

SBC – June 22, 2025

Psalm 71:14-24 (NKJV)

“God’s Help in Old Age – Part Two”

Many commentators suspect that David wrote this Psalm because it references various other Psalms that he wrote, and it sounds a lot like David (cf. Psalm 22, 31, 35). However, since it is left anonymous, we can’t be certain. Maybe David wrote it, but maybe not.

The writer has a plentiful amount of quotes and allusions to other OT texts, indicating a man who had studied the Word deeply wrote this Psalm.

I often say the Psalms have something to say to us, no matter what we are going through in life. They minister to all manner of life situations. This particular Psalm has application for all but targets those in old age in particular. And unless you die, you're headed there, so pay attention.

Slide # 1

Psalm 71

“God’s Help in Old Age”

- vv. 1-3 Trusting God for Deliverance
- vv. 4-6 God’s Constant Care
- vv. 7-11 A Strong Refuge Through Life
- vv. 12-13 Hasten to Help by Confounding the Enemy
- vv. 14-16 Rising Hope and Praise
- vv. 17-18 Strength in God from Youth to Old Age
- vv. 19-21 Looking to God to Revive Again
- vv. 22-24 Singing God’s Praises

Last time we saw the psalmist as an older man grappling with some of life’s trials including ungodly foes (v. 4), concerns about the future (v. 9), and those who would slanderously see him as a God-forsaken person (vv. 10-11). The writer’s response was to look to God with a two-pronged request, 1) to help him, 2) to confound his adversaries.

Last time we left off at verse 13, so we will pick it up tonight at Psalm 71:14.

In verse 13 he said:

Psalm 71:13 (NKJV)

13 Let them be confounded and consumed Who are adversaries of my life; Let them be covered with reproach and dishonor Who seek my hurt.

14 But I will hope continually, And will praise You yet more and more.

In contrast to the fate of his enemies, the psalmist resolved to hope continually.

The Hebrew text has an emphatic pronoun meaning “as for me,” bringing determination to the poet’s words. – ***Nelson Study Bible***

Hope is the idea of having a confident expectation. His outlook is positive. He is continually expecting that God will yet intervene and come to his aid.

Slide # 2

Psalm 147:11 (NKJV)

11 The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, In those who hope in His mercy.

Yes, the writer was facing a serious crisis that cried out for help from God. Even so he has determined to praise God more and more. Meeting with problems with praise is a very spiritual response and one that God honors.

15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness And Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits.

Righteousness is also translated as “righteous acts” in keeping with God’s faithfulness. God’s righteousness and His salvation (deliverance) are often paired together. God’s righteous acts of deliverance are many!

The psalmist in this regard has a lot to share. He shall talk of it all the day because he can’t even number them.

Public praise is the responsibility of a person who experiences deliverance by Yahweh. - ***HCSB***

16 I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only.

The psalmist here anticipates God answering prayer which will allow him to go forth in the strength of the Lord God.

Lord God is Adonia YHWH – meaning Master God Who is faithful!

In verse 14 he said, “I will hope continually” but looking forward, he is confident that God will strengthen him. Despite his diminished personal strength, he depended upon “the strength of the Lord God” to carry him forward.

And what he is looking at is the strength to be a witness for God – to make mention of His righteousness. He goes forth in the power of God to speak for God!

And note he says he will make mention of God’s righteousness and His alone! This is NOT about him at all – only about God!

In truth if we are going to talk about righteousness we have none of our own. If we are going to talk about righteousness we can only talk about God.

Slide # 3

Isaiah 64:6 (NKJV)

6 But we are all like an unclean thing, And **all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags**; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

The term “filthy rags” is quite strong. The word *filthy* is a translation of the Hebrew word *iddah*, which literally means “the bodily fluids from a woman’s menstrual cycle.” – ***Gotquestions.org***

Slide # 4

Philippians 3:8–9 (HCSB)

8 More than that, I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Him I have suffered the loss of all things and **consider them filth**, so that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in Him, **not having a righteousness of my own** from the law, but one that is through faith in Christ —the **righteousness from God based on faith**.

What a great verse to apply to life. Let us go forth in the power of the Spirit declaring the righteousness of God and His alone.

However, because of grace we can have imputed righteousness on the basis of faith. In other words, God' puts His righteousness to our account when we put our faith in Christ as Lord and Savior.

17 O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works.

No wonder the psalmist has a lot to talk about. He has learned from God since the time of his youth and now he is old. He has a lot to share in terms of how God has worked and what He has taught him.

For the believer life is an educational experience with God being our teacher!

Slide # 5

John 6:45 (NKJV)

45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

As God teaches us we should be communicating His wondrous works. Wondrous works are extraordinary things where the hand of God is clearly seen. Wondrous works are things that cause one to marvel!

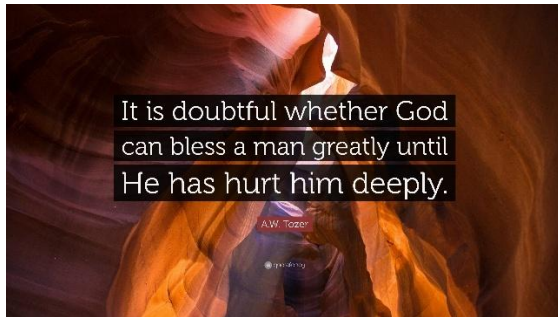
Over and over since he has been a youth the psalmist has seen the marvelous workings of God, and thus has learned much about God in seeing how He works.

How often have we seen God work in answer to prayer? I couldn't even begin to count!

Being taught by God from the time of one's youth brings about stability in the person's spiritual life. This person will not be easily shaken.

And note "You have taught me from my youth" implies he is still learning. God takes us ever deeper and further into His ways and His truth. And He often uses HARD times to take us deeper.

Slide # 6



18 Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.

Here is the goal! Even in his old age, he had goals! He asks God that even as he is old and grayheaded, that God not forsake him, ***“Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.”***

His heart is full! Twice in this Psalm he makes a full orb ed emphasis regarding the whole of life and his walk of faith.

Slide # 7

- v. 5 You are my trust from my youth...
- v. 9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age...

- v. 17 O God, You have taught me from my youth...
- v. 18 Now also when I am grayheaded...

We live in a culture that no longer values the contribution of older people. But among God’s people we should realize that the elderly have a valuable contribution to make.

The older generation still has much to contribute to the present spiritual conflict having accumulated experience and wisdom.

– Henry M Morris

There is a song I heard by the Bellany Brothers and the Isaacs titled: “Normal Aint Coming Back – Jesus Is”.

There's a bleached-out blonde giving me the evening news – she says we should be getting back to normal real soon.

But as I keep on watching what's going down, I realize the circus is still in town.

There's the TV, internet, and word of mouth, but they don't tell me up from down or north from south.

So I paid a little visit to Grandma's house today. She opened up her Bible and had this to say:

She said, "Normal ain't coming back – Jesus is. Get yourself ready, child – soon be His. This is the real deal, it ain't no quiz. Normal ain't coming back – Jesus is.

In his old age the psalmist wants to declare God's power and strength to the next generation. He wants to pass the baton of God's truth on to the younger generation. This is our calling as older people! We want to leave the faith behind to those who follow after us.

An important ministry of older believers is to declare God's wonderful deeds as a testimony to the younger generation.

– **Charles Ryrie**

The Psalmist's prayer request was obviously answered as seen in the preservation of this Psalm in the canon of holy Scripture.

19 Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?

The righteousness of God is a MAJOR theme in the Psalm, being mentioned 5 times as seen in verse 1, 15, 16, 19, and 24. Whatever God does is RIGHT! Rightness defines Him! The righteousness of God is unlimited! It is very high - reaching as it were, to the heavens. The idea is that it is beyond comprehension.

God righteousness is HIGH and the things He does are GREAT! God does right things and He does great things! They always have this combination of right and great!

And then he exclaims: "**O God, who is like You?**"

This is an expression of worship and adoration! No one is like God – no one can do what He does!

God alone is God! He is incomparable!

Slide # 8

Exodus 15:11 (NKJV)

11 “Who is like You, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?

2 Samuel 7:22 (NKJV)

22 Therefore You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

20 You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, Shall revive me again, And bring me up again from the depths of the earth.

This was not a matter of blaming God! Rather, he was acknowledging that God was SOVEREIGN over all that was happening to him, including the “great and severe troubles” he had seen. God allows these things but He always has a SOVEREIGN GOOD purpose that in the end is for our ultimate good.

Nothing happens to us that doesn’t first pass through the hands of our loving Father.

Slide # 9



But in his maturity, the psalmist believes that just as sure as God has allowed these severe troubles, He will likewise revive him and bring him through it.

The “depths of the earth” is a way of speaking of a very LOW situation as being at the brink of death! He had been about as low as you can go and yet has confidence that God will bring him out of it. He has seen God work mightily before and is confident He can and will do it again!

21 You shall increase my greatness, And comfort me on every side.

Increasing his greatness means he expects God will put him in an even better position than ever before. Some translate “greatness” as “honor”. Although he has been in a position of disgrace, yet God will revive him and put him in the place of great honor!

Thus, in restoration, he will know the comfort of God!

22 Also with the lute I will praise You— And Your faithfulness, O my God! To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.

God’s FAITHFUL working on our behalf calls for worship and praise being given to Him! God’s righteousness and faithfulness go together. God can always be counted on to do what is right and be faithful!

Both the lute and the harp are thought to have been stringed instruments. The writer was at once a poet, a singer, and an instrumentalist. He brings all these to the worship of His God!

“Holy One” corresponds to “O God, who is like You?” in verse 19. Holy means unique or completely set apart. But note the exact language here – He is the “Holy One of Israel.” God as the set apart One has shown Himself to be Who He is in relationship to Israel – His set apart people.

This title “Holy One of Israel” is found a total of three times in the Psalms (cf. 71:22; 78:41; 89:18). It is found twice in Jeremiah (50:29; 51:5), once in 2 Kings 19:22; and 25 times in Isaiah. It is prominent in Isaiah!

The psalmist celebrated God for WHO He is as the “Holy One of Israel.”

How absolutely bizarre is the theological position that says God is no longer the Holy One of Israel. I know it sounds severe, but that position is really blasphemous to YHWH – the unchanging covenant Holy One of Israel!

23 My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, And my soul, which You have redeemed.

Redeemed is the idea of being delivered! Throughout this Psalm, there is no hint of murmuring or bitterness, but rather a determination to FOCUS on God, His faithfulness, His Person, His righteousness.

We have here the testimony of an older/mature believer who has learned to wait on God, knowing God is there and will come through. He is strengthened by a long-term walk with God that has taught him much about God. This is the place of strength, stability, and JOYFUL celebration of God's goodness!

24 My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long; For they are confounded, For they are brought to shame Who seek my hurt.

In verse 8 he desires that his mouth be filled with God's praise all the day, here in verse 24 he says his tongue will talk of God's righteousness all the day long. Preoccupation with God is the KEY to the JOYFUL experience of verse 23.

His heart is so filled with the wonderfulness of God it's like he can't help but speak it all the day long. It's like all he can talk about it! It has totally captured his heart!

The Psalm comes full circle with the idea of shame. He began in verse 1 by asking the God never let him be put to shame. He concludes with the declaration that the wicked who desire his hurt will be brought to shame!

This is not vindictiveness, but rather a celebration of God's vindication – a celebration of what God is going to do. Is this not this the ultimate expression of heaven when the rebel world system is brought crashing down at the Second Coming?

Slide # 10

Revelation 18:20 (NKJV)

20 “Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you holy apostles and prophets, for God has avenged you on her!”

Revelation 19:1 (NKJV)

1 After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!"

The Psalm ends with confidence that God has answered his prayer.

The psalmist had looked back at a life of trials and blessings from the Lord; he had looked around at his enemies; he had looked ahead at old age and its problems; and he had even looked down into the depths of the earth (v. 20). But it was when he looked up and realized that God's righteousness "is very high" (v. 19) that he grew in confidence and left his worries with the Lord. – **Warren Wiersbe**

Slide # 11



Whether young or old, whatever we go through God is at work teaching us. And the great lesson of life is that God is faithful and we can TRUST Him no matter what we are facing. That is the great issue in life!

Psalm 71 begins with, "In You, O Lord, I put my trust". That is a great place to start and to end and all along the way!

"In You, O Lord, I put my trust".