

Psalm 70-72

Psalm 70 is a reflection *on*, or a basic repeat *of* the last 5 Vs of Ps 40. It's what we might refer to as a psalm for the impatient person, which is another way of saying that it speaks to all of us. Because how many of us really think that when it comes to *our lives* God moves fast enough? We're able to encourage our brother or our sister to have patience and wait upon the Lord however when it comes to *me*, "C'mon God what's the deal, let's get this thing done already!" I suppose that's one reason we have each other as a body, we're able to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ; when I'm having difficulty dealing with something you're able to encourage me to hold on, to not lose heart to remember God's faithfulness and vice versa.

As for the *remembrance* (we see in the header, "To the Chief musician. A Psalm of David, to bring to remembrance.") exactly what's being remembered I don't know. Maybe the simple fact that God was faithful to follow through and deliver you even though you felt like you were in a tight place. We spoke Sunday morning a bit about the Passover and how that feast was to bring them to a place of *remembering* where they'd been and what God had delivered them from. Even so it's no doubt healthy to rehearse God's faithfulness in our hearts, to remember those times that we weren't certain they were going to work out or how things were going to come together but here we are and God has done the work.

I have discovered that God has perfect timing, now that's not to say that it's *my* timing. My timing is both imperfect and impatient, quicker is often times better in my book; that's simply not the way God operates. So what do we do? We cast our cares upon Him knowing that He cares for us, we seek by the Spirit to be anxious for nothing, but in all things through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving we let our requests be made known to God and let the peace of God which passes all understanding guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus our Lord. Let's take a look at the 70th Psalm.

Vs 1-5

It's a common thread we see woven throughout the psalms, "God get them, but garrison me!" "Punish them, protect me..." and There is a sense in which it's an appropriate cry in that vengeance doesn't belong to me, it belongs to the Lord. So it's only right that we commend the care of our enemies into the hand of God; however He chooses to deal with the situation is up to Him. Perhaps the way He'll rescue *me* is to save *them*, when those who come against you suddenly wind up on the same side as you, the problem has a way of dissolving. Regardless of how God deals with it we do well to commend our problems into His hands.

and In so doing we're going to have to settle into the fact that His timing isn't our timing, that He has our eternal good and His eternal glory at heart. But because of the fact that God is on one time schedule and we so often are on another we'll find ourselves having a kindred spirit to David thinking, "Lord, hurry!" But that's a difficult concept for us to take in because God does not live in a "time/space continuum" you and I do.

God dwells in the eternal; now that's not to say that God doesn't know and/or understand where you live; He does. It's simply to say that what we consider fast in a certain situation Vs what God considers fast may be 2 different things. Jesus said in Rev 22:20 "*Surely I am coming quickly.*" Now in this time/space continuum in which we live we look at that and say... "Uh...that was over 2,000 yrs ago, what exactly do you mean by 'quickly.'"

However when you read in the scriptures, "*For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it is past, And like a watch in the night.*" Ps 90:4 You begin to realize that in the spectrum of eternity 1,000yrs is like a day, or even just a few hours (a watch in the night), your mentality starts to change. You realize that according to the Lord's "clock" He's only been gone at most a couple days, and perhaps just a few hours, ½ a day or so. So when you need your deal to work out with in the week it doesn't even equal a nanosecond of eternity. If God brings it together with in the week, it's happening at light speed. ;0)

Now again I say those things light heartedly because although they're true it's equally true that God knows where we live, He's not ignorant to our needs or the timetable in which they operate (He created it). But even with that His timing is obviously different than ours for His own purpose and His own glory ultimately.

Mary and Martha sent the message to Jesus, "The one whom you love is sick." What they were saying was, "Lord, make haste to help me! You are my help and my deliverer, O Lord, do not delay." Yet the Lord delayed 4 days, by the time He arrived on the scene the unthinkable had happened, Lazarus had died. But Jesus had a plan that exceeded their expectations and would serve to glorify Him and magnify God all the more. So there are times that God's timing is different than our simply because He has a different plan than what we're able to see, the tree is so big in front of our face that we can't see the forest. God has the eternal in mind.

With regard to the statement in Vs 5 regarding being poor and needy we need to understand that being poor and needy really has nothing to do with the amount of money one makes. In Ps 51 David said, "*For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart — These, O God, You will not despise.*" Ps 51:16-17 A person who is poor and needy is one who recognizes his/her own poverty/bankruptcy of spirit, that we have nothing to offer God but that we're completely dependant upon Him. In Matt 5 Jesus said it this way, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" Matt 5:3 Consider David, if there was anyone who had the physical capability to take care of himself, not too mention a kingdom at his beck and call, it was Him. Yet He refused to take matters into his own hands, he sought the Lord to rescue him and take care of him. Now if God gave him a direction to take, he was all over it, but he wanted to move in the power of God, not presuming upon God, big difference.

Psalm 71

Psalm 71 isn't attributed to anyone in particular so as far as the human instrument is concerned we don't know who wrote it. I personally believe it was the aged David; one thing is evident and that is that whoever wrote it was getting up there in years and was concerned that God continue with him as his personal strength began to fail. Again we know the scripture, "*For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'*" Heb 13:5 Even so that doesn't diminish the real feelings that we have in our humanity and at times we need that reassurance that God's not finished with us, that as long as there is breath in us He has a plan for us, He'll continue to be with us until He takes us unto Himself. So here the psalmist says...

Vs1-3

We can sense the desperation in his prayer as we read things along the lines of, "I trust You, deliver me, cause me to escape, save me, be a strong refuge and a fortress for me." As we read these things we can't help but be reminded of the proverb which says, "*The name of the Lord is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.*" Prov 18:10 He's running to the Lord that he might find a place of safety and security *in* the Lord.

He didn't look to find comfort from the modern amenities *of* this world, wasn't looking to loose himself in the various avenues of escape *in* this world, He cried out to the Lord. So to with you, so to with me, when we're down and out, feeling downcast and desperate we're to retreat in the Lord, not the things of this world. It's amazing how many people retreat into the bottom of a bottle, or seek to numb themselves with various substance, or escape reality in any # of ways socially, or circumstantially; *the Lord* is our strong tower, we find safety under the shelter, under the shadow of *His* wings.

Now there in Vs 1 where he says, "Never let me be put to shame" if you have a KJV the word "shame" has been translated "confusion." The word can be used either way, the only reason I draw that out is because it seems to be a bit of an underlying fear we have as humanity that as we grow older that everything about our body that won't hurt will be broke, and our minds will begin to slip, we won't think clearly, we'll be confused easily. The bible says, "*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*" 2 Tim 1:7 I'm not saying that diseases can't become a reality and that if you're a believer you don't need to worry about Alzheimer's or something of that nature. But God hasn't given us a spirit of fear, we don't have to worry about becoming confused, or loosing it mentally simply because we're elderly. Now I don't have the medical insight to back this up but it seems to me that the mind is not much different than any other muscle in our body that if we cease to use it, it grows weaker, it's good to be stimulated, and challenged intellectually from time to time. Use your mind that why God gave it to you, think things through. Here the psalmist is crying out that as he grows older that he not be put to shame, not be put to confusion but that God would shield and safeguard him.

Vs4-5

2 Things; Vs 5 we see here not only God's "saving" power, but what we might refer to as His "keeping" power. As the psalmist is writing this he's a presumably older man however he makes mention of the fact that God is his hope (his assurance) and his trust from his youth. God not only grabbed hold of him as a youth, but He's *kept* hold on him throughout the course of his life. God not only saves us, He keeps us, if He begins the work He'll be faithful to complete it.

The 2nd thing I'd have you note from these Vs is this; there in Vs 4 he's asking God to deliver him out of the hand of the wicked, from the unrighteous and cruel man. Here's what I'm trying to say, to think that as you get older you'll have life licked and you won't have anymore battles is to only deceive yourself. The place where there are no more battles is called heaven, and until we're there, there will be struggles, stresses, and battles. When Paul told Timothy to flee youthful lust he didn't say that they were lusts that were limited to the youth. Because of David's sin with Bathsheba God told David that the sword would never depart from his house, there would be battles that he would fight until the day that he went to be with the Lord, contention and conflict. So we don't place our hope in the fact that when we get older things will get easier and easier, we place our confidence in the Lord, "For You are my hope O Lord God; You are my trust from my youth."

Vs6-8

To a degree getting older is a relative thing, I used to think 30 seemed old, now that I'm pushing 37 even 60 doesn't seem that bad, my point is this. Another pitfall people can succumb to as they get older outside of confusion is *complaining*. You know, this *aches*, that's *sore*, as I mentioned if it's not hurting it's broken, the other day I was getting out of bed and pulled a muscle in my upper back...just getting out of bed!

Things just don't work or recover as quickly as they used to... Here the psalmist (as an elderly man) beseeches the Lord that rather than seeing things negatively that his mouth might be filled with praise continually. But here's the deal, it's out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, as we get older we need the Lord to continue to work in our hearts, we need to be taking His word into our lives, that out of the wellspring of our heart our mouth might bring forth His praise. He says, "God I want to magnify, and glorify Your name continually."

Vs9-16

For some reason his enemies had translated the fact that because he was growing weaker physically that God was no longer with him spiritually. We live in a world where the wages of sin take their toll, our bodies will breakdown and grow physically weaker as the years go by, that's just the fact. But our outward appearance has no bearing whatsoever on our spiritual vitality. Paul the apostle said, "...we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day." 2 Cor 4:16

Outwardly our health may fail us, our bodies may grow weaker, but inwardly, the spiritual man may excel all the more, growing more and more healthy, stronger and stronger. The psalmist realizing that said then that he would make his boast in the strength of the Lord, Vs 16, “I will go in the strength *of the Lord*.” Not in my strength, but in His, Paul said that we’re to be strong *in the Lord* and in the power of *His* might, not our might. Our flesh and our heart might fail, but the Lord is our strength and our portion forever.

So we love Vs 14-15, “I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more. My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day, for I do not know their limits.” When it comes to me, there are definite limits, when it comes to my righteousness there’s not even a beginning much less an ending, I have no righteousness of my own, there’s nothing in me worth really talking about. (Even though for most of us our favorite topic of conversation is ourselves). But eternity won’t be enough time to search *out* and speak *of* the righteousness and salvation of God, “I do not know their limits.” Where sin abounds grace abounds still more, who can know the height, the depth, the length and the width of the love of God? “*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*” Rom 11:33

Vs17-18

“God You’ve shown Yourself strong on my behalf from the time of my youth and I haven’t ceased to declare Your wondrous works, keep me strong so as to declare Your ways to the next generation.” Basically he’s saying that He’s wants to be somehow and in someway active for God until the day God is finished with him, then he wants to go home to be with the Lord. He doesn’t want to come to a place whereby he’s inactive or unable to be used by God, but rather he’s seeking the Lord to use his life all the days of his life. I think that’s only an appropriate desire that should be in each of us as believers, “As long as God can use me I’m both willing and wanting to be here, but when the time comes that He can’t use me or is finished with me on this earth then I’m ready to go and be with Him.”

Vs19-24

Life may serve us times of trouble and tribulation, we’re to trust in the Lord and lead lives that give praise and glory to Him. He’s committing Himself to a life of praise.

Now there in Vs 21 we see the idea of the resurrection again in the OT, it’s definitely veiled in the OT as compared to the way it’s readily revealed in the new, but hope of life beyond death is not a foreign concept to the OT. He says, “You shall revive me again and bring me up again from the depths of the earth.”

Even as far back as Job (though he vacillated quite a bit) he said, “*For I know that my Redeemer lives, And He shall stand at last on the earth; And after my skin is destroyed, this I know, That in my flesh I shall see God,*” Job 19:25-26 He was saying that even after he died he knew that in his flesh he would see God, or another way to understand that; he believed in the resurrection. Here we see the resurrection, when the psalmist said in Ps 16:10-11, “*For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*” Paul pointed out in the book of Acts that that was a reference to the resurrection (the resurrection of Christ specifically). So the resurrection is nothing new to the NT, however it is drawn out in much clearer light in the NT.

Psalm 72

Again with ps 72 there’s a bit of confusion as to who exactly wrote it. Some of the captions in your bibles will say, “A Psalm *of* Solomon” others will say, “A Psalm *for* Solomon.” So the question is, did David write it *for* Solomon or is it a psalm *of* Solomon, we don’t know for sure. I lean toward it being a Psalm of David, either way it doesn’t really matter who the human instrument is, the author of *all* of the word of God is the Holy Spirit. It’s definitely indicative and descriptive of Solomon’s reign and beyond Solomon (though it’s not quoted as messianic in the NT) it’s definitely indicative and descriptive of the Greater than Solomon, Jesus Christ’s reign.

Vs1-7

Really we’re going to see throughout this entire psalm elements of Solomon’s reign that will be fulfilled in their fullness during the millennial reign of Christ. “He will judge Your people with righteousness, And Your poor with justice.” As the rule of Solomon was being inaugurated you recall that God asked him what he wanted Him to do for him. Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge that he might go out and come in before the people and judge them in a righteous and just fashion. Shortly after that a case came up where 2 women were claiming the same infant and Solomon demonstrated the wisdom of God in discerning the situation. He judged the people with righteousness, however ultimately it’s the King of kings who will judge the world in righteousness, it’s the Prince of peace who will bring peace to the people. The name Solomon is from the Hebrew “Shalom” which means “peace” but it’s Christ who will bring true peace, His peace upon the earth when He reigns.

God promised David that he would have One of his lineage who would reign eternally, that he wouldn’t fail to have One upon the throne who was from him. “Throughout all generations, as long as the sun and moon endure, in His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace until the moon is no more.” Pointing again (ultimately) to the rule and reign of Christ, He’s the One who will reign eternal on the throne of God.

Vs8-14

Again we seen partial fulfillment of these things in the reign of Solomon (though Solomon didn't ultimately finish well) kings paid homage to him, the queen of Sheba brought gold and an abundance of spices to him, royalty from the known world sent gifts to him. However it's when Christ is on the throne that all kings, and all nations shall serve Him. Who are the kings that will be upon the earth during Christ's reign? They're sitting here tonight, they're all over the world, all who've called upon the name of the Lord. Rev 5:9-10, "*And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.'*"

Somehow and in someway we will reign upon the earth under Christ during the millennial kingdom, and we will bow before Him, give glory to Him and present ourselves before Him in worship on a regular basis; I for one am looking forward to it.

Vs15-17

In that day there will no lack for food, people won't be in a place where they might not have anything to eat, even in places where grain don't ordinarily grow (on the top of the Mts) there will be an abundance of provision. And He shall daily be praised, His name shall endure forever, mankind will be blessed in Him, and every nation shall call Him blessed.

Now this psalm ends with a doxology which brings the 2nd book of the psalms to a close, it's divided into 5 books each ending in a doxology; book 2 comes to a close with these words.

Vs18-20

Which would mean that if David wrote this psalm, this was the last psalm that He wrote, some believe that this was something that was placed upon an earlier collection of David's psalms, then more psalms were added later; we'll see more psalms of David in the psalms, however as I mentioned they would've simply been written at an earlier time. They're not in a sequential order.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel who only does wondrous things (I love that, He *only does wondrous things*). And Blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen."

Prayer Points:

Lord we look forward with excited anticipation to Your rule and reign upon the earth. A time when righteousness will reign and peace will abound. When provision will be abundant and daily You will be praised. Meanwhile Lord may we serve with all that we are praising You yet more and more. May our mouths tell of Your righteousness and Your salvation all the day for Lord we do not know their limits. and May we be faithful to pass on to the next generation the knowledge and practical life lessons that You've committed to our trust.