

The Cry of Worship
Psalm Appeal – Part 4 of 9
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Psalm 22--This Psalm is referenced **eleven** times in the New Testament to show fulfillment of Messianic prophecies. Only Psalms 110 and 118 are quoted more often. We will look at those two Psalms after Easter.

Psalm 22:1 (HCSB)

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from my deliverance and from my words of groaning?

Absence can make the heart grow fonder. But absence can also be the relational acid of forsakenness. Millard Erickson wrote that unbelief is engineered by two kinds of absence.

1. Absence of the experience of God. (Romans 10:17)
2. Experience of the absence of God. When Jesus experienced this kind of divine absence on the cross, He cried out Psalm 22:1. It is the fourth of the famous seven last sayings of Jesus.

“Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34

“Today shalt you be with Me in paradise.” Luke 23:43

“Woman, behold your Son.” John 19:26

“My God, my God, why hast You forsaken Me?” Mark 15:34

“I thirst.” Mark 19:28 “It is finished.” Mark 19:30

“Father, into your hands I commend My spirit.” Luke 23:46

Psalm 22:2-5 (HCSB)

² *My God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, by night, yet I have no rest.* ³ *But You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.* ⁴ *Our fathers trusted in You; they trusted, and You rescued them.* ⁵ *They cried to You and were set free; they trusted in You and were not disgraced.*

- **Suffering feels like forsakenness, but God’s silence is not due to His absence.**
- **During seasons of suffering expect discouragers to offer scorn for your faith in Christ.**

Psalm 22:7-8 (HCSB)

⁷ *Everyone who sees me mocks me; they sneer and shake their heads:* ⁸ ***“He relies on the LORD; let Him rescue him; let the LORD deliver him, since He takes pleasure in him.”***

- Remember that the witnesses of Christ's crucifixion heard these sarcastic words spoken to Jesus.
- Then remember that God keeps what we commit to Him.

Psalm 22:9-11 (HCSB)

⁹ *You took me from the womb, making me secure while at my mother's breast. ¹⁰ I was given over to You at birth; You have been my God from my mother's womb. ¹¹ Do not be far from me, because distress is near and there is no one to help.*

- The gospel writers also interpreted the Roman soldiers rolling dice at the foot of the cross, as prophetic fulfillment of v. 18.

Psalm 22:18, 21 (HCSB)

¹⁸ ***They divided my garments among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing...***²¹ *Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen, You have answered me.*

- In case of an emergency open this Psalm. God sees our cries of suffering as worship. He will answer you.
- With His answer, you become a call to worship for others.

Psalm 22:23b-24 (HCSB)

*All you descendants of Israel, revere Him! ²⁴ **For He has not despised or detested the torment of the afflicted.** He did not hide His face from him but listened when he cried to Him for help.*

- Take it as a principle, God hears us in our affliction.
- If you hear God, He will hear you. (Deut. 6:4)

Psalm 22:29-30 (HCSB)

²⁹ *All who prosper on earth will eat and bow down; all those who go down to the dust will kneel before Him— even the one who cannot preserve his life.*

³⁰ *Their descendants will serve Him; the next generation will be told about the Lord.*

³¹ *They will come and tell a people yet to be born about **His righteousness—what He has done.***

- Worship is the destiny of all reality.

My Next Step today is to...

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