

Psalm 70

- This is entitled as a Psalm of David, a psalm of remembrance.
 - This psalm was seemingly lifted out of **Psalm 40: 13-17**, not quite word for word, but just about, and it was taken out as a form of remembrance, perhaps as part of a liturgical service, some special public worship service.
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V: 1 It is fascinating to me at times how slow and reluctant I can be to be obedient in my obedience to God, it takes all kinds of prodding and pushing from God to get me what He wants me to do, but when I call on Him it's never fast enough.

- Sometimes we see prayer as a “last resort” and use it as such because nothing else has worked, then we expect God to hurry up...
- God is never in a hurry, and He's never late.

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in Thee.”

V: 2 David is talking about those who would seek to hurt him:

- Ashamed (humiliated), confounded (thwarted at every turn), turned backward (defeated, repelled), confused (bewildered).

David has been here before:

Psalm 35:26 “Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.”

V: 3 Let them be turned back, defeated as a reward for their shame.

- David desires that his enemies would be desolate and that they be put to shame that mock him.
- We can see that many of those who rose up against David ended up just that that way.
- “*Aha, aha!*” We don't really know what that means, but it was a derisive comment in those days. They didn't then and they don't now have words in Hebrew to cuss or utter profanity.

- One day a particularly ugly women goes into a pet shop and walks past the parakeet on it's perch. The parakeet screeches out... "lady, you're ugly! You're oh so ugly!"
"you know...!" "*Aha, aha!*"

V: 4 Contrast: Let those that seek after thee rejoice and be glad - those recipients of your salvation, continually magnify the Lord for what He had done, for the grace that He has extended to us.

Psalm 34:3 "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together."

V: 5 Lord I'm poor and needy, consider my situation and deliver me quickly.

- David wasn't a poor man financially, he was the king who'd taken lots of spoil, he was rich in this world, and the cool thing is that he gave most of it to the Lord to build the house of the Lord.
- David like all men was weak, and poor, and needy in spirit, but because he placed his faith, his hope in God he was oh so rich in God!

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven."

Psalm 71

- This Psalm like so many others starts off with a prayer, a petition to the Lord, and ends with praise and worship, rejoicing in his God.
- It's only proper that if we pray in faith then we should conclude it in praise and thanksgiving. If I'm really believing God to do the things that I'm asking Him to do then it's only proper to begin to praise God and thank Him for doing it.

Hebrews 11:1 "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

V: 1 David starts out affirming his faith, he trusts in the Lord - and because of that he makes his petition:

- Don't let me be put to confusion, in your righteousness help me to escape incline your ear and save me.
- It's almost as if he is asking God to protect and deliver him so that he might remain true to the faith, "keep me until the end Lord."

1 John 2:28 “And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

V: 2 It is thought that this Psalm, this prayer was offered to God at about the time Adonijah rebelled against his father as David was more or less on his death bed where there began to be a power struggle for the throne.

- David has previously promised Bathsheba that her son Solomon would reign after him, in fact this was something that God had ordained.

When God told David that he couldn't build Him a house; He also told him about his son, directing that Solomon follow him on the throne:

1 Chronicles 22:9-10 “⁹Behold, a son shall be born to thee, who shall be a man of rest; and I will give him rest from all his enemies round about: for his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his days. ¹⁰He shall build an house for My Name; and he shall be My son and I will be his Father; and I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel for ever.”

- This was perhaps something that was not known publicly at this point. In either event Adonijah, like Absalom before him sought to take the throne whilst David was still alive.
- Nathan the prophet became aware of this and prompted Bathsheba to ask David “didn't you not promise that Solomon shall reign after you?” She then informed David about the conspiracy, and that if he didn't do something the both she and Solomon would certainly be killed.
- David responded by calling in both Solomon and the priests, and judges directing that Solomon be anointed as king over Israel, that he ride his mule and sit upon his throne, and that he be acknowledged immediately as king.
- This Psalm is thought to have been written at about this time, just prior to David's death; verses 9 & 18 also speak of David's old age.

V: 3 “... *my strong habitation*...” my dwelling place

Proverbs 18:10 “The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”

Psalm 91:1 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

- David is making a declaration, a prayer to God “³*Be thou my strong habitation, my dwelling place, where I may continually resort, where I can be forever...*”

“^{3b}For thou art my rock and fortress.”

V: 4-5 David's prayer, in his old age is still *“Deliver me, O my God our of the hand of the wicked...”*

- Some people think that when they get old they won't have any more battles, things will settle down - as long as we're in these bodies, the fight it on!
- ⁵David has history with the Lord, the Lord has delivered David from the lion, and the bear when he was a shepherd boy watching over his father's flocks. God delivered him from Goliath, and gave him the victory - God has been faithful to David.

V: 6-7 From the time that I was born you've held me up, you've not let me fall.

- I am a wonder to many, many people are amazed at my life - because of what God had done through David, the killing of the giant, all the incredible exploits and adventures.
- He would continually praise God, because God is his strong refuge, his protection.

V: 8-9 Let my mouth be filled with your praise, continue to give me reason to praise you.

- When he was young and strong, he trusted in the Lord, and the Lord delivered him, then he says “Lord don't forsake me now, I need you more than ever!”

V: 10 Again there is turmoil within the kingdom, this conspiracy by Adonijah.

V: 11-14 There is this conspiracy, they are saying that God has forsaken him, he's weak, now is the time to act, he's old and can't defend himself.

- They're saying this - but it's false, David knows, we know:

Hebrews 13:5 *“... for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*

- Lord let them be confounded, and consumed, covered with reproach and dishonour.
- David is still strong because he declares *“¹⁴my hope is continually in the Lord, and I'm going to praise Him more and more.”*

V: 15 David is saying “Lord whatever days I have left, I don't know that number, but whatever I have left I'm going to spend praising your name and declaring your righteousness!

V: 16 In his younger years David moved and lived in the strength of the Lord, God's strength was manifest in his mighty exploits, and now in his old age he is still going in the strength of the Lord - and David declares it, he gives glory to God for it.

Zechariah 4:6 "... Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts."

2 Chronicles 14 - Later, king Asa, who was a good king, he did that which was right before the Lord he faced a real challenge as the Ethiopians attacked the Southern kingdom of Judah with an army of over a million men.

2 Chronicles 14:11-12 "¹¹And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on Thee, and in Thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee. ¹²So the Lord smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; and the Ethiopians fled."

- There was a great slaughter and a great spoil that followed. Asa depended on the Lord, and the Lord showed Himself strong.

Shortly after that we read:

2 Chronicles 15:1-2 "¹And the spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Obed: ²And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, "hear ye me Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; the Lord is with you, while ye are with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."

- Asa was warned, and for the next 26 years there was peace in the Southern kingdom. But after that Ba-Asha the king of Israel / Northern kingdom came up against Judah.
- Asa then proceeded to take the silver and gold from the Temple, the house of the Lord and sent it to Ben-Hadad the king of Syria, paying him to attack the Northern kingdom and draw Ba-Asha away.
- The tactic worked, but Asa ended up being rebuked for relying on man, and money, rather than depending on God - he had forgotten the lesson of his youth.
- He didn't follow the example of King David.

Paul wrote to the church in Galatia:

Galatians 3:1, 3 "¹O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth..." - "³... having begun in the spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?"

- There are so many people who started out in the Spirit. They started out trusting God completely, and God blessed them, God delivered them.
- As they became older, stronger, and wealthier, and perhaps wiser in their own eyes they no longer trusted in God as much as their own strength, wealth, or wisdom.
- Praise the Lord this was not so with David, he trusted the Lord in his youth, and he's trusting the Lord in his old age.

V: 17-18 David had a great impact on his generation and it was his desire to pass that spiritual legacy onto the next generation. He asking for strength to accomplish that.

Asaph would later describe the same thing:

Psalm 78:4-6 “⁴We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and His strength, and His wonderful works that He hath done. ⁵For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children. ⁶That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children.”

V: 19-21 David is facing this conspiracy and there are problems but his trust is still in the Lord and he's speaking of the greatness of God and the power of God, in which he has put his trust.

- Who is like unto Thee! No one!
- We've been through a lot together, I've been brought low, but you've lifted me up, and will lift me up, and give me strength.

V: 22-24 David begins to praise the Lord for having done the very things he prayed about at the beginning of this Psalm.

- David is confident that God will do what he's asked, having asked in faith.

Philippians 4:6-7 “⁶Be careful / anxious for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in Thee.”