

Psalm 40

- Psalm 40 is another of the Messianic psalms, the test of a Messianic psalm being that it is quoted in the New Testament referring to Jesus.
- The New Testament recognizes David as a prophet, as an instrument of God to communicate His Word, His will to us through the scriptures - all of which are divinely inspired, including the Psalms.

Acts 2:29-32 “²⁹Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. ³⁰Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; ³¹He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. ³²This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”

- So David is prophesying here of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, which many think applies to this psalm as well as it speaks of being brought up out of a horrible pit, and that could very well be the case.
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V: 1 One of the hardest things to do, but at the same time one of the most profitable things we can do.

Psalm 27:14 “**Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.**”

- Wait patiently on Him as He inclines His ear towards us, towards our cause.
- As David waited on the Lord, he found Him to be faithful, David waited and the Lord indeed did answer him. David is grateful!

V: 2 Being brought up out of a horrible pit could certainly refer to the pit of hell as we talked about, a reference to not leaving Jesus, His soul in Hell, a reference to His resurrection.

Psalm 16:10 “**For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.**”

- When Jesus died for our sins and took upon Himself all of our guilt and shame, His spirit descended into Hades, or Sheol, or what is commonly referred to as Hell.

- Hell is described in the Bible as being in the center of the earth; at that time it was divided into two compartments. One part referred to as “Abraham’s bosom” was for the righteous dead; like Abraham, David, Caleb and many others that died in faith, trusting in the Lord.
- The other part was for the un-righteous dead, those that died apart from faith, no relationship with God.
- Those that were in Abraham’s bosom technically were in hell or the pit, waiting for God to fulfill His promise of salvation.
- Jesus refers to some of this in **Luke 16** as He describes Lazarus and the rich man.

Paul further elaborates for us:

Ephesians 3:8-10 “⁸Wherefore He saith, when He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ⁹Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.”

- When Jesus died on the cross He descended to “hell” and was there for 3 days before leading the captives out of there and to heaven. (**Isaiah 61:1-2, Matthew 12:39-40, 1 Peter 3:18-20**)
- In these scriptures we see the fulfillment of the promise to the Messiah that He would not see corruption or be left in the grave.
- That rock that we’re set upon is the rock of our salvation: Jesus Himself.

Psalm 62:6-7 “⁶He only is my Rock and my Salvation: He is my defense; I shall not be moved. ⁷In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.”

- Having fallen into a miry or muddy pit, trying to stay on top, floundering to stay alive, nothing solid to hang onto - then being brought out of that pit and having your feet placed on a rock where you can stand, where you can catch your breath - what a relief!
- Jesus is that Rock! So many of us can truly relate to God having rescued us from that horrible pit that we were trapped in, the pit of sin, the flesh, the world, but God brought us out! Thank you Jesus!

Psalm 95:1 “O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation.”

V: 3 He's put a new song in our hearts: That is a joyful response to God's work of salvation in our lives.

- When God led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt, just after they'd crossed through the Red Sea on dry ground, and after Pharaoh and his army were destroyed at the bottom of the Red Sea, when they were all the way delivered - Moses taught them a "new song."

Exodus 15:1-2 "1Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. 2The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my Salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare Him a habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt Him."

- That habitation spoken of is our hearts, the habitation of our hearts.
- **Revelation 5:9** and **Revelation 14:3** each describe singing "a new song" for different occasions.
- **Revelation 15:3** describes that we will all sing the song of Moses, once again commemorating our complete deliverance:

"... *many will see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.*" This is going to be a good witness!

- Someone summarized the first three verses this way: God brought him up, God stood him up, then God tuned him up!

V: 4 The man that trusts in the Lord is blessed because that trust equates to faith, having placed his faith in the Lord is what leads to salvation - the ultimate blessing.

Psalm 34:8 "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusted in Him."

Such as turn aside to lies:

2 Timothy 4:3-4 "3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

V: 5 Like David, none of us is able to enumerate all the blessing that God has poured out upon us, they are too many to number. That doesn't mean that we shouldn't try, we should seek the thank and praise Him constantly.

- It's pretty amazing that God even thinks of us at all!

Psalm 8:3-4 “³When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; ⁴what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him?”

Yet God seems to actually think about us a lot:

Psalm 139:17-18 “¹⁷How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! How great is the sum of them! ¹⁸If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand:...”

- We are the apple of our Father’s eye, He looks upon us with a tender love. He knows when the sparrows fall, He takes care of the birds, and He’s aware of us, and takes care of us.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”

V: 6 God doesn’t want a “religious” or a mechanical relationship with us - He wants it to be real and meaningful.

Psalm 51:16-17 “¹⁶For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: thou delightest not in burnt offering. ¹⁷The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

- This portion of scripture is quoted in **Hebrews 10:5-9** in reference to Jesus, the ultimate sacrifice, satisfying the righteous requirements of God securing an end to sacrifices in the process along with our salvation.
- As David wrote the words of this Psalm pertaining to the sacrifices, it’s at a time when the sacrifices were probably the most meaningful and sincere in all their history.
- It wasn’t until later, during Isaiah’s time, after the spiritual decline of the nation that God spoke of his feelings concerning their sacrifices, how it had become a vain offering.

Isaiah 1:11-13 “¹¹To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto Me? Saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs, or of he goats. ¹²When ye come to appear before Me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts? ¹³Bring no more vain oblations...”

- God expressed His weariness at the empty religion that they had descended to.

John 4:24 “God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” Genuine, sincere, heartfelt worship.

- In between the descriptions of the sacrifices is that phrase:

“... *mine ears hast thou opened*...” There are two ways to look at this. Looking at the context this could be a reference to actually “hearing” God, responding to what He’s said. Or it could be about how we serve Him and love Him.

- In those days if you had debts that you could not pay you could be sold into or become a slave to pay the debt. The law required that a man could serve as a slave for 6 years, but in the 7th year he was to be set free.
- If during that time he came to realize that he was better off being a slave than a free man, that he wanted to stay in the house of his master, if the master was agreeable to it, he could. That slave would then go to the door of the house and the master would drive an awl through his ear lobe - “opening the ear” - and placing an ear ring in it.
- That was known as becoming a “bond slave,” a slave by choice. As this Messianic psalm describes Jesus in various ways it should be noted that Jesus was a servant by choice.

John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.”

Philippians 2:7-8 “⁷But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

- Jesus is the ultimate example of a servant - I pray that our ears would be open not just to the hearing of God’s Word, but also to being a willing servant.

V: 7 This is true prophesy - I don’t see how it could apply to David or any of his circumstances, this is the Holy Spirit speaking through David about Jesus.



Jesus, confronting the Pharisees:

John 5:39 “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.”

V: 8 David has already exhorted us to delight in Him, to do His will, and here we see David leading by example.

- To delight in doing God’s will, take pleasure in the will of the Lord

John 4:34 “My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish His work.”

- My meat, my necessary food, the thing that keeps me alive and nourishes me - is to do the will of God.

Romans 7:22 “For I delight in the law of God after the inward man.”

- For thy Law is within my heart:

Psalms 119:11 “Thy Word have is hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee.”

- We absolutely need His Word in our hearts:

2 Corinthians 3:3 “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.”

V: 9-10 David has not held back from declaring the goodness of God, speaking of His salvation, His loving kindness, and His truth.

2 Timothy 4:2 “Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”

1 Corinthians 9:16 “For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!”

V: 11 He’s saying that he hasn’t held back from praising God in the great congregation, so please don’t hold back from me.

V: 12-13 David declares that he is surrounded by evil; on top of that he has his own sin to deal with which in itself is overwhelming - he can’t even look up, they are more than the hairs of his head.

- Deliver me Oh Lord - I need your help.

V: 14 I can see David’s interests here as he wants his enemies to be ashamed and driven backwards, but I can also see another Messianic fulfillment of this in the life of Jesus.



- The contingent of military men that accompanies Judas Iscariot, along with the chief priests came to Jesus - He asked them “... whom seek ye?”

John 18:5-6 “⁵They answered Him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am He, and Judas also, which betrayed Him, stood with them. ⁶As soon then as He had said unto them, I am He, they went backward, and fell to the ground.”

“Let them be ashamed, and confounded together that seek after my soul to destroy it; let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil.”

V: 15 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 that that way.

- From a Messianic stand point, we see the exact same thing happens to those who mock and reject Jesus, blaspheming the Holy Spirit in the process.

John 3:36 “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

V: 16 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: 17 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.”