

## **PSALM 71– God the Rock of Salvation – The Prayer of the Aged Believer!**

11/19/22 – Sat Morn Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com)

*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.*

**ROCK OF AGES** – Augustus Toplady (1740-1778), sung by Ernie Ford (2:39)

1. **Rock** of Ages, cleft for me. Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood From Thy wounded side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure; Save from wrath and make me pure.

2. Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no languor know, These for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone. In my hand no price I bring; Simply to Thy cross I cling

3. While I draw this fleeting breath When my eyelids close in death. When I rise to worlds unknown, and behold Thee on Thy Throne. **Rock** of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee. Let me hide myself in Thee.

**Psalm 71** - It is thought that this prayer was offered to God at the time that David's son, Adonijah had rebelled against his father. As David was really on his deathbed there began a power struggle for the throne. David had promised to Bathsheba that Solomon would be the heir to the throne, that her son would reign when David died. David had not made a public pronouncement of this. It was just sort of a personal promise to Bathsheba. But as David was weakened as he was dying, his son Adonijah began this power struggle and was determined to take the throne from his father even before David was dead. He conspired to gather this group and to, and by force take the throne of Israel. Bathsheba came to David, saying, "Did you not promise that Solomon shall reign" and David said, "Yes." She said, "Well there is this conspiracy, and your other son Adonijah is claiming that he is the king, and he has gathered these men together. You'd better do something now while you are still alive or else it is curtains for Solomon and me when you are dead." So David called Solomon in, and he called the judges in, declaring his intention that Solomon should be the heir to the throne. This psalm is thought to be written at that time. David is old and his strength is gone. There is this rebellion again going on, a rebellion of his son that reminds him of his earlier years also when Absalom had rebelled against him and driven him from the kingdom.

**PSALM 71** – *To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lilies." A Psalm of David. .*

**Vs. 1-4** – Faith's cry for help;

***Psa 71:1 In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be put to shame.***

- Lord, I am going to trust in You! That man who trusts in the Lord should not be put to confusion. Every day must we guard against every form of reliance upon an arm of flesh, and hourly hang our faith upon the ever faithful God. Not only *on* God must we rest, as a man stands on a rock, but *in* him must we trust, as a man hides in a cave. The more intimate we are with the Lord, the firmer will our trust be. God knows our faith, and yet He loves to hear us avow it;

***Psa 71:2 Deliver me in Your righteousness, and cause me to escape; Incline Your ear to me, and save me.***

- Be true, O God, to Your word. It is a righteous thing in You to keep the promises which You hast made unto Your servants. I have trusted You, and You will not be unrighteous to forget my faith.

***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.***

- The Bible says, (**Pro 18:10**) "*The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.*" "You are my hiding place" David said, "You shall preserve me in trouble." Here

David is declaring it rather as a prayer rather than a declaration. He is making it a prayer. How many times we find ourselves fleeing unto the Lord for the strength, for a place of refuge?

- ***You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my rock and my fortress.*** You are my place of defense. I will dwell in the Lord. Permit me to enter into You, and be as much at home as I am in my own house!

***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.***

- God is on the same side with us! Those who are our enemies are also His, for they are wicked; therefore the Lord will surely rescue His own. He will not suffer the evil to triumph over the just?

**Vs. 5-8** – A testimony of experience.

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

- He is praying for God's help and God's deliverance declaring that from his youth He has been the hope of David, the trust and the help of David. We remember that when David was still a young teenager, and he faced the giant that he did so relying upon the Lord. He said, "You come against me with a sword and a spear, but I come against you in the name of the Living God that you have defied." David was trusting in the Lord when he was telling Saul his qualifications to fight the giant. He said, "Once when I was watching the sheep a lion came and began to drag off one of the sheep and the Lord helped me and I killed the lion." Another time a bear was dragging off one of the sheep and "the Lord helped me." So David says, from my youth Lord, I have trusted in you. From my youth You have been my deliverer and You have helped me." It is marvelous to walk with the Lord from your youth and to learn to trust in Him during your youthful years.

***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.***

- He is not talking about being robbed but he is talking about the fact that he did not fall, the Lord was the one holding him up. Had it not been for the Lord's strength he would have fallen.
- I can look back through my whole life and You have been there.

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

- It is not my strength, you are my strength. If we are strong, it is in God! If we are safe, our refuge shelters us! If we are calm, our soul has found her stay in God. When faith is understood, and the grounds of her confidence seen, the believer is no longer a wonder; but the marvel is that so much unbelief remains among the sons of men!

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

- David now makes reference to his old age. A man never grows nauseated though the flavor of it be all day in his mouth. God's bread is always in our mouths, so should His praise be. He fills us with good! Let us be also filled with gratitude! This leaves no room for murmuring or backbiting! Therefore, may we join in with holy David in this sacred wish.

**Vs. 9-13** – The aged saint pleads against his foes

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

- When he was young and strong he trusted in the Lord and the Lord delivered him. He talks about the exploits he had done through the strength of the Lord. But now he says I am an old man, Lord do not forsake me now because I need You more than ever.
- Old age robs us of personal beauty, and deprives us of strength for active service; but it does not lower us in the love and favor of God! An ungrateful country leaves its worn-out defenders to starve upon a scanty pittance, but the believers of heaven are satisfied with good things!

***Psa 71:10 For my enemies speak against me; And those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together,***

- There was this turmoil going on in the kingdom, this conspiracy.

***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.***

**Vs. 14-16** - Rejoicing in hope

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

- He has put his case in God's hands. There is the conspiracy. There are those that are saying God has forsaken him and now is the time to take advantage of his weakness. He is old and cannot defend himself, let us wipe him out. Let us take over. But David is still strong because he declares, "my hope is continually in the Lord and I'm going to praise Him more and more."
- When I cannot rejoice in what I have, I will look forward to what shall be mine, and will still rejoice!

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

- Lord whatever days, I do not know how many days I have left, but what days I do have left I am going to spend in praising You and in declaring Your righteousness and Your salvation.
- We are to bear testimony as experience enables us, and not withholding from others, that which we have tasted and handled. The faithfulness of God in saving us, in delivering us out of the hand of our enemies, and in fulfilling his promises, is to be everywhere proclaimed by those who have proved it in their own history!

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

- As David began his life and his career, he did so in the strength of the Lord. In his confidence in God he faced the giant. Now in his older years that same confidence has manifested. That was not always the case in history. There were many people who began strong trusting in the Lord but in the later years as they gained strength and power they began to trust in their own power. That does seem to be a repeated mistake. A person in the earlier struggling years learns to trust in the Lord. As the years go by and God has blessed them and they become strong, they begin to trust in their riches and in their strength.
- He was being rebuked. Paul, in writing to the Galatians said, "O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you? Having begun in the spirit are you now going to be made perfect in the flesh?" You can see so many people who started out in the spirit. They started out trusting God completely and God blessed them, God delivered them. As they became older, stronger and wealthier but not wiser they did not put their trust in the Lord but in their wealth and strength. Not so with David. He began trusting the Lord from early youth. Now that he is an old man, grey hair, he is still trusting in God.

***Vs. 17-18*** – Returns to prayer again

***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 gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.***

- Passing it off into the next generation. David had a profound affect upon his generation. Through David's faith and trust in the Lord, God had done marvelous things that had a profound affect upon his generation. But David says Lord I want to share it to the next generation! Do not leave me now. Continue Lord your work in my life and through my life so I can bring it to the next generation.
- That is what David's saying, now Lord that I am old and have grey hair. Lord I would like to show to the next generation your power, love and that which You can do. David is desiring God's work in order that it might have a profound affect upon the next generation that is coming along, those that are growing up.
- He would leave a record for unborn ages to read. He thought the Lord's power to be so worthy of praise, that he would make the ages ring with it, till time should be no more. For this cause believers live, and they should take care to labour zealously for the accomplishment of this their most proper and necessary work! Blessed are they who begin in youth to proclaim the name of the Lord, and cease not until their last hour brings their last word for their divine Master!

***Vs. 19-21*** – Repeats the confident hopes which cheered his soul

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

- David is facing this conspiracy and there are problems, but his trust is in the Lord, and he is talking now of the greatness of God and of the power of God in which he has put his trust.

*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.*

- As a king, David grew in influence and power. God did great things for him, and by him, and this is all the greatness believers want.

Vs. 22-24 – Closes with the promise of abounding in thanksgiving

*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.*

- Lord my trust is in You! You have never failed me. I know that You will not fail me now and I will praise You and rejoice in You!

*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.*

- He prayed that God would do that, and he is confident that God will do it. He ends his prayer with praise. The prayer of faith should always end with praise, that confidence that God indeed has heard and will answer.

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

### **GREAT THINGS** - Phil Wickham (4:26)

*Come let us worship our King Come let us bow at His feet He has done **great things***

*See what our Savior has done See how His love overcomes He has done **great things** He has done **great things***

*Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave You free every captive and break every chain*

*Oh God, You have done great things We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive*

*Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high Oh God, You have done great things*

*You've been faithful through every storm You'll be faithful forevermore*

*You have done great things And I know You will do it again For Your promise is "Yes and Amen"*

*You will do great things God, You do great things*

*Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave You free every captive and break every chain*

*Oh God, You have done great things We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive*

*Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high Oh God, You have done great things*

*Hallelujah God, above it all Hallelujah God, unshakable Hallelujah, You have done great things*

*Hallelujah God, above it all Hallelujah God, unshakable Hallelujah, You have done great things You've done great things*

*Oh, hero of Heaven, You conquer the grave You free every captive and break every chain*

*Oh God, You have done great things We dance in Your freedom, awake and alive*

*Oh Jesus, our Savior, Your name lifted high Oh God, You have done great things*

*You have done great things Oh God, You do great things*

**FOR OUR NATION'S LEADERS: PRAY FOR CALIFORNIA: PRAY FOR WORLD LEADERS: - Pray for World Leaders, especially their salvation, including: Xi Jinping – China; Narendra Modi- India; Joe Biden – USA; Joko Widodo - Indonesia; Jair Bolsonaro - Brazil; Arif Alvi - Pakistan; Shehbaz Sharif - Nigeria; Hasina Wazed - Bangladesh; Vladimir Putin- Russia; Lopez Obrador – Mexico; Benjamin Netanyahu – Israel; Olaf Scholtz – Germany; Rishi Sunak – U.K.; Kim Jong-un – North Korea; Yoon Suk Yeol– South Korea.**

**PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE OFFICERS/MILITARY; ISRAEL:**