The Prophecies of Jesus

Psalm 22

Lesson 8

1. Hello. My name is Ken Samuel, and this is the eighth part of an eleven-part series on the prophecies of Jesus that was originally created by Stephen Katz of Jews for Jesus. Today, we are going to look at one of the missionaries’ favorite prophesies, Psalm 22. <click>
2. I’ll read the entire psalm, because we’ll see that much of it was fulfilled by Jesus. “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.” <click>
3. “In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ‘He trusts in the Lord,’ they say, ‘let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.’” <click>
4. “Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother’s breast. From birth I was cast on you; from my mother’s womb you have been my God. Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help. Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Bashan encircle me.” <click>
5. “Roaring lions that tear their prey open their mouths wide against me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted within me. My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet.” <click>
6. “All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. But you, Lord, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs. Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.” <click>
7. “I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel! For he has not despised or scorned the suffering of the afflicted one; he has not hidden his face from him but has listened to his cry for help.” <click>
8. “From you comes the theme of my praise in the great assembly; before those who fear you I will fulfill my vows. The poor will eat and be satisfied; those who seek the Lord will praise him — may your hearts live forever! All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him, for dominion belongs to the Lord and he rules over the nations.” <click>
9. “All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him — those who cannot keep themselves alive. Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it!” <click>
10. So, Psalm 22 was written by David <click> when King Saul was chasing him with an army. <click> However, the missionaries claim that this is a type, a prototype. It has a double meaning. <click> And the second one is a prophesy that was fulfilled by Jesus when he was crucified. <click> When Jesus was hanging on the cross, he quoted the beginning of Psalm 22. <click> According to Matthew, “About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, ‘Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?’ (which means ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’).” <click> When he said this, he was referencing Psalm 22. <click> Before chapter and verse numbers were added to the Bible, one way to reference a passage was to quote the beginning of it. This is done in the Talmud. <click>
11. So, let’s look at some of the prophesies in Psalm 22 that were fulfilled by Jesus. <click>
12. The first column of this table has prophecies from Psalm 22, and the second column has quotes in the New Testament that show how Jesus fulfilled those prophecies. So, the psalm says, “They pierce my hands and my feet.” and according to John, “There they crucified Jesus.” As we know, the way to crucify someone is to hammer spikes into their hands and feet, which, obviously, pierces them. So, Jesus fulfilled this prophecy. <click>
13. The psalm prophesies, “All who see me mock me.” And Luke told us, “The soldiers also came up and mocked Jesus.” The two verses match. <click>
14. “They hurl insults, shaking their heads. ‘He trusts in the Lord,’ they say, ‘let the Lord rescue him.’'' Isn’t that remarkably similar to “Those who passed by hurled insults at Jesus, shaking their heads and saying, ‘… He trusts in God. Let God rescue him…’” <click>
15. The next one says, “They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” And “They divided up Jesus’ clothes by casting lots.” Obviously, these verses are talking about the same thing. <click>
16. And “I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.” And Jesus said basically the same thing, according to the book of Hebrews: “Jesus says, ‘I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praises.’” So, it’s no wonder why missionaries use Psalm 22 to witness to Jews. <click>
17. Well, the anti-missionaries say: So, you think Jesus referenced Psalm 22 by quoting the beginning of it? Well, there’s a problem with that. <click> The problem is that Jesus didn’t quote Psalm 22. Let’s look at what Jesus said: <click> “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” <click> And now, let’s take a look at the beginning of Psalm 22 in the original Hebrew. In case you don’t know how to pronounce Hebrew, let’s let Ms. Google Translate do it. <play> <click> Did you hear her say, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” Let’s listen again. <play> I do believe she said “ehlee, ehlee, lema ahzavtinee” That’s “ahzavtinee”, not “sabachthani.” Would you like to know what “sabachthani” actually means? <click> “Slaughtered!” <click> It appears that, after hanging on the cross for hours, Jesus was starting to get delirious, and he misremembered what Psalm 22 said. His mistake shows us that he died in confusion and despair, because it turned out that he wasn’t the Messiah after all. So sad. <click>
18. In addition, once again, a Christian translation is incorrect. However, this might be one of the most blatant mistranslations of them all. Let’s take a look. <click> So, the NIV translators came up with “... they pierce my hands and my feet.” *However*, <click> here’s the original Hebrew. Let’s do a word-for-word translation. <click> “aye” means “my,” <click> “yada” means “hands,” <click> “vuh” means “and,” <click> “aye” means “my” again, <click> and “ragla” means “feet.” So far, so good. But that’s all that’s good, <click> because “ka” means “like” (or “as,” if you like...), <click> and “ari” means “lion.” “ari” always means “lion.” “ari” cannot mean anything other than “lion.” Do you see the word “lion” anywhere in the NIV translation? Nope. Do you see the word “pierce” anywhere in the true translation? Nope. It’s hard to believe that this is an honest mistake. It seems that some Christian translators tampered with Scripture in order to make it look like it was a prophesy of Jesus. <click> And, by the way, those Christian translators knew full well that “kaari” means “like a lion.” <click> Look at how they translated Numbers 24:9. “Kaari” was translated to “like a lion” in the NIV. <click> And in Isaiah 38, again, “kaari” is “like a lion” according to those NIV translators. <click> In Ezekiel, they correctly translate “shiv-eyg kaari” into “like a roaring lion.” <click> And then in Psalm 22, those same NIV translators say “kaari” means “they pierce.” What?!? <click> And, by the way, the New Testament doesn’t reference Psalm 22:16. Apparently, the New Testament authors knew what “kaari” really means, so they saw no reason to mention it in a book about Jesus. <click>
19. Okay. The anti-missionaries have had their fun teasing the missionaries. Let’s see how they fight back. The rebuttal to the claim that Jesus didn’t quote the beginning of the psalm correctly is that <click> Jesus wasn’t speaking in Hebrew. He was speaking in Aramaic. So, while “sabachthani” means “slaughtered” in Hebrew, <click> it means “forsaken” in Aramaic. <click> And we know Jesus was speaking in Aramaic, because that was the common language in Israel at that time. <click> We can see that this translation is correct, because part of the book of Daniel was written in Aramaic. <click> Daniel 4:23 says, “‘Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, “Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump...”’” The Aramaic word that means “leave” is “shivookoo,” which has the same root letters as “sabachthani.” <click> We see “shivookoo,” again translated into “leave” in Daniel 4:15: “Nevertheless leave the stump and roots in the earth...” <click> And Daniel 4:26 says, “The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots...” where “to leave” is the English translation of the Aramaic word “limishbok,” which has the same three root letters, shin, vav, and kaf. <click>
20. As for the “pierce” translation, <click> there might have been a typo in a Hebrew scroll. Or, well, with no typewriters, there might have been a copy error. <click> Take a look at these two words. The word on the left is “kaaru”, and the word on the right is “kaari”. Notice that the only difference is the last (leftmost) letter. (Remember that Hebrew is read from right to left.) <click> For the first word, that letter is a vav, which has a long vertical stem. For the second word, it’s a yod, which looks just like a vav without the stem. And what do you know? <click> “kaaru” means “they have pierced,” while “kaari” means “like a lion.” So, here’s what might have happened. <click> Perhaps a scribe, when copying this verse, didn’t make the stem of the vav quite as long as it should have been. Then the next scribe thought it was a yod and put that in the next copy. <click> Here’s what Moishe Rosen, the founder of Jews for Jesus, wrote in his book, *Y’shua*: “We can probably best understand what happened when we realize that, in Hebrew, the phrase ‘they have pierced’ is kaaru while ‘like a lion’ is kaari. The words are identical except that ‘pierced’ ends with the Hebrew letter vav and ‘lion’ with a yod. Vav and yod are similar in form, and a scribe might easily have changed the text by inscribing a yod and failing to attach a vertical descending line so that it would become a vav.” <click>
21. And take a look at this Dead Sea scroll with Psalm 22. <click> What do you know? <click> That’s “kaaru.” “They have pierced.” Plain as day! <click>
22. And so, in the end, you have the right to decide who to believe, the missionaries or the anti-missionaries.