

Christians well acquainted with God's Word all agree that Psalm 22 provides some of the most specific details of Christ's Crucifixion mentioned nowhere else in the entire Bible.

However, there are a variety of opinions concerning the title of this Psalm – *Aijeleth Shahar*. Most interpreters agree in translating these words as, "the deer of the morning," or "the deer of the dawn," but differences still exist as to their true meaning.

Some suggested this was intended to be the name of the tune to which the words of the Psalm were set. Others supposed they referred to the name of the musical instrument.

But the correct view is that which regards *Aijeleth Shahar* as an allegorical allusion to the suffering and persecuted righteous Man who meets us in this Psalm, and all that follows!

And this is quite normal. The Bible frequently uses various creatures to describe the nature of kingdoms and people, and the Lord Jesus is no exception.

In the Old Testament, His atoning sacrifice was prefigured in the Scapegoat that carried away sin and also made atonement for it.

In both the Old and New Testament, Jesus is likened to a Lamb, revealing His innocence, meekness and gentleness. He is also called a Lion, revealing His strength and authority.

Now to picture Jesus as a Deer is very intriguing. This animal is known to be swift, agile, playful and beautiful to look upon.

But the most obvious and important reason Jesus is compared to a Deer in Psalm 22 is because of His cruel huntings, which were by no means limited to the Cross.

From the time the Lord was just a little fawn there was always some vicious dog wanting to tear Him to pieces, or some strong bull of Bashan ready to gore Him. But being fleet of foot, He escaped them all, until the day arrived to finally give Himself into their hands.

At that hour, the persecuting huntsmen believed they had achieved complete victory. But it was short-lived. They had not understood that He was also the Deer of the "*morning*."

Morning signifies the beginning of a new day, and in the title Aijeletth Shahar it refers to the Resurrection of Christ, which is the beginning of New Life for all believers. *"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

Finally, what we have said can be further understood by the Resurrected Lord being likened again to a Deer throughout the Song of Solomon, where all the other fascinating facets of His Character mentioned above come into view.