

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 106 – Request For Urgent Deliverance Through Drawing Near To God (Psalms 70-73)

1. Did the Psalmist want God to take time in delivering him from his enemies?

No: “(1) **Make haste**, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD. (2) Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt. (3) **Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame that say, Aha, aha.** [cf. **Psalms 40:15 and Ezekiel 25:3-5**] (4) 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. (5) But I am poor and needy: **make haste unto me**, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer: **O LORD, make no tarrying**” (Psalms 70:1-5).

2. What did the Psalmist ask God to never let him be put to?

“In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust: **let me never be put to confusion**” (Psalms 71:1).

*God is not the source of confusion (**I Corinthians 14:33** and **James 3:14-17**).

3. Upon whom did the Psalmist lean for deliverance, hope, and strength?

God: “(2) Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. (3) Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress. (4) Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. (5) For thou art my hope, **O Lord GOD: thou art my trust from my youth**” (Psalms 71:2-5).

4. While the Psalmist realized God had holden him up from the womb (Psalms 71:6), did he fear being forsaken in old age and/or being cast off in front of his enemies?

Yes, he realized God had been with him. Yet, he feared God leaving him in times of need: “(6) By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee. (7) I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge. (8) Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. (9) **Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.** (10) **For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together, (11) Saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him. (12) O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help. (13) Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonour that seek my hurt. (14) But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more. (15) My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. (16) I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only. (17) O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. (18) **Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, forsake me not;** until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come” (Psalms 71:6-18).**

* We have the full revelation of God (**II Timothy 3:15-17**). We have the promise that God will not forsake us (**Hebrews 13:5-6**) as long as we do not separate ourselves from

Him (**Isaiah 59:1-2** and **II John 9**). With these advantages over what the Psalmist had, we should not make statements that imply doubt!

5. According to the Psalmist, what separates God from all others?

*“Thy **righteousness** also, O God, is very high, **who hast done great things**: O God, who is like unto thee” (**Psalms 71:19**)!*

6. After spending the earlier part of chapter seventy-one asking God to not forsake him, what does the Psalmist say he will praise God for as we conclude chapter seventy-one?

*“(20) **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.** (21) **Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.** (22) *I will also praise thee with the psaltery, even thy truth, O my God: unto thee will I sing with the harp, O thou Holy One of Israel.* (23) *My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee; and my soul, which thou hast redeemed.* (24) **My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long: for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt”** (**Psalms 71:20-24**).*

7. Read through Psalms 72. Now that you’ve read through Psalms 72 answer these questions:

- a. Who is the penman of this Psalm? - David (**v.20**).
- b. Who did the penman ask God to give righteousness to? - His son, whom was Solomon (**v.1; II Samuel 12:24** and **I Chronicles 22:11-13**).
- c. In the days of the king’s son, would the righteous suffer? - No, (**vs. 2-7**).
- d. Will the king’s son have to bow to his enemies? - No, (**vs. 8-11**).
- e. Will the king’s son take care of the poor and needy? – Yes, (**vs. 12-14**).
- f. Can you find a Scripture outside of Psalms 72 that adds support to Psalms 72:15? - Yes, **I Kings 10:4-11** and **II Chronicles 9:1**.
- g. Will the son of the king be famous according to the Psalmist? - (**vs. 16-19**).

8. Who is God good to as we find in Psalms 73?

“Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart” (**Psalms 73:1**).

* *“O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee”* (**Jeremiah 4:14**)?

* *“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded”* (**James 4:8**).

9. What caused the Psalmist to slip?

*“(2) But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. (3) For I was envious at the foolish, **when I saw the prosperity of the wicked**”* (**Psalms 73:2-3**).

*Envy is destructive (**Job 5:2, Proverbs 27:4, and Galatians 5:26**).

10. Did the Psalmist realize that those he envied were proud and ignorant?

Yes: *“(4) For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. (5) They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. (6) **Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain**; violence covereth them as a garment. (7) Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. (8) They are corrupt, and*

*speaking wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. (9) **They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth***” (Psalms 73:4-9).

11. Did the prosperity of the wicked cause God’s people to have spiritual doubts?

Yes: “(10) *Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. (11) And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? (12) Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. (13) Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. (14) For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning*” (Psalms 73:10-14).

* We must all realize that God gives us what we need (Matthew 6:24-34). It is the eye of envy that rests with our WANTS that can get us into trouble (Psalms 37:1, Proverbs 24:1; 19, and I Timothy 6:6-10).

12. What did the Psalmist come to realize that helped him with his envious attitude?

The effect of his words on the generation of the children AND the end of the wicked that were prospering: “(15) *If I say, I will speak thus; **behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.** (16) When I thought to know this, **it was too painful for me;** (17) **Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end**” (Psalms 73:15-17).*

13. Did the wicked that were prospering have good things to look forward to?

No: “(18) *Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. (19) How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors. (20) As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image*” (Psalms 73:18-20).

14. Did the Psalmist awaken to see how foolish his envious attitude was?

Yes: “(21) *Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. (22) So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee*” (Psalms 73:21-22).

15. Does the seventy-third Psalm close with the Psalmist showing a good or bad attitude towards God?

Good: “(23) **Nevertheless I am continually with thee:** *thou hast holden me by my right hand. (24) **Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.** (25) **Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.** (26) **My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.** (27) **For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.** (28) **But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works**” (Psalms 73:23-28).*