Title: The Authorship of Psalm 22

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Abstract:

There is no consensus on the authorship of Psalm 22. The superscription of Ps 22 says that it is לֶדֶאוֹד Ancient writers and some modern scholars hold that לֶדֶאוֹד indicates Davidic authorship. Some critical scholars say that it is not David who authored Ps 22.

The survey on the authorship of Ps 22 reveals that the ancient writers hold to the Davidic authorship of Ps 22. Some modern scholars who indicates Davidic authorship, hold to the tradition that David composed most of the psalms, including Ps 22. It was only in the 19th century that the divergent issues relative to the authorship of Ps 22 came out.

The study of the ancient Hebrew inscriptions on the meaning of the preposition ל shows that it consistently means “belonging to” denoting ownership. Nowhere in Hebrew epigraphy that ל means “for.” In translating the superscription לֶדֶאוֹד, it should then mean “belonging to David,” indicating authorship.

A passage by passage study of Ps 22, it indicates that the sufferings mentioned in Ps 22 can be readily identified within the persecution of David under Saul. Thus, the study strengthens the idea that David is the author of the chapter since the experiences mentioned can be identified with him. The experience of David also extends to the experience of Jesus which makes this psalm Messianic.
From the study, we can say that l'-Dāwīd means “belonging to David” denoting authorship. Since it is found in the superscription of Ps 22, it is most likely that David is the author of such. This claim is strengthened by the experience of David which can be related to the suffering described in Ps 22.