

HE PUT A NEW SONG IN MY MOUTH, EVEN PRAISE UNTO OUR GOD

Are two Sundays in a row too many to consider what God says about thanksgiving? **Certainly not!**

“Thanksgiving” is one of those threads that are found woven throughout the Bible. For example, the word **praise** is found 259 times; **rejoice** is found 240 times; **sing**, 169 times; **thanks—or thanksgiving**, 134 times.

Those numbers I just gave you add up to over **800** times that the concept of **praising** God...or **rejoicing** in God...or **giving thanks** to God is found in the Bible!

Not only that, we have **Ps 118:24** “This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

--**Which is the day** that the Lord hath made? **Today!**

--**Which day** should we rejoice and be glad in? **Today!**

And when you wake up tomorrow morning, it will be **true again**: “This is the day which the Lord hath made!”

Each day is the day that the Lord makes—and **each day** we need to make a **conscious decision** as to whether or not we will rejoice and be glad in it! So—to answer again the question I started out with—two Sundays in a row is **not too many** to consider the subject of “thanksgiving!”

Please take your Bibles and turn to Psalm 40; follow along as I read verses 1-5. Although it would be **impossible**—for me at least—to pick my favorite **verse** in the Bible, vs 5 would certainly make my list of top 10. I’ve shared with you before that I’m especially intrigued by the phrase “they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee...” My understanding of the verse is this: David is saying that if he tried to list—in **order**—the wonderful works—the blessings—God had done in his life, he couldn’t do it! He would have 1-5 written down, but then he would **remember** a blessing that occurred **before** the 1st on the list—and he would have to **renumber** them. Then, he would **remember** another one that occurred between blessing #3 and blessing #4, and he would again have to **renumber** his list!

And that would **be true of us**, wouldn’t it? We cannot possibly write down—in **the order in which they occurred**—the blessings God has given us throughout our lifetime!

But...we are **not going to talk** about vs 5. Instead, we are going to focus on verses 1-3.

1. *Patience in prayer*

The Psalmist David says in vs 1 “I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry.”

A. David prayed

How do we know this verse is about **prayer**? Because in the end of the verse we see that God **heard his cry**.

Question for you: Do we have **to pray** for God to hear us? No; He **hears us all** the time, doesn’t He?

--In Ps 139:2, David said “thou understandest **my thought** afar off.” If God **understands the thoughts** in our heads, He certainly **hears the words that come out of our mouth**!

--In Ps 139:4, David said as much: “For there is not **a word in my tongue**, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether.”

The point, of course, is this: God hears what we **think—and say**—whether we are praying or not!

But...we know David was **praying**—he was crying out to God—because God **heard** him...and **inclined** unto him...and—we know from vs 2—**delivered** him.

The word “**inclined**” is a rather interesting one. It means more than just “listened to.” The same word is found in Ps 31:2 and is translated “bow down.” “**Bow down thine ear** to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.”

Barnes wrote: “The word ‘inclined’ here means properly ‘bowed;’ that is, He “bent forward” to hearken, or to **place His ear near my mouth** and to hear me.”

What a wonderful picture! Just as many of us have “leaned forward” to **get our ear closer** to the mouth of our children or grandchildren so we can hear what they are saying, God “bowed down”—He leaned forward—to hear David’s request!

David not only prayed... B. David persisted in prayer

Back to vs 1: “I waited **patiently** for the Lord...” David didn’t pray just once and stopped—he kept at it! Commentators point out that in the original Hebrew, it carries the idea of “**in waiting I waited**” or “I continued to wait.” To again quote **Barnes**: “The idea is, that his prayer was not answered at once, but that it was answered after he had made **repeated prayers**, or when it seemed as if his prayers would not be answered. It is **earnest, persevering prayer** that is referred to...”

So even though we aren’t big fans of **praying—and waiting**; then praying some more and waiting **some more**; it is often **what God wants us to do**—and the way God works!

Why does God **make us wait**? Why doesn’t He **immediately give us what we want** right after we ask? Why does it seem like God **lets us remain stuck** in a horrible pit—in miry clay—for a long, long time? Tackling the question “**why God** makes us wait” would be a sermon—or a **series** of sermons—in itself. Reminders:

--Sometimes we **ask for the wrong things** and God in His goodness **does not give** them to us!

--Another reason God makes us wait is because He wants to **grow our faith**. God does that by putting our faith to the test—and making us wait.

--Sometimes God wants to **show our faith** to others—and we serve as an example to them by persevering in prayer.

But at the end of the day, the answer is simply this: **He is God**, and we are not—and His ways and thoughts **are higher** than our ways and thoughts!

What about us? Do we persevere in prayer? Are we persistent? Do we keep at it? **God is good**—and does good—so He obviously has **good reasons** for making us wait. Since Jesus **commends those** who persisted in prayer—and God **rewarded David** for being persistent in prayer—isn’t that something **we should be willing to do**? “I waited patiently for the LORD; and He inclined unto me, and heard my cry.”

Next, let’s consider... **2. Rescue from ruin**

We see that in vs 2: “He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.”

What was the horrible pit and miry clay that David was delivered from? We **aren’t exactly sure!**

We read of **Joseph** being in a **literal, physical pit**, as well as the prophet **Jeremiah**. But we don’t read of David ever being in a **literal, physical pit**.

Here’s what we do know, though: A. It was a past deliverance

How do we know that? Because God had already brought him **out of it!** We also know from vs 5 that God **had done**—past tense—**many wonderful works** on David’s behalf. And we know from verse 12 and 13, that David was now in a situation where he **needed current** deliverance.

B. It was probably more than physical deliverance

Could David had been stuck in a literal, physical pit—even though the Bible doesn’t tell us about it? Of course! Could David had been pulled from **literal, physical “miry clay”**—even though we don’t know when that happened? Yes, he could have! But...David probably had **emotional trials and hardships** in mind as much as **physical**. We know that because he uses “pit” and “rock” language in reference to deliverance from being **overwhelmed** in his spirit—his heart!

--Mark your spot here and turn to Psalm 61. Notice vss 1-2.

Why did David ask God to lead him to a rock that was higher than him? Because **his heart was overwhelmed!**

--Now Psalm 143. Look at vss 3-4; then vs 7. David is being persecuted by enemies—and this caused his **heart and spirit to be overwhelmed**. He needed God’s help **to avoid being like those** that go down into the pit. What does it **feel like** to be in a **spiritual pit** of miry clay?

--It is a feeling of **darkness** and depression and despair!

--It is a feeling of **helplessness** and hopelessness!

--And it seems like the **more you struggle, the more you sink!**

You want **rescue and relief**—and yet you have a **hard time believing** that rescue and relief will actually come!

David felt that way at times—just like we do!

Ps 13:1 “How long wilt thou forget me, O Lord? **for ever? how long** wilt thou hide thy face from me?”

Ps 35:17 “Lord, **how long** wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.”

Back to Psalm 40. Although David felt at times he was “stuck in a horrible pit”—and wondered “how long” he would be there—**this same David** also wrote that God had brought him **out of it!** And in Ps 30:5 he reminds us that: “...weeping may endure for a night, but **joy cometh** in the morning.”

Joy **does come**—there is deliverance—for those who wait patiently, persistently, and prayerfully on the LORD.

Although this being rescued from the pit here in Psalm 40:2 does **not refer to David’s salvation** and becoming a child of God... C. It is a picture of salvation deliverance.

There are a number of **similarities** between David’s deliverance from the pit and our deliverance from hell. There are also some **differences** that I want to point out as well. Although I’m sure there are more, I’m just going to point out three for each. First, **the similarities:**

1) Just as **David knew** he was delivered from the pit; **we can know** we have been delivered from hell.

Vs 2 “**He brought me up also** out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay...”

--David **knew** he was delivered; there was no question in his mind. There were no thoughts of “Hmm...I wonder if I’m still in the pit and miry clay—or if I’m out of it!” There was no wondering—he knew he was free!

--What about us? Can we be **that certain** that we have been delivered **from hell**? Yes, we can—but we have to **take God at His word**. We **can’t trust our feelings** because at times they are fickle—they are unstable—they go **back and forth** like the branches of a tree—or **up and down** like the waves on a lake! But if we trust what God’s Word says, we **can be certain**—here and now—that we have been delivered from hell!

John 5:24 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on Him that sent me, **hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.**”

I John 5:12-13 “He that **hath the Son hath life**; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. ¹³These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.”

Similarity #1. David knew he was delivered from the pit—and we can know we have been delivered from hell.

2) Just as David understood that **God was the deliverer** from the pit; we must understand **that God is our deliverer** from hell. David did not “pat himself on the back” for how he **got himself out of the pit**—he understood that **God was his deliverer**. He knew that if **God had not brought him up** out of the pit and miry clay, he would **still be there!**

The same is true of us! The only way we can have **assurance of our deliverance** from hell is by understanding that **God is our deliverer**. We cannot save ourselves; we know from Eph 2:8-9 that “it is the gift of God: **not of works**, lest any man should boast.”

And even though we can’t trust in **our feelings** because they are unstable, there is a “feeling” aspect to the assurance of our salvation! **Rom 8:15-16** “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye **have received** the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶The Spirit **itself beareth witness with our spirit**, that we are the children of God:”

--When we become a child of God, we receive the Spirit of adoption—meaning the Holy Spirit indwells us.

--One of the ministries—one of the “jobs”—of the Holy Spirit is to bear witness in our spirit—in our “heart of hearts”—that we are a child of God!

--That assurance—that confirmation in your spirit—does not happen if you are **counting on you...**or your **baptism...**or your church **affiliation...** or your **good works**—to deliver you from hell. True assurance only comes from God! If you are **trusting in you**, you will not have true peace or assurance of forgiveness because you **don’t have forgiveness!**

Similarity 3) Just as David had stability and a **new direction** in his life after he was delivered, we have **stability** and a **new direction** in our lives after we are saved. God set David’s feet on a rock—he now had **firm footing**. Our stability—the firm footing for our lives—comes when the foundation of our life **is Christ**.

Jesus Himself said in Mt 7:24 “Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, **and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which **built his house upon a rock.**”

But...the picture we have here is not David ***just standing on a rock*** next to the pit he was delivered from. God also “established David’s goings.” “Goings” is not standing—or sitting—in one place. It is about movement—it is about living life!

God doesn’t save us just to ***sit and wait to die***—or for ***Him to return!*** He gives us ***a sense of purpose*** in life—a new direction—that we ***did not have*** before we were saved.

What are the **3 similarities** between David’s deliverance from the pit and our deliverance from hell?

1) Just as ***David knew*** he was delivered from the pit; ***we can know*** we have been delivered from hell.

2) Just as David understood that ***God was his deliverer*** from the pit, we must understand ***that God is our deliverer*** from hell.

3) And just as David had stability and a ***new direction*** in his life after his deliverance, we have stability and a ***new direction*** in our lives after we are saved.

What about the ***differences?***

1) David was in the pit and got out—but ***no one in hell gets out!*** We must be delivered from hell before we die. As mentioned last week, God’s mercy is everlasting—for the believer. For ***the unbeliever***, God’s mercy ends the moment they die!

2) David could possibly fall into another pit and need to be rescued again—but ***we only need to be delivered from hell once!*** If you ***have*** everlasting life—you can’t lose it! If you ***pass from death***—having the death penalty hanging over your head—to life, you can’t ***pass back over to death!*** Stated yet another way, If you are born again—you can’t be “unborn” again!

3) David had to patiently and persistently ***pray—then wait***—to be delivered from the pit. How long do we have to ***wait for Jesus to answer us*** when we ask Him ***to save us?*** Years? Months? Weeks? Days? No; none of those! We don’t even have to ***wait hours or minutes!*** The thief on the cross was certainly grateful that he didn’t have to wait long to find out whether or not Jesus would save him!

He asked—and Jesus answered—immediately! Lk 23:42-43 “And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. ⁴³ And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.” **John 6:37b** “...him that cometh to me I will in now wise [way] cast out.”

Aren’t you glad that Jesus says “yes”—immediately! And aren’t you glad that once we have been delivered from hell, there is no danger of falling back in and needing to be rescued again!

Lastly, I want to briefly consider vs 3: “And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God...” I’m calling that... **3. Singing a new song**

A. Salvation leads to a new song

David had been ***delivered*** from the pit by God—and ***God the deliverer put a song of praise*** in David’s mouth. Has not God done the same for us? Is there a song of praise in ***your heart***—and in ***your mouth?***

--Aren’t you thankful that your sins are gone—as far as the east is from the west (Ps 103:12)?

--Aren’t you thankful that God says to you: “I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins....?” (Is 44:22)

--Aren’t you thankful that God says to you—your sins and iniquities will I remember no more (Heb 10:17)?

So I ask again, “Do you have a ***song of praise*** in your mouth?” I’m not asking if you have a beautiful voice—or if you can “carry a tune in a bushel basket!” Am I being too dogmatic to say, “If God has saved you, He has also put a new song in your mouth?”

There is absolutely ***nothing in the world*** that should bring more joy in your heart than knowing you have been ***forgiven*** by God...and are a ***child of His***...and will ***spend eternity*** with Him. Is that joy in your heart?

Not only will salvation lead to a ***new song in our mouth***,

B. Singing a new song leads to the salvation of others

We see that in the second half of vs 3: “...many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.”

Many shall see **what**...and fear...and then trust in the LORD? In the immediate context, it is a reference to David's deliverance—and the song God put in David's mouth.

David will proclaim what God has done for him—and those around him will see David's deliverance... and David's joy. When these "many" see that, they will fear—meaning show reverence to God—and trust Him the way David did.

But I think this is equally true of us **as believers**. When God saves us and makes us His child, He puts a **new song in our mouth**—and new direction in our life—and people see it. They see a change in our countenance—they see the joy of the Lord in us—as well as a change in what **we talk about it**.

Sharing the joy of forgiveness is something we should want to do if we ourselves are forgiven. "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God..." Do you have that new song? Let's ask God to intensify our desire to share the joy of forgiveness with others as we head into the Christmas season.

So what does God want you to do with what you heard this morning?

1. First, do you have a new song? Has there been a time in your life when you have recognized your sinfulness and that you can't get rid of your sin and that you need to be forgiven by God? And have you come to Jesus in faith, asking Him to forgive you and save you from the penalty of an eternity without Him?

--If you haven't, that is the first thing God wants you to do!

--God does not put a new song in your mouth if He hasn't yet forgiven you!

And He hasn't yet forgiven you if you have not received His Son!

2. Second, do you feel like you are in a pit—and stuck in miry clay? If so, wait patiently for the LORD. Keep praying...and trusting...and waiting. That's what David did—and God heard his cry and delivered him.

And He will do the same for us!

3. Third, sing your song of deliverance! Let the joy of being forgiven be a blessing to others! Ask God to help you be bolder and more burdened to share what He has done for you!