

## **Psalm 22**

This psalm is the most quoted psalm in the New Testament. It contains a graphic and serious portrayal of the Messiah's suffering. The first half of the psalm portrays the Messiah's suffering and the second half describes his exaltation. The Messiah cries out that God has forsaken him. Why would this cry be filled with so much anguish? When have we felt like using this cry? Why is it inappropriate for us to use? Why is it appropriate for Jesus to use?

Jesus uses these words in Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34 and Hebrews 5:7. God certainly had the power to deliver his own son, but why wasn't he using it is the question the Messiah wrestles with. How does he wrestle with it in verses 3-5? Why does he wrestle with it? When do we see examples of God helping his faithful followers in the Old Testament?

The Messiah's enemies mock him and hurl insults at him. How does this fit well with the description from Isaiah 53:3, 49:7, 50:6 and 52:14? How do we see this fulfilled in Matthew 27:39, 43, 49 and Luke 23:35? Why would they hurl insults at him? What logical conclusion do his enemies draw when watching all of this?

Jesus offers up a prayer in verses 9-11. What truth does he recognize about God's love for him? How has he shown love back to the Father? Why does he call out to God for deliverance in verse 11?

How do we see the intensity of the hatred Jesus' enemies have for him in verses 12-13? What comes to mind when you think of being poured out like water? Why would he feel like his heart had melted like wax within him?

We see the prophecy about the soldiers gambling for Jesus' clothes. It is recorded in Matthew 27:35, Mark 15:24, Luke 23:34 and John 19:24. What does this fact (that he even lost his clothes) teach us about the depth of Jesus' suffering? Why is it tempting for us to solely focus on the brutality of his suffering? What must we remember when we look at Jesus' pain and suffering?

Verses 19-21 conclude the first half of the psalm. What kind of tone do the words strike? Why would he pray them? Where does it show he places his confidence and trust?

In verses 22-25, we finally get the answer to the opening question, "Why have you forsaken me?" What is the answer to this question? The Messiah promises to share the good news with God's children in verses 22 and 25. How had Jesus fulfilled his vows? Why does he invite us to join in praising God in verses 23-24?

The poor will eat and be satisfied while the ones seeking the Lord will praise him. Why is this amazing? What other Biblical imagery does this bring to mind? How does it comfort us?

We see Jesus exaltation in the closing verses of this psalm. What amazing thing will happen to everyone on earth? What beautiful promise do we hear at the end of this psalm? Why is it so beautiful?