

Psalm 40

Joy in Obedience

Text: Psalm 40

Introduction:

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. Psalm 40 reveals the joy of the Messiah in His obedience to the Father...

I. THE SETTING OF THE PSALM

- A. This psalm is identified as "a psalm of David."
- B. It was intended for public worship as the heading indicates: "To the Chief Musician."
- C. Psalm 38 was written by David "to bring to remembrance."
 1. This seems to indicate that David felt forgotten by God.
 2. Thus, he enumerates his hardships and difficulties, asking God to be near and to help him.
- D. Psalm 39 is similar in content, written concerning David's sorrows, sickness, and suffering.
- E. Psalm 40 was likely written in relation to the same events, but with gratitude that God had heard and delivered David.
- F. Thus, he writes of his delight in serving and obeying the Lord, even in difficult times.

II. THE STUDY OF THE PSALM (PSALM 40)

- A. Delight in Endurance - Psalm 40:1-5
 1. There are great benefits that come with patience.
 - a. God will descend [to listen] (vs. 1).
 - b. God will deliver (vs. 2).
 - c. God will delight (vs. 3).
 2. There are great blessings that come with trust in God.
 3. There are great bounties that prove God's faithfulness.
- B. Delight in Obedience - Psalm 40:6-10
 1. God did not delight in nor demand sacrifice apart from a heart of grateful obedience (cf. 1 Samuel 15:22; Isaiah 1:11; Hosea 6:6; Deuteronomy 10:12; Micah 6:6-8).
 - a. There were five types of offerings under the Law of Moses.
 - i. Burnt Offering - *worship*
 - ii. Peace Offering - *reconciliation or fellowship*
 - iii. Meat Offering - *consecration*
 - iv. Sin Offering - *atonement*
 - v. Trespass Offering - *compensation*

Prophecy of Jesus

- b. Yet sacrifices as mere ritualism or legalism was not pleasing to God.
 - 2. Without a right heart (proper attitude) those sacrifices could not save (cf. Jeremiah 6:19-20; Ezekiel 20:39; Amos 5:21-22; Psalm 50:7-13).
 - 3. In fact, God desires those who delight in serving Him, find joy in the things He approves of, and fill their hearts with His word.
 - 4. Like David, those whose hearts are surrendered to God cannot keep His love and goodness to themselves.
 - a. They joyfully preach and practice righteousness!
 - b. They publicly preach and practice righteousness!
 - C. Delight in Deliverance - Psalm 40:11-17
 - 1. David desired God's deliverance.
 - 2. However, God delighted in helping and saving His faithful!
 - 3. The wicked delight in destruction; thus, they will be destroyed.
 - 4. The righteous delight in God; thus, they will be delivered.

III. THE SAVIOR IN THE PSALM (PSALM 40:6-8)

- A. While this passage had meaning for David in his life, it ultimately is prophesying about Jesus.
- B. Without Jesus, the sacrifices under the Old Law could not save (Hebrews 10:1-7).
- C. Jesus delighted in His obedience to the Father's will - it was His true source of joy (John 4:34; 6:38; Luke 15:4-6; 19:10; Acts 20:35).
- D. Like the Savior, the Christian must learn to serve God with joy!