

PSALM 22

WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN ME?

This is one of the most important of all psalms. This psalm written by King David for the worshiping people of Israel pointed ahead to the day when the Messiah would do the unthinkable: the Anointed One would suffer for sin. By inspiration of the Holy Spirit, King David looks forward 9 centuries and gives us the Messiah's perspective from Golgotha.

THE PSALM

New Testament Usage

No psalm is quoted more frequently in the New Testament. All the Gospels quote this psalm, as does the book of Hebrews. The New Testament writers tell us that this prophecy was fulfilled when Christ was crucified, suffered, and then in dying won the victory over sin, Satan, and death.

Author

King David, the greatest king of Israel.

Dates

c. 900 BC

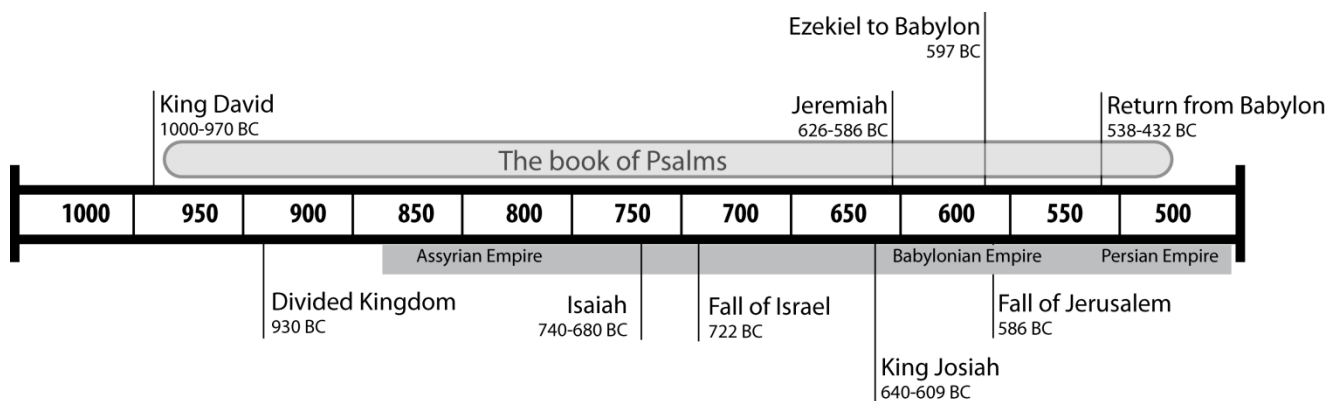
THE POETRY

The first half of the psalm portrays the humiliation and suffering of the Messiah. The second half describes the Messiah's exaltation.

The center of the psalm is verse 16b.

THE BOOK

The Psalter, or book of Psalms, is a collection of the songs of the people of Israel written over a period of centuries, from the time of Moses until after the return from Babylon. There are 150 psalms in the book that cover nearly every aspect of Christian life and worship. This book is especially suited for use in your personal devotional life.



1. How could Jesus say that God had forsaken him?
2. If God promises to hear all our prayers, why didn't he hear the prayers of the Messiah?
3. Verses 1-2 give us a taste of what it was like to stand at the foot of the cross. What reaction did this sight cause for Jesus' enemies? And Jesus' followers?
4. In verses 3-5, to what does Jesus point those who questioned the apparent failure of God to deliver his Son?
5. Agree or Disagree? There are still people whom God forsakes.
6. In verse 6-8, what logical conclusion did Jesus' enemies draw?
7. Though their conclusion was logical, Jesus knew that it wasn't true. How did the Father declare his love for Jesus even at the beginning of life, as verse 9 and 10 say?
8. Notice how this section of the psalm alternates between troubled questions (vv. 1-2, 6-8) and expressions of confidence which answer those questions (3-5, 9-10). It concludes with a word of faith (v. 11) which calls for deliverance only God can give.
9. How are Jesus' enemies graphically portrayed?
10. Which events on Good Friday fulfilled these verses?
 - Verse 12? - Verse 16?
 - Verse 13? - Verse 17?
 - Verse 14? - Verse 18?
 - Verse 15?
11. Agree or Disagree? This detailed report of the horrors of the crucifixion gives us comfort.
12. What example does the Messiah give us for our prayer life?
13. Agree or Disagree? If the Lord is near, we have nothing to fear from the sword, the dogs, the lions, and the oxen.
14. What is the answer to Messiah's question in verse 1, "Why have you forsaken me?" Cf. Hebrews 2:10-17
15. How did God show that he did not despise or disdain the suffering of Christ? (v. 24)
16. Why does Messiah invite us to sing as well?
17. When will the rich and poor feast and worship? (vv. 26, 29)
18. What is the terrible irony for Messiah's enemies?
19. What will those enemies have to join with all people in doing? (v. 29)
20. What does verse 30 have to say about Christian education?
21. Is verse 31 Law, or Gospel?