poetry

The sounds of humanity

are expressed

in harmonious rhythms.

jesus loves : the world exists to preach, teach and train on the kingdom of God. Creating resources in heart languages throughout the world. For more free resources visit www.jesuslovestheworld.info or email info@jesuslovestheworld.info

The *Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course* is a journey through God's love story the Bible. Through this course, each one is empowered to understand God's intended meaning of the scriptures. Copyright and royalty free 2025.

Poetry Part 1 2

Practical 1 3

Practical 2 5

Personal reflection 7

Poetry Part 2 8

Practical 3 8

Practical 4 10

Personal reflection 12

Poetry Further Study 13

Practical 1 13

Practical 2 16

Practical 3 19

Practical 4 23

Frequently asked questions 26

Poetry Part 1

Welcome to the Kingdom of God Interpreting Scripture Short Course. Today we will begin our discovery of how to understand God's intended meaning of scripture that is written in poetry style.

To get the most out of these sessions, as you watch each video, follow the 00:00 [TIMECODES] in this workbook and ⏸ [PAUSE] the video to write your answers.

From the Behind the Meaning videos, the five things that affect meaning are:

Relationships, Style of Writing, Culture, The Reason for Writing, Part of God's story.

The books that are categorised as written in poetry style are:

Psalms, Song of Songs (Song of Solomon) and Lamentations.

What makes these books poetry style? ⏸ [01:24 - 02:11]

1.

2.

3.

What are the 8 themes of scripture written in poetry style? ? ⏸ [02:22 - 03:19]

1.

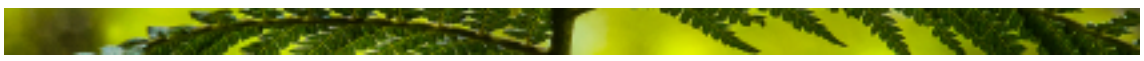
2.

3.

4.

5.

6.



7.

8.

What do we need to remember when reading a passage of scripture written in poetry style? ⏸

1. [03:49]
2. [04:33 - 04:46]

Practical 1

Read **Psalm 3**

Remembering the six questions that we learnt from the Behind the Meaning videos are: Who? How? Where? When? What? Why?

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? ⏸ [06:42 - 07:09]

1. 4.
2. 5.
3. 6.

Who is speaking? ⏸ [07:30]

Who are they speaking to? ⏸ [07:33]

Who are they speaking about? ⏸

1. [07:39]
2. [07:41]
3. [07:44]

How do the characters interact? ⏸ [07:52 - 08:23]

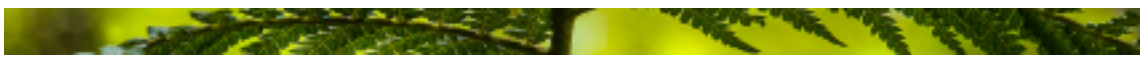
Where did it happen? ⏸ [08:37]

When did it happen? ⏸ [08:44] You can read the account of this event in 2 Samuel 15.

What is the style of writing? ⏸ [09:03]

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 3**? ⏸ [09:29]

What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 3**) in God's whole story? ⏸ [09:44 - 10:29]



Why was it written? ⏸ [10:35 - 11:08]

Psalm 3 has been included in God's love story the bible so that we, like David, can know that we can pour out our hearts to God and be reminded through David's journey that God is our deliverer.

Practical 2

Read **Psalm 12**

Aside from the writer, **who** are the characters in this passage of scripture? ⏸ [12:49 - 13:20]

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Aside from the quoted dialogue in **Psalm 12**, **who** is speaking? ⏸ [13:36]

Who are they speaking to? ⏸ [13:36]

Who are they speaking about? ⏸ [13:41 - 13:53]

1. 3.
2. 4.

How do the characters interact? ⏸ [14:00 - 15:00]

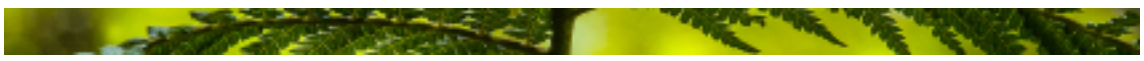
Where did it happen? ⏸ [15:11]

When did it happen? ⏸ [15:19]

What is the style of writing? ⏸ [15:32]

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 12**? ⏸ [15:41 - 15:53]

What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 12**) in God's whole story? ⏸ [16:10]



Why was it written? ❚❚ [16:23]

Remembering Psalm 12 is humanity's expression to God, it is not God's heart or will to curse anyone. Out of the revelation that the Psalmist has of God, he concludes that God will ultimately rise up in His perfect justice, bringing equality and freedom to the poor and oppressed.

Personal reflection

From Poetry Part 1, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Heavenly Father, thank you that we can be real with you and that you are with us in the highs and lows of this life. Thank you that by your spirit you help us to remember you are faithful, our deliverer and the one who will bring true equality and justice to this world. We ask that you continue to reveal more of who you are and help us to understand your intended meaning in the bible's poetry. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Poetry Part 2

To recap, books written in poetry style are humanity's expression to God. They have a construction, rhythm and pattern that reflect the writer's culture. They are rich in emotion and express the highs and lows of this life. As we journey together with the writer's experiences, we can learn much about God and His character.

Practical 3

Read **Psalm 23**

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? ⏸ [03:12 - 03:28]

1. 3.

2.

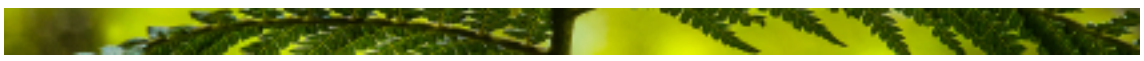
Who is speaking? ⏸ [03:45]

In parts 1 and 3, the writer David is speaking to the listeners of Psalm 23.

Who is the writer speaking to in part 2 of **Psalm 23**? ⏸ [03:57]

Who are they speaking about? ⏸ [04:02]

How do the characters interact? ⏸ [04:10 - 04:56]



Where did it happen? ⏸ [05:09]

When did it happen? ⏸ [05:09]

What is the style of writing? ⏸ [05:16]

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 23**? ⏸ [05:42]

What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 23**) in God's whole story? ⏸ [05:54 - 06:09]

Why was it written? ⏸ [16:22]

Psalm 23 enables all who hear this psalm to be empowered to trust God, just as the writer was able to.

Because of His great love God never leads us into places of temptation or into the troubles of this life. As the psalmist testifies, God leads us to a safe place. A place of peace and rest, nourishment and refreshment, honour and empowerment.

And even if we do wander from Him, He pursues in love and rescues us. Even though we do walk through the valley of the shadow of death, He is there, journeying together with us intimately and personally. The psalmist assures us that we too can trust in God, as He is our Good Shepherd. He is faithful and true.

Practical 4

Read **Psalm 47**

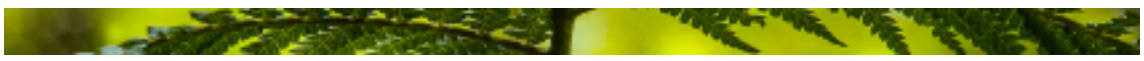
From the introduction of the scripture, we discover that the writers were the Sons of Korah.

In addition, **who** are the characters in this passage of scripture?
⏸ [09:05 - 09:37]

1. 3.
2. 4.

Who is speaking? ⏸ [09:59]

Who are they speaking to? ⏸ [10:04]



Who are they speaking about? ⏸ [10:12]

How do the characters interact? ⏸ [10:19 - 10:41]

Where did it happen? ⏸ [10:59]

When did it happen? ⏸ [11:00 - 11:55]

What is the style of writing? ⏸ [12:06]

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 47**? ⏸ [12:32]

What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 47**) in God's whole story? ⏸ [12:37 - 12:47]

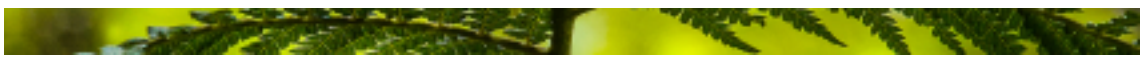
Why was it written? ⏸ [12:53 - 13:16]

Psalm 47 has been included in God's love story the bible so that through the writer's celebration of God we too can be exhorted to praise God for who He is. He is the ultimate power and authority.

What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in the Psalms? ⏸ [13:36 - 14:44]

Personal reflection

From Poetry Part 2, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?



What is your response/prayer?

Heavenly Father, we thank you that you are the ultimate power and authority. And that you are intimate and personal, caring about all our feelings and life experiences. Thank you that we can trust in your character that never changes, and express all of our emotions to you, both positive and negative. We thank you, in Jesus' precious name, amen.

Poetry Further Study

To go deeper in understanding the books categorised as poetry style, there are four practicals to complete.

Practical 1

Read **Psalm 136**

Aside from the writer, **who** are the characters in this passage of scripture?
Read **verses 1**, **2**, **10**, **11**, **15**, **17**, **19**, **20** and **24**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

Who is speaking?

Who are they speaking to?

Who are they speaking about? Read **verse 1**

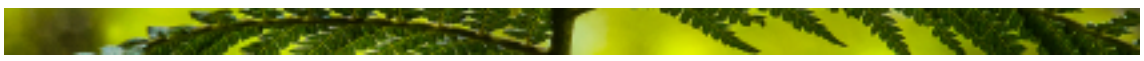
How do the characters interact? Remember this is the psalmist's expression to God.

1. The psalmist's interaction with the first hearers. Read **verse 1**

2. God's interaction with Ancient Egypt. Read **verse 10** and **15**

3. God's interaction with the people of Ancient Israel. Read **verses 11**, **14**, **16**, **21**, **23** and **24**

4. God's interaction with the kings of the earth. Read **verses 17** and **21**



Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

What is the style of writing?

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 136**?

What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 136**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 5.

Why was it written?

Psalm 136 is a psalm of thanksgiving, reflecting on God's character and His salvation plan for all people to know Him. By recounting God's journey with the Ancient Israelites and His judgement on the gods of Ancient Egypt, the psalmist calls the listeners to give thanks to God

What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in **Psalm 136**?

Personal reflection

From Psalm 136, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Practical 2

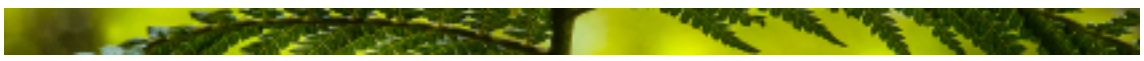
Read **Psalm 49**

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? Read **verses 1**, **2**, **3**, **6**, **7**, **10** and **14**

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Who is speaking? Read **verse 3**

Who are they speaking to? Read **verse 1**



Who are they speaking about?

1. **verse 3**
2. **verse 6**
3. **verse 14**
4. **verse 15**

How do the characters interact?

1. The psalmist's interaction with all people

2. The psalmist's interaction with himself

3. God's interaction with the psalmist

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

What is the style of writing?

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 49**?

What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 49**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 5.

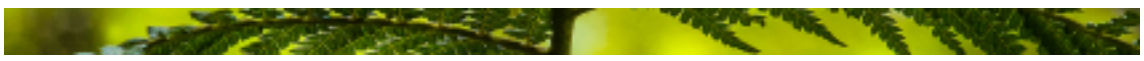
Why was it written?

Psalm 49 is a psalm of wisdom. The psalmist inclines his ear to a proverb and states that he will not fear the days of evil, for those who trust in their wealth rather than in God cannot redeem themselves or another. Death comes to all of humanity and when one dies, they can carry nothing away. In contrast, the psalmist rejoices that God will redeem his soul from the power of the grave. The writer concludes that the wealth of this world and the praise of humanity is meaningless.

What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in **Psalm 49**?

Personal reflection

From Psalm 49, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?



What is your response/prayer?

Practical 3

Read **Psalm 78**

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? Read **verses 1**, **3**, **4**, **8**, **42**, **49**, **55** and **70**

1. 6.
2. 7.
3. 8.
4. 9.
5. 10.

Who is speaking? Read **verse 1**

Who are they speaking to? Read **verse 1**

Who are they speaking about?

1. **verse 3**
2. **verse 4**
3. **verse 8**

How do the characters interact?

1. The psalmist's interaction with my people (who are the psalmist's people)

verse 1

2. The psalmist's interaction with himself

verse 2

3. God's interaction with our fathers (who are the psalmist and his people's forefathers)

verse 5

4. The stubborn and rebellious generation's interaction with God

verse 8

verse 10

verse 11

verse 17

verse 18

verse 19

verse 22

verse 32

verse 34

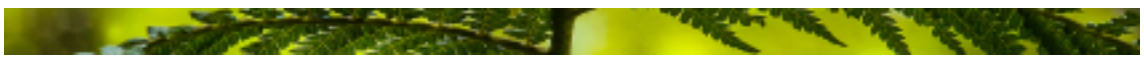
verse 35

verse 36

verse 40

verse 56

verse 58



5. God's interaction with the stubborn and rebellious generation

verse 12

verse 13

verse 14

verse 15

verse 21

verse 23

verse 24

verse 27

verse 34

verse 38

verse 52

verse 55

verse 62

6. God's interaction with the enemy

verse 44

verse 45

verse 46

verse 47

verse 48

verse 49

verse 51

verse 66

7. God's interaction with David

verses 70-71

8. David's interaction with God's people (who are referred to as Jacob and Israel)

verse 72

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

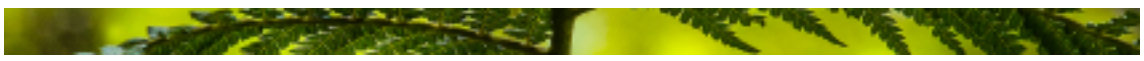
What is the style of writing?

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 78**?

What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 78**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 5.

Why was it written? Read **verses 2-4**

Psalm 78 is a psalm that recounts the salvation history of the Ancient Israelites. God's character is powerfully revealed throughout the entire psalm. Even with the stubborn and rebellious generation, God walked with them, provided for them, cared for them and continually revealed Himself to them. Being full of compassion and in an eternal state of forgiveness, many times God turned His anger away from them even though they continued to betray Him. In amongst all this, God remained faithful to His promises and continually offered them His salvation.



What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in **Psalm 78**?

Personal reflection

From Psalm 78, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Practical 4

Read **Psalm 100**

Aside from the writer, **who** are the characters in this passage of scripture?
Read **verses 1** and **3**

1. 3.

2.

Who is speaking?

Who are they speaking to? Read **verse 1**

Who are they speaking about?

1. **verse 1**
2. **verse 3**

How do the characters interact?

1. The psalmist's interaction with all you lands (all people)

2. God's interaction with all people

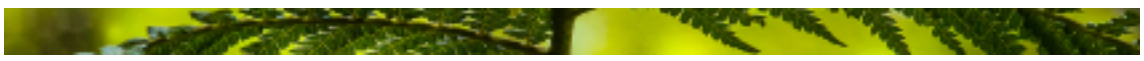
3. God's interaction with His people

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

What is the style of writing?

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 100**?



What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 100**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 5.

Why was it written?

Psalm 100 is a psalm of praise. It is a call to all peoples to give a joyful shout to the LORD, the Eternal One. The writer reveals the goodness and mercy of the LORD, concluding that His truth endures to all generations. As the LORD is our creator, the writer exhorts all people to come before His presence singing. Those who choose the LORD are His sheep in His care. In response, let His people praise Him, bless His name and be thankful to Him.

What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in **Psalm 100**?

Personal reflection

From Psalm 100, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Frequently asked question 1

If the psalms are humanity's expression to God, why do some of the psalms include God's words?

While the psalms are humanity's expression to God, filled with raw emotion and have various themes, there are psalms that include God's direct word. In one such psalm (Psalm 46) God states, *Be still and know that I am God*. These words of God are included as part of God's relationship with the psalmist and are a reflection of God's character.

Let's complete a practical together on a psalm that includes God's direct words to help us understand God's intended meaning of psalms which include His speech.

Read **Psalm 95**

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? Read **verses 1**, **3** and **9**

1. 3.

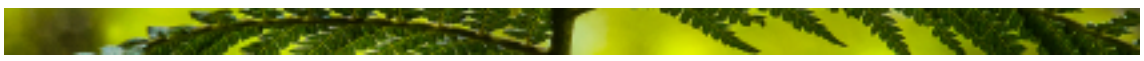
2. 4.

Who are those the psalmist refers to as us and we? Read **verse 7**

Who is speaking?

1. **verse 1**
2. **verses 8-9**

Who are they speaking to? Read **verse 1**



Who are they speaking about?

1. **verse 1**
2. **verse 3**
3. **verse 8**

How do the characters interact?

1. The psalmist's interaction with God's people

2. God's interaction with the psalmist and His people

3. People of the rebellion's interaction with God

4. God's interaction with the people of the rebellion

Where did it happen?

When did it happen?

What is the style of writing?

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 95**?

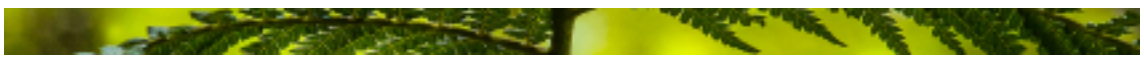
What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 95**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 5.

Why was it written?

Psalm 95 is a psalm of celebration. It was written to encourage the Ancient Israelites to celebrate their covenant with God and to remain faithful to it. Within the celebration are the psalmist's revelation of God's character. Also, from verses 8-11, there are the words of God to the first hearers of the psalm. The first hearers were those who were descendants of the Ancient Israelites, who God freed from the bondage of Egypt. Also included are the words of God which He had directed to their forefathers. They had chosen to reject God and as a result, they did not enter into His rest as they denied their only pathway to salvation. Through recounting God's words to their forefathers, the psalmist is encouraging the current generation to remain faithful to their covenant with God. That is, for God to be their God and they to be His people—the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

When journeying through Psalm 95, we too can be encouraged to celebrate who God is and to remain faithful to our covenant with Him. Where He is our God and we too are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.

Throughout God's love story the bible, there are other references to the words of God that have been included in Psalm 95. The writer of the book of Hebrews recounts the history of the Ancient Israelites and how they, having chosen to reject God, did not enter into His rest. The writer's intent of the book of Hebrews is the same as that of the psalmist's—to encourage the first hearers, and also us today, to remain faithful to God's covenant.



A covenant of mutual agreement and a relationship of honour and respect where God is our God and we are His people. For a greater revelation of the history of the Ancient Israelites, read Hebrews chapters 3 and 4.

What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in **Psalm 95**?

Personal reflection

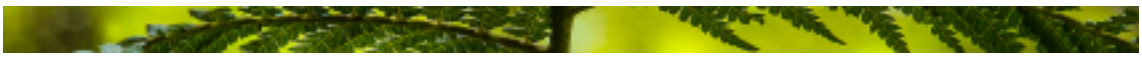
From Psalm 95, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?

Frequently asked question 2

If the psalms are humanity's expression to God, why do some of the psalms include prophecy?

Throughout the psalms there are instances of when God foretells of what will take place. Especially in regards to His salvation plan being fulfilled in the coming of the promised Messiah. As Jesus said in Luke 24:44, the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms testify of Him.



In amongst the psalmists pouring out their hearts to God, God shares His heart and salvation plan with them. Through the inclusion of God's prophesies, God's salvation plan is shared with the first hearers and with us today.

Everything that God foretold about Jesus in the Old Testament must be fulfilled. In the New Testament (Luke 24:45), we discover that Jesus opened the first hearers' understanding so they might comprehend God's intended meaning of the scriptures and His heart for all humanity.

One such psalm that includes the foretelling of the coming Messiah is Psalm 22.

Let us do a practical to discover how to understand God's intended meaning of the psalms that include prophecy and how Jesus' coming fulfils them.

Read **Psalm 22**

Who are the characters in this passage of scripture? Read **verses 1**, **3**, **6**, **7**, **9**, **16**, **18**, **22**, **24**, **25**, **26**, **27**, **29** and **30**

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

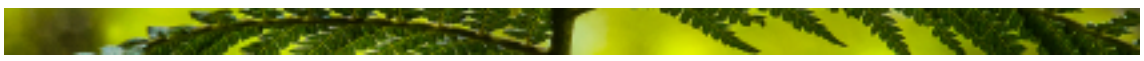
14.

15.

16.

As this psalm includes God's words foretelling of the Messiah, we will ask some additional questions to help clarify who some of the characters are.

In **Psalm 22:16**, who is the one who is referred to as my, whose hands and feet were pierced? Read **John 20:24-27** and **Luke 24:36-47**



In **Psalm 22:18**, who are they who cast lots and divided the garments of the one who was pierced? Read **John 19:23-24**

In **Psalm 22:7-8**, who are those who shoot the lip, shake their head and declare, let the LORD rescue Him? Read **Matthew 27:39-44**

Back to **Psalm 22**

Who is speaking?

1. **verse 1**
2. **verses 7-8**

Who are they speaking to? Read **verses 1** and **7**

Who are they speaking about?

1. **verse 1**
2. **verse 4**
3. **verse 6**
4. **verse 7**
5. **verse 18**
6. **verse 23**
7. **verse 24**
8. **verse 26**
9. **verse 27**
10. **verse 29**
11. **verse 30**

How do the characters interact?

1. The psalmist's interaction with God

2. The psalmist's forefathers' interaction with God

3. God's interaction with the psalmist's forefathers

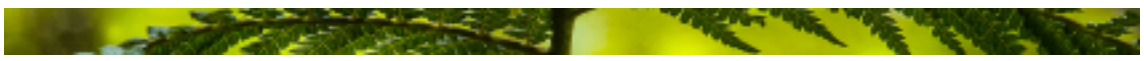
4. The psalmist's interaction with himself

5. The people's interaction with the psalmist

6. God's interaction with the psalmist

7. The psalmist's interaction with his brethren

Where did it happen?



When did it happen?

What is the style of writing?

What is the dominant theme of **Psalm 22**?

What is the context of this scripture (**Psalm 22**) in God's whole story? Refer to timeline illustration on page 5.

Why was it written?

Psalm 22 is a psalm of lament or sorrow. It is the writer's inward focus and expression of emotional pain. It is also a powerful foretelling of how God in Jesus would identify with humanity's sorrow.

Let us go to the time when Jesus was on the cross and expressed the ultimate sorrow and emotional pain of humanity. Read **Matthew 27:46**

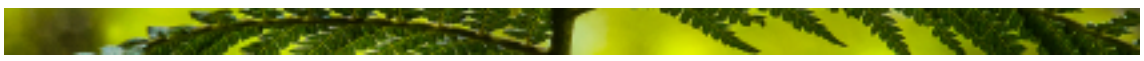
On the cross, Jesus was quoting Psalm 22. He was identifying with humanity's suffering, subjecting Himself to the hands of humanity's brutality and oppression, pride and shame. Paying the cost, which is death, for all humanity. By the Son of God becoming human, He represented both God and humanity. In human form He revealed the heart of God and His desire to set us free from the ultimate sorrow and emotional pain.

As those who heard Jesus quoting Psalm 22 would have known the entire psalm, Jesus was also testifying of who He is and God's right to rule and reign. Jesus was fulfilling both the prophetic words throughout Psalm 22 and its conclusion. For from the time of His death and resurrection, subsequent generations continue to testify of Him.

In conclusion, prophecies have been included in some of the psalms to reveal who God is and what He has done and will do to set humanity free. While the psalms are humanity's expression to God, through God's journey with the writers, He reveals Himself in various ways. In this instance, prophetic words of what will take place.

What are some of the things that are the same today that have been expressed in **Psalm 22**?

Personal reflection

From Psalm 22, what is something about God and His character that has resonated with you?

What is your response/prayer?