

# Psalm 22

This Psalm may be the most fascinating of all the psalms primarily because the first verse is uttered by Jesus while on the cross. Several questions arise out of Jesus use of the psalm at that moment. The psalm also, at least through v. 21, does something no other text, New Testament or Old Testament, does: it describes Christ's experience on the cross *from* the cross. Also, there are several references to this psalm in the gospels which remove any doubt that the psalm is a prophecy of the suffering of Jesus.

## Questions

1. Find passages in the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) that directly quote or allude to this psalm.
2. How does v. 1 apply to Jesus? See II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13.
3. Describe the type of the suffering of Christ on the cross that is emphasized in this psalm. What other Old Testament passage predicts and describes his suffering?
4. There is a distinct turning point in the psalm in the second line of v. 21. Describe it.
5. How would you describe the attitude of the psalmist throughout the psalm?
6. How does the psalm end?

# Psalm 23

Is this psalm the most famous psalm? Probably. It's certainly notable for its beauty and is probably the psalm that is read in public more frequently than any other (if only because it's read at most funerals).

## Questions

1. Since the controlling analogy here is a shepherd's care for his flock, find out as much as you can about how the details in this psalm compare with the actual experience of a shepherd.
2. Reflect on how this psalm changes or expands your view of God's character.
3. At what points in your life does this psalm become most meaningful?