

Sunday Night Message

September 1, 2013

Psalm 40

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 40

Introduction

A portion of this psalm is quoted in Hebrews 10:5 – 9:

"Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second." (Hebrews 10:5-9)

The reference in Hebrews is clearly to the Lord Jesus Christ, which makes this a Messianic Psalm.

It is unclear as to which period in David's life that this psalm was written. It has been suggested that this psalm was written shortly after David's coronation as king, which would mean that the first section – David's Song represented his praise to God for delivering him from the hands of Saul. The second section – David's speech would be representative of his dedication as the new king. Finally, the third portion – David's supplication would be David's prayer to God for forgiveness and deliverance from his enemies.

I David's Song (vs. 1 – 5) - David praises God for deliverance.

"To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry." (Psalms 40:1)

Notice that David waited patiently for the Lord. God did not deliver David on David's timetable.

"But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

Did you ever notice that while you are going through a trial, you can never see the good that may be hidden inside of the trial; but afterwards, when you look back, you can always see the good in it.

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

"Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." (Psalms 27:14)

"Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee." (Proverbs 20:22)

"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." (Psalms 40:2)

In this verse I see a wonderful picture of salvation. God pulled me out of a pit when I trusted Christ, and he put me on a new path.

And there have been many times since my salvation when I have found myself in the pit of my own will; but God graciously pulled me up out of those pits as well.

"And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." (Psalms 40:3)

Because God has delivered my soul from Hell, and has also delivered me afterward many times from myself, I am compelled to offer Him praise.

"He delivereth me from mine enemies: yea, thou liftest me up above those that rise up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man. Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name." (Psalms 18:48-49)

"I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee." (Psalms 22:22)

Notice that when I praise the Lord, it glorifies God, and cause others to be drawn to Christ.

The new song of David may very well be vs. 4 - 5

"Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies." (Psalms 40:4)

*"Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."
(Psalms 40:5)*

II David's Speech (vs. 6 - 10) - David preaches about God's goodness.

"Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required." (Psalms 40:6)

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

"Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me," (Psalms 40:7)

When this verse is referenced in Hebrews, it makes complete sense that the New Testament is saying that this psalm was speaking of Christ. However, in the context of David, I am not sure what he was saying. Was he referring to one of the Old Testament writings when he said "in the volume of the book it is written of me"? A king was supposed to write a copy of the Mosaic Law. Perhaps he was saying that the Bible – the Old Testament Law – required that the King delight in the will of God:

"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel." (Deuteronomy 17:18-20)

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." (Psalms 40:8)

"I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest." (Psalms 40:9)

"I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation." (Psalms 40:10)

Notice that David was not afraid to speak what was in his heart. We need to not only appreciate what God has done for us on the inside, but we also need to express that appreciation in the presence of the world around us.

III David's Supplication (11 - 17) - David prays to God for forgiveness.

"Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me." (Psalms 40:11)

"For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me." (Psalms 40:12)

"Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me." (Psalms 40:13)

"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." (Psalms 40:14)

"Let them be desolate for a reward of their shame that say unto me, Aha, aha." (Psalms 40:15)

"Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified." (Psalms 40:16)

"But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God." (Psalms 40:17 KJV)

If this psalm was in fact written in the context of David's coronation, then it would make perfect sense that this portion of the psalm was prayed to bless and protect David from his enemies. This job was bigger than David. He needed God's help. Notice also in v. 16 that David also asked for God's blessing upon those that seek the Lord.

Notice – vs. 13 – 17 – A similar passage of Scripture is found in Psalm 70.

"Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD. Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt. Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame that say, Aha, aha. Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified. But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying." (Psalms 70:1-5)

Praise

Preach

Pray