

Prophecy of the Crucifixion of Christ Psalm 22:1-31

I Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace [that should come] unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

The New Testament mentions this psalm as a prophecy of Jesus' crucifixion nine times and we marvel with wonder and amazement at "scholars" and professors who teach what they call the Christian faith and cannot find any reference to crucifixion of Our Lord in Psalm 22.

With the inspired testimony of the New Testament we can have no doubt of the accuracy of our interpretation. It is not "ours," in any private sense ... it is the testimony of the blessed Holy Spirit.

Psalm 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?

Matthew 27:45-46 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani (E-lee, E-lee, la-ma sa-back-THA-nee)? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Christ is spoken of in Hebrews 2:9 as the One, who by the grace of God did indeed, "Taste of death for every man." Isaiah tells us that, "God laid upon him (Jesus) the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). Paul mentioned that God Himself "Set forth the Christ to be a propitiation" (Romans 3:25), or an atonement, for the sins of all men. "Christ died for our sins" (1 Corinthians 15:3); and "Him (Christ) who knew no sin,

God made to be sin on our behalf; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The ultimate consequence of sin is separation from God. But because Christ became a substitute for sinful men upon the cross, he not only tasted of death, but also tasted the terrible consequences of sin in separation from God.

It is plain in Christ's cry, "My God, why hast thou forsaken me," that Jesus did indeed, during His Crucifixion taste the awful agony of separation from the Father. "For a moment in that last agony, the Perfect Man was alone with the sins of the whole world upon Him.

Psalm 22:2 O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent.

Jesus prayed often. He cried unto God in the garden the night before and from the cross from the 3rd to the 6th hour while it was still light.

Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

"... in the night season" in Hebrew means "a twist away of the light" and Jesus cried unto God during these hours of darkness.

Psalm 22:3 But thou [*art*] holy, [*O thou*] that inhabitest the praises of Israel.

But thou art holy - Though I be not heard, even while I cry earnestly, yet I cannot count any fault or unkindness to my Maker.

As Job suffered this is the language of profound resignation, in trials which are the most difficult to be borne ... even today when we plead to God ... He inhabits ... our prayers, He is near, He is here and there with us ... carrying us through our ordeals in life ...

Inhabitest the praises of Israel - God dwells where the praises, thanksgivings, and prayers of His people are continually offered.

Psalm 22:4 Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them.

“Our fathers trusted in thee ...” David is supposed to have been, at the time of composing this Psalm, at *Mahanaim* (ma-ha-NA-im), ‘two camps’ in Greek Septuagint - where Jacob was once in such great distress when he wrestled with the angel, and received the blessing.

Our Saviour's example in this verse is that God had indeed heard and answered the prayers of "the fathers." This is an example to us that in our own prayers, we should recall and recite in God's presence the occasions in history in which He has already heard and answered the same kind of pleadings and petitions that we are making.

I wrestle with God, as Jacob did and I expect similar success of being blessed.

Psalm 22:5 They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded.

“They cried unto thee ...” So do I, They “... were delivered ...” so will I be delivered: “... they trusted in thee ...” I also trust in thee. And they “... were not confounded ...” and I shall not be confounded.

God is an available God, He neither slumbers or sleeps As Jesus said:

Luke 18:1 And he spake a parable unto them [*to this end*], that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

Luke 11:9-10 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened

Psalm 22:6 But I [*am*] a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people.

“But I am a worm” literally “to-law” a crimson-grub a word used only in Hebrew with the connection of the blood red color of it ... they were common to the regions of old Israel. Jesus is saying they have beat me to a blood red bloody pulp.

Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

But I am a worm, and no man ... This is the estimate his enemies have made concerning His importance or worth, as proved by the second half of the verse.

He is “despised of the people” as men despise a worm, and is not recognized by the Jews as a human being with rights.

Psalm 22:7 All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, [*saying*],

“Laugh me to scorn ...” They utterly despised me, set me at nothing; treated me with the utmost contempt.

“... they shoot out the lip, they shake the head ...” - These are the actual insults our Lord received.

Matthew 27:39 And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads,

Psalm 22:8 He trusted on the LORD [*that*] he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.

Mat 27:43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

This is one of the most remarkable instances of blind wickedness that has ever occurred in the history of man. That the Jews used this language to taunt the dying Savior and Redeemer ... It proves the Jews knew not the scriptures ... without even suspecting that they were fulfilling the prophecies, and demonstrating at the very time when they were reviling him that he was indeed their true Messiah.

Psalm 22:9 But thou [*art*] he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope [*when I was*] upon my mother's breasts.

“But thou art he that took me out of the womb ...” You God have guided and defended me from my earliest infancy. From before the foundation of the world this is a foreordained plan ...

Psalm 22:10 I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou [*art*] my God from my mother's belly.

“Thou art my God from my mother's belly ” In a sense, this is true of all men, But of the Holy Child Jesus, this was especially true cf: Luke 2:40, 49 & 52 especially since He was the “seed” of woman in fulfillment of the prophecies Genesis 3:15, Gal. 3:16 & 4:4.

Luke 1:31-33 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Psalm 22:11 Be not far from me; for trouble [*is*] near; for [*there is*] none to help.

“Be not far from me; for trouble is near ...” A near and present God is a present blessing. We always need the Divine help, but more especially when troubles and trials are at hand.

"... for [there is] none to help." The agony of death itself was approaching ... the disciples had all forsaken him and fled except John ... and in the excruciating agony of that situation, Jesus again cried out for help.

This is not the description of an illness as unbelievers suppose but of an execution. The torture described here is clearly that of a crucifixion, a form of execution, which, had never at the time this Psalm was written 1,000 BC had been used.

Crucifixion was a latter development by the Romans.

Psalm 22:12 Many bulls have compassed me: strong [*bulls*] of Bashan (BA-shan) have beset me round.

"Many bulls have compassed me ..." The bull is the emblem of brutal strength that gores and tramples down all before it.

Such were the Jewish rulers who conspired against Christ.

Strong bulls of Bashan ... Bashan was a district beyond Jordan, very fertile, where they were accustomed to fatted cattle, which became the largest, as well as the fattest, in the land.

So all the rich fat cats and big shots in Israel will compass and beset the Christ.

Psalm 22:13 They gaped upon me [*with*] their mouths, [*as*] a ravening and a roaring lion.

"They gaped upon me" They were fiercely bent upon the Christ's destruction ... for they will not allow such a man to reign over them.

"... [*as*] a ravening and a roaring lion." The Jewish leaders had taken upon themselves the nature of a roaring lion like their father the devil.

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Psalm 22:14 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.

“my bones are out of joint” the dropping of the pole of the cross into the hole would cause the arms to slip out of joint into the shoulder.

The images in this verse are strongly descriptive of a person in the deepest distress; whose strength, courage, hope, and expectation of relief, had entirely failed ...

Our Lord is resigned to His suffering and death upon the cross.

Psalm 22:15 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.

“My strength is dried up like a potsherd ...” An old, completely dry, broken piece of pottery.

“... my tongue cleaveth to my jaws ...” thirst with no relief ...

All these expressions are a mark of a most hopeless situation

John 19:28-30 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put *it* upon hyssop, and put *it* to his mouth. 30 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

“... thou hast brought me Into the dust of death ...” This means that Christ suffered the original curse and pains of death for every man.

Genesis 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

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

“For dogs have compassed me ...” *Kaleb* (KA-leb) a slang word in Hebrew for a male prostitute. This may refer to the Jews or the Gentiles, the Roman soldiers, and others by whom our Lord was surrounded in his trial, and at the cross.

“They pierced my hands and my feet ...” The piercing of the hands and feet was peculiar to our Lord. Therefore, this verse is a direct prophecy of the crucifixion of Christ written 500 years before crucifixion is invented by the Persians about 500 BC and later developed into a cruel science to terrorize people by the Romans.

John 20:24-31 But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus (DID-e-muhs), was not with them when Jesus came. 25 The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. 26 And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: *then* came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace *be* unto you. 27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust *it* into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed *are* they that have not seen, and *yet* have believed. 30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

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

“I may tell all my bones ...” This is a description of the violent extension of his body when its total weight is hung upon the nails which attached his hands to the transverse beam of the cross.

The body being thus extended, the principal bones became prominent, and all could easily count His ribs.

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

John 19:23-24 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. 24 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, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

This Psalm prophesied the Romans were to use two methods of dividing Jesus' clothing. First, by agreement, the soldiers divided His common clothes into 4 parts. But He had a beautifully woven valuable vesture, perhaps a garment very similar to that which the High Priest of Israel wore into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. This prompted the soldiers tear it into pieces. So they decided to cast lots for it! What are the odds of such a prophecy having been fulfilled accidentally? The size of such odds staggers the imagination. Only a prophecy of Almighty God could foresee this event.

Psalm 22:19 But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me.

“But be not thou far from me, O LORD ...” Christ in His human body prayed God to be near Him in His sufferings.

Psalm 22:20 Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.

Deliver my soul from the sword – “Deliver ...” - Hebrew - my life ... save me alive ... or raise me again.

“My darling” Hebrew - my only one. The only human being that was ever produced from the creation, by the power of God Himself. This was without a man being involved. The first Adam was created out of the dust of the earth, that was his mother and God was the farmer.

The second Adam – Jesus Christ was produced in the womb of the virgin that was his mother. But that which was conceived in her was by the power of the Holy Ghost. Therefore the man Christ Jesus is the Only Son of God. God is his Father, and He Christ is His Only One.

Christ Jesus is David’s “... darling ...” too. He is the savior of all who ever lived. Before the cross He saves those who look forward in faith to His coming ... He is also the savior of all who lived after the cross who put their faith in Him and come to Him in the appointed way.

Psalm 22:21 Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.

“...the lion's mouth ...” The Jews and their chosen father the devil. “... for thou hast heard me from the horns ...” (wild bull) of the altar. The place where wild beasts were bound to the horns of the altar ... Christ our sacrifice as the Lamb of God was nailed and bound to altar

“... for thou hast heard me” these triumphal words ends this verse in Hebrew. Literally translated from the horns thou hast heard me”

This brings to mind the Jews’ traditional Passover Psalm which they sang to Jesus during His Triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Matthew 21:9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed [is] he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

Psalm 118:22 The stone [*which*] the builders refused is become the head [*stone*] of the corner. ... 118: 26-27 Blessed [*be*] he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the

LORD. 27 God [*is*] the LORD, which hath shewed us light: bind the sacrifice with cords, [*even*] unto the horns of the altar.

Thus foretelling that awful death of God's Passover sacrifice ... the lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world.

God's answering the Sufferer from the "horns of the altar," This referring to the fact that God turned away from Jesus when He took upon Himself the sins of the world and did not hear or answer our Lord until the very last instant of his earthly life.

"Yea ... thou has answered me" (Psalms 22:21). American Standard Version captures the sudden and dramatic change, kept back in the Hebrew text until the very last word, rendered here in the ASV as 'thou-hast-answered-me.'

This statement that the LORD indeed heard or answered the praying Sufferer was reserved until the very last word of the first section of the psalm.

The last section of the psalm stresses the wonderful things achieved by the death of the Sufferer.

Psalm 22:22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.

"I will declare thy name unto my brethren ..." I will make a complete revelation concerning the God of mercy, love and justice, to my disciples; and I will announce to the Jewish people thy merciful design in sending me to be the Savior of the world.

"... in the midst of the congregation ..." In the Church for ages to come Christ words and teaching to the Apostles will be proclaimed in praise to God.

1. "declare thy name unto brethren & 2. Praise God in congregation"

Hebrews 2: 11-12 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified [are] all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Psalm 22:23 Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.

“Ye that fear the Lord ...” This is an exhortation to the remnant of the Jews particularly, to profit by the preaching of the Gospel.

“... ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel” Gentiles will fear, and Jews mentioned by name should “fear.”

Romans 3:1-2 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit [is there] of circumcision? 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

Psalm 22:24 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.

“For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted” Though ye Jews have despised Jesus in His humiliation yet God has graciously received Jesus in the character of His suffering servant to die and pay the debt of all sin. By His humiliation unto death the great atonement was made for the sins of the world ... Ending in “he heard”

I John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for [*the sins of*] the whole world.

This verse makes it clear enough that God did indeed “heard” the earnest cries of the Suffering Redeemer.

Any delay in God “hearing” Him was due to the necessity that the Atoning Redeemer should indeed “taste of death for every man”.

Psalm 22:25 My praise [*shall be*] of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

“The great congregation ...” Here the great Church of Christ or, as it is also known, the Kingdom of God which includes both Jews and Gentiles come into view.

The Jewish nation was a small number in comparison to the Gentile world. Those of the Jews who received the Gospel were very few compared with those among the Gentiles who will receive the Gospel.

Psalm 22:26 The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for-ever.

Matthew 5: 5 Blessed [*are*] the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Canaan land was described as flowing with milk & honey

“The meek shall eat ...” an-A-vim the meek & also the poor, shall eat.

In the true only Sacrifice there shall be abundant provision for all believers so that they shall have a fullness of ever-lasting joy.

In the Temple the priest who offered the sacrifice, fed on what they offered. Jesus, the true Sacrifice, is the bread that came down from heaven; that they who eat of this bread shall never die.

Matthew 5:3 Blessed [*are*] the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“your heart shall live for-ever.”

John 11:25-26 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Psalm 22:27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

“All the ends of the world ...” The Gospel shall prevail and be preached to every nation under heaven. They shall worship before Jesus the Savior, and through Him shall all their praises be offered unto God.

Jesus said before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD cf:

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matthew 24: 34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled

Mark 16: 20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with [*them*], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Romans 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

Colossians 1: 5-6 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as [*it is*] in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as [*it doth*] also in you, since the day ye heard [*of it*], and knew the grace of God in truth:

Colossians 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and [*be*] not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, [*and*] which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

I Thessalonians 1: 6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy

Ghost: 7 So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. 8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to Godward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

Romans 10: 17-18 So then faith [*cometh*] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. 18 But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

All the celestial luminaries, the stars by the billions give testimony to His eternal power and might. All of the creation and nature bears witness to the creator.

Psalm 19:2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

Everywhere the gospel has gone out and is being taught day and night.

Psalm 19:3 [*There is*] no speech nor language, [*where*] their voice is not heard.

By 70 AD the gospel was universal.

Psalm 19:4 Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

“Their line is gone out ...” Their rule or direction, their preaching and their teaching.

“... through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world ...”
Paul quotes this prophecy in Romans 10:18 above and says it has already happened.

Psalm 22:28 For the kingdom [is] the LORD'S: and he [is] the governor among the nations.

The kingdom is the Lord's ... The Kingdom is the rule of Christ in the heart and lives of the saved. Brought about by that universal Gospel which was preached and is now found in your New Testament.

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Psalm 22:29 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.

“All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship ...” What were all the fat cats doing that weekend? It was Passover; a feast day.

John 18:28 Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the hall of judgment: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the judgment hall, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the Passover.

“... all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him ...”

Romans 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. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Philippians 2:9-10 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; **Php 2:11** And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 22:30 A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

“Shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation” - They shall be called Christians after the name of Christ.

Psalm 22:31 They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done [*this*].

Romans 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. **17** For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

Romans 3:21-26 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; **22** Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Clarkes Commentary, Coffman's Commentary