

PRAYING PSALM 22

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me... You have answered me” (Psalm 22:1, 21)?

The Son of God prayed and the Father answered. This psalm was written by David, but it isn't about David. There is only one person in history that verses 1 to 21 could be written about, and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. His physical sufferings on the cross are described. David gives a more vivid description of the sufferings of Christ than the authors of the Gospels: Christ's dying cry, His spiritual sufferings, His separation from God, the sufferings that took place on the cross, death by crucifixion, the effect on His body, the parched tongue and lips, the dividing of Christ's garments and gambling for His robe. This psalm is pure prophecy. David wrote it by inspiration regarding events that were not fulfilled for 1,000 years. Crucifixion wasn't used by the Jews. It began with the Persians, and the Romans perfected it. The crucifixion ended in utter silence after the words, “You have answered me” (22:21).

The second half is a celebration of the Gospel: I will declare your name (22-31). Listen to the celebrations of the Gospel: I will declare Your name. You who fear the Lord praise Him. My praise shall be of You in the great assembly. The nations will worship Him (in the Kingdom). The living and the dead shall worship Him. Future generations shall worship Him.

The second half of the psalm is our praise list. We can do it now – all of it. We can do it often. We can be known as a people who praise Jesus. During the last Great Awakening (in the 1970s), Christians were known as “Jesus people.” I like that! Let's pray that will happen again!