

Psalm 22

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

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. 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.

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

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 for ever. 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. 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.

Introduction notes:

1. To the Chief Musician (1 Chr. 15:17).
2. "upon Aijeleth Shahar" – Aijeleth (means doe or hind) and Shahar (means morning) hence "the hind of the morning." Perhaps the Title of a tune for singing. Once mentioned, only here.
3. A natural division can be seen:
 - A. The Terrible Reality of Calvary (vv.1-21)
 - B. The Triumphant Results of Calvary (vv.22-31)
4. Jesus' cross-work fulfilled the redemptive plan for both Israel (v.23) and Gentiles (v.27).

Outline:

- A. The Lord's Abandonment (vv.1-5)
 - B. The Lord's Public Spectacle (vv.6-8)
 - C. God's Sovereign Plan (vv.9-21)
 - B. The Lord's Public Praise (vv.22-24)
- A. The Lord's Presence (vv.25-31)

Observations:

1. Jesus three questions: Why hast thou forsaken me? Why are thou so far from helping me? Why are thou so far from the voice of my roaring? – He asked God why, but He asked in faith (He was already surrendered to God, Matt. 26:39; Heb. 5:8-9). He was not bitter at God rather He confessed God's holiness (v.3).
2. Man also abandoned Him. (Isa. 53; Matt. 26:56; Mk. 14:50).
3. Ps. 22:1 (Matt. 27:46); v.7 (Matt. 27:39); v.8 (Matt. 27:43); v.9 (Matt. 27:43); v.16 (Matt. 27:28; Jn. 19:23, 34, 37).
4. The Lord Jesus reflects on His incarnation and human dependence on God (vv.9ff) but now He is abandoned by God. (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 3:18).
5. His enemies were likened to animals – ferocious and cruel. – the unicorns are perhaps extinct wild bulls (cf. Deut. 33:17).
6. His physical agony was described – vv.14-15, 17. (Jn. 19:28). – potsherd – a clay pot (earthenware) – Jesus was broken and weak and dry of moisture like a broken earthen vessel.
7. The Lord's final plea: Save me (v.21)...was heard – He was resurrected!
8. (v.22) – public praise (was fulfilled in Heb. 2:12) – the specific time of his singing was after the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26-30).
9. Three commands of the Messiah: Praise Him, Glorify Him, and Fear Him.
10. God hears us when we pray (v.24).
11. (v.25-31) is about the Millennial Kingdom and rule of Christ!

Lesson: The Lord Jesus' cross-work, His abandonment from God, all works out for God's glory and for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. (cf. Rom. 3:26; Rom. 8:28).