

## LESSON 16

Scripture passage: Psalms 22 and 69

### BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

David was a picture--a type--of Christ. When we read the psalms he wrote, we must never forget those pictures. Sometimes whole psalms are pictures of Jesus. These are Christ-psalms, or Messianic (explain the term) psalms. In these psalms we find two meanings: the stories in the psalms happened to David; the very same things happened to Christ many years later. Remember, the Lord ruled over the life of David so that it was a type of Christ's life, and we must see both lives as we read these psalms.

### LESSON MATERIAL

The heading of Psalm 22 gives the mood (the kind of psalm it will be). Aijeleth Shahar means "hind of the morning." Picture a weak, defenseless, young deer coming at dawn to the water hole. He would be fair game for all the beasts of prey. That was David. That was Jesus.

#### 1. PSALM 22

- a. The historical setting. This must have been a time of terrible suffering and danger for David. He could have borne that, but for one thing--he felt that God had left him. And that was his complaint as he began the psalm. See vs. 1. Most likely David described the most terrible days of his flight from Saul. The rest of the Bible does not tell us when all these troubles happened, and we do not know where: bulls gaped at him with their mouths; lions roared; wild dogs ran at him; wicked men surrounded him; they dug into his hands and feet, took his clothes; he became thin so that all his bones showed through his skin; at the same time, he felt that he had no bones at all and that his heart was made out of wax and poured out like water; in all this his enemies mocked and told him to trust in God. David had cried to God morning and night, vs. 2, but it seemed that God was far away. All these things happened to David in the lonely, dangerous deserts of Judah, vs. 15. Now let us see the Jesus about whom David wrote, as He came into our desert of sin.
- b. The type and the reality. When Jesus suffered, the pictures in Psalm 22 came true exactly.
  - 1.) vs. 7--"they shoot out the lip"  
Matt. 27:39--"they reviled him, wagging their heads"
  - 2.) vs. 8--"they said, He trusted in God"  
Matt. 27:43--"they said, He trusted in God"
  - 3.) vs. 6--"I am a worm and no man"  
Matt. 26:39, Luke 22:44--"and fell on his face," "and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood"
  - 4.) vs. 16--"they pierced my hands and my feet"  
Matt. 27:35--"and they crucified him"
  - 5.) vs. 18--"They part my garments among them"  
Matt. 27:35--"and parted his garments"
  - 6.) vs. 1--"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"  
Matt. 27:46--"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Note: this psalm is rich with more references. But for the small child these six concrete comparisons may be enough. A chart of parallels on the board will make the comparisons come alive.

c. The finish.

- 1.) Vs. 23 begins the break in the psalm. David reached from the cave, and the Lord was there, vs. 23, 24. Jesus reached from the bottom of hell, and "when he cried unto him, he heard," vs. 24.
- 2.) Now comes the happy part of the psalm. David and Jesus praised the Lord again, vs. 25, for He had finished their agony.
- 3.) The psalm ends with the very words of Jesus on the cross (in the Hebrew): "It is finished."
- 4.) David knew that the cross was not really the end. There was to be more, for "the kingdom is the Lord's," vs. 28. David saw the picture. Jesus made the kingdom in heaven real. He is on the throne, Rev. 5:12, 13.

This shadow-psalm is a picture of the story of salvation, and the children should clearly grasp this by the end of the lesson.

2. PSALM 22 may be enough material for one lesson. Make the children aware, however, of two more striking Messianic psalms--Psalms 69 and 89. Draw attention to three striking pictures:

- a. Psalm 69:19--Matt. 27:29
- b. Psalm 69:20--Matt. 26:37
- c. Psalm 69:21--Matt. 27:34, 48

Psalm 89 leaves the suffering behind and takes the theme of the kingly David as a picture of the Eternal King, our Lord Jesus Christ.

**POINT TO REMEMBER**

We have learned from David's psalms that the Word of God is not just some stories put together, but it is one whole picture--the picture of our God in Jesus Christ. David and many Old Testament heroes were pictures and shadows of our Lord Jesus in their lives and in the acts.

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

1. Find Psalter numbers from the psalms we have studied, and sing them.
2. Read a psalm or part of a psalm every night before you go to bed.

**MEMORY WORK**

"Ye that fear the Lord, praise him," Psalm 22:23.

**RESOURCE MATERIALS**

1. Keil and Delitzsch, Commentary on the Psalms, Vol. II
2. The Standard Bearer, Vol. 17, p. 229 (by G. Vos).