

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# THY WONDEROUS WORKS

## PSALMS 71

Text: Psalms 71:17

### **Psalm 71:17**

<sup>17</sup> O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.

Introduction:

A Story That Was Printed March 19, 1995 in the Los Angeles Times

"Jolted, jilted, hammered in a car crash and robbed, Lawrence Hanratty was named Friday as the most unfortunate man in New York.

"Nearly electrocuted in a construction site accident in 1984 that put him in a coma for weeks, Hanratty lost the lawyers fighting for his liability claim --one was disbarred, two died--and his wife ran off with her lawyer.

"Hanratty, who spent years fighting heart and liver disease, had his car wrecked in a crash last year. When police left the scene of the accident, he was held up and robbed.

"I say to myself, 'How much more am I going to be tested in life to see how much I can endure?'" Hanratty told the New York Daily News in a description of more than ten years of agony.

"As if he hasn't tolerated enough hardship, 38 year old Hanratty of Mt. Vernon, NY, said an insurance company now wants to cut off his worker's compensation benefits and his landlord has threatened to kick him out of his apartment.

"Depressed and suffering from, a fear of open spaces, Hanratty uses a canister of oxygen and takes 42 pills a day for his heart and liver ailments. But with help from neighbors and a New York state assemblyman, he is not giving up yet.

"There's always hope', he said."

Have you ever found yourself on the threshold of surrender? Have you ever been at the point of discarding your faith by the side of the road or requesting an extended leave of absence from God's army?

Most of us would have to say YES!

Let me set the scene that leads us to Psalms 71.

You well remember David and his notorious affair, and then the murder of Urriah.

Maybe you have heard or read about the rape of his daughter Tamar by his son Amnon, and then of Amnon's death.

Now his son Adonijah is attempting to steal the throne of the king which has been promised to Solomon.

David's nightmares continue.

David was probably asking "I have served you so long, Lord, why do I get such a reward as this?"

Yet, David knew he had made many mistakes, yes, he had sinned. And those sins would bring consequences that would be played out in his own life, the life of his family and even in his kingdom.

As Christians we don't have a "Get out of pain and suffering free" card.

In the day when many preachers are talking about a suffering-less gospel, many of God's choicest people are born out of great trials, testings' and sufferings.

Let's Look At:

# 1. THE REALITY OF TRIALS

Everyone one of us are subject to trials because of

A. Ungodly foes. vs. 4

## **Psalm 71:4**

*<sup>4</sup> Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man.*

B. Uncertain futures. vs. 9

## **Psalm 71:9**

*<sup>9</sup> Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.*

C. Unfaithful friends. vs. 10-13

## **Psalm 71:10-13**

*<sup>10</sup> For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together, <sup>11</sup> Saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him. <sup>12</sup> O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help. <sup>13</sup> Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt.*

## D. Unequaled Heavenly Father vs. 19-20

### ***Psalm 71:19-20***

*<sup>19</sup> Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee!*

*<sup>20</sup> Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth.*

We note not only the reality of trials but also:

## **2. THE RESULT OF TRIALS**

### A. Our vulnerability vs. 7

#### ***Psalm 71:7***

*<sup>7</sup> I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge.*

### B. Our insecurity vs. 9

#### ***Psalm 71:9***

*<sup>9</sup> Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.*

### C. Our dependency

## D. Our emergency vs. 12

### **Psalm 71:12**

<sup>12</sup> *O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help.*

Note back in the previous chapter the urgency:

### **Psalm 70:1**

<sup>1</sup> *Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD.*

### **Psalm 70:5**

<sup>5</sup> *But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.*

## **3. THE RESPONSE OF OUR TRIALS**

A. Remember the Character of God. (vs. 8, 18, 22)

### **Psalm 70:5**

<sup>5</sup> *But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.*

**Psalm 70:5**

*<sup>5</sup> But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.*

**Psalm 70:5**

*<sup>5</sup> But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.*

1. He never changes
2. He is never not in control
3. He never has a smaller portion of love for us.

B. Review the Compassion of God vs. 4-6

**Psalm 70:4-5**

*<sup>4</sup> Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified. <sup>5</sup> But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O LORD, make no tarrying.*

C. Rejoice in Celebration of God.

D. Renew your consecration to God.

E. Reclaim your confidence in God.