

Psalm 71

The psalm to accompany the Torah readings Exodus 38:21 – 39:32

- **Exodus 39:32** - "Thus was all the work of the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation finished"

This psalm relates David's cry when he was driven out of Jerusalem by his rebellious son Absalom.

At one point, the psalm reveals Messianic insight and points to the resurrection -

- **Psalm 71:20** - "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."

and here:

- **Psalm 71:24** - "My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long" - Just as the Tabernacle continually spoke of the Gospel and point to Messiah.

Psalm 71:4 - "Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man"

cruel = *chamets* - leavened. Just as leaven tastes sour, so this man would be bitter, violent and cruel.

Psalm 71:6 - "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."

took me out of = *gazah* - to cut, sever (as in cutting the umbilical cord)

Psalm 71:7 - "I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge."

wonder = *mowpheth* - a sign, wonder

But not in a good sense.

David was a shocking spectacle as he had to flee his palace. Jesus was crucified, becoming a sign of shame.

Christ was to be to be "a sign that will be spoken against" (**Luke 2:23**).

- **Zechariah 3:8** - "Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, thou, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH."

So too are the apostles:

- **1 Corinthians 4:9** - "For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men."

David as he was fleeing Absalom felt forsaken and in despair - another foreshadowing of Christ on the cross.

Psalm 71:9-10 - "For mine enemies speak against me; and they that lay wait for my soul take counsel together, Saying, God hath forsaken him: persecute and take him; for there is none to deliver him."

Christ cried out on the cross, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me!"

Psalm 71:13 - "Let them be confounded and consumed that are adversaries to my soul; let them be covered with reproach and dishonor that seek my hurt."

adversaries = *satan* - opposers, adversaries, resisters, a liar-in-wait

Zechariah 3:1 - "And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist (*satan*) him. And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?"

Satan is confounded and confused on Rosh Hashanah at the blowing of the shofar.

Hope

Psalm 71:14 - "But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.

- **Romans 4:18** - Abraham "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be."

- **1 Peter 1:3-4** - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you."

- **Romans 15:13** - "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

- **John 11:25** - "I am the resurrection and the life."

Righteousness

Psalm 71:15-16 - "My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD: I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only."

- **Isaiah 64:7** - "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

- **Revelation 19:8** - "And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."

Psalm 71:18 - "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."

thy strength = *zěrowa`* - arm

This is the Messiah

- **Isaiah 53:1-2** - "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."

Without realizing it, David was asking to live long enough to complete his prophetic role as a type of Christ that would reflect the Messiah, the son of David, to all generations.

God answered David's prayer in the moment - Absalom's rebellion collapsed and he was returned to the palace. But more importantly, the House of David became the emblem of Messiah for every successive generation of Israel until Jesus came, and beyond that to us now.

Psalm 71:20 - "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."

The resurrection from the dead confirmed David's (and our) trust in God's faithfulness for salvation.

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