

THE HIDDEN MESSAGE IN PSALM 22

Introduction

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter. (Proverbs 25:2)

Followers of Judaism accept that the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament is the word of God, but do not accept that Yeshua, as revealed in the Christian New Testament, is the awaited Messiah. One reason for this belief must be because there are no precise prophecies in the Hebrew Bible mentioning Yeshua's name or His sacrificial work on the cross to save the world from their sins. Letter skipping reveals the Messiah's name *Yeshua* and His work on the cross hidden in Psalm 22. He is revealed as God's first-born son, the rock of our salvation and the highest of the kings of the earth. Also revealed is His work in fulfilling the sacred Law, disarming rulers and authorities and having His enemies made a footstool under His feet.

According to The Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy⁽¹⁾, there are 113 prophecies in the Hebrew Bible with personal reference to the Messiah. The majority of these prophecies have their fulfillment in the coming of Yeshua, as described in the Christian New Testament. However, statements are made in the New Testament, written after Yeshua's death, which have no apparent foundation in the Old Testament. In other words, they were written down as a result of Yeshua's teachings and not as the recognised fulfillment of prophecies in the Hebrew Bible.

In two key verses in his epistle to the Colossians, the apostle Paul tells of two of the principal works carried out by Yeshua on the cross by which He made it possible for mankind to be saved. These works were the cancellation of the debt against us, which consisted of the Law, and the disarming of rulers and authorities, especially Satan and his authority over death. (Colossians 2:14-15). Neither of these works of the cross relate to specific prophecies in the Hebrew Bible. They were deduced from Yeshua's teachings by his followers after the crucifixion and resurrection had taken place.

The prophecies of Psalm 22

Psalm 22 is a particularly appropriate passage of the Hebrew Bible in which to commence a search for a hidden revelation of the Messiah, starting with His name *Yeshua*, meaning "The Lord saves", and His title *Messiah (anointed one)* in the original Hebrew. There are combinations of different words, hidden in Psalm 22, which, by their location and symmetry, reveal the Messiah's, origin, name and the purposes for which he gave His life on the cross.

According to Christian theology, prophecies found in the open text of Psalm 22 were fulfilled at the crucifixion. Every sentence can be applied to Yeshua without straining its meaning. David, the writer of the psalm anticipates Yeshua's great cry of anguish as He hung on the cross, in the opening verse:

“My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?”

According to Matthew's Gospel in the Christian New Testament, when Yeshua was hanging on the cross, He spoke these words in their Aramaic form (Matthew 27:46). The Messiah was necessarily abandoned on the cross when He took the penalty for sins of men upon himself. Matthew 27:43 records the abusive comments of those who were passing by, thus fulfilling verses 7 and 8 of Psalm 22.

The language in Psalm 22 used to describe the death struggle is appropriate to the suffering endured by Yeshua. The agony of crucifixion, a method of torturous execution attributed to the Romans, exacerbated with thirst, asphyxiation and intense pain to the hands and feet, is prophetically described in verses 14-16. The fulfillment of this prophecy is related in all the Gospels, especially John chapter 19.

The Roman soldiers, who divided the Messiah's garments and cast lots for his clothing (verse 18), could not have had knowledge of the predictions in Psalm 22 written a thousand years beforehand. Nor would they then have known that the Messiah's deliverance (verses 20 and 21) would be His resurrection from the dead, and that his work on the cross would save those who believed in Him from their sins.

Yeshua said:

“All things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” (Luke 24:44)

Who is the Messiah?

God inspired David to write Psalm 22 in such a way as to hide the name, origin and title of the One who was crucified. The key to the hidden prophecies in the Psalm is the name *Yeshua Meshiach*. God also left an illustration in the text alongside the hidden names and titles, which confirms the work the Messiah accomplished on the cross in breaking the curse of the Law. The Bible code matrix shows the Law being cancelled out by the cross. Only someone living in the 20th century with access to a computer program could reasonably be expected to solve the hidden puzzle lying dormant in Psalm 22 for three thousand years.

Yeshua and *Meshiach* are composed in Hebrew of four letters each. Computorah reveals many occurrences of these two words, at low equi-distant letter intervals, between 1 and 100, hidden in the Psalms. This is to be expected. The Hebrew letters which make up *Yeshua* יֵשׁוּעַ and *Meshiach* מְשִׁיחַ all have a high frequency of usage and the probability of their regular occurrence is high. However, when the letters of the two words are combined into a string of eight letters, the probability of the occurrence of that string at a low equi-distant letter interval, less than many thousands, is very low indeed. To find *Yeshua Meshiach* hidden, at a low equi-

distant letter interval, in one of the most relevant passages of scripture cannot be by chance. It is the only occurrence in the whole of the Hebrew Bible.

Webmaster note: The following is the statistically expected occurrences in a random Hebrew text of the same length as the Tanakh (Old Testament).

ELS range 1 to 50 – 1 chance in 34.5 (1 actual find)

ELS range 1 to 500 – 1 chance in 3.45 (2 actual finds)

ELS range 1 to 5000 – expect to find 2.86 occurrences (5 actual finds)

ELS range 1 to 50,000 – expect to find 24.7 occurrences (23 actual finds)

It may be a bit of hyperbole (said unknowingly) by Reverend Prendergast to state that it is the only occurrence in the Hebrew Bible.

The eight Hebrew letter string *ישוע משיח* *Yeshua Meshiach* appears in Psalm 22 at a skip of 45 letter intervals, written reversed in Hebrew in relation to the open text, with the last letter of *Meshiach* being the 14th letter of the first verse.



In the matrix, other titles referring to the Messiah are found located close to *Yeshua Meshiach* when the letters of Psalm 22 are formed into a matrix. The number of letters in each row of the matrix is made the same as the equi-distant letter interval [45] for the eight letter string *Yeshua Meshiach*. The string appears vertically in the top centre of the matrix (in red).

Term	Translation	Skip	R	Factor (in Matrix)	Start	End
ישועםשיח	Yeshua is Messiah	-45	1.584	4.647	Psalms Ch 22 V 12 Letter 24	Psalms Ch 22 V 1 Letter 14
צבאות	hosts, heaven's armies	-51	-1.580	1.483	Psalms Ch 22 V 9 Letter 16	Psalms Ch 22 V 2 Letter 13
בכור	first born boy	90	-3.457	-0.394	Psalms Ch 22 V 2 Letter 28	Psalms Ch 22 V 12 Letter 17
עליון	Most High (God)	9	-1.533	1.530	Psalms Ch 22 V 31 Letter 5	Psalms Ch 22 V 32 Letter 19
מלך	king	-44	-4.406	-1.343	Psalms Ch 22 V 32 Letter 18	Psalms Ch 22 V 30 Letter 2
ראש	head, leader	45	-4.377	-1.314	Psalms Ch 22 V 7 Letter 18	Psalms Ch 22 V 10 Letter 21
תמים	Thummim or perfect	-4	-2.600	0.463	Psalms Ch 22 V 22 Letter 28	Psalms Ch 22 V 22 Letter 16
אורים	Urim	-42	-2.673	0.390	Psalms Ch 22 V 27 Letter 2	Psalms Ch 22 V 22 Letter 16
צלבו	his cross	-44	-2.758	0.305	Psalms Ch 22 V 9 Letter 16	Psalms Ch 22 V 4 Letter 16
תורה	Torah	46	-3.484	-0.421	Psalms Ch 22 V 4 Letter 13	Psalms Ch 22 V 9 Letter 19
יפשם	he will strip off, he will disarm	-45	-1.686	1.377	Psalms Ch 22 V 10 Letter 2	Psalms Ch 22 V 5 Letter 4
שלטון	authority, power, government	-4	0.045	3.108	Psalms Ch 22 V 6 Letter 26	Psalms Ch 22 V 6 Letter 10
הדם	footstool or the blood	5	-3.358	-0.295	Psalms Ch 22 V 15 Letter 28	Psalms Ch 22 V 15 Letter 38
הדם	footstool or the blood	45	-4.312	-1.249	Psalms Ch 22 V 14 Letter 9	Psalms Ch 22 V 16 Letter 32
רגליו	his feet	-95	-2.000	1.062	Psalms Ch 22 V 21 Letter 8	Psalms Ch 22 V 8 Letter 27
דקרו	they pierced, they thrust through	-4	-1.336	1.727	Psalms Ch 22 V 24 Letter 26	Psalms Ch 22 V 24 Letter 14
ידי	his hands	-90	-3.922	-0.859	Psalms Ch 22 V 26 Letter 19	Psalms Ch 22 V 18 Letter 10
אויביו	his enemies	-97	-3.162	-0.099	Psalms Ch 22 V 24 Letter 47	Psalms Ch 22 V 12 Letter 27
צור	rock	-9	-3.220	-0.157	Psalms Ch 22 V 9 Letter 16	Psalms Ch 22 V 8 Letter 28
ישועתי	my salvation	1	-1.230	0.000	Psalms Ch 22 V 2 Letter 21	Psalms Ch 22 V 2 Letter 26

The ELS reference is 45 characters between rows.
There are 20 displayed terms in the matrix.
The matrix starts at Psalms Ch 21 V 14 Letter 21 and ends at Psalms Ch 23 V 1 Letter 14.
The matrix spans 1035 characters of the surface text.
The matrix has 23 rows, is 45 columns wide and contains a total of 1035 characters.
There are 10 significant terms in the matrix.
The matrix odds are 1 chance in 10,669,218,028,075,507 in favour of significance.
The cumulative 'R' Factor for the displayed matrix is 13.028.

Psalms 89 and many other passages of scripture refer to the *Lord of Hosts* or *Sabaoth* being God's name. The word *sabaoth* צבאות (*tz'va'ot*) meaning *hosts* crosses the word בכור (*b'kor*) meaning *first-born*, and both words have common letters with צור (*tzur*) meaning *rock*. These latter two words are taken from Psalm 89:26 and 27:

*He will cry to Me, "Thou art my father, my God and the rock of my salvation."
I also shall make him My first-born, the highest of the kings of the earth.*

The word ישועתי (*y'shu'ati*) meaning *my salvation* is found commencing at the 44th letter of the plain text of Psalm 22. At the bottom of the matrix, the words עליון (*elyon*) meaning *the highest* and מלך (*melekh*) meaning *king* intersect. Thus six words in Psalm 89, giving the titles and origin of the Messiah, the Son of God, are revealed in the Psalm 22 matrix.

The Messiah's work on the cross

In the years that followed, the events of the crucifixion were recorded in the Gospels. However it was the Apostle Paul, a Pharisee, who interpreted the true meaning of the work the Messiah accomplished by His death on the cross.

Paul was speaking of Jews, living under the Law (Torah), when he said:

Bretheren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. For the Messiah is the end of the Law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes that the man who practices righteousness which is based on law shall live by that righteousness. (Romans 10:1-5)

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul writes that, before the Law was given, Abraham believed God and it was reckoned to him as righteousness. Thus Abraham received salvation through righteousness. The Law is holy (Romans 7:12), but it became a curse to those who sought salvation through it, just as it is written in the Torah:

Cursed is he who does not confirm the words of this Law by doing them. (Deuteronomy 27:26)

Rabbis have agreed that it is impossible to keep the Law and obtain salvation through it.

Paul continues his message to the Galatians writing:

Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, the righteous man shall live by faith, for the Law is not of faith. (Galatians 3:11-12).

He fulfilled the Law

Faith leading to eternal life is based on belief in the person of Yeshua, who broke the curse of the Law by completing His work on His cross.

Paul expounds on the Messiah's triumph over legalism in his letter to the Colossians:

Having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; He has taken it out of the way having nailed it to the cross. (Colossians 2:14)

The certificate of debt and its decrees refer to the Torah, which condemned mankind into debt to God through sin. The Messiah, in offering His body as a once and for all sacrifice for our sin, nailed the demands of the Law to the cross and thereby fulfilled them. In other words: *His cross* crossed out the debt of the *Torah*.

These words are found hidden in Psalm 22, written in such a way that exactly symbolises His purpose. The word *His cross* exactly crosses out *Torah* as shown. In the matrix, to the left of *Yeshua Meshiach*, the word *Torah* תורה commences from upper right, written in the correct direction in Hebrew. Commencing from bottom right the word translated *His cross* צלב (tz'lavo) diagonally crosses *Torah* with exact symmetry to the eight letter string *Yeshua Meshiach*. See the colour coding in the matrix to locate these and other hidden words.

The word *His cross* is taken from a Hebrew translation of Matthew 27:32⁽³⁾. It does not occur in the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament, crucifixion having been invented by the Romans. Before He was crucified, Yeshua said:

Not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass away from the Law until all is accomplished.
(Matthew 5:18)

He disarmed the rulers

Paul continues in his message to the Colossians relating the Messiah's work on the cross as a triumph over all evil spiritual rulers and authorities.

When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him. (Colossians 2:15)

A Hebrew word **יִפְשׁוֹט** (*yifshot*) translated *He disarmed* or *He stripped* is found hidden in Psalm 22. Its first usage is noted in Numbers 20:28 when Moses stripped Aaron of his garments. Hidden in Psalm 22 it is linked to a word **שִׁלְטוֹן** (*shilton*) meaning *ruler, authority, power* or *government*. This word is found only twice in the Hebrew Bible in this form, in Ecclesiastes 8:4 and 8⁽²⁾ and is translated *authority*. The first part of verse 8 reads:

No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death.

This word translated *authority*, hidden in verse 6 of Psalm 22, links *He disarmed* to *Yeshua Meshiach* passing through the symbolic cross of *His cross* and *Torah*. The usage of this particular word must be to indicate that the Messiah conquered death on the cross by disarming the one who had authority over death, namely Satan.

His enemies were made a footstool for His feet

According to the Gospel of Matthew (22:43-44), Yeshua quoted from Psalm 110 when He asked the Pharisees, "*whose son is the Messiah?*", and they replied that He is the son of David. He then said to them, "*Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord', if He is David's son?*"

The Lord says to My Lord; "sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a footstool for Thy feet." (Psalm 110:1)

In Psalm 22 the word **הָדוּם** (*hadom*) meaning *footstool* is shown twice in the matrix, with the two words symmetrically linked together, hidden symbolically after *Yeshua Meshiach*. Diagonally crossing through *footstool* is the word **רַגְלָיו** (*raglav*) meaning *His feet*. Diagonally to the left of *footstool* is the word **אֹיְבָיו** (*oyvav*) meaning *His enemies*.

These words and the way they are arranged, give further confirmation to me, that the One who cancelled the Law and disarmed the ruler of death is the Messiah Himself, born of the line of David and also the son of God.

Close to the first letter of *His feet* is the word דַּקְרָוּ (*daqaru*) meaning *they pierced* which is taken from the prophetic passage in Zechariah set in the very last days when the Messiah returns to destroy all the armies and nations which come against Jerusalem. The inhabitants instantly recognise that the Messiah is none other than Yeshua, the One who was crucified in that same city nearly 2000 years ago:

And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look upon Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born. (Zechariah 12:10)

They pierced joins with the word יָדָיו (*yaday*) meaning *His hands*. In the open text of Psalm 22 we find the words *They pierced my hands and my feet* (verse 16), and *My feet* shares a common letter with the hidden ELS term, *His feet*. Also close to this group is the word תָּמִים (*tamim*) meaning *perfect* or *blameless*. Yeshua was the perfect, blameless, unblemished sacrificial passover lamb. (Exodus 12:5)

Chance or God's Hand

As seen in the matrix report in the summary lines at the bottom, the correct statistical odds for the entire matrix are 1 chance in 10.67 trillion of this matrix occurring in a random Hebrew text of the same length as the Tanakh (Old Testament), at the ELS shown or smaller.

Without a powerful computer and knowledge of encoding at equi-distant letter sequences, David could not have written it in such a way as to hide these prophetic words to be uncovered by a future generation with the technology to do so. So . . . are the hidden prophecies in Psalm 22 part of a divine plan to better link the Old Testament with the New by revealing such compelling evidence that Yeshua is indeed the Messiah?

Psalm 22 is both a cry of anguish and a song of praise from a suffering man. Its hidden messages complete the prophecies in its plain text by telling us who the man was and what was His purpose. The Messiah accomplished all by His death on the cross, and revealed His name and purposes through His word a thousand years before His birth, that mankind might turn to Him and be saved.

References:

Scriptures are taken from New American Standard Bible.

- (1) The Encyclopedia of Bible Prophecy by J.Barton Payne (Harper Row).
- (2) The Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon (Hendrickson).
- (3) Hebrew-English New Testament (Cambridge University Press).

Note: Hebrew end of word letter forms are not used to avoid any confusion in the matrix.

Webmaster note: Richard C. Prendergast is a Christian missionary who was formerly Master of the OM missionary ships Doulos and Logos II. He resides in England. His matrix terms can certainly be snooped in the future to ascertain whether his existing terms each are part of a phrase or sentence. We'll leave that for future work. Meanwhile, the matrix odds are highly respectable. You may contact Richard C. Prendergast by e-mail at:

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