

## Psalms 71

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 71 - and as we make our way to the 71st Psalm...

...I should take a moment to point out that - we don't really know who wrote the lyrics of this song...

...and the reason why is because - there is no superscription section that identifies the author.

And while it's true that all of the Psalms were inspired by the Holy Spirit of God...

...it's also true that the servant who was used to create the content of this Psalm - remains a mystery.

Some commentators are convinced that the introduction of this song is actually found in the previous Psalm.

And if that's the case - then - what this means is that - King David is the author of this Psalm.

You might also like to know that - this Psalm is ascribed to King David - in the Syriac version of the Bible.

As a matter of fact - those who translated this Psalm into the Syrian language - prefaced this Psalm in this way...

"Composed by David. When Saul warred against the house of David. And a prophecy respecting the passion and resurrection of the Messiah."

From this - we can see that the Christians who created the Syriac version of the Bible...

...truly believed that King David was the author of this Psalm.

We also find similar titles in the Latin Vulgate and the Septuagint - which is a Greek translation of the Old Testament.

Here's how Albert Barnes explained it in his commentary of this Psalm...

The Latin Vulgate and the Septuagint also ascribe it to David. The title in both is the same - "By David. Of the sons of Jonadab, and the first captives." But these titles are of no authority, as they are not in the Hebrew, and they are of little historic value.

From this - we can see that the scholars who created the Latin Vulgate and the Septuagint...

...both believed that this Psalm was written by King David.

And yet - we still can't say for sure - if that's the case.

Regardless of the author's identity - what we can say for sure is that...

...this Psalm was written by a man - who was completely confident in the deliverance of the Lord.

And as we consider the lyrical content of this song - it's my hope that we will all be blessed...

...by the faith of this individual - who's life experience led him to trust in the Lord God of Israel...

...Who alone is able to save us from the enemy.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention - to the lyrics that we find - here in the 71st Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 71:1 In You, O LORD, I put my trust;

Let me never be put to shame.

Psa 71:2 Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape;

Incline Your ear to me, and save me.

Psa 71:3 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.

Here in the beginning of this song - we find the Psalmist - crying out to the One - in Whom he was trusting.

And just to be clear - that word - trust - found there in verse 1 - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which was used in reference to a shelter that was able to provide protection.

The same word was also used of a defensive refuge - which was able to fill the heart with hope.

I like the way that the scholars who created the Amplified Bible rendered verse 1 - they put it like this...

Psa 71:1 In you, O LORD, I have put my trust and confidently taken refuge; Let me never be put to shame.

From this - we can see that the Psalmist was resting in the refuge of Yahweh.

And knowing that the LORD was able to protect him from the attacks of the enemy...

...the heart of the Psalmist was filled with the confident hope...

...that helps us to look forward to the salvation of the Lord.

Let's consider how the Psalmist described this hope - beginning there at verse 2 - where he declared...

Psa 71:2 Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape;

Incline Your ear to me, and save me.

Psa 71:3 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.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist praying for deliverance - and salvation...

...while simultaneously rejoicing in the fact that the Lord had already given the commandment to save him.

Think about that for a moment - the Psalmist was asking the Lord to save him...

...while at the same time acknowledging the fact that - his salvation was already ordered by the Lord.

In order to grasp this paradox - we should take a moment to consider how our salvation was predetermined in eternity past...

...by our God Who predetermined to send a Savior - from the foundations of the Earth.

Not only that - but - the salvation of those who trust in Him is being accomplished in the present...

...as believers are being sanctified by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And - our salvation will be accomplished in the future - as those who trust in Jesus...

...receive glorified bodies - in the resurrection.

What this means is that - those who have been saved by faith in Jesus Christ...

...should also pray for the daily salvation of personal sanctification - as we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And not only that - but - we should also pray for the future salvation of glorification...

...as we rest in the refuge of our Redeemer - Who is our rock and our fortress of faith.

In order to further grasp my point - let's continue to consider the content of the 71st Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 4 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 71:4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,  
Out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.

Psa 71:5 For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;  
You are my trust from my youth.

Psa 71:6 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.

Psa 71:7 I have become as a wonder to many,  
But You are my strong refuge.

Psa 71:8 Let my mouth be filled with Your praise  
And with Your glory all the day.

Psa 71:9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;  
Do not forsake me when my strength fails.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - recounting the reasons for why his heart was filled with hope...

...and yeah - even at a time when he felt like he was caught in the hands...

...of those who were wicked - unrighteous - and cruel.

Notice with me again - there in verse 5 - where the Psalmist declared...

Psa 71:5 For You are my hope, O Lord GOD;  
You are my trust from my youth.

Now - that word - youth - was used of children - in their formative years.

And what this means is that - the Psalmist's heart was filled with hope...

...as he remembered the way that Yahweh was with him - during his youthful years.

Not only that - but - it's there in verse 6 - where he declared...

Psa 71:6 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.

Here we find the psalmist - singing the praises of the One - Who had sustained his life - from the day he was born.

And not only that - but - the psalmist also rejoice in the fact that...

...the Lord was the One Who took him from his mother's womb.

I like the way that King David described it - in the 139th Psalm - it's beginning at verse 13 - where he declared...

Psa 139:13 For You formed my inward parts;  
You covered me in my mother's womb.  
Psa 139:14 I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;  
Marvelous are Your works,  
And that my soul knows very well.  
Psa 139:15 My frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Psa 139:16      Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they all were written,  
The days fashioned for me,  
When as yet there were none of them.  
Psa 139:17      How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!

According to King David - the Lord saw the substance of David - as  
he was being formed in the womb of his mother.

What this means is that - every pre-born person is precious in  
the sight of the Lord.

And it's for this reason that I encourage every Christian to  
realize that...

...the unformed clump of cells within the womb of a  
woman...

...is a person who is precious in the sight of our  
Creator.

And according to the Psalmist who wrote the 71st Psalm...

...the Lord not only guided him throughout his youthful years...

...but - the Lord was also there with him - in the womb of  
his mother.

And it's for this reason that his heart was filled with  
hope...

...as he asked the Lord to protect him in his  
elderly years.

Look with me again - beginning there at verse 7 - where he declared...

Psa 71:7    I have become as a wonder to many,  
But You are my strong refuge.  
Psa 71:8    Let my mouth be filled with Your praise

And with Your glory all the day.

Psa 71:9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;

Do not forsake me when my strength fails.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - shifting his focus - from his birth - and his youth - to the days of his old age.

And as he considered the way that his strength would soon fail...

...the psalmist was able to rest - and rejoice in knowing that the Lord would be his strong refuge...

...for all of his days.

From this - I encourage you to remember that - we shouldn't give up what we do know - for what we don't know.

And when it comes to the future - we really don't know what tomorrow holds.

And yet - what we do know is that God is the One Who holds tomorrow.

What we also know is that He's never failed us in the past.

I've been a born-again believer since 1995 - - and for the last 30 years - the Lord has never failed me.

Well - now that I've passed the peak of my life - - and now that I'm approaching the silver years...

...I have no doubt that my strength will fail - and my mind will dim.

But rather than allowing this reality - to fill my heart with fear about the future...

...I will rest in the refuge of my Redeemer - because I know that He will never fail me.



Please trust me when I tell you that — the Lord was with you in the womb  
- and He watched over you in your youth.

And now - we can trust in Him - as we continue to move forward into  
the future.

And listen - this is true - no matter what is happening in this  
wicked world.

This is true in the good times - and this is true when the  
enemies of the Lord...

...are spreading lies about those who worship and  
serve our Savior.

Let's consider how the Psalmist put it - here in the 71st Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 10 - where he declared...

Psa 71:10 For my enemies speak against me;  
And those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together,  
Psa 71:11 Saying, "God has forsaken him;  
Pursue and take him, for there is none to deliver him."  
Psa 71:12 O God, do not be far from me;  
O my God, make haste to help me!  
Psa 71:13 Let them be confounded and consumed  
Who are adversaries of my life;  
Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor  
Who seek my hurt.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - describing the dire situation  
that he was facing.

And while the enemies of Israel were conspiring against him - so  
that they might kill him...

...the Psalmist cried out to the Lord - so that those who were  
trying to hurt him...

...might be confounded - consumed - and covered with reproach and dishonor.

In light of his example - I encourage every believer to pray for protection against those who are conspiring against the Christian church.

And listen - if you think that there is no conspiracy against the Christian church...

...then - I encourage you to consider the warning the apostle Peter presented - in his second epistle.

It's in 2nd Peter chapter 2 - beginning at verse 1 - where he declared...

2Pe 2:1 ...there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

2Pe 2:3 By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.

According to the apostle Peter - we should expect to find false teachers...

...secretly bringing destructive heresies into the church.

And it's sad to say that - most Christians have become so Biblically illiterate...

...that - many are embracing these destructive heresies - as gospel truth.

With that being the case - I encourage every Christian to pray that the Lord will confound - consume those false teachers...

...as He covers them with reproach and dishonor.

And at the same time - we should pray for the protection of those the enemy wants to destroy.

We should pray for the protection of those in the womb...

...and let's pray for the abolition of abortion - everywhere in the world.

Let's pray for the youth - who are being led astray...

...by our educators - our entertainers - and Ai engineers.

And let's pray for the elderly - who have allowed their fear of the enemy...

...to stop them from serving our Savior.

And listen - we should not only pray for protection - - but we should also sing the praises of our protector.

Let's consider the Psalmist's example - found here in the 71st Psalm - look with me - beginning there at verse 14 - where he declared...

Psa 71:14 But I will hope continually,  
And will praise You yet more and more.

Psa 71:15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness  
And Your salvation all the day,  
For I do not know their limits.

Psa 71:16 I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD;  
I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.

Psa 71:17 O God, You have taught me from my youth;  
And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.

Psa 71:18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded,  
O God, do not forsake me,  
Until I declare Your strength to this generation,  
Your power to everyone who is to come.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - describing the way that his hope in the Lord...

...would be explicitly expressed with proclamations of praise.

In other words - the Psalmist wasn't planning to keep his salvation a secret.

No - instead - the Psalmist wanted to communicate his confidence in the Lord...

...by telling others about the righteousness of our Redeemer.

In light of his example - I encourage every Christian to follow in the footsteps of the Psalmist...

...who set out in the strength of the Lord - so that he could tell others about the righteousness - and the salvation of our God.

We too should walk in the power of the Holy Spirit - as we share the good news of the gospel message...

...with those who need to hear about the hope that we have in Jesus Christ.

This was the point that the apostle Peter was making - in 1st Peter 3 - it's verses 15 and 16 - where he declared...

1Pe 3:15 ...sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

1Pe 3:16 having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

According to the apostle Peter - Christians should always be ready to present an apologetic argument...

...for the HOPE that we have - in the salvation of our Savior Jesus.

And while there are many who are trying to fly under the radar - by remaining a secret agent Christian...

...I encourage you to proclaim the praises of God - as we share the good news of our Savior.

With this as our goal - let's consider how the psalmist proclaimed the praises of God most high.

Let's pick up our study of the 71st psalm - beginning there at verse 19 - where he declared...

Psa 71:19 Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high,  
You who have done great things;  
O God, who is like You?

Psa 71:20 You, who have shown me great and severe troubles,  
Shall revive me again,  
And bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

Psa 71:21 You shall increase my greatness,  
And comfort me on every side.

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - proclaiming the praises of the righteous One...

...Who alone has worked wonders - according to His uniquely infinite existence.

And as we consider the way that the Psalmist described the Lord our God...

...we can sum it up by describing the Lord as omnipotent - omniscient - omnipresent - and omnibenevolent.

In verse 19 - we see that God is the most high God - Who has done great things...

...which speaks of His omnipotence - or in other words - His infinite power.

In verse 20 - the Psalmist rejoiced in the God Who showed him great and severe troubles...

...which speaks of His omniscience - or in other words - His infinite knowledge.

In the second half of verse 20 - the Psalmist described the way that the Lord would revive him - and bring him up from the depths of the earth...

...which speaks of the Lord's omnipresence - or in other words - His infinitely existence that is found in every location.

Finally - in verse 21 - the psalmist referred to the way in which the Lord comforted him on every side...

...which speaks of the Lord's omnibenevolence - or in other words - His infinite love...

...that leads the Lord to comfort those who trust in Him.

I like the way that Paul summed it up - in 1st Timothy chapter 6 - it's there where he described our God as...

1Ti 6:15b ...He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

1Ti 6:16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Christian - listen - the God we worship - is worthy to be praised.

And as we proclaim the praises of our God - we will do well to focus on His omni-attributes...

...so that we can help others to understand why our hope is in Him alone.

With this as the goal - let's consider how the Psalmist wrapped up this song - singing the praises of our God.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 22 - where he declared...

Psa 71:22    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.

Psa 71:23    My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You,  
And my soul, which You have redeemed.

Psa 71:24    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.

Here in the final verses of this song - we find the Psalmist - describing the way that he was preparing to proclaim the praises of God.

This included the use of musical instruments - like the lute - and the harp.

Not only that - but - he was also ready to use his lips - and his tongue...

...so that he could vocalize all of the reasons to rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

And as we consider the way that the Psalmist was intentionally preparing to sing the praises of the Lord...

...we must not forget that - the enemies of Israel were still conspiring against him - so that they might capture him - and kill him.

And yet - with all confidence in the faithfulness of the Lord...

...the Psalmist rejoiced in knowing that those who wanted to hurt him...

...would be confounded - and brought to shame - by  
the strength of our Savior.

In light of his example - I encourage every Christian to become disciples  
who are dedicated to singing the praises of God...

...and yes - even when the evil people of this wicked world - are  
conspiring against the people of God.

Please understand that - God is worthy of our worship - when  
things are going good.

Not only that - but - God is worthy of our worship - when  
the enemy is conspiring against us.

Simply put - God is always worthy of our worship -  
and it's for this reason...

...that we should become committed Christians  
- who proclaim the praises of God.

With this as our goal - I wanna encourage you to become a believer - who  
intentionally shows up to church on time.

And while it's not my desire to place you under a legalistic law...

...I do believe that Christians should do their best - to consistently  
arrive at church on time...

...so that we can corporately proclaim the praises of God -  
together.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Ephesians chapter 5 - it's verses 15 thru 21  
where he declared...

Eph 5:15	See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise,
Eph 5:16	redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
Eph 5:17	Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the
Lord is.	



Eph 5:18      And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,  
Eph 5:19      speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,  
Eph 5:20      giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Eph 5:21      submitting to one another in the fear of God.

According to Paul - Christians have been called to walk circumspectly - as we live under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

And as we walk in the power of the Holy Spirit - - we will become those believers...

...who are gathering together for corporate worship - as we sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs...

...singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord.

Christian - listen - if you've fallen into the habit of being late to church...

...then - I encourage you to examine your life by asking - am I walking circumspectly - and am I redeeming the time.

We should also ask ourselves - do I truly value the time of corporate praise...

...that the Holy Spirit has ordained for our fellowship of faith?

If not - then I encourage you to follow in the footsteps of the Psalmist...

...who prepared to proclaim the praises of the Lord - with the lute and with the harp.

Let's intentionally show up to church on time - so that we can give thanks always for all things...

...to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And in this way - our lips will greatly rejoice as we sing to the Holy One of Israel..

...and our tongues will worship our righteous Redeemer - all the days of our lives.