

## **Psalms Chapter 022 Commentary**

*To the chief Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar, A Psalm of David*

**Ps 22:1 "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent."**

King David is in a dark place in his life, and he is crying out to God in his distress. David says that I am praying day and night, and it seems not to be reaching your ears. It seems that my prayers are not being answered. I am sure that most all of God's people can witness with David and his complaint at some point in our lives.

David said here, the very words that Jesus would say on the cross: "**My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**" We find these exact words spoken by Jesus on the cross in **Mt 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**" And in **Mr 15:34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?**"

Therefore, we see the prophetic picture of the death of Jesus on the cross. If Jesus had not been forsaken of God the Father on the cross: Jesus could not have died, and if Jesus did not die there would be no resurrection of the dead. If there is no resurrection of the dead, then there is no eternal remission of our sins. Wherefore, we see; death, for the prepared body of Jesus, would be the deliverance. Deliverance from the suffering Jesus endured, to pay the debt of sin, which he did not owe, but graciously agreed to pay. Jesus's death on the cross was the door of deliverance from this world, of sin and sorrow, back to his rightful place on the throne of God. In application to our own lives as children of God: we must, like King David, often stare death in the face, feeling that our prayers are unheard, to be brought to remembrance of our Saviour, and that there is the resurrection of the dead in Christ, which will yield everlasting glory.

Wherefore, we understand that God did indeed forsake the mortal man, the prepared body, of Jesus Christ, but God did not forsake Jesus the Son of God. Think now of David. There were many times in his life when David was in the throes of despair in his life, after he was anointed to be king over Israel, and after he was king over Israel. However, David had this promise of God that he would be king over all Israel, Wherefore, David had a hope, both sure and steadfast, which would cause him to continue to cry out to God, even when it seemed like his prayers were not reaching God, and David felt that God had deserted him.

Now, think of your own situation as a Child of God. We have the promise of God that he will never leave us nor forsake us. Why? Because we have Christ in us, in the form of the Holy Spirit of God. God the Father will never again be separated from God the resurrected Son, nor has God the Father ever been separated from God the Holy Spirit. We have the promise of God that we will be resurrected from the grave, or changed if alive when Jesus returns, to be with God forever, as it is with Jesus. We have plenty of promises from God encouraging us to keep on praying to God, even when it seems like God is not hearing, or answering, our prayers.

Remember, Jesus knew that he would render up his life and command His Spirit to go to God the Father. Jesus also knew that God had given him the power to take his body back up in resurrection on the morning of the third day. Jesus has given us sure knowledge, when our natural body passes from this life, Jesus will raise it in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ. If we can keep this in mind, even in our deepest distresses, when it seems we are totally forsaken of God, we can have the peace that passes all understanding in our hearts, because of sure knowledge of the finished work of Jesus Christ. Thank you, King Jesus!

**3 "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. 4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. 5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded."**

David acknowledges that God is holy. David proclaims that God is the central theme of the praise of Israel, God's chosen people on earth. David testifies that our forefathers called upon God, and God answered their prayers, and God delivered them out of the hands of their enemies. David testifies that when Israel trusted in God there was no confusion in their minds, and hearts, because of their faith in God.

If we have been born again by God's grace, God inhabits our praises. We have the same testimony of the holiness of God, and of God's faithfulness to his people. With the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are given clarity of vision spiritually, wherefore, we can trust fully in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

No mortal has ever had complete faith in God as did Jesus Christ. No man has ever had the clarity of mind to comprehend the will of God that Jesus had. Jesus knew that God the Father had to forsake him on the cross for God's will, and our eternal salvation, to be accomplished. We also know that God must forsake our mortal bodies in death, that we may pass from natural to eternal life.

When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, Jesus said in: ***Joh 11:42 "And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me."*** Why did Jesus pray out loud on this occasion? So, the people who heard it would believe. Why did Jesus say upon the cross it is finished, and into thy hands I commend my Spirit? For the children of God to understand that eternal salvation was accomplished by Christ, and in the death of the body, our spirits and souls go immediately to be with God. Jesus knew that He would resurrect his prepared body from the grave, and we have the promise that Jesus will resurrect our dead bodies in immortality.

In application in our lives: Jesus told his disciples in ***Mt 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."*** This is a reminder that if we are a child of God, we should have no fear of death, because we are securely held in the hand of Jesus, and Jesus's hand is in God the Father's hand. Therefore, if we pray without doubt, in accordance with the will of God, we have assurance that our prayers of deliverance will be answered as God wills.

**6 "But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. 7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. 9 But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. 10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly."**

God declared that David was a man after his own heart. Yet, David, because he was a man after God's own heart, recognized that without the indwelling presence of God he was but a worm. Wherefore, David could say, all these people that are seeking after my life, and yet, in their eyes I am but a worm. They do not recognize me as a man after God's own heart. They deride and scorn my name. They see the desperateness of my natural circumstances, and they declare that even God cannot deliver me out of their trap.

***"I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly."*** King David understood that it was God's will for him to be servant to God even before he was born into the world. David understood; when he was born and suckled upon his mother's breast, he was already a chosen vessel of God.

We have this same promise of God in our own lives as Christians. God tells us plainly in ***Eph 1:4 "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"*** Wherefore, before the world existed, God knew every one of his people, and God knew each one by name. Some people will say, how can this be possible? It is just as easy for God to purpose to save us before the world existed, as the creation of the world was. If you are a child of God, before the world was you were a child of God, when you were conceived in the womb you were a child of God, when you came forth from the womb you were a child of God, and in the new birth experience, it is manifested to you that you are a child of God, and when you pass from this mortal life you will still be a child of God. Praise God! Hallelujah!

Think about this scripture and you will get a clearer picture of the limitless God of heaven and earth: ***Ps 147:4 "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names."*** The immenseness of God is that he knows the number of the stars in heaven. Man cannot even see them all, and the ones he can see are so numerous that he cannot number them. Yet, God declares that he knows the name for each star. In ***Isa 43:7 "Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him."*** If God knows the number and names of all the stars which Jesus created, we can easily understand that God knows the number of His people and their names, because Jesus has made them all.

Now, consider Jesus Christ. Was ever a man so scorned, ridiculed, and despised as Jesus? Do you remember the castigations of those who crucified Jesus when he was upon the cross? Just go read of the crucifixion of Jesus and you will find the same comparable things mentioned in verses 6-8. Many of these words were cast at

him as he hung on the cross and served the sentence of our sins. **"He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him."** Did God ever so delight in any man as he did in Jesus Christ? Did God send angels to announce the birth of any other as he did of King Jesus. No. Did God ever say of any other when they were baptized, **Mt 3:17 "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** No? Did God ever transfigure any person besides Jesus and proclaim **Mr 9:7 "And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him."**

Those who crucified Jesus thought they had got rid of Jesus forever. However, Jesus knew that he would be resurrected from the dead, and he would have the victory over death, hell, and the grave. He knew, because that power was given him of his Father, seen in: **Joh 10:17-18; 17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. 18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."** Thus, we see prophetically: Jesus knew that he would be delivered in accordance with the will of God the Father. This was accomplished for us to understand the scripture in **Ro 8:29 ¶ "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."** This simply means that Jesus, the Son of God with a prepared body, is the first body to be raised in an eternally glorified body. Every child of God has this same promise, which will be manifested in the eternal resurrection, as seen in **Php 3:20-21; 20 "For our citizenship is in heaven; whence also we wait for a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself."** Wherefore, whether we die before the return of King Jesus, or whether we are still alive at Jesus's return, our bodies will be raised and changed from **"the body of our humiliation"** which has an inherited sin nature. As this scripture tells us, Jesus will do what he says, which is **"who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation, that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working whereby he is able even to subject all things unto himself."** This tells us that there is nothing that can keep Jesus, the Christ, from accomplishing God the Father's eternal purpose. Wherefore, we can have the peace that passes all understanding, even while we are compassed about with our satanic enemies, who would destroy our bodies, and our joy in the salvation of the Lord, which Jesus has gifted to us. This, then, is the consolation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to God's people. Hallelujah! Amen!

#### **11 ¶ "Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help."**

We point out here that though this is a psalm of King David, all that is written is not things that David experienced, but rather the words are the prophesy of what will happen with the coming of the Messiah.

**"Be not far from me;"** David was often in great tribulations but all of his friends never departed from him. However, when the time for Jesus to depart mortality came, he was forsaken of all, even his very own disciples. This began in the garden when he was betrayed by Judas and continued until his resurrection.

**"for trouble is near;"** Jesus knew He was facing great trouble as his time drew near to be hung upon the cross to finish the work and will of God. We see this in **Lu 22:44 "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground."**

**"for there is none to help."** We know that God the Father forsook Jesus on the cross seen in the first verse of this Psalm and in **Mt 27:46 & Mr 15:34 "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** Upon the cross, when the sins of all of God's chosen was laid upon Jesus, God the Father had to withdraw from the prepared body of Jesus that Jesus could die a mortal death.

There is another reason God the Father forsook Jesus on the cross as seen in **Hab 1:13 "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity:"** Upon the Cross of Christ, as seen in **2Co 5:21 "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. "and canst not look on iniquity:"** God could not look upon the prepared body of Jesus because of our sins. We are robed in the righteousness of Christ because our sins were imputed upon Jesus on the cross, and the righteousness of Christ is imputed unto us in the new birth.

**12 "Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. 13 They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion."**

The word gaped means *to rend or deliver*. Thus, we understand that the strong bulls of Bashan are the prominent officials who presided over the mock trials of Jesus, and the scribes and Pharisees who brought the false accusation against our Saviour. The word ravening means *to tear to pieces*. We see in this picture, the body of Jesus being beaten and tearing his flesh, and all the other things they did at his time of trials and crucifixion.

**13 "They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion."** Consider Jesus upon the cross and the scriptures seen in *Mr 15:28-32; 28 "And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors. 29 And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, 30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross. 31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save. 32 Let Christ the King of Israel descend now from the cross, that we may see and believe. And they that were crucified with him reviled him."* The crucifiers gnashed on him with their teeth.

**14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. 15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death."**

*"I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels."* When they came to break the legs of Jesus, He was already dead; thus, they thrust his side with a spear and out came water and blood. When they hung Jesus upon the cross, which He willingly allowed, his body was as if all his bones were out of joint. If all your bones are out of joint, there is no strength for the physical body to do anything. Jesus's heart was melted as wax with the love he had for God's people.

What is a potsherd? It is a broken piece of pottery, which we know has no power of itself. Forsaken of God in his prepared mortal body, Jesus had no strength to help even himself. As Jesus suffered the torments of hell, his mouth was so dry that his tongue clave to his jaws. We know this is true because of what we learn from the rich man in *Lu 16:24 "And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame."* This is why before he gave up his spirit, Jesus said *"I thirst."* He was suffering the torments of hell on our behalf.

*"thou hast brought me into the dust of death."* Where did man originate from? The dust of the earth. That man Adam disobeyed God and brought sin into the dust of the earth, the mortal bodies of mankind. Forsaken of God the Father, Jesus experienced the dust of death as our sins were laid upon him.

Consider the scene set before us, in connection with your life as a child of God and your gift of salvation in time. Do you see that you are surrounded by a multitude of enemies, who are much stronger than you are in your own strength? Our inherited flesh nature is our greatest enemy. In our own strength, we understand that we do not have the strength to overcome, and that we are *"poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels."* Wherefore, we can, with David, say: Lord Jesus, *"be not far from me."* Our mortal bodies are our *"dust of death."* Thus, we need to feel the nearness of Christ in us to have that peace that passes all understanding, that we do not turn from God in our times of distress. Wherefore, we should cling to the promises of God because we will have victory in Jesus!

*"and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws"* I believe this prophecies of Jesus upon the cross when he cried out *"I thirst."* What could that have to do with us today? When we are sinking down under the depressive weight of our own sins, we can cry out as Jesus did, saying I thirst. What are we thirsting for? We are thirsting for a glimpse of the salvation of God gifted to us. We are thirsting for the righteousness of Christ to be a cloak for our sins before God the Father. We are thirsting for a glimpse of Jesus on the cross, seeing the droplets of his blood dripping from his body, as the pearls of the gates of the New Jerusalem. We are thirsting to hear Jesus saying to us *"I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* *Heb 13:5*. Knowing that passing from this world is in the immediate future for us, we thirst for Jesus to *"come quickly."* We thirst to hear Jesus say, *"come in thou blessed of the Lord."* We thirst for our appearing at the marriage supper of the Lamb. We thirst for this body of death to be changed to a sinless, immortal, glorified body like that of our King Jesus. Even, when we are filled with the vitality of the life of a child of God, we hunger and thirst after the righteousness of Christ.

As we think upon the blood, sweat, and tears of Jesus here in time, we can find comfort knowing that these were the building blocks of our spiritual lives. We see each drop of blood as a precious fruit of the Spirit being gifted to us. Standing at the foot of the cross and looking up at our precious Saviour and Lord, should humble our hearts, minds, and wills, to be as completely submissive to our Saviour, as our Saviour was completely submissive to God the Father. What a wonderful gift we have received from God the Father, when we have Christ in us.

Praise and glory to our God, who sent our King Jesus to procure us unto himself. Praise him for the promise that our King Jesus will return to take us to that place he has prepared for us, seen in ***Joh 14:1-3; 1 ¶ "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*** Hallelujah! Amen!

**16 "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. 18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. 19 But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. 20 Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. 21 Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns."**

Surely, we see the prophetic picture of Christ on the cross. They pierced his hands and feet. **17 "I may tell all my bones:"** The word tell means *to be able to feel, or to be able to count*. I am sure that the pain was severe in all of Jesus's bones, and he knew the existence of each one. Those who crucified him stood around and looked upon him while he hung on the cross, casting many insults at him. The did cast lots for his vesture.

**"For dogs have compassed me:"** Have you ever considered the word dog, which is spelled the exact opposite of God? Jesus, as he hung on the cross, was surrounded by dogs. Dogs are defined as ***men who sold their bodies in prostitution***. Thus, we see, these were people, whose souls are possessed by the devil, are being prostituted by Satan, to fulfill Satan's desires to be rid of Jesus Christ.

Both the lions and the unicorns were symbols of strength, the prayer is to not let him be devoured by their power, just as he prayed to be saved from the dogs. The world will tell you that unicorns are mythical creatures. In the King James Bible, the word unicorn is mentioned seven times and the word unicorns are mentioned three times. Therefore, we can reject the world's view that unicorns are mythical creatures because God has certainly spoken of their existence.

**22 ¶ "I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. 23 Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. 24 For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard. 25 My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him. 26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live forever."**

Did not Jesus declare the name of God to his brethren? Did not Jesus declare the name of God in the midst of the congregation? Jesus taught that the seed of Jacob, which includes the New Testament Church, and the saved of the nation Israel, were to praise the name of the Lord.

**"For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted;"** Jesus was not ashamed to bear the cross of death, for the eternal remission of the sins of God's people, and to grant them eternal life in Christ. God the Father did not despise ***"the affliction of the afflicted"*** which is a picture of Jesus in the afflictions he suffered on earth, but rather God accepted the finished work of Jesus upon the cross, as payment for the eternal remission of the sins of God's people.

**"neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard."** Jesus knew that God the Father heard him always and was not hidden from him. Even though God did forsake the prepared mortal body on the cross that it may die, yet God the Father did not hide His face from God the Son, for when Jesus cried unto him on the cross and said in ***Lu 23:46 "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."*** We know that God heard Jesus and received his Spirit in the eternal heaven.

**"My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him. 26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live forever."**

Jesus always gave the praise and glory to God the Father while He was upon the earth. Jesus paid his vow to God the Father to save all of God's chosen people, before those that feared him. The name of Jesus is still being praised in the great congregation is a picture in David's time of all Israel assembled before the Lord. Today it is a picture of the New Testament Church. Prophetically, it is the assembly of all of God's saved people around the throne of God praising God and Christ forever.

Jesus fed the multitudes on several occasions; however, Jesus is still feeding the people of God today. When we feed upon the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, we praise the Lord for this wonderful blessing, and we seek after Jesus. The finished work of Jesus has saved us eternally; wherefore, we will live forever, and our hearts shall never die. Hallelujah!

**27 "All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. 28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations. 29 All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul."**

This is prophetic of what the finished work of Jesus Christ has accomplished, and what it will accomplish eternally, in the resurrection of the dead in Christ. We know this is true because of the scripture in: **Re 5:9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"** and in: **Re 14:6 ¶ "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,"**

The Psalm proclaims that every child of grace is fat upon the earth, meaning there is no shortage of blessings for them from the hand of God. All that die before the return of Christ shall be resurrected and bow before him, and all that are alive at his return shall bow before him. Both the saved and the unsaved as seen in **Ro 14:11 "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."**

**"and none can keep alive his own soul."** This gives the sad news to those who believe they can save themselves eternally, and it proves that their works are nothing. God tells us plainly: we have no power to keep our souls alive. This is an operation of God and is in his power only. These are the picture of the ones who will receive the second death.

**30 "A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation. 31 They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this."**

This verse is actually what brought me to this chapter in Psalms. Notice, David tells us: **"A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation."** Generation means *an age of time*. Wherefore, we see the prophetic picture of the New Testament Church in this age of salvation by the grace of God.

**"A seed shall serve him;"** What seed? The seed are all those who Jesus has saved eternally by giving his life on the cross. The newborn children of God serve Jesus here in time by their declaration of discipleship to Christ. This seed shall be fully manifested in the return of Christ to gather them to himself and take them to their eternal home, which Jesus has prepared, and they shall serve God forever.

**"unto a people that shall be born,"** Who are the people that shall be born? They are seen in **Ga 3:29 "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."** This is a prophetic picture of the New Testament Church, which is manifested each time a child of God is born again and added unto the New Testament Church.

**"that he hath done this."** God's true ministers of the gospel are declaring to God's people; Jesus has done all the work of eternal salvation. Scripture teaches us in **Ro 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** And in **Eph 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"**

The glorious news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is to know that we are eternally forgiven for our sins, and that we have been given the gift of eternal life in the new birth. Since this is an eternal promise and the work of

God, there is none that can destroy this gift. Hallelujah! Praise and glory to our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ!  
Amen!