

Psalm 22 and the Crucifixion of Christ

Psalm 22 has long been understood by many Christians as one of the clearest prophetic portraits of the suffering, crucifixion, and ultimate victory of Jesus Christ. Written by David centuries before the events recorded in the Gospels, the psalm moves from anguish and public humiliation to deliverance and praise. When read alongside the New Testament accounts, its language forms a powerful narrative connection between Old Testament prophecy and the crucifixion of Christ.

The purpose of this narrative is to follow the major details of Psalm 22 and show how they correspond to the Gospel descriptions of Jesus' suffering on the cross, using the King James Version as the scriptural foundation.

Introduction

The Prophetic Pattern in Psalm 22

The psalm opens with a cry of abandonment: *"My God, my god, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?"* — **Psalm 22:1**. This same cry appears at the crucifixion when Jesus says, *"Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* — **Matthew 27:46**; see also **Mark 15:34**. The connection is immediate and unmistakable: Jesus identifies His suffering with the opening words of David's psalm.

- **The Fulfillment:**

"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?" — **Matthew 27:46** (See also **Mark 15:34**)

2. Mocking and Shaking of Heads

- **The Prophecy:**

"All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him." — **Psalm 22:7-8**

- **The Fulfillment:**

"And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads... Likewise also the chief priests mocking him... He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God." — **Matthew 27:39, 41, 43**

3. Joint Dislocation and Physical Exhaustion

- **The Prophecy:**

"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." — **Psalms 22:14**

- **The Fulfillment:** Crucifixion structurally pulls the victim's arms from their sockets over time, matching David's description. John records the ultimate physiological toll:

"But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water." — **John 19:34**

4. Extreme Thirst

- **The Prophecy:**

"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." — **Psalms 22:15**

- **The Fulfillment:**

"After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst." — **John 19:28**

5. Pierced Hands and Feet

- **The Prophecy:**

"For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet." — **Psalms 22:16**

- **The Fulfillment:**

"And when they were come to the place, which is called Calvary, there they crucified him..." — **Luke 23:33**

(Post-resurrection proof) "The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto whom, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails... I will not believe." — **John 20:25**

6. Public Staring and Exposure

- **The Prophecy:**

"I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me." — **Psalm 22:17**

- **The Fulfillment:**

"And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him..." — **Luke 23:35**

7. Parting Garments and Casting Lots

- **The Prophecy:**

"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." — **Psalm 22:18**

- **The Fulfillment:**

"Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout. They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled..." — **John 19:23-24**

Conclusion

In conclusion, Psalm 22 presents a remarkable pattern of suffering, rejection, physical agony, public shame, and eventual vindication that Christians see fulfilled in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The document's purpose is to bring these Old Testament and New Testament passages together into one coherent narrative, showing how David's words anticipate the events recorded in the Gospels. By tracing the cry of abandonment, the mockery, the physical distress, the piercing of hands and feet, the public exposure, and the casting of lots for garments, the study demonstrates how Psalm 22 functions as both prophecy and testimony. It points the reader not only to the suffering of Christ, but also to the larger redemptive purpose of the crucifixion.