

# THE VOLUME OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME PSALMS 40

Text:

Introduction:

This is a very familiar Psalm. David is writing of the delivering power of God in this chapter. He concludes this chapter on this deliverance of God by rejoicing that the God of deliverance dwells upon poor and needy men just like us. Notice three things in this chapter:

## **1. PROVISION FROM GOD (VS. 1)**

A. David's Confidence in God Led Him to Wait on God

### **Psalms 40:1**

<sup>1</sup>I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

Note:

The idea behind the words "I waited patiently" is not only that of waiting, but also that of "an eager hopefulness" in waiting.

One of the things we Americans have a hard time doing is waiting. We are an impatient people. We have grown used to convenience and timesaving devices. And there is nothing wrong with that in itself.

But we must remember, answers to prayer are rarely instant. God often requires us to learn to wait.

He wants us to learn to maintain “an eager hopefulness” in Him, even when the answers to our legitimate prayers don’t come immediately.

G. Campbell Morgan once said:

“Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given.”

B. David’s Confidence in God Moved God to Work (vs. 1-2)

**Psalms 40:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup> 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.

Note:

When David waited with eager expectation, God heard his prayer and answered his request.

**Jeremiah 33:3**

<sup>3</sup> Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

We aren't told of the particular problem or problems to which David alludes here. But the implication seems to be that he felt trapped and uncertain of life.

David then indicates that since God rescued him, he was on a firm foundation, and his steps were steady.

The point of what David has said here seems to be like that found in an earlier psalm.

**Psalms 37:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. <sup>5</sup> Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

Often we get so upset over the problems and dangers of life when we should be waiting on and trusting in our faithful and competent Saviour.

Illustration:

John Paton was a missionary in the New Hebrides Islands. One night hostile natives surrounded the

mission station, intent on burning out the Patons and killing them. Paton and his wife prayed during that terror-filled night that God would deliver them.

When daylight came they were amazed to see their attackers leave. A year later, the chief of the tribe was converted to Christ. Remembering what had happened, Paton asked the chief what had kept him from burning down the house and killing them. The chief replied in surprise, “Who were all those men with you there?” Paton knew no men were present—but the chief said he was afraid to attack because he had seen hundreds of big men in shining garments with drawn swords circling the mission station.

## **2. PRAISE TOWARD GOD**

### **A. David’s Outlook**

#### **Psalms 40:3**

<sup>3</sup> And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Note:

Notice that David says that God had taken him out of the pit of uncertainty and insecurity, and put him on a firm footing. Though tempted to despair while in that horrible pit of circumstances, he confidently and expectantly waited on God for deliverance.

David's confidence in God resulted in a new song in his heart.

In the second half of verse three, David mentions a fact that we should remember with reference to our confidence in God. He basically said that others would see what God had done for him and would not only be astounded, but would also be encouraged to put their trust in the Lord as well.

## B. David's Opinion

### **Psalms 40:4**

<sup>4</sup>Blessed *is* that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

David states that Blessed or Happy is the man who has or exercises faith which is the Lord and he never compromises with the proud or false teachers.

## C. David's Outpouring

### **Psalms 40:5**

<sup>5</sup>Many, O LORD my God, *are* thy wonderful works *which* thou hast done, and thy thoughts *which are* to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: *if* I would declare and speak *of them*, they are more than can be numbered.

### 3. PERCEPTION OF GOD'S WILL

#### **Psalms 40:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required. <sup>7</sup> Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me, <sup>8</sup> I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.

#### Note:

As David waited on God in expectant prayer, not only did his circumstances begin to change, but he began to change as well. You see, prayer is not about changing God's mind to our way of thinking, but rather it is about changing us so that we get into a right relationship to God, so He can answer our prayer.

In waiting on God, the ears of David's heart were opened, helping him to finally understand a spiritual truth: God is not concerned with mere religious ritual, but with willing obedience to His will. David's confidence in God helped him wait on God. And waiting on God resulted in a heart that was sensitive and obedient to God.

#### **Psalms 40:8**

<sup>8</sup> I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.

Remember: "The first duty of every soul is to find not its freedom but it's Master."

## 4. PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S GOODNESS

### **Psalms 40:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. <sup>10</sup> I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.

Note:

When God blessed David, he didn't stay quiet about it. He gave testimony to God's goodness and faithfulness. The Bible encourages us to do the same.

### **Psalms 13:6**

<sup>6</sup> I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.

### **Psalms 107:2**

<sup>2</sup> Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;