whole congregation. David’s personal salvation turns into a public celebration. And he looks forward to a day when the nations themselves will remember the Lord and future generations will continue to tell of His righteousness.
- **David’s rescue is more than personal—it’s prophetic.** The Spirit uses his experience to point ahead to the greater Deliverer, Jesus Christ. David’s praise after deliverance foreshadows the joy of the resurrected Savior, who would lead His people in worship (Heb. 2:11–12) and establish a kingdom that includes all nations. What David suffered in part, Christ fulfills in full: *the sufferer becomes the Savior, and the song of one becomes the praise of many.*
- **And the extent of that joy expands beyond Israel—to every tribe, tongue, and nation.** Jesus fulfills verses 27–29 through His Great Commission (*Matthew 28:18–20*) and through the gathering of the redeemed seen in heaven (*Revelation 7:9–10*). The psalm ends with the phrase “*He has done it!*”—echoed perfectly in Jesus’ final words from the cross, “*It is finished*” (John 19:30). The work of salvation is complete, and the song of victory will echo forever.

→ *Our Worship Is His Victory Song! When the church sings, it’s a resurrection chorus.*

→ *Our Story Fuels the Faith of Others! Your story can lead others to trust Christ.*

→ *Our Mission Continues the Psalm! We are partially living in verses 27–31 today! One day, this vision will be perfectly fulfilled when Christ reigns over every nation.*

→ *Our Hope Is Secure! The initial cry, “My God, why?” ends with “He has done it.”*