

THE BLESSED MAN

Psalm 41

INTRO: Most scholars agree that this psalm is NOT strictly Messianic or even prophetic in the sense of foretelling future events, yet, at the very least, it refers to some incidents in the life of King David which serve as a type, finding “fulfillment” in similar events in the life of Jesus Christ. Thus, we are convinced that it properly belongs in a study of the Messianic psalms.

I. DAVID SPEAKS OF THE BLESSINGS THAT COME TO THOSE WHO “CONSIDER” THE POOR, vs. 1-3.

- A. Deliverance in time of trouble.
- B. Preserved, kept alive (spiritually)
- C. Blessed on earth.
- D. Not delivered to, nor left to the whims of his enemies.
- E. Strength in times of physical infirmity.

II. KING DAVID CONFESSES SIN -- AND PRAYS GOD TO HELP HIM OVERCOME HIS ADVERSARIES, vs. 4-12.

- A. He prays for mercy, forgiveness, vs. 4.
- B. Speaks of mistreatment by his enemies, vs. 5-8.
- C. One specific enemy is referred to -- who had supposedly been a close friend, vs. 9.

NOTE: This passage is that by most scholars to originally apply to Ahithophel, a counselor of David who betrayed David’s trust & conspired against him with his rebellious son, Absalom.

Then Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city--from Giloh--while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy grew strong, for the people with Absalom continually increased in number. (2 Sam. 15:12)

- D. David prayed for deliverance & help to overcome his enemies, vs. 10-12.

III. MESSIANIC ANTITYPES OF PSALM 41.

A. Psalm 41:9 foreshadows the betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot.

When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." And they were exceedingly sorrowful, & each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?" He answered and said, "He who dipped his hand with Me in the dish will betray Me. The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born." Then Judas, who was betraying Him, answered & said, "Rabbi, is it I?" He said to him, "You have said it." (Matthew 26:20-25).

I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.' (John 13:18).

B. Psalm 41:10-12 find an antitype in the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, & look forward to His serving in judgment.

"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death; whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it. (Acts 2:22-24).

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by

raising Him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31).

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince & Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. (Acts 5:30-31).

1. Christ's part in the remission or forgiveness of our sins -- Matt. 26:28; Rom. 5:8
2. The believer's part -- Acts 2:38

NOTE: Paul emphasizes both parts in his question to the divided Corinthians: "Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Cor. 1:13).

IV. CONCLUSION TO PSALM 41 -- vs. 13.

Scholars suggest that this verse is not really a part of Psalm 41, but is actually the conclusion of the entire first section of the psalms, beginning with Psalm 1 and concluding with Psalm 41. At any rate, what a conclusion it is!

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Exton, PA, February 26, 1989

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 1, 2001