

Sunday, December 27, 2020  
"Christ in the Psalms"  
Summary of Christ the Suffering One  
Psalm 22:1-21  
Wayne Shelton

What are we to make of this terror of God-forsakenness in Psalm 22? Surely, some of this suffering is so extreme that it goes beyond the historical David and depicts the agonies of the 'David' who was to come, our Lord Jesus Christ. But it originates in the anguish of David's own believing experience – which implies that it could be the lot of any of the saints. Some Christians might dispute this. They might say that Old Testament believers may have suffered this sense of God-forsakenness but New Testament believers, living on this side of the cross and empty tomb, have far greater assurance and are not afflicted with such agony. Such folks would hold that God – at least now – never withdraws the radiance of His face nor allows those who fear Him to walk in darkness without any light. A regimen of reading good Christian biography would soon cure this naïve view. Spurgeon once said: "I believe it is a shallow experience that makes people always confident of what they are, and where they are, for there are times of terrible trouble, that make even the most confident child of God hardly know whether he is on his head or on his heels." What are to make of this God-forsakenness?

Redeemer  
Presbyterian