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## Psalm 71

(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.



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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 71.

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### Topics.

- In your righteousness O LORD, deliver me and rescue me and save me.
- You, O LORD, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.
- Do not forsake and cast me off in my old age.
- I will continually praise you more and more and tell of your salvation.
- You will revive me again; from the depths of the earth.

**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.

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### INTRODUCTION

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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.

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### BOOK TWO (PSALM 42-72)

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### PSALM 71:1-4

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**NOTE:** verse five and verse eighteen of this Psalm shows that it is a Psalm of David in his old age.

### In Your Righteousness O LORD, Deliver, Rescue and Save Me.

- **Psalm 71:1-4:** In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame! <sup>2</sup>In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me, and save me! <sup>3</sup>Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come; you have given the command to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. <sup>4</sup>Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

This Psalm of David is fabulous when it is considered that it is written after years of walking with God and that throughout his life he was at different times:

- Afflicted, depressed and in deep despair.
- Mentally and emotionally weak and feeble.
- Many times, faced death on his sick bed and in fierce the battles.
- Betrayed by close friends and those of his, own household.
- Often had times of great grief, heartache, anguish and sorrow.

Yet through all these David's faith in God (in all circumstances good or bad) was never dented and now, as the end of his life approaches he says, "In you, O LORD, I take refuge," and desires above all things that he would do nothing that would shame him before the LORD (i.e., make a wrong decision or wrong choice that would bring dishonour to God and cause the faithful in his Kingdom to stumble).

**In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me** (v2) these words of David clearly shine a spotlight on the fact that David fully understood he was saved by faith in Christ's righteousness and God's grace and not his own.

**David always saw the Lord before him:** even though David was a mighty king and warrior the strength in his life that stopped him falling apart was his faith and his hope, he not only by faith always saw the Lord before him, but saw him at his right hand meaning by faith he trusted in Gods promise that in the Christ to come he would be saved to eternal life and that God would not forget him in the grave, but raise him to eternal glory so that he would see the eternal royal King the Holy One God had promised would come from his descendants. David knowing, he would die and decay in the grave in contrast to the Holy One (Christ) was confident that when he was raised to eternal life just being in the presence of Christ would overwhelm him with happiness, gladness and joy (Acts 2:25-32).

**David's faith was in the resurrection of God's Holy One:** David understood God's eternal plan of salvation was to establish an everlasting Kingdom with a Holy One as King reigning over it. Though David could not have known the name of the future King being a prophet he foresaw that this King called the Holy One would be killed, but before his body could decay in the grave God would raise him to eternal glory. David trusted in Gods promise that He would raise up from one of his descendants a King to reign in Gods eternal Kingdom forever and had no doubt that God would not forget his body in the grave but resurrect him to eternal life and eternal glory. He held these promises ever before him meaning he kept them as the central and dominant thought of his mind and it was this hope that kept him joyful. (Acts 2:25-32).

**NOTE:** though Christ did not appear during the Old Testament age, the faithful were still saved by faith in him, because they by faith looked:

- Toward the promised seed of the woman spoken of in Genesis (Genesis. 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) (Jerimiah 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).

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.

**You have given the command to save me:** (v3) the greatest desire of David's heart was God's steadfast love, but as one travels through his Psalms it becomes very clear that there were times when he had to trust in the promised Covenant of God to His people and His promise concerning David himself and not upon his emotions and feelings. Likewise, no matter how devoted and faithful a brother or sister in Christ maybe there will be seasons when their emotions and feelings will be so lacking that they will have to trust and stand upon the following promises: -

- The one who endures to the end will be saved. (Matt. 24:13).
- Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. (Mark 16:16).
- Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Acts 2:21).
- Since, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. (Rom. 5:9-10).
- If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Rom. 10:9-10).
- Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. (Rom. 10:13).

**You are my rock and my fortress:** (v3) it matters not how powerful, rich, wealthy, famous we are in this mortal world none of these things can offer eternal salvation. This is why one of the most common expressions of David is, "God is his rock and his fortress" (v3).

**Rescue me, O my God, from the unjust and cruel man:** (v4) God answered this prayer beyond David's wildest dreams, not only did God rescue him and exalt him above all his enemies, but from his loins come the Messiah the Christ the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

When the angel Gabriel came to Mary he said:

- Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of *his father David*, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. (Luke 1:31-33).

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## PSALM 71:5-8

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**You, O Lord, are My Hope, My Trust, O LORD, from My Youth.**

- **Psalm 71:5-8:** For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth. <sup>6</sup>Upon you I have leaned from before my birth; you are he who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you. <sup>7</sup>I have been as a portent to many (as a wonder unto many in KJV), but you are my strong refuge. <sup>8</sup>My mouth is filled with your praise, and with your glory all the day.

Throughout the highs and lows of life, the grief's and sorrows, the troubles and hardships, the defeats and victories and the laughter and joys God has always been David's hope and trust.

**I have been as a wonder/portent to many:** (v7) wonder comes from the Hebrew word (*mowpheth*) and carries the idea of an outstanding sign, miracle, a beautiful token or omen. Though David had been a support and strength to many he only looked to God as His strength, comfort and refuge. In some Christian churches the ministers aim to make their congregations dependent upon them rather than mature them to a place where they are able to stand alone with Christ so that rather than going to church from an attitude of need, they are going with an attitude to give and to fellowship and worship Christ as part of the global body of Christ.

Every Christian should reach a place of spiritual maturity where if they were relocated to some place where there was no church their faith would not falter; they would still be able to continue strongly in their faith and devotion to God. The goal of all religious teachers should be to raise up those in their congregations with the same faith that David had. Though David loved with all his heart and mind to worship and praise God with the faithful in the House of God his faith was not founded upon it. His faith in God continued the same whether he was near the temple or far away from it even when he was suffering great grief and sorrow or hardship and troubles his faith was never dented and he always worshipped and praised God wherever he happened to be.

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### PSALM 71:9-13

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#### **Do not Forsake and Cast Me off in My Old Age.**

- **Psalm 71:9-13:** Do not cast me off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength is spent. <sup>10</sup>For my enemies speak concerning me; those who watch for my life consult together <sup>11</sup>and say, "God has forsaken him; pursue and seize him, for there is none to deliver him." <sup>12</sup>O God, be not far from me; O my God, make haste to help me! <sup>13</sup>May my accusers be put to shame and consumed; with scorn and disgrace may they be covered who seek my hurt.

David's statement, "Do not cast me off in the time of old age," (v9) does not mean that David for a moment thought God would forsake him, especially after years of faithfulness. In this context it is a statement that can be viewed in the following two ways:

1. As an expression that highlights how much David would hate to live without God's steadfast love in his heart and mind. It could be likened to a married couple deeply in love and the husband saying to his wife in a romantic moment, "Don't ever leave me," it does not mean he thinks she would, but is an expression of how much she means to him. It is certain many Christians during prayer have felt such an overwhelming presence of God's love in their hearts and mind, and an overflowing of God's joy that they were moved to cry with deep heartfelt emotion, "O Lord please never take your Holy Spirit from me," not believing the Lord would, but expressing the great love they have for God and how much they enjoy Him.
2. David in verse eighteen says, "O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation." (v18) this statement could be expressed in the following words, "O God, do not let me die until I proclaim your might to another generation." In this scenario the words, "Do not cast me off in the time of old age," (v9) would mean "O God, let me live well into my old age so I can continue to proclaim of your goodness to the new generations." Can there be any better testimony for an aging Christian man or woman than to wish for a longer life for the purpose of proclaiming God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. To support the idea that David did not for a moment believe God would cast him away in his old age are his words, "You will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again," (Psalm 71:20) clearly showing David was aware of the resurrection and believed he would be raised to glory in it.

**I will Continually Praise You and Tell of Your Salvation.**

- **Psalm 71:14-18:** But I will hope continually and will praise you yet more and more. <sup>15</sup>My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day, for their number is past my knowledge. <sup>16</sup>With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come; I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone. <sup>17</sup>O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. <sup>18</sup>So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Again, David's heart of gratitude and thanksgiving is abundantly manifested in the words, "I will praise you yet more and more." I remember when I was water baptised into the global Kingdom of God (about forty-five years ago) thinking, the glory of God is mostly seen in teenagers becoming new Christians, because their lives were radically changed and in the older generation, because they had endured through all the trials and tribulations of life with Christ and manifested an abundance of the fruits of the Spirit (kindness, gentleness, grace etc.,) and always spoke encouragingly and like David were full of heartfelt thanksgiving and gratitude toward the Lord Jesus Christ and his heavenly Father.

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**PSALM 71:19-20**

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**You will Revive Me Again; from the Depths of the Earth.**

- **Psalm 71:19-20:** Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens. You who have done great things, O God, who is like you? <sup>20</sup>You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again.

**Your righteousness, O God, reaches the high heavens** (v19) as the reader travels through David's Psalm if becomes very clear that he understood he fell far short of the Holy standard of God and knew that he was not saved by his self-righteousness, but by his faith in God and by God's grace. There is a danger for Christians who do not know the depth of God grace to come under self-condemnation. This, is because as we grow closer to the Lord, we also become far more aware of the depth of sin dwelling within (i.e., pride, selfishness, lustful thoughts, the lack of love and grace towards others, passive anger, jealousy and such like things). Those who know Christ at an intellectual level only (i.e., devoid of grace) will battle emotionally and mentally as the condemning voice of the law rightly pronounces loudly in their mind, "You are guilty." Without grace we are all doomed and rightly condemned guilty by the law. If any one of us could attain to a lifestyle free of sin Christ died for no reason. The following words of Paul show the enormous importance of trusting in God's grace in Christ. Paul in his letters wrote:

- I do not nullify the *GRACE* of God, for if justification were through the law (or any form of religious self-effort), then Christ died for no purpose (Gal. 2:21).

This means, when a brother or sister in Christ begin to justify themselves through the law and self-effort, they nullify the grace of God and by their actions declare that Christ's death was of no value.

Equally as horrific as this Paul states:

- When we forsake *GRACE* we separate ourselves from Christ because it was only by *GRACE* that God made us alive in Christ (Gal. 5:4) (Eph. 2:5).

Paul to highlight even more the majestic glory of grace wrote with absolute boldness that:



- It is only by *GRACE* that any brother or sister has been saved (Eph. 2:8).

Paul in these verses is shining a brilliant floodlight on the truth that every brother and sister in Christ is saved, solely by faith and by grace and it is not their own doing, but the gift of God. This means that without grace no-one can be united to Christ and whoever is without Christ is separated from God and without God no-one can be saved to eternal life. This means in regards to eternal salvation, Christ, God, grace and faith, are all on an equal par with each other since no-one can be saved to eternal life without any one of them. This is the reason the author in the book of Hebrews spends so many chapters brilliantly and skilfully explaining to the Hebrews that they must stop their sin of trusting in religious works, the Levitical Law and their priesthood to be counted righteous before God and start trusting in the grace of God that is in Christ and in his righteousness to be saved to eternal life. By extension this means that Christians must stop trusting in attending a church building every week, strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions to be saved. Though the practise of some of these maybe good in themselves they become grossly sinful when believers trust in them for their salvation since not one of them has any power to save to eternal life.

**You who have made me see many troubles and calamities** (v20) it is interesting to notice that David views all his troubles and calamities as coming from the hand of God. He lived his life as though every moment of it was in God's control. It mattered not to David what his circumstance were (good or bad) God was always the praise of His heart and God's Spirit and love was what sustained Him and what he most sought after. David's was a king who had abundant riches and wealth, a harem of the most beautiful women and was a mighty warrior, a man full of courage who faced the most horrific bloodthirsty battles and yet within was not only a humble man before God whose greatest treasure was God's love dwelling within his heart and mind, but also a man who was deeply hurt and remorseful when convicted of any sin he had committed before God. Whether David was prospering and full of joy; in despair and depression; surrounded by his enemies; lying on his bed suffering the pain of sickness or facing death he always spoke honestly to God of how he felt, and always ends his Psalms, his prayers and his petitions with praising the name of the LORD, the Most High God.

**You will revive me again; from the depths of the earth you will bring me up again:** (v20) these words of David shine a brilliant spotlight on the fact he was fully aware of the resurrection of the faithful and that he would be raised to glory in it. For further information concerning the resurrection, see the title:

- Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## PSALM 71:21-24

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### **You will Increase My Greatness and Comfort Me Again.**

- **Psalm 71:21-24:** You will increase my greatness and comfort me again. <sup>22</sup>I will also praise you with the harp for your faithfulness, O my God; I will sing praises to you with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel. <sup>23</sup>My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed. <sup>24</sup>And my tongue will talk of your righteous help all the day long, for they have been put to shame and disappointed who sought to do me hurt.

Sadly, there are men and women who faithfully attend religious services every Sunday all their lives and never arrive at this relationship of love David had with God. Many attend churches from tradition; others from mysticism; some because the preacher promises them they will be prosperous, successful and rich; many go because they are promised healing; others view their attendance as an insurance policy for eternal

life while some think it will score them greater rewards on earth and in heaven. David relationship was based on none of these things, but on the love of God he experienced in his heart and mind and because of the promise of eternal life. If David's faith had been based upon any of the above he would have given it up long before his old age since he faced death many times; enormous sorrow and grief; betrayal by close friends; sickness that caused him great pain and suffering; deep depression and despair and suicidal thoughts wishing he had not been born. His faith survived all these because it was not anchored in anything of this world, but in the promise of God and His steadfast love and grace.

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*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.*

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