



WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Psalm 40

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the
Bible
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 40.

Topics.

- The LORD heard my cry and drew me out of the miry bog.
- He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
- Sacrifice, sin and burnt offering God has not desired.
- I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me.
- My iniquities are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.
- Deliver me! O LORD, let my enemies be put to shame.
- May all who love your salvation continually say, "Great is the LORD?"
- The LORD takes thought for me he is my help and my deliverer.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

1

BOOK ONE (PSALM 1-41)

PSALM 40:1-2

To the Choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

The LORD; He Heard my Cry and Drew me out of the Miry Bog.

- **Psalm 40:1-2:** I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ²He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

The pit of destruction refers to death either by enemies or sickness while the miry bog refers to having a mind filled with anxiety, depression, despair, sadness, grief and sorrow. Some troubling circumstance in David's life had brought him to a place of deep grief, sorrow and despair. These words of David shine a brilliant light upon the truth that faithful are not exempt from experiencing times of troubles, hardships and hurts. David has to endure it and wait patiently until rescue and recovery came from the LORD.

Ecclesiastes chapter three tells us there is a time and season:

- To be born, to die; to plant and to pluck up what is planted. (v2).
- To kill, to heal; to break down and to build up. (v3).
- To weep, to laugh; to mourn and to dance. (v4).

- To cast away stones, to gather stones; to embrace and to refrain from embracing. (v5).
- To seek, to lose; to keep, and to cast away. (v6).
- To tear, to sew; to keep silence and to speak. (v7).
- To love, to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. (v8).

Certainly God will do everything needed to keep the faithful secure for eternal life and provide all things needed for our salvation, but while we live in this corrupted fallen body that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam and live in this corrupted world of sin there are no guarantees that one of the above times and seasons will not befall us.

PSALM 40:3

He put a New Song in My Mouth, a Song of Praise to our God.

- **Psalm 40:3:** He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

The new song refers firstly, to David who the LORD has drawn up from the pit of destruction and the miry bog and to all the faithful who were delivered from suffering during his generation, but it is not limited to David's era. The following verses show that David's words take up wings and transcend his time to their ultimate fulfilment which is the new song that those saved under the New Covenant of grace sing to the Lord Jesus Christ.

PSALM 40:4-6

2

Sacrifice, Sin and Burnt Offering God has Not Desired.

- **Psalm 40:4-6:** Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! ⁵You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told. ⁶Sacrifice and offering you have not desired, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required.

Those who make the LORD their trust embraces the idea that they also make His law their trust it means they do what is good and right rather than follow the ways of the prideful and those who lie, cheat and deceive for their own gain. The faithful who follow the laws of God will not go astray, meaning they will not walk upon paths that have trouble and hardship, grief and sorrow waiting at the end for them.

God has multiplied His wondrous deeds and His thoughts toward us: (v5) embraces the following two things:

- All the breathtaking glories of the heavens as well as the many different colours and wonders of creation upon the earth and all the beauty seen in the animals, the birds and the fish that swim freely in the rivers and oceans.
- His eternal plan of salvation as revealed in the promised Messiah the Christ the seed of Abraham from the foundations of the world and manifested to us on the bloodstained cross of Calvary.
- His abundant love mercy and grace shown toward the sinner seeking forgiveness and eternal life.

Sacrifice, sin and burnt offering you have not desired: (v6) at face value this seems to contradict the Levitical laws God gave to Israel commanding them to regularly offer sacrifices to God on the altar of the Temple. But David is not contradicting the command of the LORD; he is simply saying, "It is not the sacrifices and offerings God desired, but the passion, integrity, honesty and devotion of the heart of the one offering them." Almost all sacrifices became food for the high priest, the Levitical Priesthood and their families God doesn't need food His delight was in the heart attitude of the one giving the offering.

The sacrifices were called offerings to the LORD because they were given to the Levitical Priesthood who was God's representatives on earth before mankind during the Old Testament. The death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ abolished the need for the Levitical priesthood; he is the only High Priest any man or woman needs today. No one needs a human priest to intercede for them before God today in fact those who do trust in human priests and go to them to confess their sins are not only denying all Christ achieved for them on the cross, but are also deceiving themselves and being deceived by the priest.

PSALM 40:7-10

I have come; in the Scroll of the Book it is Written of Me.

- **Psalm 40:7-10:** Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: ⁸I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart." ⁹I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. ¹⁰I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

The author of Hebrews cites these words saying:

3

- When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.' "⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Heb. 10:5-10).
- It was fitting that God, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. ¹¹For he (Jesus) who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin (God). That is why he (Jesus) is not ashamed to call them brothers, ¹²saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." (Heb. 2:10-12).

Though Christ did not appear during the Old Testament age, David was still saved by faith in him, because he by faith looked:

- Toward the promised seed of the woman spoken of in Genesis. (Gen. 3:15).
- Toward the promised seed of Abraham. (Gen. 26:4) (Gal. 3:16).
- Toward the prophet Moses said was to come like him. (Deut. 18:15) (Acts 3:22) (Acts 7:37).
- Toward the Holy One to come (whose body God will not let see corruption in death) (Psalm 16:9-11).
- Toward the promised seed of David. (Psalm 89:4) (Psalm 132:11) (Jer. 23:5) (Matthew 1:1).

- Toward the Messiah the Christ all the Old Testament prophets and the Scriptures speak of such as (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53). The Lord Jesus himself said, "I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (Heb. 10:7) (the scroll of the book refers to the Scriptures).

Though David had never seen the Lord mattered little because he by faith looked toward the promised Messiah the Christ and by this faith had Christ's Spirit and love dwelling within in the same way that the faithful today who have also have never seen the Lord have by faith Christ's Spirit and love dwelling in their hearts and minds. Added to this even though Old Testament Israel offered animal sacrifices to God they were not saved by them; they were a type and shadow of Christ the Lamb of God without blemish the Saviour to come and it is his blood that cleanses them. This is because the power of Christ's cleansing blood flows back to the foundation of the earth so that the faithful of the Old and New Testament are saved by the same Saviour and the same Redeemer. In the book of Revelation, it is written:

- All that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8).

And Peter wrote:

- You were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot foreordained before the foundation of the world and manifest in these last times for you. (1 Peter 1:18-20).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus was not only the central focus of God's eternal mind and of His eternal plans and purposes for mankind's salvation and for eternity, but also the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. The cleansing power of Jesus blood shed on the cross of Calvary doesn't just cover and cleanse only those who have come to the Lord after his death and resurrection, but flows all the way back to the foundations of the earth to Adam and Eve like an invisible spiritual river cleansing all the faithful of the Old Testament from the fall of Adam onward who by faith looked to the appearing of the promised Messiah the Christ. Since David was by faith filled with Christ's Spirit and was not only a king, but also a prophet many faint and sometimes very loud echoes of Christ can be found in many of his Psalms even though he is speaking of himself. This Psalm is a good example of this principal. The, scroll of the book (the Scriptures) are written of David and of Christ. Both David and Christ had the LORDS word written in their heart and their desire was to do His will. They both told of the Good News of the LORD and spoke of God's love faithfulness and salvation and the LORD did not restrain His faithfulness, His mercy or His steadfast love from Christ or from David. These verses are a great example of the wonder, splendour and beauty of the language of the Scriptures. The Bible is full of many verses that transcend the immediate story or person in focus to an ultimate future event or person (almost always Christ).

NOTICE: it is not what we give to the LORD that is of value to Him, but doing God's will (v7), "Some might ask, "But what is God's will?" Jesus summed God's will up in the following words, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:31) which means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. James the brother of Jesus said:

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. The thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the

thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah clearly show the law is about doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt. The spirit under-pinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm. Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote:

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do. The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort, but also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice.

Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it. This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see:

- Matthew 5 in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 40:11-12

My Iniquities are more than the Hairs of my Head.

- **Psalm 40:11-12:** As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me! ¹²For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

Even though David was a king who had all the riches any of us could ever dream off, and a harem of the most beautiful women his greatest treasure in life was God's steadfast love. His words, "My iniquities are more than the hairs of my head," embraces his outward sins and every sinful thought

and attitude that dwells within our fallen corrupted body of flesh (i.e., selfishness, pride, anger, lustful thoughts jealousy, covetousness and such like things). This is why he says his heart fails him when he thinks of all the sin that dwells within and the sins that he has outwardly committed and why he says, God's faithfulness will forever preserve him for salvation and eternal life. Some might say, "If God's faithfulness covers why not do as we please," The answer to this is simple, we may fool man, but we cannot fool God, he perceives the honest motivation of the heart and will judge accordingly. It is almost certain those who deliberately use God's faithfulness as an excuse to sin will find themselves standing in the group Jesus speaks of in the following verses:

- Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21).
- Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I tell you? (Luke 6:46).

PSALM 40:13-15

Deliver Me! O LORD, Let My Enemies Be put to Shame.

- **Psalm 40:13-15:** Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!
¹⁴Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonour who desire my hurt! ¹⁵Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

In these verses there are:

- Those who would love to see David killed.
- Those who desire to afflict harm and hurt upon him.
- Those who rejoice when they see him suffering.

David prays that the LORD would quickly help him so that his enemies would be put to shame for their evil ways and wicked thoughts.

PSALM 40:16

May all who Love Your Salvation say, "Great is the LORD!"

- **Psalm 40:16:** But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Many people seek God, but not everyone who seeks Him rejoices when they find Him. This is because they do not have a right heart attitude, they are seeking God, but when they find that they are called to live a lifestyle that honours His name and bring a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ they do not want to live such a lifestyle this is why there are so many gods in the world that are creations of man's imagination and why David prays, may all who seek the LORD rejoice and be glad in him.

Amongst those who do find God and accept his salvation not all endure to the end, when times of troubles, hardships and suffering come as they did to David many turn from God and forsake their faith this is why David prays, "May those who love your salvation continually say," 'Great is the LORD!'

PSALM 40:17

The LORD Takes thought for Me He is My Help and My Deliverer.

- **Psalm 40:17:** As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

This Psalm was written at a time when God had drawn David up out of the pit of destruction and the miry bog (v2) so he clearly was not in a good place of prosperity power or well-being this is why he states, "I am poor and needy." It matters not how David begins his Psalms or his prayers, whether he is in despair or depression or surrounded by enemies or lying on his bed suffering the pain of sickness or facing death itself he always ends his Psalms, his prayers and his petitions with praising the name of the LORD, the Most High God. This Psalm is no different. His great faith is manifested in his beautiful and tender words, "The Lord takes thought for me, He is my help and my deliverer." His final words can be taken in the following two ways, "Do not delay to come to my aid," or an echo of the following verse:

- He which testifies these things says, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. (Rev. 22:20).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

Bible House of Grace