

Psalm 41

1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. 2 The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. 3 The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

4 I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.

5 Mine enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish? 6 And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity: his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it. 7 All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt. 8 An evil disease, say they, cleaveth fast unto him: and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more. 9 Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

10 But thou, O LORD, be merciful unto me, and raise me up, that I may requite them. 11 By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me. 12 And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever.

13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

Introduction notes:

1. To the chief Musician (1 Chr. 15:17).
2. A Psalm of David – David is the writer of this Psalm. These are divinely inspired headings.
3. This Psalm can easily be associated with the betrayal that David experienced through Ahithophel (2 Sam. 15:12, 31). BOTH Ahithophel and Judas died by suicide via hanging (compare 2 Sam. 17:23 and Matt. 27:5). (see also Ps. 55:12-14).

Outline:

- A. The Blessed Man (vv.1-3)
 - B. David's Prayer for Healing (v.4)
 - C. The Words of Mine Enemies (vv.5-9)
- B.' David's Prayer for Healing (v.10-12)
- A.' The Blessed LORD (v.13)

Observations:

1. Five verbs that the LORD does for the blessed man: DELIVER; PRESERVE and KEEP; BLESSED; NOT DELIVER HIM unto the will of his enemies; STRENGTHEN; MAKE ALL HIS BED in his sickness (heal him or ease his pain).
2. David's two requests: Be merciful unto me and heal my soul.
3. The Lord Jesus interprets Ps. 40:9 in Jn. 13:18ff. but this Psalm is in reference to David, and only applied by the Lord to Himself. This is because of v.3 – “his sickness” – the Lord Jesus had no sickness in an of himself, no “bed of languishing.”
4. Peter alludes to this passage after learning its interpretation from the Lord Jesus (Acts 1:16).
5. This is the passage that Jesus may have alluded to when he called Judas his “friend” (Matt. 26:50) during his betrayal.
6. David's two requests: Be merciful and raise me up. His healing would be his vindication and he would then execute judgment upon his “familiar friend.”
7. Blessedness is the attribute of God that makes Him worthy of all praise.
8. The double amen is for emphasis. Jesus uses this same emphasis in Jn. 3:3. Jesus is the ultimate Amen (Rev. 3:14).

Lesson: Blessed be the LORD God of Israel!

The end of BOOK 1 – next week: A Review of BOOK 1.