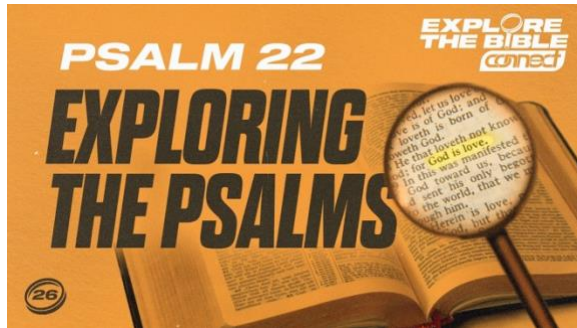




Amir Tsarfati
Explore the Bible: Exploring the Psalms
Dr. Rick Yohn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yP8W7dhc0Jk>



AMIR: Hey, Shalom, everyone! I'm Amir Tsarfati here from CONNECT in Galilee, in the Jezreel Valley here in Israel. And once again, we are in one of my favorite programs, *Explore the Bible* with Dr. Rick Yohn. Shalom, Dr. Yohn. How are you, my

friend?

RICK: I'm doing very, very well. I'm very excited about what we're going to do today.

AMIR: Yes, absolutely.

RICK: What we're going to look at is powerful.

AMIR: I agree with you. You know, a couple weeks ago we looked into Psalm 8. In fact, we kind of introduced the book of Psalms to the people. We walked through the five different sub-books in that whole book of Psalms of 150 different Psalms. We kind of walked through the people who wrote what and generally what it's all about. And we studied a little bit—we touched the beautiful Psalm 8 that I said on the program that every Messianic Jew in Israel knows by heart because we sing that psalm almost every other Shabbat in our congregation. But today we have a special treat because today is one of the most amazing prophetic portions in the Bible in regards to the Messiah, to Yeshua, to the gospel, and to the story of salvation that could not happen without the shed blood of the Messiah, and without the fact that God had allowed Him to be sacrificed for all of us. And so, before we go in, would you do us the honor and start with a prayer?

RICK: My privilege. Our Father, how grateful we are for the psalms. How grateful we are for what has been expressed, especially in this psalm, Psalm 22. Oh God, as we look at this psalm and then we look at Isaiah 53, it's just amazing how close these two passages of Scripture are. And then we look into the New Testament, and we see the fulfillment of so much of what we're going to get into today. Lord, help us to see our Savior, and understand what He went through, and how He felt forsaken Himself. It's just hard for us to grasp all this, but I pray that You would open our eyes to really see and our minds to understand to grasp that which You have for us today. We are so thankful for Your Word. In the name of Jesus, our Savior and our Lord. Amen.

AMIR: Amen. Amen. Well, Dr. Rick, again, we've made it. By the way, in your prayer, you mentioned Isaiah 53 and I just want to remind you and the people that that's the chapter that led me to the Lord in June of 1990. In June of 1990. And here we are in 2026, June of 2026—June/July of 2026—we're 36 years later and it's Isaiah 53 and later on, of course, I read all the others. Because people don't know, I came to faith in Yeshua through the Old Testament. I didn't read the New Testament *yet*. And I could see Him everywhere there, and then when I read the New Testament, everything *confirmed* what I already knew from the Old Testament. And so that's why I'm so excited about today's topic. And so, Psalm 22. Now, as I said, last time we looked at Psalm 8; what will we be exploring today, Dr. Rick?

RICK: Well, when you look at Psalm 8, Psalm 8 was this wonderful expression: "Oh LORD, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth ... and the sun and the moon the works of Your fingers!" It was one of these joyful kinds of expressions, and then we get to Psalm 22, and it's the exact opposite. It is a lament. And realize, again, this is David. Often at communion, I would read this Psalm, and people thought I was reading from the New Testament, from one of the Gospels. And when it starts out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" They were convinced

that I was reading from one of the Gospels, but no, a thousand years before our Lord, we have this psalm. And it just shows you how wonderful the Scriptures are, and how accurate the Scriptures are because we see not only David, but we also see the Lord Jesus Christ. And I would encourage our viewers to put a bookmark in Isaiah 53 because we're going to look at some passages in Isaiah 53 that really fit here in Psalm 22.

AMIR: You know, it's very interesting, before we move on, just to let people understand, the death of the Messiah was not an accident. It was not even a thing that could have been avoided. In fact, David wrote about it a thousand years earlier. And in fact, Yeshua Himself said, "No one takes My life from Me, but I lay down My life, and I can take it back." You can clearly see two things. It was planned, it was required, and it was done with perfect submission, and with the actual choice of the Messiah to give His life for us. And I am only saying these things because there are so many blinded people today that call themselves Christians, and they blame the Jews for the death of the Messiah as if He should have not died. And it's very, very sad. So, going back to the Old Testament, you can clearly see He had to die; it was planned, and it was required, and it was His choice because He came to die so we can live. So, take it from there, I guess.

RICK: Well, let's look at Psalm 22.

AMIR: Yes.

RICK: And I'm going to, as I mentioned in our last time together, the Psalms are an expression of the heart and so we have so much here. So, when you read the Psalms, try to put yourself into that person, into his life, in what he is expressing.

AMIR: Yeah. Yeah.

RICK: It starts out...

AMIR: Do you want me to read it in English?

RICK: No, I would like you to read it—why don’t you read the first eight verses in Hebrew?

AMIR: Okay, no problem, I will.

RICK: ... And then I’ll read the same verse in English.

AMIR: Yeah, it’s very interesting because a lot of Israelis don’t even know that many of their towns and villages are named after verses in the Bible, verses in the book of Psalms. And this is one of them. It says, **“To the Chief Musician. Set to ‘The Deer of the Dawn.’ A Psalm of David.”** The Deer of the Dawn, *Aijeleth Hashahar*. It’s a name of a kibbutz in the Hula Valley. And a lot of people don’t even know that it’s named after that which is written in Psalm 22. So, I’m going to read it now in Hebrew. [Reading Psalm 22 in Hebrew] So I just read the first eight verses.

RICK: Okay, now here’s the first eight verses in English. [Psalm 22, NIV] **“¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? ² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. ³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises. ⁴ In you our ancestors put their trust; they trusted and you delivered them. ⁵ To you they cried out and were saved; in you they trusted and were not put to shame. ⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. ⁷ All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. ⁸ ‘He trusts in the LORD,’ they say, ‘let the LORD rescue him...’”**

AMIR: Amen.

RICK: I don’t know what David was going through at this time other than feeling forsaken. And the one thing that I find in the Psalms, they deal with the two questions that all of us ask when we are in trouble; when we are hurting; when something has gone wrong...

AMIR: ... How long and why.

RICK: How long and why. You find this again and again in the Psalms and it reminds me so much of the prophet Habakkuk. God tells Habakkuk that He is going to bring the Babylonians down to destroy the city. And Habakkuk is saying, why? “Why? How long must I put up with this?” And then Habakkuk says, “I will stand on my watch and see what the Lord has.” And then at the end of Habakkuk chapter 3, beginning with verse 16–19, he writes, **“¹⁶ I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. ¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. ¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.”** (Habakkuk 3:16-18 NIV)

I just think of that song, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” I had the privilege, Amir, of when I was in Bible college, I worked down at Ocean Grove, New Jersey for two summers, and this one day, an old man walked in and got some ice cream, and I started talking to him. And when he found out that I was at Philadelphia College of Bible, he said, asked, when do you get off? And I said, “Three o’clock this afternoon.” and he said, “I’ll come over here because I want to show you something.” So, he met me at 3 o’clock. I walked back with him to his apartment. I walked up the steps. He was probably my age at the time. And he said, “Look down there and pull out the box. You’ll see some books.” And there were a lot of these green-covered books, and I pulled one up and I started going through it and I said, “Oh, Living for Jesus.” Living for Jesus... (singing). I said, “I love that song.” And then I saw another one and I said, “Oh, I love that one.” And then I saw another one. I said, “Hey, that’s, this one is our school anthem at Philadelphia College of Bible

and also at Dallas Seminary.” He smiled and he said, “Yes, they asked my permission to use it.” And I looked up at him, “You were Thomas O. Chisholm who wrote, ‘Great is Thy Faithfulness?’” And I was just awestruck. And I said, “What caused you to write that? Where did you get that concept?” He says, “Lamentations 3.”

AMIR: Wow.

RICK: Lamentations 3.

AMIR: Yes.

RICK: And in that passage, he just quoted from that and put into this song, “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” And this is what we see in Psalm 22, because in the first part, the first 21 verses are verses of lament.

AMIR: True.

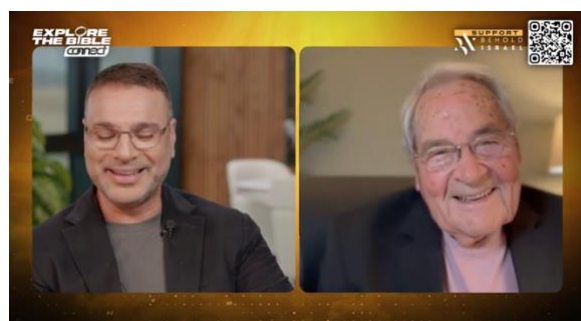
RICK: But then when you get to verse 22 through 31, these are praise words.

AMIR: Correct. Yeah, he says, “²² **I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise You.**” [Psalm 22:22 NKJV]

RICK: Yeah. So, after asking, “Why have you forsaken me?” and he’s talking about His agony and His pain and people rejecting Him, but “I will praise you.” Like Thomas O. Chisholm said, “Great is Your faithfulness...” in spite of what we are experiencing.

AMIR: You know, what I love... in Hebrew it says, [Speaking in Hebrew] “²⁸ **For the kingdom is the LORD’S, and He rules over the nations.**”

[Psalm 22:28 NKJV] If you remember in our previous program, we talked about the majesty of God and how awestruck we should be and how Americans have a hard time relating to it because



they never lived under a monarch before. And by the way, you still don't live under a monarch even now, even, you know, some might think. But the thing is, it says, **“²⁸ For the kingdom, *ham-mā-lū-kāh*, is the LORD's, and He rules over the nations.”** So even though He works through Israel, with Israel, He rules over the nations. And everything He does with His Son and with His people is because He has a heart for the nations, and He rules over the nations. And He wants the world, the nations, so the nations will know that I am God.

RICK: “I am God.” It goes right back to Genesis chapter 3.

AMIR: Yep.

RICK: And how God has just raised up one nation to minister to all the other nations. The nation, Israel. One of the things I want our viewers to notice here is that even though he is crying out to God, wondering why he is experiencing all these things, nevertheless, like in verse 2, **“² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night, but I find no rest. ³ Yet you are enthroned as the Holy One; you are the one Israel praises.”** And then he again talks about in verse 8, **“⁸ ‘He trusts in the LORD,’ they say, ‘let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.’ ⁹ Yet you brought me out of the womb; you made me trust in you, even at my mother's breast. ¹⁰ From birth I was cast on you; from my mother's womb you have been my God.”** [Psalm 22: 8-10 NIV] Down in verses 18–20: **“¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. ¹⁹ But you, LORD, do not be far from me. You are my strength; come quickly to help me. ²⁰ Deliver me from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.”** And then, **“²² I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you.”** [Psalm 22:18-20, 22 NIV] And then He talks to Israel. **“²³ You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, honor him! Revere him, all you descendants of Israel!”** [Psalm 22:23 NIV] So it's like, “I am in this agony, but I still remember my

relationship with You, Lord, that You are my God and You have not and will not leave me. Even though I feel forsaken.” So, in his mind, he knows who God is, he knows what God has done for him. But in his emotions, he just feels like, “What do I do? Has God forsaken me?” He knows God has not forsaken him.

AMIR: Yeah, absolutely. Isn’t that interesting, though? It’s beautiful to see that David writes a psalm that speaks a lot about himself, but also prophetically describes the death of the Messiah, Yeshua. It’s not just about him. The enemies of the Messiah wanted also Him dead. Everything that he describes in the Psalms could be actually a portion from the end of each and one of the Gospels when we come to the crucifixion part. And so, it’s amazing to see the parallels between the two.

RICK: Well, why don’t we share with our viewers this relationship as we look at some of these cross-references. I think they’re really important for us to look at. And I ask our viewers to turn to Isaiah 53.

AMIR: Isaiah 53, of course. Yeah, Isaiah 53, again, what’s known by many as the forbidden chapter. It’s the chapter that synagogues skip for some reason. Guess why? So, you want me to... which verses do you want me to focus on?

RICK: Well, just in 22:1.

AMIR: No, Isaiah 53.

RICK: And Psalm 22:1.

AMIR: No, but in Isaiah 53, which verses do you want me to read? The whole Psalm? I mean, the whole chapter of Isaiah 53?

RICK: I think that would be excellent for us to see the comparison.

AMIR: All right.

RICK: You just start reading.

AMIR: I mean, I... yeah.

RICK: Unless you have specific verses here.

AMIR: The whole chapter here. So, “¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. ⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. ⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken. ⁹ And they made His grave with the wicked— But with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. ¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with

the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” [Isaiah 53 NKJV]

RICK: Amir, what was the specific area of this passage in Isaiah 53 that just grabbed your attention that you had never seen before?

AMIR: The mere fact that somebody took my place; that someone who was not guilty of anything took my place as a guilty person, my sins, my transgressions. And the interesting thing is God took pleasure in doing that because He loves me so much, because He loves you so much, because He loves us so much. And if we haven't understood it yet, I mean, if you think of how amazing God thinks of humans when we read Psalm 8 and how great of things He bestowed upon us and titles even. But at the same time, you can clearly see how important we are to God, that He gave His only begotten Son. And every time when, I remember when I saw the *Jesus Film* of Campus Crusade, the famous *Jesus Film*, the most translated motion picture in the history of cinema, I guess. When I saw it in a movie theater in Jerusalem, I was shocked to see a vivid picture, motion picture, of what I know from Isaiah. In other words, the gospel only puts image and colors to the story that I already know, to the message that I already know, to the love that I already experienced, to the heart of God that I already understand. And then I saw it. It's one thing to read about it as a chapter written by a prophet a thousand years earlier, and then it's another thing to see it coming to pass right before you. Now, of course, I live 2,000 years later, but I see it as a movie being reenacted, and I was like, wow! Everything that I'm watching, I already know that it happened. Now I get this confirmation for it. I don't, you know, it's not like, "Whoa, I didn't know about it!" No, I read about it. Now I see it. And it's amazing.

Look, the fact that we're believers today doesn't mean that we are now perfect people. We still look at this, and we still see here the amazing things that are still happening to us even today because the blood of the Messiah is still washing us daily. And we still fall. And we still trip. And we still sin. And we still find ourselves weak, and we still find ourselves not exactly 100% as we hope to be. And at the same time, it's the same One who died for us, not just for what we did before we knew Him, but for everything we did even after because He is the perfect sacrifice. Therefore, we don't have to every year stand and offer a new sacrifice, as the book of Hebrews says. And so, my point is that Isaiah 53 changed my life, and the gospel confirmed all of that later on when I finally read it. And it's phenomenal. I don't understand how can any Jewish person read that chapter and not ask himself, "*Who* died? Why and how come He—and what for? Who, why, what for? And then what does it mean for me?"

RICK: And I know that a number of Jewish people have come to faith in Christ through Psalm 22.

AMIR: Correct! Because it's exactly the same thing. You read a vivid description of something that is far above and beyond David. And you see that. You know that. And then when they read the Gospel account when they are exposed to the historic and prophetic element that was fulfilled 2,000 years ago in Yeshua, they're like, "Whoa!" Almost everything written in that psalm happened word by word in the story of the crucifixion, in the suffering of the Messiah. And that's why, why should we be surprised? It's the same story. It's the same heart. And it's the same... it's an unchanging God. There is no God of the Old Testament and the God of the New Testament. The angry old one and the nice young and, very cool new one. It's the same God who has always loved people. And He always wanted to find an excuse to bless all of us. And if there is one thing that stands before us in Him is sin, and it is one thing that can remove that, it's the blood of a

perfect Lamb. And it's the solution that has already been given in the Name and in the actions of His only begotten Son, of Yeshua Himself. And again, I don't understand how anyone can say that God has changed His mind about Israel. When I see all of this and I read about a God that loved His nation and loved the world. And John the Baptist saw Him approaching, although John was baptizing in those days Jewish people, he saw someone approaching him, he says, "Behold, the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world." That was *huge* in those days to talk about the whole world when the ministry of John was to his own people. And so, my point is that this is it, and that psalm is prophetic. That psalm is messianic. And there's quite a few of those in the book of Psalms that are a perfect description of either the birth, life, death, or resurrection of the Messiah and this happened to be the one that speaks of His death. and it's unbelievable.

RICK: At the end of both Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 is that there is hope.

AMIR: Correct.

RICK: Both of those passages of Scripture provide hope. And I want our viewers to realize that, you may be going through a really a difficult time right now and may feel with David actually forsaken by God, I want you to know God has not forsaken you and God is working behind the scenes. You don't see Him at work, but He is at work. And He has a future for you. He has a plan that is not only going to give you hope now, but the future will be bright. It's just a matter of you realizing, even as you pour out your heart to God, keep in mind your relationship with Him, and what He has done for you in the past. And the way He has worked in your life, He is still working in your life. He is not finished with you yet. So don't give in to those emotions and throw up your hand and say, "Well, I don't believe in God anymore because He's allowed this to happen or allowed that to happen."

A number of years ago, I wrote a book entitled *God's Waiting Room*. And my wife had been in an accident, and I was in the waiting room. And number one, I didn't want to be there, and if you're going through a tough time, you don't want to be there either. And I had no control over it, and you probably feel you have no control over your situation. And I had no idea what the outcome was going to be. And if you're in a tough situation, you don't know what the outcome is going to be. But I knew I had a relationship with my Lord. And I remembered how He helped me in the past and was convinced even in this situation I was in, I knew that He was going to help me in the present. And the future was a good future, but I didn't know it at the time. I didn't feel it at the time. But knowing my God, I knew that He was going to get me through this. And we all go through really difficult times. But just realize your relationship with the Lord, how He has helped you in the past, and the blessings He has for you in the future.

AMIR: Amen. And that's it. And that's why Psalm 22 was written in first person, and Isaiah 53 was written in third person. And yet, and that's exactly the thing, we hear the love of God, and we see how He put upon His only begotten Son, upon the Messiah, He allowed Him to suffer for a greater reason. And then when you read Psalm 22, you see how personal it is also, how it can be the portion of our life, the portion of David's life. But then He shows you that things were so bad for His only begotten Son. And so, I just, you know, I think that this psalm, although it's definitely the valley, not the mountaintop, it's not Psalm 8. It is showing the love of God, the heart of God, the plan of God, and the salvation of God in our Messiah. Hey, Dr. Rick, I think we are running out of time for this one.

RICK: So much more to say!

AMIR: I know, I know. And you know what? That's why I think that maybe it's going to be good because I think this is one of the most important psalms and one that can explain so much more to

people on other things. Maybe next time we can go deeper into that psalm and finish the job before we move on to other things.

RICK: Sounds good.

AMIR: So, I think that would be great. So again, Dr. Rick, thank you so much. And I want to remind people that on our website there is a section where it's about *Explore the Bible* program. And in that section, you can actually find a presentation that speaks about what we talked today about, as well as a way to write personally to Dr. Rick your questions in regard to the things that we talked about. And I want to remind you all, if you want to support the work of our ministry, www.beholdisrael.org. There is a place there to donate. And we would appreciate your help as we want to continue and spread the Word, and spread the truth, not just about Israel, but about the God of Israel and the Messiah of Israel.

So, thank you, Dr. Rick, for a great program today. Looking forward to our next one to finish the job with Psalm 22. And for you guys back home, please share this video with as many people as you can. Look, we may not talk about breaking news, current events, but let me tell Psalm 22 is a hundred thousand times more important than any decision of President Trump, Prime Minister Netanyahu, or the cardboard Ayatollah Khamenei. So please keep that in mind and choose the right things to focus on in the little time that is left for us here. Thank you, Dr. Rick. Thank you everyone for watching. God bless you and Shalom from Galilee you something.

Scripture is taken from the New King James Version unless noted otherwise.

For all ways to connect with Behold Israel, including media, updates, videos, and teachings: <https://linktr.ee/beholdisrael> or the QR code:

