

# biblical complaint bible study

---

**Passage:** Psalm 22

## Identify the COMPLAINT:

1. What is the complaint? Lack of attention &/or action?
2. What is the cause of the complaint – what or who is the cause? (God, self, circumstances) Look for the conjunction “for” or “because.”
3. Can you relate to what the writer is feeling or thinking?
  - vv. 1-2, 6-8, 12-13, 14-18
  - Physical and spiritual anguish due to God’s inattentiveness and inaction
  - “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”
  - Complains against self, “I am a worm (worthless, lowest of the low, insignificant) and not a man”
  - Complains against enemies (vv. 7-8, 12-13, 16), “All who seek me mock me.”

## Identify the PETITION:

1. What does the writer want God to do? What does the writer ask God to do?
2. The concern is often, if not always, God’s lack of attention and action. Look for phrases appealing to God to listen or do something specific.
  - vv. 11, 19-21
  - “Do not be far from me”
  - “Come quickly to my aid.!”
  - “Deliver my soul”
  - “Save me”
  - Attend to me and act on my behalf

## Identify the CONFIDENCE:

1. What confidence in God does the writer have? What character qualities of God give the writer confidence? What actions of God give the writer confidence?
2. What does the writer identify as the solution to his problem?
3. What does the lament teach about God and our relationship with him? This is often taught through imagery (i.e. warrior, king, rock, etc.) The meaning behind the image teaches more about the nature of God.
4. What gives the writer comfort?
  - vv. 3-5, 9-10, 24, 26-31
  - The solution is to trust in the God who saved their ancestors
  - “You are holy”
  - You have a track record of delivering and rescuing.
  - You provided for me from birth (vv. 9-10)
  - You do not despise those who are going through great trial (24)

- The afflicted will be provided for—they will not be disappointed (26)
- The time will come when you will reign and we will be with those who remember you and worship you (27)
- You are the king over all the nations (28)
- From generation to generation you will be proclaimed and remembered (29-31)

### Identify the PRAISE:

1. For what does the writer praise God?
2. Does the writer make a vow to praise God? In private? In public? To fellow believers? To outsiders?
3. Be aware of poetic devices like imagery and parallelism (saying the same thing differently).
  - vv. 22, 25
  - “I will tell of your name to my brothers”
  - “My vows I will perform”

### Praying Psalm 22

- Father, You are holy and I trust You. (vv. 3-4)
- Lord, I do not deserve Your mercy. You alone are my Savior. (v. 6)
- Oh God, You are my God. (v. 10)
- Be near me in my times of trouble—You alone are my help. (v. 11)
- Help me to tell others about You and the salvation You provide. (v. 22)
- May my children serve You, Lord. (vv. 30-31)

### Applying Psalm 22

- Messianic psalms are prophetic revelation confirmed by the New Testament.
- The Messiah’s trust in the Father is to be mirrored in the lives of His followers.
- We are responsible for passing the message of the Messiah to the next generation.