

The LORD's Care for the Oppressed
Psalm 41 (Page 409-10 in the BPB)
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Introduction:

Affirmation of God's Blessings (1-3)

How blessed is he who considers the helpless; (1a)

“Blessed: Psalm 1:1; 2:12; 32:1-2; 33:12; 34:8; 40:4

“Considers”

“Helpless” – “poor,” “one who is low”

“[God] cares for the oppressed and delights to see His children's concern with the things that are important to Him: concern for those in need (cf.35:13-14; 112:9; Matt. 5:7; James 1:27). The need may take many forms: “times of trouble,” “his foes,” or a sickbed.” (vv.1, 3, 5-9) (VanGemeren, EBC, p.325)

7 Blessings

1. The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble. (1b)

2. The LORD will protect him, (2a)

3. and keep him alive (2a)

4. And he shall be called blessed upon the earth; (2b)

5. And do not give him over to the desire of his enemies. (2c)

6. The LORD will sustain him upon his sickbed; (3a)

7. In his illness, You restore him to health. (3b)

Prayer for Mercy

⁴As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me;
Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You."

Psalm 51:1

Psalm 32:1

My Enemies

⁵My enemies speak evil against me,
“When will he die and his name perish?”

⁶And when he comes to see me, he speaks falsehood;
His heart gathers wickedness to itself;
When he goes outside he tells it.

All Who Hate Me

⁷All who hate me whisper together against me;
Against me they devise my hurt, *saying*,

⁸“A wicked thing is poured out upon him,

That when he lies down, he will not rise up again.”

Betrayal of a Close Friend

⁹Even my close friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread,
Has lifted up his heel against me.

Jacob - Gen. 25:26; 27:36

John 13:18

?Ahithophel (2 Samuel 15:12, 31; 16:15-17:23)

Prayer for Mercy

¹⁰But You, O LORD, be gracious to me and raise me up,
That I may repay them.

Affirmation of God's Blessings

¹¹By this I know that You are pleased with me,

Because my enemy does not shout in triumph over me.

¹²As for me, You uphold me in my integrity,

And You set me in Your presence forever.

Doxology

¹³Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,

From everlasting to everlasting.

Amen and Amen.

End of Book One (41:13)

Psalms 1:1 and 41:13 function as an inclusio for Book One.

End of Book Two (72:18-20)

¹⁹And blessed be His glorious name forever;
And may the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen, and Amen.
²⁰The prayers of David the son of Jesse are ended.

End of Book Three (89:52)

⁵²Blessed be the LORD forever!
Amen and Amen.

End of Book Four (106:47-48)

⁴⁷Save us, O LORD our God,
And gather us from among the nations,
To give thanks to Your holy name
And glory in Your praise.
⁴⁸Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
From everlasting even to everlasting.
And let all the people say, "Amen."
Praise the LORD!

End of Book Five (150:6)

⁶Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.
Praise the LORD!

Application