

## **The Doe of the Morning (Psalm 22)**

Psalm 22 was written by David which is called, “The Doe of the Morning.”

That sounds really nice, but what happens to a doe in the morning? If its deer season, the doe gets hunted. This is what David feels like in this Psalm. He feels like a deer that is being pursued and hunted.

What did David have in mind when he wrote the words to this psalm? We don’t know for sure. Perhaps he was fleeing from the attacks of King Saul or maybe he’s describing the time when his son Absalom was trying to take over his kingdom.

Whatever it was that David was going through, it was a crisis. In the Psalm, David writes in poetic language about a bitter experience where he is surrounded by enemies and his words are inspired to portray the sufferings of Jesus at the cross.

Let us look at this psalm through the eyes of David. Let us also see this Psalm through the eyes of Jesus and then make a personal application.

### **I. David feels that God has abandoned Him:**

Verse 1, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not answer; and in the night and am not silent.

David begins with a heart wrenching cry. No one is responding to his pleas for help, not even God. His pain is so great that his prayers are expressed in groans. Deliverance, he moans, is ‘far from me.’ Heaven has been strangely silent to his cries.

In verses 3-5, David recalls how God responded to the cries of his forefathers, “They trusted in you and you delivered.” The implication is, “why haven’t you delivered me?”

Beginning in verse 11, enemies have surrounded him. “Trouble is near but there is none to help.” Verse 14 describes the fatigue - “I am poured out like water.” He has no strength. “All of my bones are out of joint” - his whole body is in disarray. “My heart is like wax; it has melted before me.” His heart is gone. In verse 15, his energy is gone. “My tongue clings to my jaws.” Here he’s dehydrated and cannot talk.

Verse 16 finds David’s enemies circling around him like a band of wild dogs. “They pierced my hands and my feet.” They are biting him. Verses 17-22 describes David’s physical condition.

But Verse 22 through the rest of the chapter is a changing point. He says, I will praise God as if an answer has already been given.

### **II. Let us now see if we can understand how Jesus viewed this Psalm.**

In Matthew 27, Jesus now finds himself hanging between earth and sky nailed to a cross. He cries out, "My God my God, why have you forsaken me."

The people below began mocking him saying, "He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He wants Him; for He said, 'I am the Son of God.'" (As in Psalm 22:7.)

His enemies surround him like lions and bulls. As he is hanging on the cross, Jesus is physically exhausted. His joints are pulled apart. He is dehydrated and thirsty. His heart is broken. As He looks down below, the Roman soldiers are gambling for His garments. Then in that final moment, Jesus cries out, "It is finished and gives up His Spirit."

As far as David knew, he was simply describing his own agony and feelings of rejection. He had no clue that he was giving a precise description of the death of his ancestor — the ultimate King of Israel, who would be called "The Son of David."

Hebrews 2:12 quotes Psalm 22:22 which says, "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise You."

This is a prophecy about the church. By His death, we can be part of the family of God and Jesus is not ashamed to call us His brothers and sisters.

### **III. Application:**

Have you ever had a moment in life, where David's words could be your words? What can we do? What did David do? He did something that we need to do when we are in the pit of despair.

No matter the situation, praise God. Halfway through the Psalm, the mood changes from a lament song to a song of thanksgiving and praise (vs. 22-31).

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says, "Rejoice always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

### **Close**

When we cry out to God, not only does He hear but He will answer.

Hang in there, be patient, keep knocking, keep asking, be honest. Jesus is King. He is still in control of the Universe. God's desire is to reach into our lives and draw us closer to Him.

Psalm 22 paints a picture of a suffering King who feels abandoned. Not only for David, but it also describes the King of Kings who also felt abandoned. Keep trusting, keep praying and keep praising.