**Main Thought**  David’s struggle against evil foreshadows Christ’s death.

**INTRODUCTION** – This psalm begins a trilogy of Christ the Shepherd – He DIES (Psa. 22), CARES (Psa. 23), and RETURNS (Psa. 24) for his sheep. It’s many NT quotes make this a messianic psalm from David – a prophet (Acts 2:30).

**PRAYER IN THE TIME OF SUFFERING (1-21).**

**ABANDONED BY THE LORD (1-5).**
- This is the 4th of seven sayings of Christ from the cross (Matt. 27:46).
- It reveals how David and Jesus, who both had close relationships with the Father (MY GOD; John 16:32), felt that temporary abandonment. Jesus was the sin bearer and God cannot look upon sin (2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13).
- This is what lost sinners will feel for eternity (2 Thess. 1:9; Matt. 25:41).
- The enthroned HOLY ONE (80:1; 99:1; Isa. 66:1-2) had become SILENT.

**DESPISED BY PEOPLE (6-11).**
- David and Jesus felt like a lowly WORM. Jesus was despised and rejected by men (Isa. 49:7; 50:6; 52:14; 53:3).
- Jesus was mocked and taunted to save himself (Matt. 27:39-40; Luke 23:35-36).
- Because David’s history with God (Psa. 139:13-16), He would TRUST (4, 5, 8).

**CONDEMNED BY THE LAW (12-21).**
- David likened his many enemies to animals (repeated in reverse order – 20-21):
  - BULLS from Bashan – the rich pasture lands of the Golan Heights above the Sea of Galilee (EZek. 39:18).
  - LIONS – prevalent at this time (7:2; 10:9; 58:6; Dan. 6:24).
- They would PIERCE Christ’s side (water poured out – John 19:34) and his bones out of joint reminds us of the crucifixion.
- Like dogs biting hands and feet, they PIERCED (Isa. 53:5; Zech. 12:10) Christ with nails. Crucifixion wasn’t invented until Romans in 200 BC!
- Jesus’ seamless garment was put into a lottery (John 19:23-24).
- David prays for deliverance and salvation – BE NOT FAR OFF.

**PRAISE IN TIME OF VICTORY (22-31).**
- GREAT ASSEMBLY (22-25). Jesus now leaves his suffering and moves into the “joy set before him” (Heb. 12:2; Jude 24). God did not despise Jesus but was well pleased and has listened to his cry for help (Isa. 30:19; 58:9).
- GLORIOUS KINGDOM (26-29). God will reign over all nations (Zech. 14:9).
- GENERATIONS TO COME (30-31). Future generations will be told about the Lord and will praise him (Isa. 53:10; 2 Tim. 2:2).