



FULFILLING
SCRIPTURE
&
FAITHFUL
PRAYER

LUKE 22:35-46

³⁵ And he said to them, “When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?” They said, “Nothing.” ³⁶ He said to them, “But now let the one who has a moneybag take it, and likewise a knapsack. And let the one who has no sword sell his cloak and buy one. ³⁷ For I tell you that this Scripture must be fulfilled in me: ‘And he was numbered with the transgressors.’ For what is written about me has its fulfillment.”

³⁸ And they said, “Look, Lord, here are two swords.” And he said to them, “It is enough.” ³⁹ And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. ⁴⁰ And when he came to the place, he said to them, “Pray that you may not enter into temptation.” ⁴¹ And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, ⁴² saying, “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.”

⁴³ And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. ⁴⁴ And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. ⁴⁵ And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation.”

CHRIST AS FULFILLING SCRIPTURE

9 ¹Because of his strength I will give heed unto thee;
For God is my high tower.
10 My God with his lovingkindness will meet me:
God will let me see my desire upon mine enemies.
11 Slay them not, lest my people forget:
Scatter them by thy power, and bring them down,
O Lord our shield.
12 For the sin of their mouth, and the words of their lips, let them even be taken in their pride,
And for cursing and lying which they speak.
13 Consume them in wrath, consume them, so that they shall be no more:
And let them know that God ruleth in Jacob,
Unto the ends of the earth. [Sé'lah]
14 And at evening let them return, let them howl like a dog, and go round about the city.
15 They shall wander up and down for food,
And tarry all night if they be not satisfied.
16 But I will sing of thy strength; Yea, I will sing aloud of thy lovingkindness in the morning:
For thou hast been my high tower,
And a refuge in the day of my distress.
17 Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing praises:
For God is my high tower, the God of my mercy.

Lament over Defeat in Battle, and Prayer for Help.

For the Chief Musician; set to Shushan Eduth. Michiam of David; to death; when he strove with Aram-naharaim and with Aram-zobab, and Joab returned and smote of Edom in the Valley of Salt twelve thousand.

60 O God, thou hast cast us off, thou hast broken us down; Thou hast been angry; oh restore us again.

¹ Acc. to Sept. and Vulg., My strength
² Or, them that lie in wait for me. ³ Or, Make them wander to and fro. ⁴ That is, The litany of testimony.

2 Thou hast made the land to tremble; thou hast rent it; Heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.
3 Thou hast showed thy people hard things:
Thou hast made us to drink the wine of staggering.
4 Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee,
That it may be displayed because of the truth. [Sé'lah]
5 That thy beloved may be delivered,
Save with thy right hand, and answer us.
6 God hath spoken in his holiness; I will exult;
I will divide Shé'chem, and mete out the valley of Succoth.
7 Gil'e-ad is mine, and Mā-nās'séh is mine;
E'phraim also is the defence of my head;
Judah is my sceptre.
8 Mó'ab is my washpot;
Upon E'dóm will I cast my shoe:
Phi-lis-ti-á, shout thou because of me.
9 Who will bring me into the strong city?
Who hath led me unto E'dóm?
10 Hast not thou, O God, cast us off?
And thou goest not forth, O God, with our hosts.
11 Give us help against the adversary;
For vain is the help of man.
12 Through God we shall do valiantly;
For he it is that will tread down our adversaries.

Confidence in God's Protection.

For the Chief Musician; on a stringed instrument. A Psalm of David.

61 Hear my cry, O God; Attend unto my prayer.
2 From the end of the earth will I call unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed:

¹ Another reading is, me. ² Or, layolter. ³ Or, Thus. ⁴ Or, Who will lead me, &c. ⁵ Or, Will not thou, O God, who hast cast us off, and goest . . . hosts? ⁶ Heb. salvation. ⁷ Or, faintest.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.
3 For thou hast been a refuge for me,
A strong tower from the enemy.
4 I will dwell in thy tabernacle for ever:
I will take refuge in the covert of thy wings. [Sé'lah]
5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows:
Thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.
6 Thou wilt prolong the king's life;
His years shall be as many generations.
7 He shall abide before God for ever:
Oh prepare lovingkindness and truth, that they may preserve him.
8 So will I sing praise unto thy name for ever,
That I may daily perform my vows.

God alone a Refuge from Treachery and Oppression.

For the Chief Musician; after the manner of Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

62 My soul waiteth in silence for God only:
From him cometh my salvation.
2 He only is my rock and my salvation:
He is my high tower; I shall not be greatly moved.
3 How long will ye set upon a man,
That ye may slay him, all of you,
Like a leaning wall, like a tottering fence?
4 They only consult to thrust him down from his dignity;
They delight in lies;
They bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. [Sé'lah]
5 My soul, wait thou in silence for God only:
For my expectation is from him.
6 He only is my rock and my salvation:

¹ Or, a rock that is too high for me. ² Heb. tent. ³ Or, given a heritage unto those, &c. ⁴ Heb. is silent unto God. ⁵ Or, as otherwise read, Ye shall be slain, &c. ⁶ Heb. be thou silent unto God.

CHRIST AS FULFILLING SCRIPTURE: TEACHING

- I. Jesus describes a shift in the disciple's worldly relationship (Vs 35-36)
 - a) He reminds them of his provision and the world's acceptance (Vs 35)
 - b) He explains the open hostility the world will now have for his followers (Vs 36)

CHRIST AS FULFILLING SCRIPTURE: TEACHING

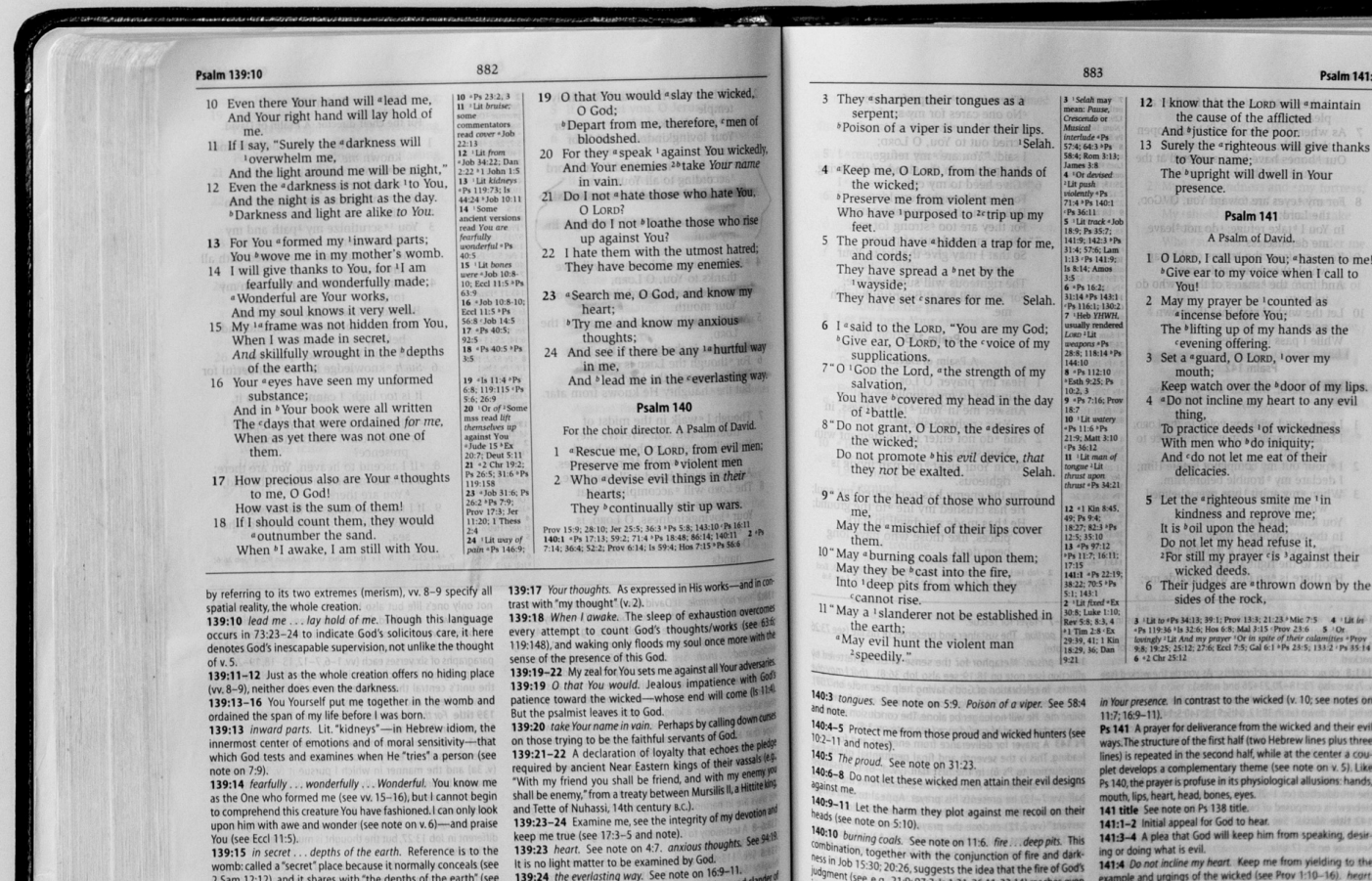
2. Jesus explains the reason for this shift (Vs 37)
 - a) Scripture *is* fulfilled in Christ.
 - b) Scripture *must* be fulfilled in Christ.
 - c) Scripture *is* Christ.
3. The Scripture Jesus references is the “Passion Prophecy” of Isaiah 53.

CHRIST AS FULFILLING SCRIPTURE: TEACHING

4. The disciples misunderstand (Vs 38a)
 - a) They rely on the strength of this world.
 - b) They try to impress Christ with their own “work”.
5. Jesus responds (Vs 38b)
 - a) Jesus responds with exasperation

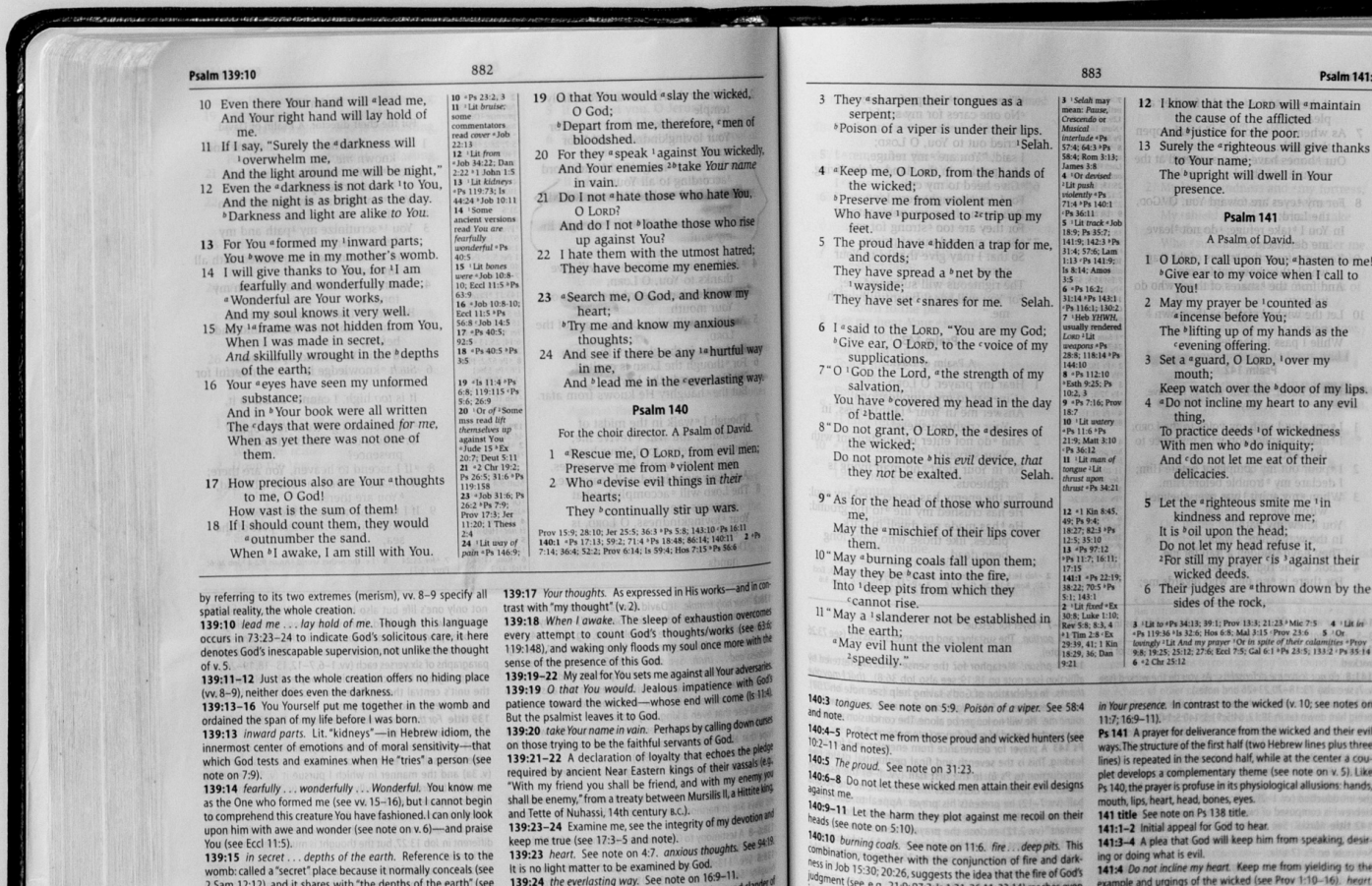
Exhortation

1. Going deeper in Scripture is growing closer to Christ.
2. While the world will change based on current trends, rulers, and cultures, God's Faithfulness will not.



Exhortation

3. The only way to confront the world is with Christ's blood.



10 Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
12 Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You.
13 For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
14 I will give thanks to You, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths
of the earth;
16 Your eyes have seen my unformed
substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.
17 How precious also are Your thoughts
to me, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
18 If I should count them, they would
outnumber the sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.

10 *Ps 28:2, 3
11 *Lit. *Arcturic*; some commentators read *cover* Job 22:18
12 *Lit. *from* Job 34:22; Dan 2:22 *1 John 1:5
13 *Lit. *kidneys* *Ps 119:7; Is 44:24 *Job 10:11
14 *Some ancient versions read *You are fearfully wonderful* *Ps 40:5
15 *Lit. *bones were* *Job 10:8-10; Eccl 11:5 *Ps 63:9
16 *Job 10:8-10; Eccl 11:5 *Ps 56:8 *Job 14:5
17 *Ps 40:5; 92:5
18 *Ps 40:5 *Ps 35
19 *Ps 114 *Ps 6:8; 119:115 *Ps 29
20 *Cf. of *Some miss read *lift themselves up* against You *Jude 15 *Ex 20:7; Deut 5:11
21 *2 Chr 19:2; Ps 26:5; 31:6 *Ps 119:158
22 *Job 31:6; Ps 26:2 *Ps 7:9; Prov 17:3; Jer 11:20; 1 Thess 2:4
23 *Lit. *way of pain* *Ps 140:9

Psalm 140

For the choir director. A Psalm of David.
1 "Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men;
Preserve me from violent men,
2 Who devise evil things in their hearts;
They continually stir up wars.

Prov 15:9; 28:10; Jer 25:5; 36:3 *Ps 5:8; 143:10 *Ps 16:11
140:1 *Ps 17:15; 59:2, 7; 14; 18:48; 86:14; 100:1
7:14; 86:6; 82:2; Prov 6:14; Is 59:4; Hos 7:15 *Ps 56:6

by referring to its two extremes (merism), vv. 8-9 specify all spatial reality, the whole creation: *lead me* . . . *lay hold of me*. Though this language occurs in 73:23-24 to indicate God's solicitous care, it here denotes God's inescapable supervision, not unlike the thought of v. 5.
139:11-12 Just as the whole creation offers no hiding place (vv. 8-9), neither does even the darkness.
139:13-16 You Yourself put me together in the womb and ordained the span of my life before I was born.
139:13 inward parts. Lit. "kidneys"—in Hebrew idiom, the innermost center of emotions and of moral sensitivity—that which God tests and examines when He "tries" a person (see note on 7:9).
139:14 fearfully . . . wonderfully . . . Wonderful. You know me as the One who formed me (see vv. 15-16), but I cannot begin to comprehend this creature You have fashioned. I can only look upon him with awe and wonder (see note on v. 6)—and praise You (see Eccl 11:5).
139:15 in secret . . . depths of the earth. Reference is to the womb, called a "secret" place because it normally conceals (see 7:9; 12:12), and it shares with "the depths of the earth" (see

139:17 Your thoughts. As expressed in His works—and in contrast with "my thought" (v. 2).
139:18 When I awake. The sleep of exhaustion overcomes every attempt to count God's thoughts/works (see 63:6; 139:148), and waking only floods my soul once more with the sense of the presence of this God.
139:19-22 My zeal for You sets me against all Your adversaries.
139:19 O that You would. Jealous impatience with God's patience toward the wicked—whose end will come (Is 11:4). But the psalmist leaves it to God.
139:20 take Your name in vain. Perhaps by calling down curses on those trying to be the faithful servants of God.
139:21-22 A declaration of loyalty that echoes the pledge required by ancient Near Eastern kings of their vassals (e.g., "With my friend you shall be friend, and with my enemy you shall be enemy," from a treaty between Mursilis II, a Hittite king, and Tette of Nuhasi, 14th century B.C.).
139:23-24 Examine me, see the integrity of my devotion and keep me true (see 17:3-5 and note).
139:23 heart. See note on 4:7, *anxious thoughts*. See 54:8. It is no light matter to be examined by God.
139:24 the everlasting way. See note on 169-11.

3 They sharpen their tongues as a serpent;
Poison of a viper is under their lips.
Selah.
4 Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the wicked;
Preserve me from violent men
Who have purposed to trip up my feet.
5 The proud have hidden a trap for me, and cords;
They have spread a net by the wayside;
They have set snares for me. Selah.
6 I said to the Lord, "You are my God;
Give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my supplications.
7 O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation,
You have covered my head in the day of battle.
8 Do not grant, O Lord, the desires of the wicked;
Do not promote his evil device, that they not be exalted. Selah.
9 As for the head of those who surround me,
May the mischief of their lips cover them.
10 May burning coals fall upon them;
Into deep pits from which they cannot rise.
11 May a slanderer not be established in the earth;
May evil hunt the violent man speedily."

3 *Selah may mean: Pause, Crescendo or Musical Interlude *Ps 57:8; 64:1 *Ps 58:4; Rom 8:13; James 3:8
4 *Cf. doveated
5 *Lit. *push* violently *Ps 71:4 *Ps 140:1 *Ps 36:11
6 *Lit. *trap* *Job 18:9; Ps 35:7; 114:12, 13 *Ps 31:4; 57:6; Lam 1:13 *Ps 141:9; Is 8:14; Amos 2:5
6 *Ps 142; 31:14 *Ps 143:1 *Ps 116:1; 100:2
7 *Job 33:9, usually rendered *Lam* *Ps 28:6; 118:14 *Ps 144:10
8 *Ps 112:10 *Ps 102:3
9 *Ps 7:16; Prov 18:7
10 *Lit. *victory* *Ps 116:7 *Ps 219; Matt 3:10 *Ps 36:12
11 *Lit. *man of tongue* *Lit. *thrust* upon throat *Ps 34:21
12 *1 Kin 8:45; 8:9 *Ps 9:4; 18:27; 82:3 *Ps 125; 35:10
13 *Ps 97:12; 117:15
14 *Ps 22:19; 88:2; 70:5 *Ps 51; 143:1
15 *Lit. *fiend* *Ex 10:8; Luke 1:10; Rev 5:8; 8:3, 4 *1 Tim 3:1; Eccl 29:30; 41:1 *Kin 9:8; 19:25; 25:12; 27:6; Eccl 7:5; Gal 6:1 *Ps 25:5; 133:2 *Ps 59:14 *2 Chr 25:12

140:3 tongues. See note on 5:9. *Poison of a viper*. See 58:4 and note.
140:4-5 Protect me from those proud and wicked hunters (see 102:11 and notes).
140:5 The proud. See note on 31:23.
140:6-8 Do not let these wicked men attain their evil designs against me.
140:9-11 Let the harm they plot against me recoil on their heads (see note on 5:10).
140:10 burning coals. See note on 11:6. *fire . . . deep pits*. This combination, together with the conjunction of fire and darkness in Job 15:30; 20:26, suggests the idea that the fire of God's judgment (see v. 11) is a consuming fire.
141:1 Do not incline my heart. Keep me from yielding to the example and urgings of the wicked (see Prov 1:10-16).
141:2 Initial appeal for God to hear.

in Your presence. In contrast to the wicked (v. 10); see notes on 117; 169-111).
Ps 141 A prayer for deliverance from the wicked and their evil ways. The structure of the first half (two Hebrew lines plus three lines) is repeated in the second half, while at the center a couplet develops a complementary theme (see note on v. 5). Like Ps 140, the prayer is profuse in its physiological allusions: hands, mouth, lips, heart, head, bones, eyes.
141 title See note on Ps 138 title.
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141:4 Do not incline my heart. Keep me from yielding to the example and urgings of the wicked (see Prov 1:10-16).



CHRIST AND FAITHFUL PRAYER

CHRIST AND FAITHFUL PRAYER: TEACHING

- I. Jesus enters into his special place of prayer (Vs 39-41)
 - a) The Narrative focused on Him (39)
 - b) Jesus Practiced what he Preached (40)
 - c) Prayer was a private thing for Christ in times of trouble (41)

CHRIST AND FAITHFUL PRAYER: TEACHING

2. Jesus entered Spiritual Warfare (Vs 42-44)

- a. Jesus raised his request and struggle to his “Father” (42a)
- b. Jesus submitted to His Father's Will (Vs 42b)
- c. The presence of a divine being points towards Jesus Temptation in the desert (Vs 43)
- d. Jesus experienced great fear, emotional pain, and spiritual agony leading up to the cross (Vs 44)
 - i. But ultimately Satisfaction (Isaiah 53)

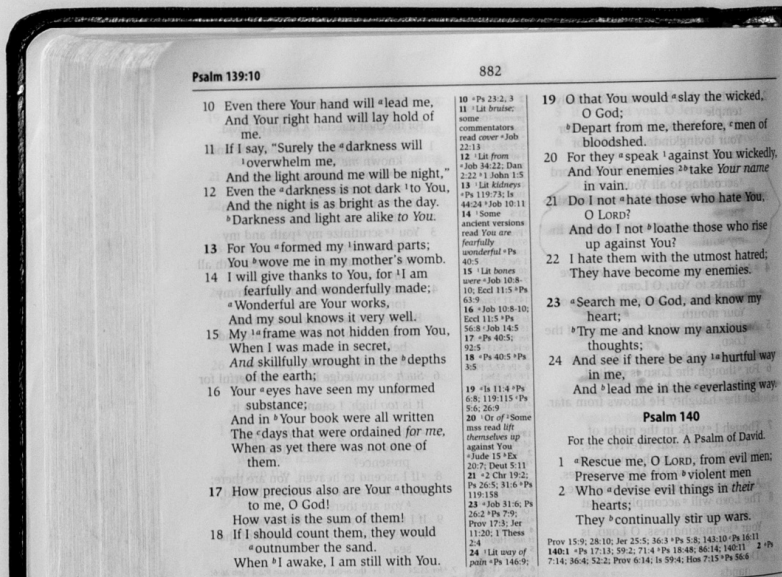
CHRIST AND FAITHFUL PRAYER: TEACHING

3. The Disciples prayer experience is markedly different (Vs 45-46)

- a) They were spiritually as well as physically asleep. (45)
- b) The disciples fell into the temptation that Jesus fought. (46)

Exhortation

1. Faithful prayer is habitual.
2. Faithful prayer is private.
3. Faithful prayer is an honest mixture of both questioning and request as well as submission



10 Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
12 Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You.
13 For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
14 I will give thanks to You, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
15 My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths
of the earth;
16 Your eyes have seen my unformed
substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.
17 How precious also are Your thoughts
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17 *Ps 40:5; 92:5
18 *Ps 40:5 *Ps 35
19 *Is 11:4 *Ps 6:8; 119:115 *Ps 5:6; 26:9
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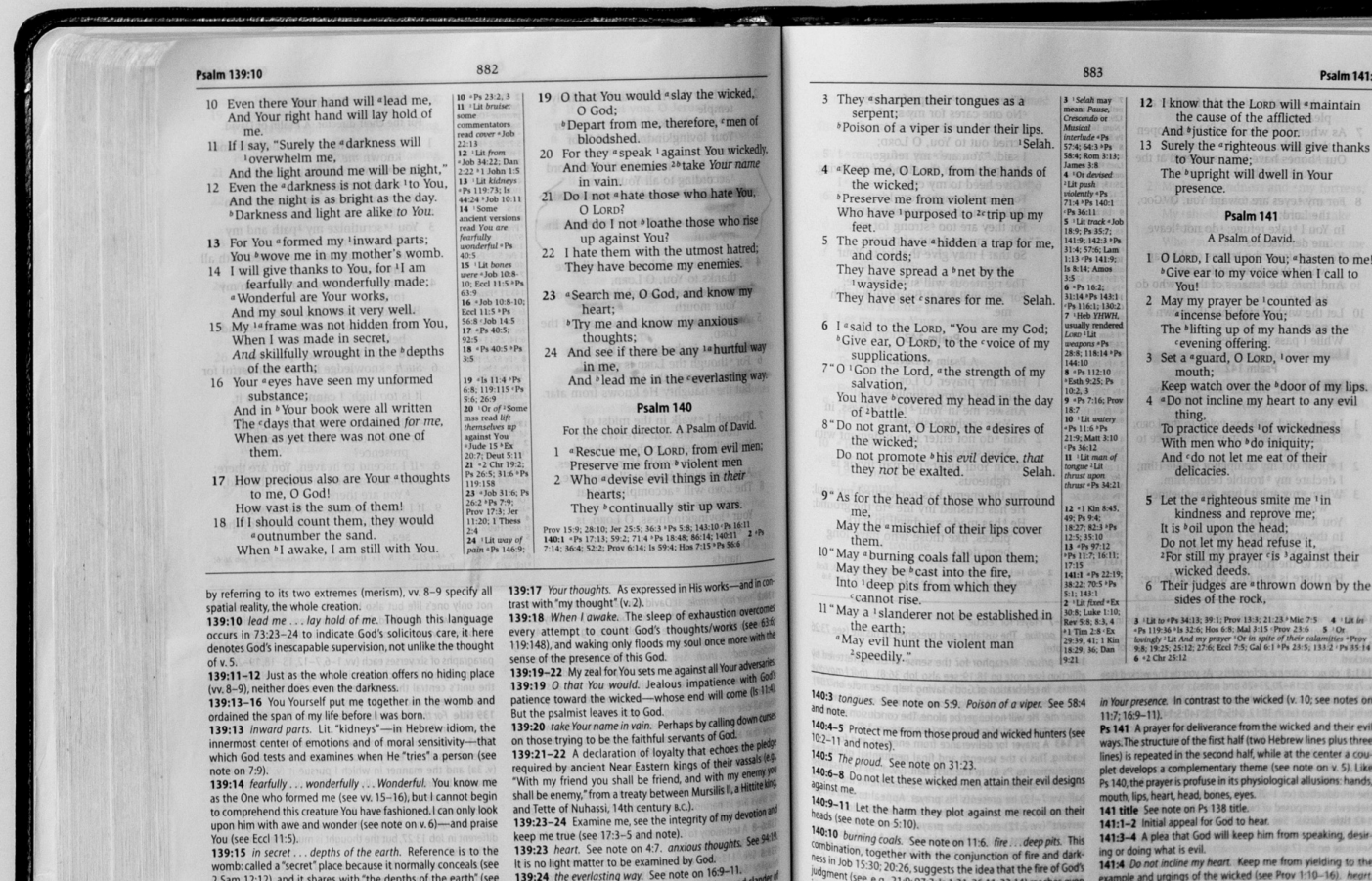
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7 O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation,
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9 As for the head of those who surround me,
May the mischief of their lips cover them.
10 May burning coals fall upon them;
May they be cast into the fire,
Into deep pits from which they cannot rise.
11 May a slanderer not be established in the earth;
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3 *Solely may mean: *Passer, Crowsfoot or Mincul* *Ps 17:1; 54:3 *Ps 54:4; Rom 8:13; James 3:8
4 *Or, *downed*
5 *Lit. *trick* *Job 18:9; Ps 35:7; 141:1; 142:3 *Ps 31:4; 57:6; Lam 1:13 *Ps 141:9; 8:8; 4; Amos 2:5
6 *Ps 142; 31:4 *Ps 143:1; Ps 116:1; 100:2
7 *Job 10:10; usually rendered *Lam 1:2*
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12 *1 Kin 8:45; 8:9 *Ps 4; 18:27; 82:3 *Ps 125; 35:10
13 *Ps 97:12; 117:15
14 *Ps 22:19; 18:2; 70:5 *Ps 51; 143:1
15 *Lit. *head* *Ex 10:8; Luke 1:10; Rev 5:8; 8:3, 4
16 *Ps 119:36; 119:36; Hos 6:1; Mal 3:15; Prov 23:6
17 *Or, *loathly* *Lit. *And my prayer* *Or in spite of their calamities *Prov 9:8; 19:25; 25:12; 27:6; Eccl 7:5; Gal 6:1 *Ps 25:5; 133:2 *Ps 59:14
18 *2 Chr 25:12

140:3 tongues. See note on 5:9. *Poison of a viper*. See 58:4 and note.
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140:6-8 Do not let these wicked men attain their evil designs against me.
140:9-11 Let the harm they plot against me recoil on their heads (see note on 5:10).
140:10 burning coals. See note on 11:6. *fire ... deep pits*. This combination, together with the conjunction of fire and darkness in Job 15:30; 20:26, suggests the idea that the fire of God's judgment (see v. 10) will consume the wicked.
140:11 May a slanderer not be established in the earth. In your presence. In contrast to the wicked (v. 10); see notes on 117; 169-11).
140:12 A plea for deliverance from the wicked and their evil ways. The structure of the first half (two Hebrew lines plus three lines) is repeated in the second half, while at the center a couplet develops a complementary theme (see note on v. 5). Like Ps 140, the prayer is profuse in its physiological allusions: hands, mouth, lips, heart, head, bones, eyes.
141 title See note on Ps 138 title.
141:1-2 Initial appeal for God to hear.
141:3-4 A plea that God will keep him from speaking, desiring or doing what is evil.
141:4 Do not incline my heart. Keep me from yielding to the example and urgings of the wicked (see Prov 1:10-16).
141:5 Give ear to my voice when I call to You! The psalmist's prayer is a plea for God to listen to his cry for help.
141:6-7 The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering. The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering. The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

Exhortation

4. Faithful prayer is about us talking to our “Father”, not us feeling emotionally better.
5. Faithful prayer directly and powerfully combats temptation.



10 Even there Your hand will lead me,
And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me,
And the light around me will be night,"
Even the darkness is not dark to You,
And the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are alike to You.
12 For You formed my inward parts;
You wove me in my mother's womb.
13 I will give thanks to You, for I am
fearfully and wonderfully made;
Wonderful are Your works,
And my soul knows it very well.
14 My frame was not hidden from You,
When I was made in secret,
And skillfully wrought in the depths
of the earth;
15 Your eyes have seen my unformed
substance;
And in Your book were all written
The days that were ordained for me,
When as yet there was not one of them.
16 How precious also are Your thoughts
to me, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
17 If I should count them, they would
outnumber the sand.
When I awake, I am still with You.

10 ¹Ps 28:2, 3
11 ¹Lit. *Arcturic*;
some
commentators
read *cover* Job
22:18
12 ¹Lit. *from*
Job 34:22; Dan
2:22 ¹John 1:5
13 ¹Lit. *kidneys*
¹Ps 119:79; Is
44:24 ¹Job 10:11
14 ¹Some
ancient versions
read *You are*
fearfully
wonderful Ps
40:5
15 ¹Lit. *bones*
were Job 10:8-
10; Eccl 11:5 ¹Ps
63:9
16 ¹Job 10:8-10;
Eccl 11:5 ¹Ps
56:8 ¹Job 14:5
17 ¹Ps 40:5;
92:5
18 ¹Ps 40:5 ¹Ps
35

19 ¹Ps 11:4 ¹Ps
6:8; 119:115 ¹Ps
5:6; 26:9
20 ¹Or, of ¹Some
miss read *lift*
themselves up
against You
¹Jude 15 ¹Ex
20:7; Deut 5:11
21 ¹2 Chr 19:2;
¹Ps 26:5; 116 ¹Ps
119:158
22 ¹Job 31:6; Ps
26:2 ¹Ps 7:9;
Prov 17:3; Jer
11:20; 1 Thess
2:4
24 ¹Lit. *way of*
pain ¹Ps 140:9

19 O that You would slay the wicked,
O God;
Depart from me, therefore, men of
bloodshed.
20 For they speak against You wickedly,
And Your enemies take Your name
in vain.
21 Do I not hate those who hate You,
O Lord?
And do I not loathe those who rise
up against You?
22 I hate them with the utmost hatred;
They have become my enemies.
23 Search me, O God, and know my
heart;
Try me and know my anxious
thoughts;
24 And see if there be any hurtful way
in me,
And lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 140
For the choir director. A Psalm of David.
1 Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men;
Preserve me from violent men.
2 Who devise evil things in their
hearts;
They continually stir up wars.
Prov 15:9; 28:10; Jer 25:5; 36:3 ¹Ps 5:8; 143:10 ¹Ps 16:11
140:1 ¹Ps 17:15; 59:2; 71:4 ¹Ps 18:48; 86:14; 100:11 ¹Ps
7:14; 36:6; 52:2; Prov 6:14; Is 59:4; Hos 7:15 ¹Ps 56:6

3 They sharpen their tongues as a
serpent;
Poison of a viper is under their lips.
4 Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of
the wicked;
Preserve me from violent men
Who have purposed to trip up my
feet.
5 The proud have hidden a trap for me,
and cords;
They have spread a net by the
wayside;
They have set snares for me.
6 I said to the Lord, "You are my God;
Give ear, O Lord, to the voice of my
supplications.
7 O God the Lord, the strength of my
salvation,
You have covered my head in the day
of battle.
8 Do not grant, O Lord, the desires of
the wicked;
Do not promote his evil device, that
they not be exalted.
9 As for the head of those who surround
me,
May the mischief of their lips cover
them.
10 May burning coals fall upon them;
Into deep pits from which they
cannot rise.
11 May a slanderer not be established in
the earth;
May evil hunt the violent man
speedily."

3 ¹Serpent may
mean: *Psalm*;
Crocodile or
Monitor
lizard ¹Ps
57:6; 64:9 ¹Ps
58:4; Rom 8:13;
James 3:8
4 ¹Or, *downed*
¹Lit. *push*
violently ¹Ps
71:4 ¹Ps 140:1
¹Ps 36:11
5 ¹Lit. *trap* Job
18:9; Ps 35:7;
118:16; 143:3
114:5; Lam
1:13 ¹Ps 141:9;
Is 8:14; Amos
2:5
6 ¹Ps 142:
3; 144 ¹Ps 143:1
¹Ps 116:1; 180:2
7 ¹Job 37:30;
usually rendered
Lion ¹Lit.
28:6; 118:14 ¹Ps
144:10
8 ¹Ps 112:10
¹Ps 92:5; Ps
102:3
9 ¹Ps 7:16; Prov
18:7
10 ¹Lit. *snare*
¹Ps 11:6 ¹Ps
219; Matt 3:10
¹Ps 36:3
11 ¹Lit. *man of*
tongue ¹Lit.
strive ¹Ps 34:21
12 ¹1 Kin 8:45;
8:9 ¹Ps 4:
18; 27:8; 33:
12; 35:10
13 ¹Ps 97:12;
117:11; 161:1;
182:2; 70:7 ¹Ps
51:143; 1
141:1 ¹Ps 22:19;
88:2; 70:7 ¹Ps
51:143; 1
2 ¹Lit. *fiend* ¹Ex
10:10; Luke 1:10;
Rev 5:8; 8:3, 4
3 ¹Ps 119:36; 15:24; Job 6:15; Mal 3:15 ¹Prov 23:6 ¹Or,
loathly ¹Lit. *And my prayer* ¹Or in spite of their calamities ¹Ps 94:9; 19:25; 25:12; 27:6; Eccl 7:5; Gal 6:1 ¹Ps 25:5; 133:2 ¹Ps 59:14
4 ¹2 Kin 23:12

12 I know that the Lord will maintain
the cause of the afflicted
And justice for the poor.
13 Surely the righteous will give thanks
to Your name;
The upright will dwell in Your
presence.
Psalm 141
A Psalm of David.
1 O Lord, I call upon You; hasten to me!
Give ear to my voice when I call to
You!
2 May my prayer be counted as
incense before You;
The lifting up of my hands as the
evening offering.
3 Set a guard, O Lord, over my
mouth;
Keep watch over the door of my lips.
4 Do not incline my heart to any evil
thing.
To practice deeds of wickedness
With men who do iniquity;
And do not let me eat of their
delicious.
5 Let the righteous smite me in
kindness and reprove me;
It is oil upon the head;
Do not let my head refuse it,
For still my prayer is against their
wicked deeds.
6 Their judges are thrown down by the
sides of the rock.

12 ¹1 Kin 8:45;
8:9 ¹Ps 4:
18; 27:8; 33:
12; 35:10
13 ¹Ps 97:12;
117:11; 161:1;
182:2; 70:7 ¹Ps
51:143; 1
141:1 ¹Ps 22:19;
88:2; 70:7 ¹Ps
51:143; 1
2 ¹Lit. *fiend* ¹Ex
10:10; Luke 1:10;
Rev 5:8; 8:3, 4
3 ¹Ps 119:36; 15:24; Job 6:15; Mal 3:15 ¹Prov 23:6 ¹Or,
loathly ¹Lit. *And my prayer* ¹Or in spite of their calamities ¹Ps 94:9; 19:25; 25:12; 27:6; Eccl 7:5; Gal 6:1 ¹Ps 25:5; 133:2 ¹Ps 59:14
4 ¹2 Kin 23:12

by referring to its two extremes (merism), vv. 8-9 specify all spatial reality, the whole creation: *Psalm 139:10* *lead me . . . lay hold of me*. Though this language occurs in 73:23-24 to indicate God's solicitous care, it here denotes God's inescapable supervision, not unlike the thought of v. 5.

139:11-12 Just as the whole creation offers no hiding place (vv. 8-9), neither does even the darkness.

139:13-16 You Yourself put me together in the womb and ordained the span of my life before I was born.

139:13 inward parts. Lit. "kidneys"—in Hebrew idiom, the innermost center of emotions and of moral sensitivity—that which God tests and examines when He "tries" a person (see note on 7:9).

139:14 fearfully . . . wonderfully . . . Wonderful. You know me as the One who formed me (see vv. 15-16), but I cannot begin to comprehend this creature You have fashioned. I can only look upon him with awe and wonder (see note on v. 6)—and praise You (see Eccl 11:5).

139:15 in secret . . . depths of the earth. Reference is to the womb, called a "secret" place because it normally conceals (see 7:9; 13:13), and it shares with "the depths of the earth" (see 139:17) Your thoughts. As expressed in His works—and in contrast with "my thought" (v. 2).

139:18 When I awake. The sleep of exhaustion overcomes every attempt to count God's thoughts/works (see 63:6; 139:148), and waking only floods my soul once more with the sense of the presence of this God.

139:19-22 My zeal for You sets me against all Your adversaries (vv. 8-9), neither does even the darkness.

139:19 O that You would. Jealous impatience with God's patience toward the wicked—whose end will come (Is 11:4). But the psalmist leaves it to God.

139:20 take Your name in vain. Perhaps by calling down curses on those trying to be the faithful servants of God.

139:21-22 A declaration of loyalty that echoes the pledge required by ancient Near Eastern kings of their vassals (e.g., "With my friend you shall be friend, and with my enemy you shall be enemy," from a treaty between Mursilis II, a Hittite king, and Tette of Nuhasi, 14th century B.C.).

139:23-24 Examine me, see the integrity of my devotion and keep me true (see 17:3-5 and note).

139:23 heart. See note on 4:7, anxious thoughts. See 54:8. It is no light matter to be examined by God.

139:24 the everlasting way. See note on 169-11.

140:3 tongues. See note on 5:9. Poison of a viper. See 58:4 and note.

140:4-5 Protect me from those proud and wicked hunters (see 102:11 and notes).

140:5 The proud. See note on 31:23.

140:6-8 Do not let these wicked men attain their evil designs against me.

140:9-11 Let the harm they plot against me recoil on their heads (see note on 5:10).

140:10 burning coals. See note on 11:6, fire . . . deep pits. This combination, together with the conjunction of fire and darkness in Job 15:30, 20:26, suggests the idea that the fire of God's judgment (see, e.g., 1:16) is the fire of hell.

140:11-12 Initial appeal for God to hear.

141:3-4 A plea that God will keep him from speaking, desiring or doing what is evil.

141:4 Do not incline my heart. Keep me from yielding to the example and urgings of the wicked (see Prov 1:10-16).

in Your presence. In contrast to the wicked (v. 10); see notes on 11:7; 16:9-11).

Ps 141 A prayer for deliverance from the wicked and their evil ways. The structure of the first half (two Hebrew lines plus three lines) is repeated in the second half, while at the center a couplet develops a complementary theme (see note on v. 5). Like Ps 140, the prayer is profuse in its physiological allusions: hands, mouth, lips, heart, head, bones, eyes.

141 title See note on Ps 138 title.

141:1-2 Initial appeal for God to hear.

141:3-4 A plea that God will keep him from speaking, desiring or doing what is evil.

141:4 Do not incline my heart. Keep me from yielding to the example and urgings of the wicked (see Prov 1:10-16).