

Psalm 70-72: Ask, Aging Faith & Reign Of Righteousness.

Psalm 70

1-3: The Psalmist cried out to God to help him quickly because his enemies tried to bring him to ruin. So his plea was urgent. He prayed that those who had shamed and disgraced him would themselves be in shame and turned back in disgrace, no longer able to scorn him.

4-5: The Psalmist then prayed that all who seek the LORD and love His salvation would be glad and would say, "Let God be exalted!"

Psalm 71

1-4: The Psalmist turned to the LORD, praying for deliverance from the wicked. God was his Refuge, Rock of refuge, and Fortress.

5-8: The Psalmist reaffirmed his confidence in the LORD in spite of his afflictions. God was his Hope, the One in whom he trusted from his birth. Though he was a wonder to many, he would continue to trust in the Lord, his strong Refuge and to praise Him.

9-13: The Psalmist then prayed for continued care into old age. Those who wanted to harm him thought God had forsaken him and supposed they could seize him and kill him.

14-16: He expressed his determination to hope in and praise God for His righteousness, unlimited salvation, and mighty saving acts.

17-21: His life, from childhood had been filled with praise for God's marvellous deeds. Now when he was old he still desired to praise Him. He rehearsed some of the great things God had done for him. In righteousness God had done many great things, He is incomparable.

God had shown the aging Psalmist that He, being able to deliver from troubles, would restore his life again, bringing him up from the depths of the earth, that is, from the point of death.

22-24: In these closing the Psalmist vowed to praise God, by **singing**, by **playing musical instruments**, by **shouting**, and by **telling of God's acts**. This praise would last all day long because God would put all his enemies to shame.

Ephesians 5:18-19 - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,*

Psalm 72

1-7: The Psalm opens with a prayer that God would give the king divine ability to judge righteously. He anticipated that the king, ruling in righteousness, would bring prosperity and peace. Also he would judge on behalf of the afflicted and the needy and punish those who exploit the poor. When a king's reign is righteous, his rule is refreshing to the people. Like rain on soil, an upright ruler enables the righteous to flourish and prosperity to abound.

8-11: The Psalmist anticipated that his kingdom would extend around the world. People who live in the wilderness would bow before him, and his enemies would be humiliated in subjection. Kings on distant shores would bring tribute to him and bow before him. These kings would come from faraway places, including Tarshish (possibly Tartessus in southwest Spain), Sheba (Yemen in southwestern Arabia), and Seba (in upper Egypt).

12-14: The Psalmist explained that the king was worthy of such territory and the honour given him because he was of much help to the oppressed. He will deliver the needy and the destitute who cry to him. He will take pity on the weak and rescue them, considering their blood precious to him.

15-17: Because of his magnificent and righteous reign, people would respond with gifts for him, with prayers on his behalf, and with blessings on him. The people would pray for agricultural prosperity with grain and fruit in abundance. Lebanon, with its cedar forests, was a picture of a flourishing land. The blessings of such a king's rule are reciprocal; he creates an environment in which everyone's welfare is a priority and they in turn speak well of him.

Proverbs 29:2 - *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.*

18-20: Ending Book II (Psalm 41-72). They include words of praise and blessing.

The Psalmist fully expected that the king would reign in righteousness and peace on behalf of the oppressed, and that his dominion would extend over many kings, from sea to sea. The psalmist prayed for the blessing of peace and prosperity, basing his appeal on the fact that the king is a saviour of the oppressed and is therefore worthy of honour, power, and dominion.