

The Faithful Bible Investigator

The Investigator's Research on Psalms

Notes on Psalms 22

Key Reference book for research notes: *From Creation to the Cross: Understanding the First Half of the Bible* by Albert H. Baylis

Type of Psalm: Lament or complaint psalm – crying to God for help

Additional examples of psalms of lament: Ps. 7, 12, 13, 22, 26, 28, 54-57, 88

Typical Elements of a Lament - such prayers contain many or all of the following elements:

- A call to God for help. A very direct cry often including a short summary of his problem and request.
- The difficulty expressed (lament). The psalmist expresses not only his difficulty but his feelings, fears, anxieties, and frustration. He is very open and direct with God.
- Confession of trust in God. In spite of the difficulties and frustrations expressed, the psalmist is counting on God for deliverance and expresses that confidence and trust.
- The petition for deliverance.
- A vow of praise or statement of praise. This is the praise that the petitioner anticipates he will give to the congregation when he praises God for his deliverance.

Significant Element: the call for help

- Ps. 22:1a – “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”
- Words of Jesus on the cross – Matt. 27:46