

Psalm 71 Better than Before

1 In You, O Lord, I put my trust; Let me never be put to shame. 2 Deliver me in Your righteousness, and **cause me to escape**; Incline Your ear to me, and save me. 3 Be my strong refuge, To which I may resort continually; You have **given the commandment to save me** For You are my rock and my fortress [lit. Rock Fortress] . 4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. 5 For You are my hope, O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth. 6 By You **I have been upheld from birth**; You are He who took me out of my mother's womb. My praise shall be continually of You. 7 I have become as a wonder to many, But You are my strong refuge. 8 Let my mouth be filled with Your praise And with Your glory all the day. 9 **Do not cast me off in the time of old age**; Do not forsake me when my strength fails. 10 For **my enemies speak against me**; And those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together, 11 Saying, "**God has forsaken him**"; Pursue and take him, for there is none to deliver him." 12 O God, do not be far from me; O my God, make haste to help me! 13 Let them be confounded and consumed Who are adversaries of my life; Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor Who **seek** my hurt. 14 **But I will hope continually**, And will praise You **yet more and more**. 15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For **I do not know their limits**. 16 I will go in the **strength of the Lord God**; I will **make mention** of Your righteousness, of Yours only. 17 O God, You have **taught me from my youth**; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. 18 Now also **when I am old and gray headed**, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come. 19 Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You? 20 You, who have **shown me great and severe troubles, Shall revive me again**, And bring me up again from the depths of the earth. 21 You shall increase my greatness, And comfort me on every side. 22 Also with the lute I will praise You— And Your faithfulness, O my God! To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel. 23 My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, And my soul, which You have redeemed. 24 My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long; For **they are confounded, For they are brought to shame Who seek my hurt.**

- **Author unknown:** Latter part of life? Vv 9,18
- **V1 Theme: Never let me be put to shame**
- **V2 Escape:** lit. Deliverance from enemies
 - 1. **World:** Satanic World System Salt Water
 - 2. **Flesh:** Old Sin Nature Rising Up
 - 3. **Devil:** Tempter/Accuser Trippin us up to not finish well
- **Vv3-4 God's Commandment:** Trust in Me I AM your Rock/Fortress
- **Vv6-9 Sustained from birth:** Created for Your purpose
- **10-13 Enemies lies:** God has forsaken you/Given up on you

God will never leave us nor forsake us!

Isaiah 46:4 Even to your old age, I am He, And even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; Even I will carry, and will deliver you.

Philippians 1:6b ...He who has begun a good work in you **will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ

- **V14-16 Spirit Empowered Tenacity**

I will hope continually...I will praise You more and more

- **Vv17-19** Do not forsake Me when I'm old, Continue to be...

My Strength/My Power/My Righteousness
I will Fulfill my Obligation to **Teach the Next Generation**

Deuteronomy 6:7 [Word of God] **teach [it] diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

- **Vv20** In the Potter's Hands...

God's Restoration: Better than Before...

V20 You have shown me Great/Severe troubles, but...
You will Revive me...Raise me up again!

Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return to the Lord; For **He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up.**

- **V21 Faith not Sight:** Doesn't feel/look like it now **but God will again...**

1. **Increase my Greatness** [dignity stolen]
2. **Increase His Comfort to me**

- **V22-24** My response *before He acts?* **Sing and Tell**

1. **Sing** praise **in the midst of trouble**
2. **Tell** of Your righteousness **before it happens till...**

V24 My enemies are **brought to confusion and Shame**

- **Psalm 71 Begins/Ends w/Shame:** Let not me but my enemies be ashamed
- **Take-aways...**

1. **God molds us in adversity/Brings us out Better than Before and...**
2. **God is Able/Willing to have us finish well as we trust in Him...**

Jude 24 Now to Him who is **able to keep you from stumbling** and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, Who alone is wise, be the glory and majesty, dominion, and power, both now and forever. Amen.

Psalm 72 He Shall Come Down Like Rain

A Psalm of Solomon.

1 Give the king Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the **king's Son**.
 2 He will judge Your people with righteousness, And Your poor with justice. 3 The mountains will bring peace to the people, And the little hills, by righteousness. 4 He will **bring justice** to the poor of the people; He will **save the children of the needy**, And will **break in pieces the oppressor**. 5 They shall fear You As long as the sun and moon endure, **Throughout all generations**. 6 **He shall come down** like rain upon the grass before mowing, Like showers that water the earth. 7 In His days the **righteous shall flourish**, And **abundance of peace**, Until the moon is no more. 8 He shall have **dominion also from sea to sea**, And from the River to the ends of the earth. 9 Those who dwell in the wilderness will **bow before Him**, And His enemies will lick the dust. 10 The kings of Tarshish and of the isles Will **bring presents**; The kings of Sheba and Seba Will offer gifts. 11 Yes, **all kings shall fall down before Him**; All nations shall serve Him. 12 For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also, and him who has no helper. 13 He will spare the poor and needy, And will save the souls of the needy. 14 **He will redeem their life** from oppression and violence; And **precious shall be** their blood in His sight. 15 And He shall live; And the gold of Sheba will be given to Him; **Prayer also will be made for Him continually**, And daily He shall be praised. 16 There will be an **abundance of grain in the earth**, On the top of the mountains; Its fruit shall wave like Lebanon; And those of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth. 17 **His name** shall endure forever; His name shall continue **as long as the sun**. And **men shall be blessed in Him**; All nations shall call Him blessed. 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only does wondrous things! 19 And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen. 20 The **prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended**.

- **Author:** King David's son King Solomon
- **Royal Psalm:** 1 of 2 from Solomon
- **1 Kings 2:** David's death bed conversation w/Solomon...

I go the way of the earth. Be strong/Prove yourself a man
Keep the charge of the LORD: Walk in His Judgments and His Word

- **1 Kings 3** God appears to Solomon first of 2x

Ask! What shall I give you?

1 Kings 3:9 Give to Your servant an **understanding heart to judge** Your people...to **discern between good and evil**.

Psalms 127:1 [of Solomon] Unless the Lord builds the house they labor in vain who build it...

- **Vv 2-4 Responsibility of King:** Represent God/Attributed accurately
 1. Help Poor
 2. Judge Oppressor [Break in pieces]
- **V5 Morphs from Solomon to Messianic**
- **Vv 5-7 Hope of a Kingdom of Absolute Righteousness**

1. **V5 King who is Revered:** Awesome King/Judge of Earth
 2. **Vv6-7 King who Comes Down:** Like rain with Grace/Truth
- **Vv 8-11** Looks forward to **Universal Kingdom on Earth**
 1. **V8** **Reign of the Coming King**
 2. **V9** **Judgments of the Coming King**
 3. **V10** **Gifts of earthly kings given to the Coming King**
 4. **V11** **Allegiance to the King of Kings...**

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace **There will be no end**, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, **even forever...**

- **Vv 12-14 Kingdom of Compassion**

Isaiah 11:3 His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 But **with righteousness He shall judge** the poor, And **decide with equity for the meek of the earth...**

Vv 12-14 [Kingdom of Compassion] ...He will **deliver the needy when he cries**, The poor also, and him who has no helper. 13 He will spare the poor and needy, And will save the souls of the needy. 14 He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; And **precious shall be their blood in His sight.**

- **Vv 15-17 Kingdom of Blessing**

V17b His name shall continue as long as the sun. And **men shall be blessed in Him**; All nations shall call **Him blessed.**

Name of Jesus is the Greatest Name in the Universes [Philip 2:9-11]

- **Vv 18-19** Praise for the coming King

Vv18-20 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, **Who only does wondrous things!** 19 And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.

Everything God does is a Wonderful Thing!

Job 5:9 ... great things, and unsearchable, **Marvelous things without number.**

Promise: The Earth will be Filled with the Glory of Jesus

Numbers 14:21 [Prophesied long ago] ... all the earth shall be filled w/the glory of the Lord.

- **V20** The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended. [here attributed to Solomon]

End of Book II. Begin Book III...

Psalm 73 I Almost Stumbled

A Psalm of Asaph

1 Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 **But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;** My steps had **nearly slipped.** 3 For I was **envious of the boastful,** When I saw the **prosperity of the wicked.** 4 For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. 5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. 6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment. 7 Their eyes bulge with abundance; **They have more than heart could wish.** 8 They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. 9 They **set their mouth against the heavens,** And their tongue walks through the earth. 10 Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them. 11 And they say, "**How does God know?** And is there knowledge in the Most High?" 12 Behold, **these are the ungodly,** Who are **always at ease;** They **increase in riches.** 13 **Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain,** And **washed my hands in innocence.** 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And **chastened every morning.** 15 If I had said, "**I will speak thus,**" Behold, I would have been **untrue to the generation of Your children.** 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was **too painful for me—** 17 **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.** 18 Surely You set them in slippery places; You **cast them down to destruction.** 19 Oh, how they are **brought to desolation, as in a moment!** They are utterly consumed with terrors. 20 As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image. 21 Thus my **heart was grieved,** And I was **vexed in my mind.** 22 I was so **foolish and ignorant;** I was like a **beast before You.** 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward **receive me to glory.** 25 **Whom have I in heaven but You?** And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. 26 **My flesh and my heart fail;** But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.

- **Author:** Asaph
- **Vv1-16 Crisis of Faith**

1. **V1** God is good to people, right?
2. **V2** I was ready to throw in the towel
3. **Vv3-13 List of reasons why...**

Because lawlessness will abound the love of many will grow cold

Romans 1:28 ... as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, 30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, 31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; 32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...

- **Perilous:** Hard to do, to take, to approach, **To wear down.** Fierce/Harsh/Savage
- **V14 I'm Plagued/Chastised** as I look out window

**v15 If I told people the way I felt they would lose faith like me
Why do I even try to do what's right?**

Job 35:3 For you say, 'What advantage will it be to You... more than if I had sinned?'

Malachi 3:14 You have said, 'It is useless to serve'...

- **V16 Painful to look at. No relief. Makes no sense.**

Not looking to God/His Word for answers. Focused on problem

- **V17** Then I went to church/Listened to Word of God/Put on Belt of Truth
- **Vv18-20** Sliding into destruction/Deathbed Fears/You will cast them away from you
- **Vv21** I was really messed up till I read your Word/Understood their end

Wicked are one breath away from Eternal Damnation

v21 I was foolish and ignorant...Like a beast before You

2 Timothy 2:13 If we are faithless, **He remains faithful;** He cannot deny Himself.

I had No Eternal Perspective/All Horizontal no Vertical

- **Vv22-24 In spite of me...you are faithful**
 1. To see me
 2. To hold me
 3. To guide me
 4. **To receive me**

Isaiah 58:11 The Lord will guide you continually, And **satisfy your soul in drought,** And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Vv25-26 Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart fail; But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

- **Solid Ground:** Nothing/No one but You

Psalm 84:2 My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the Lord; **My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

John 6:68 [Are you going to leave Me too?] "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

- **Vv27-28** Psalmist gets his head together

Vv27-28 For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; **You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.** 28 But it is **good for me to draw near to God;** I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works.

Psalm 74 Run and See!

A Contemplation of Asaph

1 O God, **why have You cast us off forever?** Why does Your anger smoke against the sheep of Your pasture? 2 **Remember Your congregation,** which You have purchased of old, The tribe of Your inheritance, which You have redeemed— This Mount Zion where You have dwelt. 3 **Lift up Your feet** to the **perpetual** desolations. The enemy has **damaged everything** in the sanctuary. 4 Your enemies roar in the midst of Your meeting place; They **set up their banners for signs.** 5 They seem like men who lift up Axes among the thick trees. 6 And now they break down its carved work, all at once, With axes and hammers. 7 They have **set fire to Your sanctuary;** They have defiled the dwelling place of Your name to the ground. 8 They said in their hearts, "**Let us destroy them altogether.**" They have burned up **all the meeting places of God** in the land. 9 We do not see our signs; There is no longer any prophet; Nor is there any among us who knows how long. 10 O God, **how long will the adversary reproach?** Will the enemy **blaspheme Your name forever?** 11 Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? Take it out of Your bosom and destroy them. 12 For God is my King from of old, Working salvation in the midst of the earth. 13 You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters. 14 You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness. 15 You broke open the fountain and the flood; You dried up mighty rivers. 16 The day is Yours, the night also is Yours; You have prepared the light and the sun. 17 You have set all the borders of the earth; You have made summer and winter. 18 Remember this, that the enemy has reproached, O Lord, And that **a foolish people has blasphemed Your name.** 19 Oh, do not deliver the life of Your turtledove to the wild beast! Do not forget the life of Your poor **forever.** 20 Have respect to the covenant; For the dark places of the earth are **full of the haunts of cruelty.** 21 Oh, do not let the oppressed return ashamed! Let the poor and needy praise Your name. 22 **Arise,** O God, plead Your own cause; Remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily. 23 Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; The tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually.

- **Author:** Asaph

Everything Ruined/Perpetually Desolate/And I cant find You
Asaph's having a Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day

- **Vv 1-2 Remember us**
- **Vv 3-9 Run and see our plight**

1. Enemy in Your Sanctuary
2. Hanging his sign in Church

3. Defiled Your Holy Place
4. Desire to exterminate

No Prophet/Word of God in the Land Where are the men of God standing for the Word of God?!

Amos 8:11 "... days are coming... I will send a famine on the land, Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of **hearing the words of the Lord.**

Enemy Filled the Void/Turned our Church into a Grange/Comedy Club

- **Vv 10-11** Enemy Blasphemes Your Name/You hold back Your hand
- **Vv 12-17 Yet I know:** You are my King. You have the power to act
 1. **Work of Salvation** Divided the Sea Salvation
 2. **Work of Deliverance** Divided River Spirit led life
 3. **Work of Creation** Split darkness Made Day/Night/Seasons

You Broke the heads of Leviathan: Descriptive of most powerful evil
That's the God I call to...God my King

- **So why** are You not defending even Your own reputation?
 1. **V 18** Why are Foolish People winning?
 2. **V 19** Why am I prey to the enemy? V 20 [c.f. v2]

Remember Your Promise!

Leviticus 26:44 [I will chastise/discipline but...] **I will not cast them away**, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break **My covenant** with them; for I am the Lord their God. 45 But **for their sake I will remember the covenant** of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, **that I might be their God: I am the Lord.** "

- **V 21** Things are darker/more cruel than we want to imagine....

There are Dark Places of the Earth/Haunts of Cruelty
Tunnels of Hamas/Child Sex Slavery

V 22-23 ...A call for God to act on for His Name's sake

Arise, O God, **plead Your own cause**; Remember how the foolish man **reproaches You daily**. Do not forget the voice of Your enemies; The tumult of those who rise up against You increases continually.

- **No resolution in this Psalm**

Psalm 75 Righteous Judgment at the Proper Time

To the Chief Musician. Set to "Do Not Destroy." A Psalm of Asaph. A Song

1 We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks! For Your wondrous works declare that Your name is near. 2 **"When I choose the proper time**, I will judge uprightly.

3 The earth and all its inhabitants are dissolved; I set up its pillars firmly. Selah 4 "I said to the boastful, 'Do not deal boastfully,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn. 5 Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck.' " 6 For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south. 7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another. 8 For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down. 9 But I will declare forever, I will sing praises to the God of Jacob. 10 "All the horns of the wicked I will also cut off, But the horns of the righteous shall be exalted."

- **Author:** Asaph. Finally cheered up
- **Vv 1-3 Thanksgiving**
 1. **Wonderous Works**
 2. **Righteous Judgment** [U. Pennsylvania Pres steps down today [12/9/23]

Though it feels like things **falling apart**...They are actually **coming together**
I have set the earth on firm pillars

Isaiah 40:22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Job 26:7 He stretches out the north over empty space; He hangs the earth on nothing.

- **Sets the Earth on Pillars:** Poetic of God's sovereignty. Under control
 - Q.** When will God do what God does? **A.** When He chooses the Proper time God is not willing than any perish but that all repent and come to the knowledge of Him
- **Vv 4-7 Warning to the godless proud:** Judgment is coming

V7 Puts down one/Lifts up another
Sovereign over world affairs

- **V8 Sovereign Judge** in His time
- **Vv 9-10 Asaph's Declaration:** I will sing praises to the God of Jacob
- When the dust settles...

The Strength of the Wicked Will End
The Strength of the Righteous Shall be Exalted