

SBC – Nov. 6, 2022

Psalm 41 (NKJV) - “Messianic Betrayal”

In Psalm 41 we have yet another Psalm of David that intersects with the coming Messiah – the Greater David. In many respects the experience of David foreshadowed that of the Son of David.

In Psalm 41 we have an experience of betrayal in David’s life that mirrors that of Jesus being betrayed by Judas. We know this because Jesus specifically applied Psalm 41:9 to His experience with Judas.

Valid prophecy is unique to the Bible. Only God knows the future. This is unique to Him. God knows the future and He controls it so He is able to predict it with absolute precision. This is God’s GLORY alone!

Slide # 1

Isaiah 42:8–9 (NKJV)

8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And **My glory** I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, And **new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.**”

God’s GLORY that He won’t share with anyone else is that He predicts new things that have never happened. He tells us about them before they happen and then they come to pass exactly as He has said. This is God’s GLORY that He doesn’t share with anyone else. That is why the Judeo-Christian faith is unique among all the other religions in the world. It is uniquely a prophetic faith.

Slide # 2

Amos 3:7 (NKJV)

7 Surely the Lord GOD **does nothing, Unless He reveals** His secret to His servants the prophets.

What God is doing in the world is no secret. He first reveals it and then He brings it to pass. This is true of Israel. It is true of the Messiah. It was true of His first coming. It is true of His second coming. It was true of the forerunner – John the Baptist – and it was true of the Judas the Betrayer which is the prophetic piece that Psalm 41 touches on.

There are at least five OT prophecies that either directly or indirectly speak to the betrayal by Judas.

Slide # 3***Judas Portrayed in the Old Testament***

2 Sam. 17 – Ahithophel (A type of Judas)
 Psalm 41:9 – John 13:18 (The betrayal of Judas)
 Psalm 55:12-14 – (Betrayal of Judas Portrayed)
 Psalm 109:8-9 – Acts 1:20 (Judgment of Judas)
 Zech. 11:12-13 – Mt. 26:15; 27:9-10 (Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver)

The context of Psalm 41 is probably when David was fleeing from his son Absalom and in that context was betrayed by his friend and trusted advisor named Ahithophel (cf. 2 Sam. 15-17).

Slide # 4***Outline of Psalm 41***

vv. 1-4 God's Care of the Compassionate
 vv. 5-9 Enemies that don't Care
 vv. 10-12 God's Merciful Care
 v. 13 Doxology

Psalm 41 (NKJV)

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.

1 Blessed is he who considers the poor; The LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

David begins this Psalm reflecting on the truth that God blesses those who are considerate of the poor. The word poor has the basic meaning of "low". It refers to those brought low or humbled by circumstances that leave them weak or helpless. Thus, the poor are vulnerable and in that condition that look to God and those used of God to help them are blessed.

Worship should be expressed in obedience to the second greatest commandment ("You shall love your neighbor as yourself," Matt. 22:39; cf. Lv. 19:18). – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

In this regard, "you reap what you sow" and David sees himself in this category as one who has been sympathetic to the "poor" and now in his position of weakness he believes God is going to bless him for it.

The LORD delivers those in time of trouble who have themselves been considerate of the poor.

2 The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, And he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.

3 The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.

Note the words “***preserve***”, “***deliver***”, “***strengthen***”, and “***sustain***”. David is believing that God is going to bless him in this way – and honor him for his past compassion towards the poor.

4 I said, “LORD, be merciful to me; Heal my soul, for I have sinned against You.”

Remember, we think the context here relates to the time David was on the run from his son Absalom who had conspired against him. This really was a consequence of David’s horrendous sins involved in his sordid affair with Bathsheba. Even though he was forgiven, yet there remained life long consequences.

Slide # 5 (Nathan the prophet to David)

2 Samuel 12:10–11 (NKJV)

10 Now therefore, **the sword shall never depart from your house**, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

11 Thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, **I will raise up adversity against you from your own house**; and I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun.

This is exactly what Absalom did! When David says, “I have sinned” He may well have in view the terrible sins that have resulted in the consequences he was now experiencing. And in that context he asks for healing.

David, had earlier repented and was forgiven, but there were still long term consequences and David is now asking for mercy and healing.

Slide # 6

Not all sickness is a direct result of sin in a believer's life. Many of the ailments of older people, for example, are part of the normal process of deterioration due to age. Sometimes, however, there is a direct link between sin and sickness, and where the faintest possibility of this exists, the believer should rush into the Lord's presence in heartfelt confession. In all such cases, the Great Physician's forgiveness should precede the local doctor's remedies. – **William MacDonald**

Sometimes the issue is not merely a medical diagnosis, but at core is really a spiritual issue – and yet that is not always the case.

5 My enemies speak evil of me: “When will he die, and his name perish?”

6 And if he comes to see me, he speaks lies; His heart gathers iniquity to itself; When he goes out, he tells it.

7 All who hate me whisper together against me; Against me they devise my hurt.

8 “An evil disease,” they say, “clings to him. And now that he lies down, he will rise up no more.”

David's enemies are anxious for him to die and be forgotten. That is a true enemy – they want you dead. They pretend to be a friend but in visiting him are only seeking to gather information which they can use against him. These haters have a whispering campaign against him as they maliciously spread lies and seek to harm him.

These “prophets of doom” are hoping he will die and were spreading misinformation claiming he is on the way out. And worst of all...

9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

In John 13 Jesus quoted part of this verse in reference to His imminent betrayal by Judas.

Slide # 7

John 13:18–19 (NKJV)

18 “I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the **Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’**

19 Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am *He*.

David acutely felt the sting of this betrayal. It came at the hand of a close friend who proved to be an enemy. That hurts. This was a close friend that he had trusted. They ate in close fellowship together sharing heart to heart. But now he had turned on David. That is one of the worst hurts in life. Betrayal is treacherous!

Again, most believe David here speaks in reference to his experience with Ahithophel.

Slide # 8

2 Samuel 16:23 (NKJV)

23 Now the **advice of Ahithophel**, which he gave in those days, was as if one had inquired at the oracle of God. **So was all the advice of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.**

David had the highest regard for Ahithophel. He was a trusted advisor. But then when Absalom conspired to rebel against David and take the kingdom for himself Ahithophel betrayed David and followed Absalom in his rebellion.

Slide # 9

2 Samuel 15:30–31 (NKJV)

30 So David went up by the Ascent of the Mount of Olives, and **wept as he went up; and he had his head covered and went barefoot.** And all the people who were with him covered their heads and went up, weeping as they went up.

31 Then someone told David, saying, “**Ahithophel** is among the conspirators with Absalom.” And David said, “**O LORD, I pray, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness!**”

Slide # 10

Psalm 55:12–14 (NKJV)

12 For it is not an enemy who reproaches me; Then I could bear it. Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me; Then I could hide from him.

13 But it was you, a man my equal, **My companion and my acquaintance.**

14 We took **sweet counsel together, And walked to the house of God in the throng.**

“Lifted up his heel against me” is an idiom signifying deceitful betrayal (cf. Gen. 25:25-26).

Of all the sorrows of life, this is certainly one of the bitterest – to be betrayed by one who has had close associations with you.

– **William MacDonald**

Judas was one of the 12 chosen apostles personally chosen and appointed by Christ (Lk. 6:12-16). He as an apostle had the most privileged position of all. He not only had a front row seat in the ministry of Christ – he had the privilege to personally be with Jesus and enjoy intimate fellowship like few others for a period of about 3 years.

Judas was one (along with the other apostles) who was endowed with special miraculous working powers over sickness and demons (Mark 6:7, 12). He was trusted to the point where he was put in charge of the group's money box (Jn. 12:6; 13:29).

But Judas was all in it for Judas. For him it was not about Christ. He was all in as long as they were proclaiming the kingdom is at hand with the evidence of kingdom miracles being performed. But as soon as Jesus transitioned from talking about the kingdom to talking about the cross Judas then decided to get out of it what he could while the getting was still good and so he moved to betray Christ for 30 pieces of silver.

In spite of all the firsthand evidence he didn't really believe in Jesus. He never really got it. For some people it doesn't matter how much evidence there is – the problem is they have a wicked self-centered heart that makes it all about them – and not about Jesus.

It should be noted while Jesus quoted Psalm 41:9 as being fulfilled in reference to the betrayal of Judas He omitted that phrase “***in whom I trusted***”. Jesus didn't trust Judas because all along He knew what he was about. In this too we see the precision of Scripture and its fulfillment.

Slide # 11

John 6:70–71 (NKJV)

70 Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?”

71 He **spoke of Judas Iscariot**, the son of Simon, for it was he who would betray Him, being one of the twelve.

John 13:10–11 (NKJV)

10 Jesus said to him, “He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.”

11 For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, “You are not all clean.”

10 But You, O LORD, be merciful to me, and raise me up, That I may repay them.

The thought of David continues on by asking God to mercifully raise him up so that he as king might hold the perpetrators to account. As king in charge of the government this was his rightful place.

When so many were deserting him David looked to the Lord to raise him up. Again, many think that there may be an echo here of resurrection truth as Jesus was raised up on the third day (cf. Ps. 16:10-11; 118:17).

Indeed, Jesus was raised up to be the judge of all – including Judas (cf. Jn. 5:22, 27; Acts 10:42; 17:31).

How did it end for the betrayer? Well, both Ahithophel and Judas ended in suicide.

Slide # 12**2 Samuel 17:23 (NKJV)**

23 Now when Ahithophel saw that his advice was not followed, he saddled a donkey, and arose and went home to his house, to his city. Then he put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died; and he was buried in his father’s tomb.

Matthew 27:5 (NKJV)

5 Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed, and went and hanged himself.

But in contrast to the betrayer Ahithophel David was restored and in contrast to the betrayer Judas Jesus was raised up the 3rd day in total triumph and victory.

11 By this I know that You are well pleased with me, Because my enemy does not triumph over me.

David connected the favor of God being pleased with him with God not allowing the enemy to triumph over him. This was a valley he was going through but he fully expected God to bring him through it victorious.

12 As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, And set me before Your face forever.

Some have wondered how verse 12 where David speaks of God upholding him because of his integrity squares with verse 4 where David admits he has sinned.

I take it that yes David recounts he has sinned in the past and is suffering the consequences of that sin, and yet he has come to repentance and gotten right with the LORD – and he knew that reality too.

And since getting right he has maintained a walk of integrity with the Lord.

Slide # 13

Psalm 32:5 (NKJV)

5 I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” And You **forgave** the iniquity of my sin. Selah

Slide # 14

Psalm 51:12–13 (NKJV)

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

A past fall does not negate a walk of integrity going forward.

Slide # 15

Psalm 130:3–4 (NKJV)

3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

4 But there is **forgiveness with You, That You may be feared.**

God knew David’s sincerity (integrity) and because of his sincere faith David knows that he will be forever enjoy the very presence of God.

The famous preacher John Wesley when he was dying was surrounded with his closest friends. He called his friends close to him and said these final words: “***Best of all, God is with us.***”

To be set before God’s face forever is BEST of all! This is glory! This was David’s expectation. All though the closest of friends had forsaken him, yet God was with him and would be FOREVER.

God told the priests to bless His people Israel in this way...

Numbers 6:24–26 (NKJV)

24 “The LORD bless you and keep you;

25 The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you;

26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.” ’

13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

This is a doxology. It effectively closes out what is called “Book 1” of the Book of Psalms. There are five sections in Psalms that correspond to the 5 books of Moses.

Slide # 16

The Five Books of Psalms:

Book 1: Psalms 1-41 (Genesis)

Book 2: Psalms 42-72 (Exodus)

Book 3: Psalms 73-89 (Leviticus)

Book 4: Psalms 90-106 (Numbers)

Book 5: Psalms 107-150 (Deuteronomy)

Each of the first four sections conclude with a similar doxology emphasizing the everlasting blessedness of the God of Israel and AMEN and then the final section having the climactic doxology, “Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!” (Ps. 150:6).

To bless the LORD God of Israel means to PRAISE Him for being the faithful covenant God that He is. LORD here is YHWH – God’s covenant name. It refers to God’s eternal unchanging faithful nature.

God is the Hebrew Elohim which denotes Him as the Supreme Being Who is over all. This is the God of Israel. He is the eternal unchanging faithful God of covenant relationship Who is supreme over all. And He is to be praised from “everlasting to everlasting” which is to say forever!

Amen is literally “amen” in Hebrew. It means “so be it” or “it is true”. Amen is thus an affirmation of faith in God (cf. Gen. 15:6).

This is where David’s trust was found in the midst of treachery. You can’t always trust people, but you can always trust God. He is ever faithful!

Indeed,

Psalm 41:13 (NKJV)

13 Blessed be the LORD God of Israel From everlasting to everlasting!
Amen and Amen.