

Psalm 22 (a)

# IS PSALM 22 FORECASTING CHRIST'S DEATH?

*"They pierced My hands and My feet" (Ps. 22:16)*

*All verses are the NKJV unless otherwise noted*

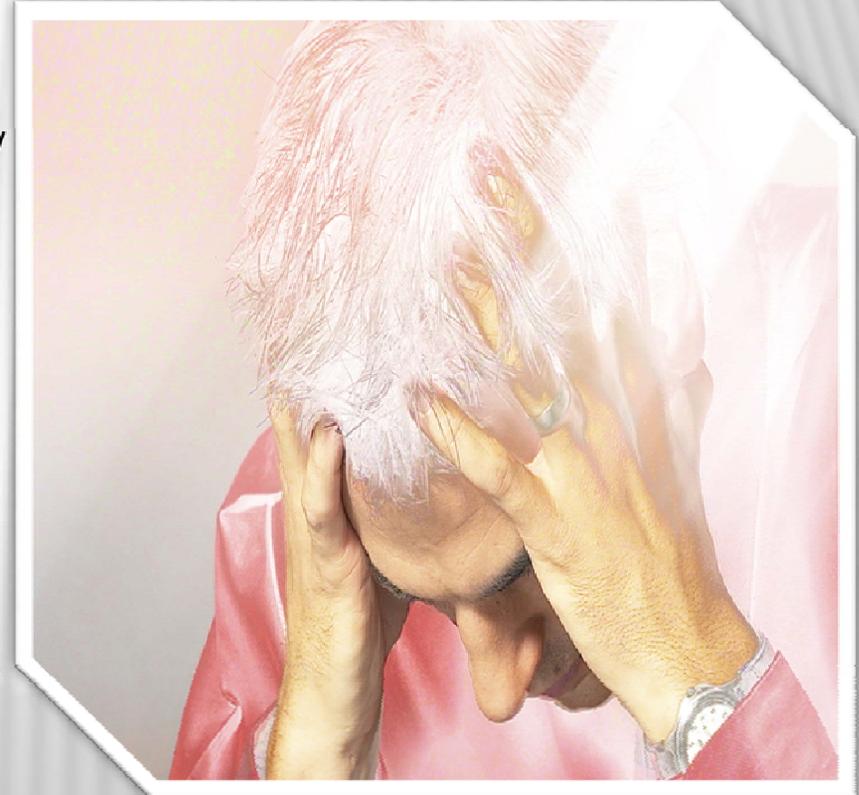


# WHY PSALM 22 IS DISTURBING TO ATHEISTS?

## × If it is of the Christ:

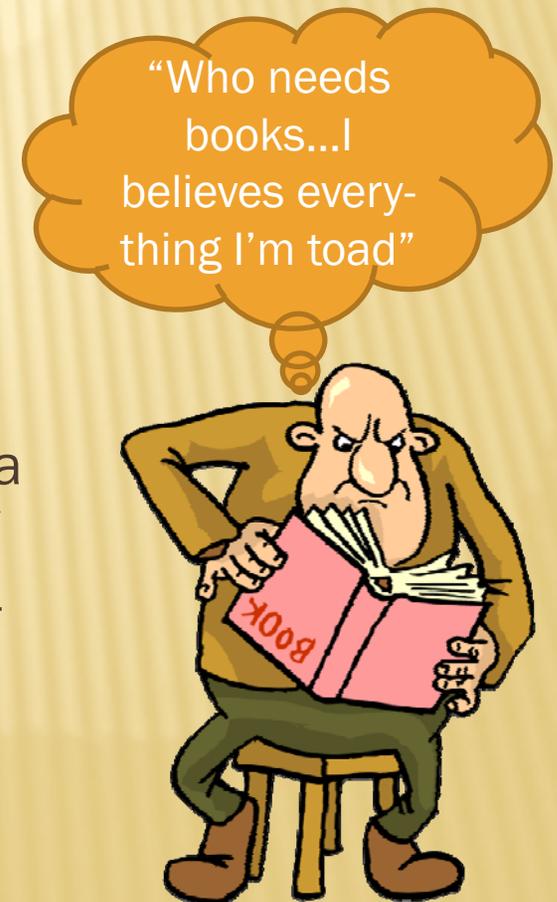
+ it speaks of the act of crucifixion hundreds of years before it was ever practiced

- × “There is evidence that captured pirates were crucified in the port of Athens around the 7th century BC” (stateuniversity.com)
- × “The earliest historical record of crucifixion was made in 519 BC when Darius I, the Persian King of Kings, crucified 3000 political opponents in Babylon” (answers.com)



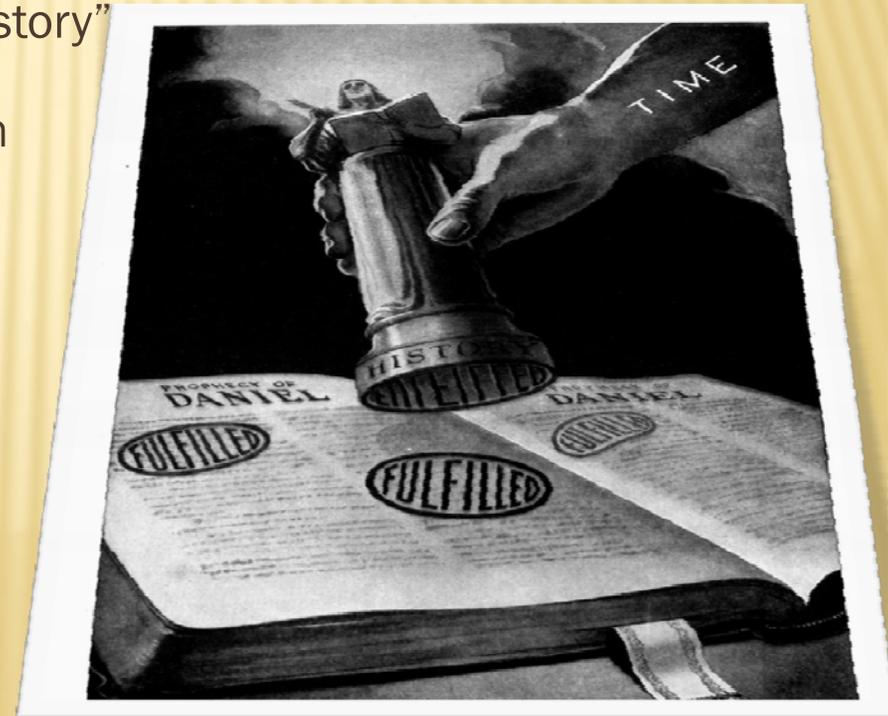
# WHY PSALM 22 IS DISTURBING TO ATHEISTS

- ✘ If it is of Christ:
  - + it speaks of the act of crucifixion hundreds of years before it was ever practiced
  - + it validates the authority of both Testaments
    - ✘ “I admit that when you see it through their lens, it looks pretty convincing. And the trusting Christians who sit in the pews tend to accept what they’re told without looking it up”(Diana Black, [sezme.twistedpair.net/atheist/psalm\\_22\\_isnt\\_about\\_jesus\\_death.htm](http://sezme.twistedpair.net/atheist/psalm_22_isnt_about_jesus_death.htm))
  - ✘ **WADR:** it still looks convincing!
    - ★ charges all Christians as possessing a kind of mindless-meathead-mentality
    - ★ perhaps these charges are proof that some are so full of themselves that they have no room for God or His evidence?



# WHY PSALM 22 IS DISTURBING TO ATHEISTS

- ✘ If it is of Christ:
  - + it speaks of the act of crucifixion hundreds of years before it was ever practiced
  - + it validates the authority of both Testaments
  - + It validates the historicity of the scriptures
    - ✘ If the Bible gets it right on “prehistory” (prophecy)...
    - ✘ It certainly should be accurate on post historical statements (eg., creation, flood, kings & kingdoms, etc.)
    - ✘ par. reasoning: *Jn. 3:12, 13*



# ATHEIST OBJECTION:

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- ✘ Jesus' prayers were NOT answered
  - + “Did you catch what he just said? God answered the prayers of the “afflicted [pertaining to v. 24, sjw].” If you read far enough—past the usual “proof of crucifixion” verses—you find that psalmist—the “afflicted”—says his prayers were answered, that he (the sufferer) would praise God in the assembly. In contrast, Jesus said on the cross, “My God, My God, Why has thou forsaken me?” Jesus' prayers to be delivered from his misery were not answered”



# CHRISTIAN ANSWER:

- ✘ Jesus saying “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” doesn’t mean His prayers were any less answered than the Psalmist when he said the same thing in Ps. 22:1.
  - + Jesus’ prayers were *heard*, “who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear” (Heb. 5:7)
  - + He was heard; He still had to die!
  - + The Psalmist prayed too, but he still had to suffer!



# CHRISTIAN ANSWER:

- ✘ Jesus referred to the *beginning* and the *end* of Psalm 22 while on the cross:
  - + “They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this” (Ps. 22:31)
    - ✘ “They will tell people yet to be born about his righteousness—that he has finished it” (GWV).
    - ✘ compare: “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished!’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit” (Jn. 19:30; cf. Lk. 24:44)
    - ✘ Atheists forget that God answered and vindicated Jesus by raising Him from the dead!

# ATHEIST OBJECTION:

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- ✘ Christian translators made the Hebrew mesh with the crucifixion account
  - + “The fundamentalists Christian interpreters actually changed the spelling of the word from KeAri (like a lion) to Kari. If one then totally ignores Hebrew grammar, one can twist this to mean ‘He gouged me,’ then, as in the King James Version, they make it read: ‘They pierced my hands and feet.’”  
(courtesy of, [www.believersweb.org](http://www.believersweb.org))

## ARE THESE LIBERAL TRANSLATIONS OF PSALM 22:16?

- ✘ “Dogs have surrounded me. A mob has encircled me. They have pierced my hands and feet” (NKJV)
- ✘ “For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet” (NASB <sup>95</sup>)
- ✘ “Dogs have surrounded me. A mob has encircled me. They have pierced my hands and feet” (GWV)
- ✘ “Dogs have come round me: I am shut in by the band of evil-doers; they made wounds in my hands and feet” (BBE)
- ✘ “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet” (KJV)
- ✘ “And to the dust of death thou appointest me, For surrounded me have dogs, A company of evil doers have compassed me, Piercing my hands and my feet” (YLT)

## OR IS THIS AN ERRONEOUS TRANSLATION?

- ✘ “For dogs have encompassed me; a company of evil-doers have inclosed me; like a lion, they are at my hands and my feet” (JPS)
  - + is it a “lion” at my hands and feet?
- OR
- + is it they “pierced” or “dug”?
- + even if this translation is the correct one, what would a lion do at one’s hands and feet?



**If evil men are  
at your hands  
and feet as a  
lion, what  
would you  
expect to  
happen to  
your limbs?**

(cf. Isaiah 38:13)

“For dogs have  
encompassed me; a  
company of evil-doers  
have inclosed me; like a  
lion, they are at my  
hands and my feet”  
(Ps. 22:16, JPS)



“The majority reading of the Masoretic text literally reads, ‘Like a lion my hands and feet.’ This reading is difficult, and doesn't make sense. ...Because of this controversial reading, anti-missionaries have accused Christians of tampering with the text. This is a simple reaction to issues that are much more complex and difficult. G. Shapiro, an anti-missionary, says that, ‘. . . mistranslations prove only that the missionaries trying to convert you are deceptive.’<sup>3</sup> Then, however, Shapiro goes on to *insert* words into the text that are **absent** from the Hebrew: ‘like lions [they maul] my hands and feet.’<sup>4</sup> The words ‘they maul’ are missing from the original text, which is why Shapiro has brackets around the words.”

Pierced - "K'aru" - כָּאָרוּ

Like a Lion - "K'ari" - כָּאֵרִי

SOURCE: <http://www.messianicart.com/chazak/yeshua/psalm22.htm>

## NOTABLE QUOTES

“The two words are strikingly similar in appearance in the original Hebrew text. The only difference between the word translated ‘like a lion,’ and the one rendered ‘they pierced’ is in the length of the upright vowel stroke on the latter word. The two might easily be confused”

SOURCE: <http://www.believersweb.org/view.cfm?id=982&rc=1&list=multi>

“For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced<sup>1</sup> My hands and My feet”

1 {Following some Hebrew manuscripts, **Septuagint**, Syriac, Vulgate; Masoretic Text reads *Like a lion*.}

Pierced - "K'aru" - כָּאֲרוּ  
 Like a Lion - "K'ari" - כָּאֲרִי

**NKJV**

**DATE: 4TH CENTURY AD**

“There is the Masoretic text of the Torah, thought to have been first assembled in the 4th century AD”  
 (wikipedia.org)

**DATE: 3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY BC**

“There is the Septuagint, which is a Greek translation of the Torah, made under Ptolemy in the 3rd century BC”  
 (wikipedia.org)

Psalm 22:16 (LXX)

*“ΟΤΙ ΕΚΥΚΛΩΣΑΝ ΜΕ ΚΥΝΕΣ ΠΟΛΛΟΙ ΣΥΝΑΓΩΓΗ ΠΟΝΗΡΕΥΟΜΕΝΩΝ  
ΠΕΡΙΕΣΧΟΝ ΜΕ ΩΡΥΞΑΝ ΧΕΙΡΑΣ ΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΟΔΑΣ”*

## TESTIMONY OF THE SEPTUAGINT

TRANSLATION:

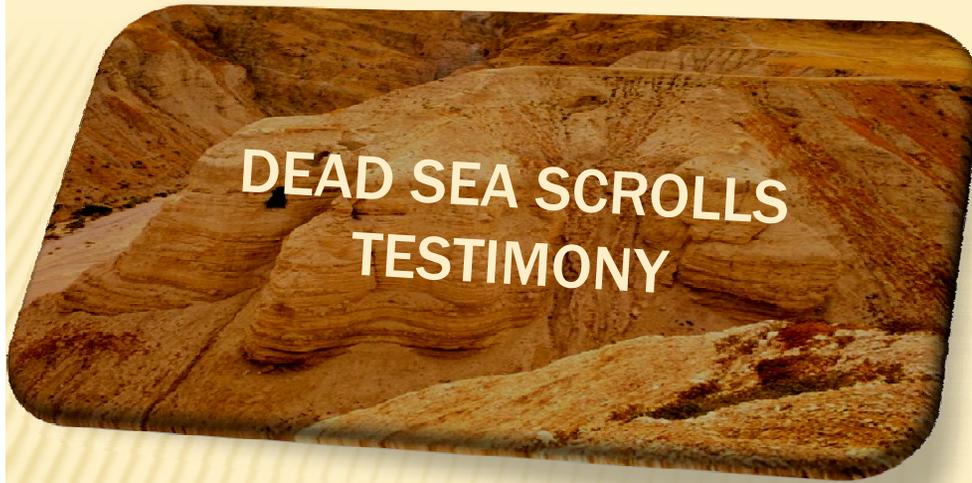
*“For many dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked  
doers has beset me round: they pierced my hands and my feet”  
(LXXE)*

Psalm 22:16 (LXX)

*“For many dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked doers has beset me round: they pierced my hands and my feet” (LXXE)*

- The Septuagint was a translation of the Hebrew Bible into Greek during the third Century.
- The Septuagint records Psalm 22:16 as having the hands and feet “pierced”
- Who believes that the translation of the “piercing of the hands and feet” rather than “as a lion my hands and feet” is a “meshing” of the Hebrew text to fit the crucifixion which occurred ca. 33 AD?

**TESTIMONY  
OF THE  
SEPTUAGINT**

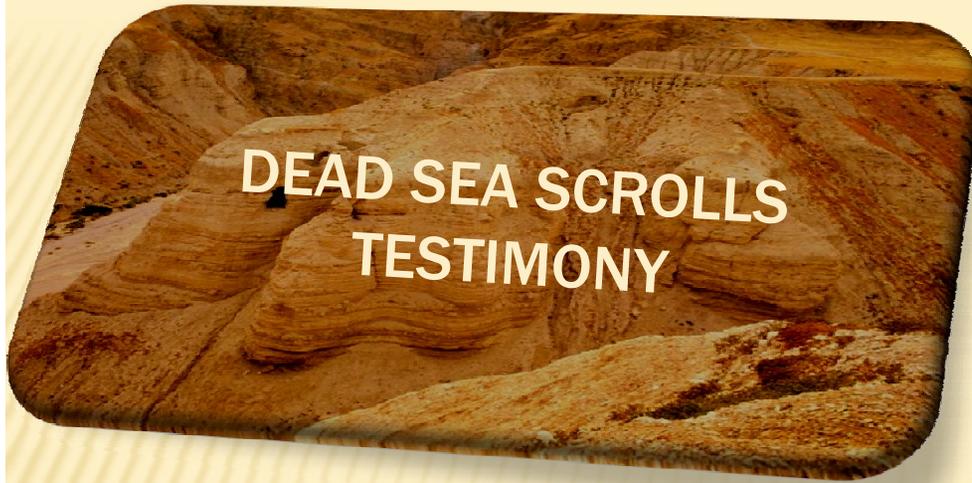


- ✘ Email, 07.13.2007 to Ruben Barrett, of HaDavar ministries and owner of [www.hadavar.net](http://www.hadavar.net)
- ✘ “...Were there two separate scrolls that included Psalm 22:16? Have they both been translated?...”

MT	LXX	DSS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heb. “ka’ari”</li> <li>• <i>like lion</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gk “orusso”</li> <li>• “to dig”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ???</li> <li>• ???</li> </ul>

Can The DSS Be A Witness?

# DEAD SEA SCROLLS



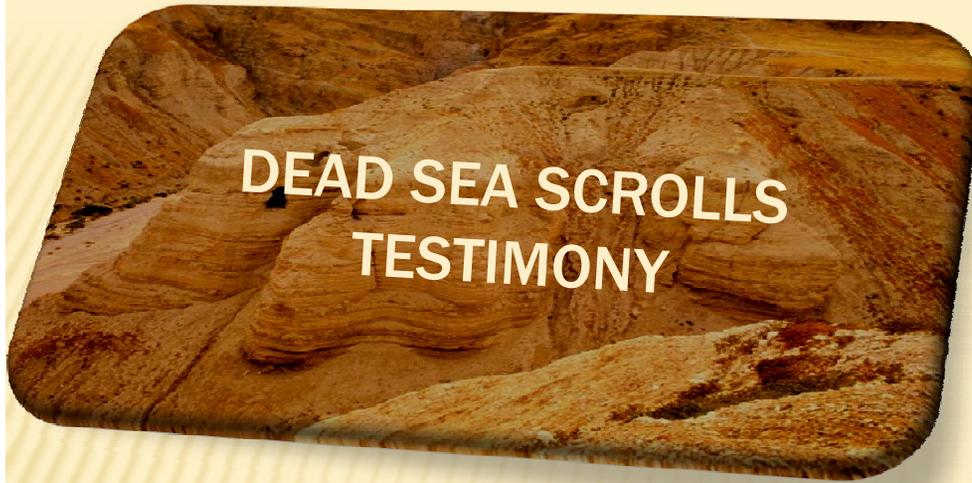
**DEAD SEA SCROLLS  
TESTIMONY**

MT	LXX	DSS
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Can The DSS Be A Witness?

**DEAD SEA SCROLLS**

- ✘ RESPONSE (email, 9.13.2007):
- ✘ "Yes, the first one was from the Dead Sea Scrolls (4QPs<sup>f</sup>), and the other from Nahal Hever. The Nahal texts are not from Khirbet Qumran, but are associated with the scrolls because of the close geographic proximity. Both read differently, and have other manuscripts reflecting each spelling:
  - + 1. 4QPs<sup>f</sup>; 3 manuscripts of the MT *karu* (*kaph-resh-vav*)
  - + 2. 5/6HevPs; 7 manuscripts of MT *ka'aru* (*kaph-aleph-resh-vav*)"



**DEAD SEA SCROLLS  
TESTIMONY**

MT	LXX	DSS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heb. "ka'ari"</li> <li>• <i>like lion</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gk "orusso"</li> <li>• "to dig"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• kq "karu" (4QPs<sup>f</sup>)</li> <li>• nh, "ka'aru" (5/6HevPs)</li> <li>• "to dig"</li> </ul>

Can The DSS Be A Witness?

**DEAD SEA SCROLLS**

- ✘ No DSS says "ka'ari"
- ✘ An independent testimony that proves the translation of Psalm 22:16 is not a Christian problem, but a Jewish one (predates Christianity)
- ✘ DSS conveys to dig or pierce
- ✘ the oldest manuscripts available on Psalm 22:16 have "digging"
- ✘ extra: "There are ten known Hebrew editions of the Masoretic Text that read ka'aru or karu, not ka'ari" (<http://www.hadavar.net> )

## PSALM 22:16 BEST FITS “PIERCING”

- ✘ the oldest translation (LXX) favors *piercing/digging*
- ✘ the oldest manuscripts (DSS) of Psalms favors *piercing/digging*
- ✘ the MT also has ten Hebrew editions for “dig”
- ✘ symmetry (internal evidence) for “pierce” (next week’s material):
  - + in the sufferer's body being tortured
  - + in the animal metaphors used to torture

## WHAT THIS SHOULD PROVE TO YOU!

- ✘ a manuscript written about events TO occur, at a time when such deeds NEVER occurred, yet, hundreds of years later they DID occur—is POWERFUL PROOF:
  - + that prophecy did exist (which requires God thru man)
    - ✘ “...God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did” (Rom. 4:17)
    - ✘ Holy Spirit + David = Prophecy (2 Sam. 23:1, 2)
  - + that the Bible contains such prophecy (which requires God to be its author)
    - ✘ Holy Spirit + David + writing = prophetic writing (viz., Ps. 22)
  - + that you will be held accountable to the Bible’s moral and religious message
    - ✘ are you connected to the One who was to be pierced?

*Psalm 22 (b)*

# IS PSALM 22 FORECASTING CHRIST'S DEATH?

- the oldest translation (LXX) favors piercing/digging
- the oldest manuscripts (DSS) of Psalms favors piercing/digging
- the MT also has ten Hebrew editions for “dig”
- symmetry (internal evidence) for “pierce”

*All verses are the NKJV unless otherwise noted*

**OBJECT**

- ✘ I am (v. 14)
- ✘ bones (v. 14)
- ✘ heart (v. 14)
- ✘ strength (v. 15)
- ✘ tongue (v. 15)
- ✘ hands and feet (v. 16)
- ✘ bones (v. 17)
- ✘ clothing (v. 18)

**ACTION/VERB**

- ✘ poured out like water
- ✘ out of joint
- ✘ melted like wax
- ✘ dried up potsherd
- ✘ clings to jaw
- ✘ “pierced”
- ✘ stare at me
- ✘ divided

## THE SYMMETRY OF PSALM 22:14-18

## ANIMAL METAPHORS

- ✘ strong bulls (v. 12)
- ✘ roaring lions (v. 13)
- ✘ dogs (v. 16)
- ✘ wild oxen (v. 21)



## HOW IT PUNISHES

- ✘ “Deliver Me from the sword,  
My precious life from the  
power of the dog. Save Me  
from the lion’s mouth And  
from the horns of the wild  
oxen! You have answered  
Me” (vv. 20, 21)

“PIERCING”

THE SYMMETRY OF PSALM 22:12-21

# “PIERCING”

✘ sword

✘ “Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion’s mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me” (vv. 20, 21)



## THE SYMMETRY OF PSALM 22:12-21

related verses: Luke 2:35; Heb. 4:12

# “PIERCING”

- ✘ sword
- ✘ power of the dog

✘ “Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion’s mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me” (vv. 20, 21)



## THE SYMMETRY OF PSALM 22:12-21

related verse: Jer. 15:3

# “PIERCING”

- ✘ sword
- ✘ power of the dog
- ✘ lion's mouth

✘ “Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion's mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me” (vv. 20, 21)



## THE SYMMETRY OF PSALM 22:12-21

related verses: 1 Sam. 17:34-36

# “PIERCING”

- ✘ sword
- ✘ power of the dog
- ✘ lion’s mouth
- ✘ horns of wild oxen

✘ “Deliver Me from the sword, My precious life from the power of the dog. Save Me from the lion’s mouth And from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me” (vv. 20, 21)



## THE SYMMETRY OF PSALM 22:12-21

related verses: Exod. 21:28, 29

## FROM DAVID'S PROPHECY

- ✘ 22:1
  - + “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”
- ✘ 22:7
  - + “All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head”
- ✘ 22:8
  - + “He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!”

## TO MESSIAH'S FULFILLMENT

- ✘ Matt. 27:46; Mk. 15:34; Lk. 24:44
- ✘ Matt. 27:39, 40; Mk. 15:29-32; Lk. 23:35-39
- ✘ Lk. 23:35; Matt. 27:43

# THE PIERCING PSALM

## FROM DAVID'S PROPHECY

- ✘ 22:14
  - + “I am poured out like water, And all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me.”
- ✘ 22:15 (cf. 69:21)
  - + “My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.”

## TO MESSIAH'S FULFILLMENT

- ✘ Mk. 14:33, 34
  - + “...He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, ‘My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch.’”
- ✘ Jn. 19:28
  - + “After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, ‘I thirst!’”

# THE PIERCING PSALM

## FROM DAVID'S PROPHECY

- ✘ 22:16
  - + “For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me....”
  
- ✘ 22:16
  - + “...They pierced My hands and My feet” (cf. Zech. 12:10; Is. 53:5, *pierced*, NAS<sup>95</sup>)

## TO MESSIAH'S FULFILLMENT

- ✘ Mat. 26:57; Lk 22:63ff; 23:5, 23
  - + note: “dog” is a term of derision for evil men (Ps. 59:6; Mat. 7:6; Phil. 3:2; Rev. 22:15)
  
- ✘ Lk. 23:33
  - + “And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left”
  - + “And again another Scripture says, ‘They shall look on Him whom they pierced’” (Jn. 19:37)

# THE PIERCING PSALM

## From David's Prophecy

### ✘ 22:16

- + "...They pierced My hands and My feet" (cf. Zech. 12:10; Is. 53:5, *pierced*, NAS<sup>95</sup>)

## To Messiah's Fulfillment

### ✘ PIERCED

- + Lk. 23:33, "And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left."
- + "And again another Scripture says, 'They shall look on Him whom they pierced'" (Jn. 19:37)
- + Jn. 20:27, "... Reach your finger here, and look at My hands..."
- + "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself" (Lk. 24:39)

## FROM DAVID'S PROPHECY

- ✘ 22:18
  - + “They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.”
  
- ✘ 22:24
  - “... But when He cried to Him, He heard....”

## TO MESSIAH'S FULFILLMENT

- ✘ Mk. 15:24
  - + “And when they crucified Him, they divided His garments, casting lots for them to determine what every man should take.”
  - + Also Mat. 27:35; Lk. 23:34; Jn. 19:23f
- ✘ Heb. 5:7, “...was heard...”

# THE PIERCING PSALM

## FROM DAVID'S PROPHECY

- × 22:27
  - + “All the ends of the world Shall remember and turn to the LORD, And all the families of the nations Shall worship before You.”
- × 22:28
  - + “For the kingdom is the LORD'S, And He rules over the nations.”

## TO MESSIAH'S FULFILLMENT

- × Jn. 12:32, 33
  - + “ ‘And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.’ This He said, signifying by what death He would die.”
- × Rev. 11:15
  - + “The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

# THE PIERCING PSALM

## FROM DAVID'S PROPHECY

- × 22:30, 31
  - + “A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, They will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, That He has done this.”

## TO MESSIAH'S FULFILLMENT

- × 2 Cor. 5:21
  - + “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
- × Mk. 16:15, 16
- × Heb. 2:13
  - + “And again: ‘Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.’”
- × Gal. 3:26, 27
  - + “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

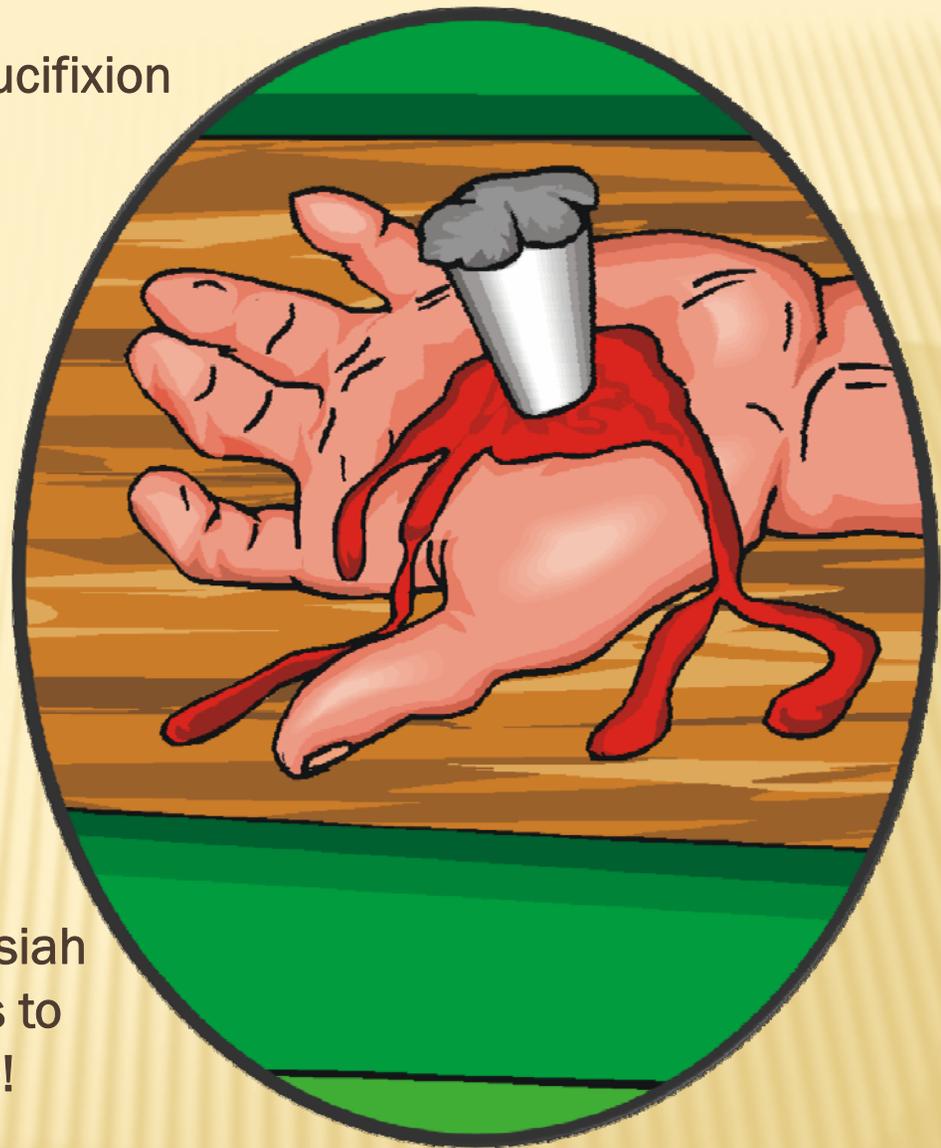
# THE PIERCING PSALM

Psalm 22 depicts the suffering, crucifixion and victory of the Messiah

David was a prophet and spoke of some things that never directly happened to him

- (The suffering Messiah in Psalm 22 was mocked for trusting in God; there is no record of David ever being mocked for this reason)

To deny the similarities of the Messiah to the One suffering in Psalm 22 is to commit the act of willful ignorance!

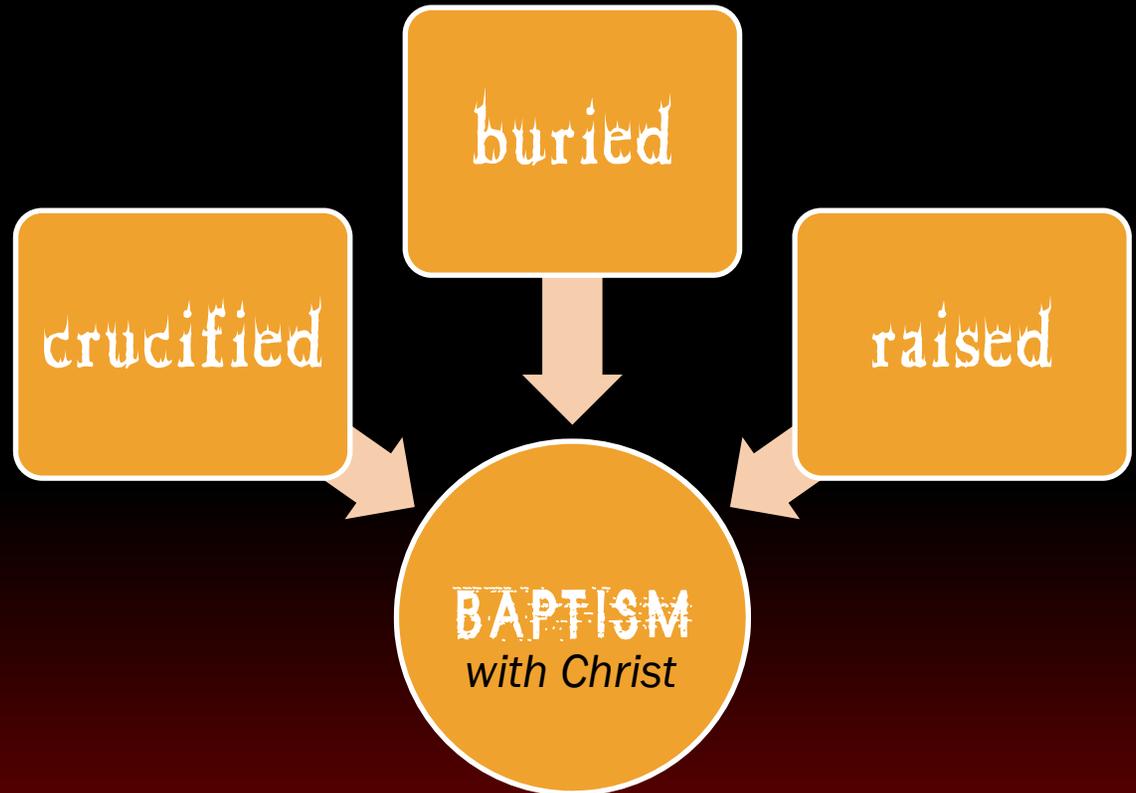


**“THEY PIERCED MY HANDS AND MY FEET”**

Unless we die with the pierced Messiah, we will never be free from sin!

# ROMANS 6:3-7

- OLD MAN CRUCIFIED
- BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM  
(baptized into His death)
- RAISED WITH HIM



**YOUR ARE CONNECTED TO THE PIERCING!**