

**Psalms Chapter 40 Commentary**  
*To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David*

**Ps 40:1 "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2 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."**

If ever a man waited patiently on the Lord, David was one of them. Think about how long it was from the time when he was anointed to be king over all Israel until it happened. Then, how much longer it was until Israel, with David as king, had peace with all nations? In, and through, all that went on in those long years; David had only the promise of God to hold onto.

**Ps 40:2 "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay,"** What does David mean the horrible pit and miry clay? Horrible means *destruction*. Pit means *a hole, which is a reference to hell*. Miry means *dregs or intoxication*. Clay means *sticky or demon, with the idea of being swept away*. From these definitions we get the picture that David, in struggling with his sins, saw himself losing his communion with God. Why? David understood that the intoxications, of the sins of the flesh, were so strong that in yielding to them, he was being sunk deeper and deeper into the miry clay, and without God's deliverance, he would eventually be drowned in those sins and swept away by demons into that horrible pit. God did indeed set his feet upon a rock and establish his goings, by the return of the joy of God's salvation to him. The reason, David could wait patiently for the Lord, was because God had continually delivered him from his sins in times past, and he had the promise that he would live with God in the resurrection from the dead.

This same principle is often true for God's people today. Many are brought to the New Testament Church at an early age. They have a long and hard struggle with the sins of this world, with temptations on every side, just like king David. This world, filled with sins, is a horrible pit of miry clay, which miry clay signifies; the longer we indulge in its sins, the deeper into the horrible pit of miry clay we get. But we, like David, can hold onto the promise of God through the struggles of life, because God has set our feet upon the rock, Jesus Christ, and established our goings by the Word of God. Understand, we must be lifted above the sins of this world to have our feet set upon the solid rock. What do you mean by lifted above? We must be elevated to the higher plane of the New Testament Church, which is above the lower plane of this sin sick world. Jesus demonstrates this when He told the Pharisees, and us, that even the thought of sin, without the act of sin, was sin in our hearts, and the offense of a broken commandment to God. We see this picture in **Mt 5:28 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."** Hereby, we see that imagery plainly.

**Ps 40:2 "and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."** What is it to have our feet set on the rock? It is the picture of going from the state of being corrupted with sin before God the Father, to the state of being born again, of the incorruptible seed, Jesus Christ, and found sinless in the eyes of God the Father. With our feet planted solidly upon the rock, Christ Jesus, we can wait patiently for the fulfillment of God's promise to us; because, we are given the promise of eternal life in a sinless, incorruptible, and immortal body, with Jesus in eternity.

There is also the prophetic picture of the first coming of Jesus Christ. If ever a man waited patiently for the LORD, it was Jesus. If ever the LORD heard the prayer of a man, it was Jesus's prayers, which were heard, and were answered, and are still being answered. God lifted Jesus out of the horrible pit of the misery that he endured for God's people to have eternal remission of sins. God brought Jesus up out of the miry clay, his body of flesh, in resurrection from the dead, out of the grave, and his ascension back to heaven in his glorified body. Jesus's feet were always firmly established upon the rock because Jesus was the rock, and the power of God through the God headship in his prepared body. We can count on Word of God, the King James Bible, because Jesus was the Word. Jesus demonstrated that He was the Rock, by never committing a single sin or breaking a single commandment. God established the goings of Jesus with the establishment of the New Testament Church. This is why we are to purge ourselves of our inherited sin nature, take up our cross, and follow Jesus every day. Oh! what a Saviour! Let us praise and adore him forever!

**3 "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. 4 Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies."**

As we think upon the eternal promise of God to his children, it certainly puts a new song in our hearts. What do you mean? What did the children of Israel do when God delivered them out of Egypt and carried them through the sea on dry ground? They came forth and sang a new song. A song of praise and glory to God for the great deliverance that He had wrought for them.

As Israel traveled through the sea on dry ground, surrounded by water on either side and the Egyptians behind them, surely their hearts trembled with fear. This is a picture of our travel as a child of God in this life. However, when they came out on the other side they had complete trust in God. They held no person in respect, for their God has just shown them how great and powerful He was, and that man could do nothing against him and win. Remember, they saw the Egyptian army drowned in the same sea they went through on dry ground. There is no doubt at that moment, they could not have been deceived by lies, for they were overwhelmed by the power and greatness of God. This is a picture of the life of a child of God in the knowledge of their new birth.

Secondly, the world also saw this great deliverance of Israel from the Egyptians, and it struck great fear in the hearts of all the nations of the earth, for they understood, their idol gods could not stand before the true and living God. It also struck such fear in the hearts of some, so that they were converted and saved, from eternal damnation, by the grace of God, such as Rahab the harlot, who, through the fear of the Lord, hid the spies in Jericho, and saved both herself and her whole household.

**4 "Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust,"** Everyone who believes in the finished work of Jesus Christ, and the eternal salvation of God, will come to God for the eternal salvation of their lives. We see this picture in **Joh 6:37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."** Wherefore, we see the surety of our eternal salvation in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

The same principles were true in king David's life, and the same principles are true in the life of a newly born child of God. I remember when God brought me to the church after several years of struggling against Him. After church at High Bluff on May 11, 1974, Elder Tollie Lee came and spoke to me, as I was propped up against a car still struggling with the emotions in my heart. As he took my hand, God bent me double with great pains and in a vision I could see that I was being carried to the church building by a great eagle, whose talons were gripping me by my loins, and I never felt my feet on the ground until I got to the first step going into the church. God led me to the front bench, where they always set new members when they came forward, and the brethren came and asked what I wanted. I told them I loved them and wanted a home. They opened conference and received me. I can say to you, for about three days I was so light that it felt like my feet were not even touching the ground. It was like I was just floating along as I went about my daily affairs. Then the old inherited sin nature rose up and I came crashing down to earth again. However, I can say with surety that God put a new song in my heart with praise to God. God gave me faith to trust fully in Him. God taught me to have no respect for mankind one above another. Oh, what great and powerful mercies of God I have seen in my life, and I can well witness with king David in this.

I am sure that each child of God, can in their own ways, relate to king David's Psalm in these verses. We each face our own individual sins, yet we all face the same sins, for every sin is sin in the sight of God our Father. If we commit one sin, we are guilty of all sins, as we are told in **Jas 2:10 "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."**

However, we would not leave you in the horrible pit of the thought of being guilty of all sins. WE have a better truth to leave you with, which is the eternal forgiveness of sins, wrought for us by Jesus Christ on the cross. Because Jesus overcame the penalty of death for sin, and gave us eternal life in the new birth, we can know that when He was lifted from the horrible pit of death, and delivered from the miry clay of our sins, we can believe the promise of Jesus, and know that we have had our feet planted on the solid rock. We can believe that Jesus has gone to prepare a place for us, and He is coming back to receive us unto Himself, and all of God's people can say, Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord! Amen!

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

King David could look back in his life and see many wonderful works that God had done in his life, because David was in God's favor. David freely admits; I cannot number the many wonderful deliverances which You have made in my life. I believe that every child of God can witness with David in this, as they look back over their lives and see how God has delivered them repeatedly. Likewise, we should, as David is doing, tell of the wonderful works of God that are manifested in our lives.

**"if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."** Here we see Jesus again, as we are told in scripture in **Joh 21:25 "And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen."** Just a reminder, that even with all the blessings of God we can remember, they are but a drop in the bucket of God's thoughts to usward. (Thoughts, as used here, means; *plan or purpose*) What is God's plan or purpose for his people? To bring glory and honor to God's name on earth, and to praise Him in eternity.

**6 ¶ "Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required."**

Surely, king David knew of Saul's failure to obey God, which finally brought about his death, and brought to fruition David being anointed king over Israel. God told Saul, through Samuel, in **Sa 15:22 "And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."** David knew this: but David also knew this by experience. Any time that David did not obey God; God sent trials and tribulations, in abundance, in his life, until David was humbled before God and serving him faithfully again. God has surely revealed Jesus to us, as the one true sacrifice for sin. Since there is no more sacrifice to be made for sin, we are left with obedience to God, and his Word, as our portion of worship to God, here in time.

**"Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire;"** This is a prophesy of the fulfilling of the sacrificial law by Jesus. It was not God's desire that Adam would sin and pass on to all mankind an inherited sin nature. Adam's sin would require the sacrifice of God's Son, for the sin of all who are to be saved eternally. What do you mean? God knew that man would fall in sin, and the sacrifice of his Son would be required, but it was not something that God desired to do. We see this in **Heb 10:6 "In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure."**

What is the hardest thing that God ever had to do? To turn his back upon, and withdraw himself from, Jesus on the cross, which was necessary so that Jesus, the man in a prepared, sinless, mortal, body, would die a mortal death. Thus, we can conclude; David is prophesying of the coming of Jesus, not as a burnt offering for sin, but a blood offering for the remission of sins, to come through Jesus's sacrifice of himself on the cross, which would end the sacrificial law. Thus, we see; obedience to God, and faith in the finished work of Jesus, are the things that bring us humbly before God, and make us willing to do what he requires of us.

Thank you, King Jesus, for ensuring that we will spend eternity with you in the immortal heaven, Hallelujah!

**7 "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. 9 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. 10 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."**

David understood that his name was written in the book of life, and therefore, he was willing to humbly submit his life to God, for he told us in **Ps 138:8 "The LORD will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O LORD, endureth forever: forsake not the works of thine own hands."** He was willing to do whatsoever God required of him. David was especially prepared to declare the righteousness of God to all Israel, and anyone else who would listen. This should be our hearts' desire when we understand that we have been born again, and we know that our names are in the Lamb's Book of Life.

This is certainly a prophesy of the first coming of Jesus Christ to this earth. Jesus fulfilled all these items when He was on the earth. Jesus came as was prophesied by the bible. Jesus came because he delighted to do the will of his Father, God. The law of God was within Jesus, and was Jesus, because Jesus was the Word, and He preached righteousness to all, by words and actions. Jesus did not withhold his lips from preaching the truth of God. He hid not God's righteousness, for it was his own righteousness. Jesus declared the faithfulness of God the Father, and the salvation of God by the grace of God, not through the works of man, but through himself, seen in **Joh 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."** Jesus revealed the lovingkindness of God, and the truth of God, to all the great congregation.

What is defined by the great congregation? For king David: it is all those of Israel who would be saved. For us today: it is all the Gentiles that will be saved by God's grace. These two groups make up the great congregation.

**"I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation."** What is the loving kindness and the truth of God? It is defined in Jesus Christ and his coming to this world and giving His life for all the sheep that God the Father had given Him to save. If you have been born again and have eternal salvation by the grace of God, then you have within you the truth of God, because Jesus is the Truth of God defined in **Joh 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**

As we are commanded to take up our cross daily and follow Jesus, seen in **Lu 9:23 "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me."** Thus, it is enjoined upon us to yield the same fruit as Jesus in our lives here on earth, as commanded in **Ga 5:22-26; 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. 26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."** If we live our Christian life like this, we fulfill what is written of us, which is to bring glory to the name of God on earth, and through the finished work of Jesus, we will praise God continually in eternity.

**11 ¶ "Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me. 12 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. 13 Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me: O LORD, make haste to help me."**

Now, David turns to prayer for the continual preservation of his life, from the evils of the world around him. David prays for forgiveness of his sins, which he says are innumerable. He declares that when I see my sins before mine eyes, my heart faints, and I need you, Oh God! to deliver me from them, and that very quickly, lest they drag me down into the miry pit, and I lose sight of Thee.

Every Child of God can witness with these feelings that David is expressing. Why? Because our adversary, the devil, is continually bringing our past sins before us, tempting us to take our eyes off of God. It is times such as these, that we must remember the finished work of Jesus, which will bolster our faith and trust in God, as well as pray for the deliverance of God in our lives.

**14 "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. 15 Let them be desolate for a reward of their shame that say unto me, Aha, aha."**

David prays to God that his enemies will be confounded and put to shame for trying to overthrow him. David asks God to bring desolation and shame upon those who seek his hurt. David says that they rise up and cry **"Aha, aha,"** and they do not know thy great loving kindness to me, nor thy great power of destruction of both body and soul in hell. David is asking God to reveal Himself to them, so they will be ashamed and confounded.

**"let them be driven backward and put to shame that wish me evil."** Here we see prophetically what happened when Judas betrayed Jesus in the garden, seen in **Joh 18:4-6; 4 "Jesus therefore, knowing all things that should come upon him, went forth, and said unto them, Whom seek ye? 5 They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. 6 As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground."** Oh! how they cried **"Aha, aha,"** as Jesus submitted himself to be crucified, and to suffer all their castigations against him.

**16 "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified. 17 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."**

Again, king David gives us instruction for living the life of a child of God in the New Testament Church. We are instructed to praise God continuously, which if we do will fulfill the first great commandment, **Mt 22:37 "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."** David tells us that if we do this, we will rejoice, and be glad in Jesus, and will magnify the name of the LORD.

David still confesses the weakness of his sinful flesh nature, but he remembers that God thinks upon him, as a son of God. He remembers that God is his help and deliverer. David asks God to come quickly to his aid, for if the Lord does not come quickly, he knows he will be drowned, in the miry clay of the horrible pit, and he will no longer be able to praise God before the great congregation.

Surely, we can all witness with king David in this, and we can with the joy of God's salvation in our hearts, say, Hallelujah! Amen!