

Psalm 22 Outline

- I. [Superscription]
 - A. To the choirmaster/preeminent one
 - B. According to “deer of the dawn”
 - C. A Song (Mizmor) of David
- II. [Cry for help (1-2)]
 - A. [Why?]
 - 1. My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
 - 2. Why are you so far from saving me,
 - 3. so far from the words of my groaning?
 - B. [I cry out]
 - 1. O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
 - 2. by night, and am not silent.
- III. [Confession of Trust/ Appeal to Covenant (3-5)]
 - A. [God’s Nature]
 - 1. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One;
 - 2. you are the praise of Israel.
 - B. [God’s History (track record)]
 - 1. In you our fathers put their trust;¹
 - 2. they trusted and you delivered them.
 - 3. They cried to you and were saved;
 - 4. in you they trusted and were not disappointed.
- IV. [Description of suffering (6-8)]
 - A. [Mocked]
 - 1. But I am a worm and not a man,
 - 2. scorned by men and despised by the people.
 - 3. All who see me mock me;
 - 4. they hurl insults, shaking their heads:
 - B. [Their taunt]
 - 1. "He trusts in the LORD;
 - 2. let the LORD rescue him.
 - 3. Let him deliver him,
 - 4. since he delights in him."
- V. [Confession of Trust/ Appeal to Covenant (9-10)]
 - A. Yet you brought me out of the womb;
 - B. you made me trust in you even at my mother's breast.
 - C. From birth I was cast upon you;
 - D. from my mother's womb you have been my God.

¹ “Here the word ‘trusted’ tolls like a bell three times. In a situation of great danger, the psalmist speaks to God about the effectiveness of trust. Following the second tolling of the bell a new verb is used, ‘to cry,’ which pushes the sense of trust beyond an inward, passive state- in which sense it is often understood today- into active trust, faith in action.” Anderson, Out of the Depths, p. 25.

VI. [Petition for Rescue (11)]

- A. Do not be far from me,
- B. for trouble is near
- C. and there is no one to help.

VII. [Description of suffering (12-18)]

A. [Enemies]

- 1. Many bulls surround me;
- 2. strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.
- 3. Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.

B. [Suffering]

- 1. I am poured out like water,
- 2. and all my bones are out of joint.
- 3. My heart has turned to wax;
- 4. it has melted away within me.
- 5. My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
- 6. and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
- 7. you lay me in the dust of death.

C. [Enemies]

- 1. Dogs have surrounded me;
- 2. a band of evil men has encircled me,

D. [Suffering]

- 1. they have pierced my hands and my feet.
- 2. I can count all my bones;
- 3. people stare and gloat over me.
- 4. They divide my garments among them
- 5. and cast lots for my clothing.

VIII. [Petition for Rescue (19-21)]

A. [General]

- 1. But you, O LORD, be not far off;
- 2. O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

B. [Specific- Rescue from enemies]

- 1. Deliver my life from the sword,
- 2. my precious life from the power of the dogs.
- 3. Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
- 4. save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

IX. [Vow to Praise (22-23)]

- A. I will declare your name to my brothers;
- B. in the congregation I will praise you.
- C. You who fear the LORD, praise him!
- D. All you descendants of Jacob, honor him!
- E. Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!

X. [Assurance (24)]

- A. For he has not despised or disdained the suffering of the afflicted one;
- B. he has not hidden his face from him
- C. but has listened to his cry for help.

XI. [Vow to Praise (25)]

- A. From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly;
- B. before those who fear you will I fulfill my vows.

XII. [Testimony/Assurance (26-31)]

A. [All the earth will praise Him]

1. [The poor]

- a) The poor will eat and be satisfied;
- b) they who seek the LORD will praise him—
- c) may your hearts live forever!

2. [The whole earth]

- a) All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the LORD,
- b) and all the families of the nations will bow down before him,
- c) for dominion belongs to the LORD
- d) and he rules over the nations.

3. All the rich of the earth will feast and worship;

B. [All generations will praise Him]

1. [Past]

- a) all who go down to the dust will kneel before him—
- b) those who cannot keep themselves alive.

2. [Future]

- a) Posterity will serve him;
- b) future generations will be told about the Lord.
- c) They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn—
- d) for he has done it.

Psalm 22 Outline

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