

THE PSALM OF THE CROSS (Ps. 22)

Psalm 24 is *The Psalm of the Crown*, for it speaks about the King of Glory, - the *Sovereign*. Psalm 23 is *The Psalm of the Crook*, for it speaks about the Lord as the *Shepherd*. Psalm 22 is *The Psalm of the Cross*, for it speaks of Christ the *Saviour*.

Historically, Psalm 22 is an anachronism for it relates to the practice of crucifixion which had not yet been introduced (especially v.16). The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* asserts the first record of crucifixion was c. 519 BC when “Darius I, King of Persia, crucified 3,000 political opponents in Babylon”. This was the Darius I mentioned by Ezra (not the Darius in the Book of Daniel) who was the King of Persia from 521 BC to 486 BC, who supported the Jews in their rebuilding of Jerusalem.

So, this psalm of David’s, - Psalm 22, - was written over five hundred years *before* crucifixion was introduced ... and over *one thousand* years before Christ was crucified ... It is another example of the inspiration of God’s Word.

The psalm consists of thirty-one verses, - vv.1-21 relate to the sufferings of the Saviour ... and, vv.22-31, is a song of victory. ... It is suggested Jesus quoted this psalm on the cross, beginning with ¹ *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?* ... and ending, ³¹ *he hath done this* ... “It is finished”.

Its introduction sets the scene, *To the chief Musician [there were three chief musicians, - Jeduthun, Heman, and Asaph] upon Aijeleth Shahar [i.e. the name of the tune], A Psalm of David [the author]. ... Aijeleth Shahar means ‘hind of the dawn’, and Delitzsch refers it to “the early light preceding the dawn [shahar, ‘breaking of the day’, Gen. 19:15; 32:24] of the morning, whose first rays are likened to the horns of a hind [aijeleth, the hind is a female deer, the hart is a male deer]” ... Contrast the hind, - the female deer, - to the ‘worm’ (v.6), the ‘bulls of Bashan’ (v.12), the ‘lion’ (v.13,21), ‘dogs’ (v.16,20), ‘unicorns’ (wild bulls, v.21) ... From the commencement this psalm speaks of One Who is in stark distinction to those around Him who are seeking His demise.*

We are simply going to read down through the psalm and ‘pick out’ the verses which have a definite Messianic theme, as referred to in the New Testament.

1. The Messiah would cry out to God, **Ps. 22:1** *My God, my God, ...* **Mt. 27:46** *And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli ... that is to say, My God, my God,*
2. The Messiah would be forsaken by God at His crucifixion, **Ps. 22:1** *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?* ... **Mk. 15:34** *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*
3. The Messiah’s prayer prior to His death, **Ps. 22:2** *O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent ...* **Mt. 26:38** *Then saith he unto them [in*

Gethsemane], My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. ³⁹ And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

4. The Messiah despised and rejected by His own, **Ps. 22:6** But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people ... **Lk. 23:21** But they cried, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. ²² And he said unto them the third time, Why, what evil hath he done? I have found no cause of death in him: I will therefore chastise him, and let him go. ²³ And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed.

5. The Messiah humiliated, **Ps. 22:7** All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head ... **Mt. 27:39** And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads.

6. The Messiah insulted, **Ps. 22:8** He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him ... **Mt. 27:41** Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, ⁴² He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. ⁴³ He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

7. The Messiah would know His Father from childhood, **Ps. 22:9** But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts ... **Lk. 2:49** ⁴⁹ And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

8. The Messiah in the womb, **Ps. 22:10** I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly ... **Lk. 1:30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. ³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. ³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: ³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

9. The Messiah abandoned by His disciples, **Ps. 22:11** Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help ... **Mk. 14:50** And they all forsook him, and fled.

10. The Messiah surrounded by evil spirits, **Ps. 22:12** Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. ¹³ They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion ... **Col. 2:15** And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

11. The Messiah's body would emit blood & water, **Ps. 22:14** I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels ...

Jn. 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

12. The Messiah crucified, and His thirst, **Ps. 22:15** My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death ... **Jn. 19:28** After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst (also Ps. 69:21) ... **30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

13. The Messiah observed by Gentiles at His crucifixion, **Ps. 22:16** For *dogs* have compassed me ... **Lk. 23:36** And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, **37** And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself. [*Re 'dogs', Mt. 15:21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*]

14. The Messiah observed by Jews at His crucifixion, **Ps. 22:16** the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me ... **Lk. 23:41** Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, **42** He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. **43** He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

15. The Messiah crucified, **Ps. 22:16** they pierced my hands and my feet ... **Jn. 19:23** Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus ... **Jn. 20:25** But he [*Thomas*] said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

16. The Messiah's bones unbroken, **Ps. 22:17** I may tell all my bones ... **Jn. 19:32** Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. **33** But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs.

17. The Messiah viewed by the many, **Ps. 22:17** they look and stare upon me ... **Lk. 23:35** And the people stood beholding.

18. The Messiah's garments parted among the soldiers, **Ps. 22:18** They part my garments among them ... **Jn. 19:23** Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

19. The soldiers cast lots for the Messiah's clothes, **Ps. 22:18** ... and cast lots upon my vesture ... **Jn. 19:24** They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose

it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

20. The Messiah's atonement and the Gospel, **Ps. 22:22** I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee ... **Heb. 2:10** For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. **11** For both he that sanctifieth [*i.e. Jesus, Who sets His people apart for God*] and they who are sanctified [*those who are set apart*] are all of one [*a common origin, i.e. the plan and purposes of God*]: for which cause he [*Jesus*] is not ashamed to call them brethren, **12** Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church [*qahal, ἐκκλησία*] will I sing praise [*ὑμνέω*] unto thee.

To us, this psalm is obviously referring to Christ, but what is the Jewish response?

- The common Jewish response ... “Psalm 22 is about a person who is crying out to G-d to save him from the taunts and torments of his enemies, and (in the last ten verses) thanking G-d for rescuing him. It foresees the exile of the Jewish people, bemoans their degradation, and prays for their restoration.”
- Prof. Rivka Ulmer (http://www.bibleinterp.com/PDFs/Psalm_22.pdf, p.108), “And stood in the inner court of the king's house (Esther 5:1). R. Levi said: When she reached the chamber of the idols, the Divine Presence left her. She said, My God, My God, why have You forsaken me? (Ps. 22:2). Is it possible that You punish the inadvertent sin like the presumptuous one, or one done under compulsion like one committed willingly? Or is it because I called [Ahasuerus] “dog,” as it says Save my soul from the sword, my only one from the power of the dog? (Ps. 22:21 ... [*v. 20 in our Bibles*]). She immediately retracted and called him “lion,” as it says, Save me from the lion's mouth (Ps. 22:22 ... [*v. 21 in our Bibles*]).”

The unwillingness to see blinds their eyes, **Jn. 12:37** But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: **38** That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? [*Is. 53:1*] **39** Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, **40** He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. [*Is. 6:9,10*] **41** These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. ... The blindness of the Jews will continue until Christ returns, **Rom. 11:25** I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness *in part* is happened to Israel, *until* the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

From the first section of this psalm (vv. 1-21), - relating to the sufferings of the Saviour on the cross, Christ's *vicarious Sacrifice*, - the theme now transfers in vv. 22-31 to Christ the *victorious Sovereign*. It develops from Christ the Victim to Christ the Victor ... *and it is all the same story!* ... Verse twenty-one ends, *Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns* ... And then immediately, the psalmist changes from *pain* to *praise* in words which the writer to the Hebrews refers to Jesus, **Ps. 22:22** *I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. ... Heb. 2:11* for which cause he [*Jesus*] is not ashamed to call them brethren, **12** *Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. ...* From being surrounded by the wicked, the Lord Jesus is now in the company of the saints, leading their praise of Jehovah.

The psalmist now brings his Jewish readers to the anticipation of the Messiah's reign ... **23** *Ye that fear [reverent fear] the LORD, praise him [boast in Him]; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him [stand in awe of Him], all ye the seed of Israel.* **24** *For he [the Lord] hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard.* **25** *My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation [a repetition of v.22]: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.* **26** *The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever. [... notice how the tense has changed ...]* **27** *All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.* **28** *For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor among the nations.* **29** *All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.* **30** *A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation.* **31** *They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.*

Since this psalm was written by David, it describes *initially* the difficulties he was facing as his enemies set themselves upon him, especially in the early days. They were so intent on doing him harm that in the depth of despair he feared the Lord had somehow forsaken him (v.1). He was aware of his failings and inadequacies, - **6** *I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people ...* **11** *... for trouble is near; for there is none to help ...* **21** *Save me, he cries. ...* But it is obvious how this psalm has a further and a deeper application because it relates to a *greater* than David.

David's 'Son', Jesus, was given His earthly name because it means **Mt. 1:21** *he shall save his people from their sins* ... and this psalm describes His sacrificial love for His people, and how He is their salvation, which one day they will come to confess. And just as David reigned as king, so also shall the *Son* of David reign as King, according to God's covenant, **II Sam. 7:16** *And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.*

Notice where Christ's emphasis is placed, *Ye that fear the Lord ... ye the seed of Jacob ... ye the seed of Israel ...* There is a form of doctrine, - propagated by men like Augustine, Luther, Calvin, - known as 'replacement theology' (or 'supercessionism'). It teaches the Church has *replaced* the nation of Israel in God's plan, and the Jews, - because of their constant disobedience, - are no longer God's chosen people. As a nation God is finished with them, and they are no different to any other nation.

Yes, He will save individual Jews, - as He will save individuals out of other nations, - but as a previously blessed people, God has removed their former privilege and *replaced* them with the Church. Israel does not mean Israel, but instead Israel means the Church. ... Therefore, all the promises no longer relate to Israel the nation, but now relate to the 'new Israel', the Church ("the Israel of God", Gal. 6:16). ... The God Who chose Israel out of all the nations (Dt. 7) '*un-chose*' them because they failed to keep the requirements of the law and they lost their place in God's plan as His own peculiar and particular people. ...

In doctrinal terms, that is 'Arminianism', the 'saved and lost' heresy ... if you cannot keep your salvation, you have lost it! God won't hold on to you ... you can 'slip out' of His hand! ... That's rank error! That's *wrong* for when God saves you, - you don't 'keep' Him, but *He* keeps *you*! ... The first people God said He loved was the nation of Israel ... but if He can stop loving them, what guarantee do you and I have that there won't come a time when He will also stop loving us?! ... It is an awful doctrine. Instead, the truth is ... since God covenanted His *unconditional* love to Israel, He never changed His mind nor updated His plan, - He does not do that ... and that is how Israel remains 'the apple of His eye' (Zech. 2:8). ... God's salvation is sure ... as sure as eternity ... and this psalm relates to Israel ... and, through Israel, it also by God's grace relates to every 'born again' Gentile whom God 'grafts into' His sovereign and saving plan.

... To the Jew first though ... And what more nation has been so despised, abhorred and afflicted (Ps. 22:24) than the people of Israel! That is how it was during David's reign, and he had to lead Israel in their battles for every inch of the land, with God's help. During Solomon's reign, there was a wonderful time of peace, **I Kings 4:25** Judah and Israel dwelt safely, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, from Dan even to Beersheba, all the days of Solomon. ... That is exactly what God *promised* David, **I Chron. 22:9** Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. **10** He shall build an house for my name; and he shall be my son, and I will be his father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever. ... God keeps His promises!

But following Solomon's reign came his son Rehoboam, and under him the nation was divided. Then, in the 8th century BC the Assyrians invaded and desecrated the ten northern tribes, and in the 6th century BC the remaining two tribes of the south were carried captive to Babylon ... and since that time (586 BC) the people of Israel did not have their own land ... not until God fulfilled His promise in May 1948, as Amos prophesied, **Amos 9:14** I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. **15** And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, saith the LORD thy God. ... God has and is fulfilling that promise ... They still don't have a king, - the monarchy has not yet been restored, but God promised David that promise *will* be fulfilled, for example Hosea 3:4, For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim: **5** Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days. ... God keeps His Word! What kind of a God would He be if He didn't!

Let's 'back up' a moment so we don't miss what v.24 *also* says, For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard. ... The primary application is during David's time, - the Lord heard the cry of His servant, - but its greater application is the Lord Jesus for this verse gives us an insight into the Father's mind at Calvary as He watched His Son suffer and die. The opening verse of the psalm begins, **My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?** ... And that was the awful experience of the Son at Calvary ... and yet, behind the scenes, how could a loving Father forsake His Son? ... To Christ on the cross, - **Is. 53:5** ... wounded for our transgressions, ... bruised for our iniquities ... **3** despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows ... **4** ... stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted, ... and yet, this Psalm 22 displays how it was *the sin* the Father despised, and not the One Who bore our sin because **24** he [*God the Father*] hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted [*God the Son*]; neither hath he [*God the Father*] hid his face from him [*God the Son*]; but when he [*God the Son*] cried unto him [*God the Father*], he [*God the Father*] heard. ... The Father may have turned His face away from His Son at Calvary, but the Father continued to hear the terrible cries of His Son ... The broken Christ on the cross, and the broken-hearted Father in Heaven!

That is what it took for the plan of God to proceed into this second section of the psalm for *now* the message is, "The King is coming!" Listen again to Hosea, **Hosea 3:5** Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king; and shall fear the LORD and his goodness in the latter days. ... 'David their king' ... obviously not David personally, but Jesus Christ Who is in the lineage of David, and **Ps. 22:26** The meek shall eat and be satisfied, - the same 'meek' as Jesus spoke about, who will inherit the earth (Mt. 5:5), ... also the same meek in Ps. 37:11, the meek shall

inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. ... Peace, because the Prince of Peace will be on the throne, **Ps. 22:27** All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. **28** For the kingdom is the LORD'S: and he is the governor [*ruler, king*] among the nations [*goyim*] ... And here is how He will govern, **Is. 9:7** Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David [*David reigned from Jerusalem*], and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. ... And Micah leaves us in no doubt, this is the Lord Jesus, **Micah 5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting ... **4** And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

When Christ returns, alongside the peace there will be *praise*, **Ps. 22:22** ... in the midst of the congregation will I *praise* thee. **23** Ye that fear the LORD, *praise* him ... **25** My *praise* shall be of thee in the great congregation ... **26** they shall *praise* the LORD that seek him ... There will be universal *praise* and universal *plenty*! ... **29** All they that be fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul. ... He is the salvation for "To God be the Glory!" ... for this is the fulfilment of what Jesus had prophesied to unfaithful Israel, **Mt. 23:37** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee ... **38** Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. **39** For I say unto you, Ye [*the Jews*] shall not see me henceforth, *till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.* ... And that will be when the nation finally receives Christ as their Messiah, God says, **Zech. 12:10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him ... **Zech. 13:1** In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

When Jesus returns, His ancient promises will be realised in Jerusalem, and throughout the land of Israel, and across the world for even the *nations* will unite in the worship of King Jesus ... This same Jesus who was humiliated on the cross, when He comes again He will be wearing the crown! They nailed Him to a tree, but when He returns He'll be seated on the throne. ... The Father said to His Son, **Ps. 2:8** Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession ... **Rev. 11:15** And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever ... **Zech. 14:8** it shall be in that day, that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem ... **9** And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

What did David mean, when he wrote, **Ps. 22:30** A seed shall serve him; it shall be accounted to the Lord for a generation? It's the same 'seed' Isaiah refers to, **Is. 53:10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, *he shall see his seed* ... and who that seed are is explained in chapter sixty-one, **Is. 61:9** And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people: all that see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the seed which the LORD hath blessed. ... Surely, that's Israel! God will keep His promises to them.

... And the Gospel was brought to the Gentiles through the Jews, - Peter, Paul, and the apostles were Jews! ... And when Christ establishes His Kingdom on earth, **Ps. 22:31** They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this. ... *Who* will come and declare His righteousness? ... Isaiah tells us, **Is. 2:2** And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. ³ And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ... And notice how there will be no hindrance to the advancement of the Gospel because during that period, Satan will be confined to the bottomless pit, **Rev. 20:3** that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled.

It is unbelievable ... except for the fact *God* has it written in His word! If it came from anywhere else, you wouldn't believe it ... but *we believe it because God says it!* ... He says what He means, and He means what He says!

The great truths in this Psalm 22 were recorded over three thousand years ago. How incredible they must have sounded, even then! And yet, those first detailed twenty-one verses were fulfilled at the cross ... and, in the same way, we are confident the final ten verses will also be fulfilled *for since the Lord said it, He will see to it!* Amen.