

The Song of a Soul Set Free

Psalm 40:1-3

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Our text: I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 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. 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.

Introduction:

Pictured here on 10/13/2010 is one of the rescued Chilean miners giving thanks to God after being trapped 2,000 feet underground with 32 other men for 69 days!

David was also brought up out of a horrible pit! Everyone who is saved is rescued from the deep pit of sin. (Jeremiah also brought out of a deep pit in Jeremiah 38:6; this pit was literal, David's pit and our pit is a spiritual pit.)



Read vs. 1-3 (We read of the dramatic conversion of the “Maniac of Gadara” in Luke 8 and the transformation of Saul of Tarsus in Acts 9. Here, in just 3 short verses, is the testimony of David—the sweet Psalmist of Israel)

Is this your testimony? This was David's testimony. These 3 short verses are a glowing testimony of the child of God who has been /redeemed from the pit of sin. If you have been saved today- these words should be on your lips, as they flow out a heart that has been transformed!!

Are you down?! If you're a Christian- you should be UP!

David's testimony in these three verses shows how he was UP in 5 ways:

- *He brought me up! (He brought me up out of an horrible pit)*
- *He cleaned me up! (Out of the miry clay) **We'll see these some***
- *He set me up! (And set my feet upon a rock) **more during the message***
- *He keeps me up! (Established my goings)*
- *He tuned me up! (Put a new song in my mouth)*

If you're not saved, you have cause to be DOWN—which you'll see in a few minutes.

Is the Christian life trouble-free?! Absolutely not. In fact, this Psalm could be split right down the middle.

- *The first half of the Psalm is David's Testimony-*
- *The second half lists David's Trials.*

David was surrounded with innumerable evils! Some of those evils were his own (v. 12) and then, there were those who wished him evil. (v. 14)

Yes, we are going to have problems. Yes, we are going to have persecution. Yes, we are going to have our own failings and short-comings! But, this song begins and ends with God being David's Deliverer!!! (v. 17, also 13)

He delivers us from the Penalty & Power of Sin & will aid us with the Problems of Life!!

If you were to put your problems on one side of the scale- and your blessings on the other- the blessings from the hand of God would always outweigh life's problems!!
(Read Verse 5) He daily loads us with benefits!!!

Let's look closely at verses 1- 3, and listen to David's Song! David's Song is that of a Soul Set Free!! **Four Descriptions Of His Deliverer**

PRAYER

WORD PICTURE: In Psalm 23: a pasture/ sheep & Shepherd Here...

The scene is a deep pit—with walls too high and too slippery to scale. The bottom of this pit is miry. The victim is not even able to make an attempt at climbing out, because he is stuck in the miry clay. Jeremiah 38:6..."and they let down Jeremiah with cords. And in the dungeon there was no water, but mire: so Jeremiah sunk in the mire." Then, along comes Jesus Christ with His rope of grace!

David gives us Four Descriptions Of His Deliverer

1. He Is y Redeemer

He Brought Me Up

"I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay,..."

When you got saved- He brought you up out of several things:

We are delivered from-

A. The Damnation Of Hell "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:1 God's condemnation was over our heads. (John 3:18- "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." **Hell was My destination- now Heaven is!!**

He saved us out of a horrible pit- and he will save us from going to a horrible pit!!!

We are delivered from-

B. The Darkness Of A Blinded Mind II Cor. 4:4-6 This wonderful Book was a closed Book to each of us before God opened our eyes to the truth! When Paul gave his testimony before King Agrippa- he told what Jesus commissioned him to do: "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God,

that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.” (Acts 26:18) Praise God for spiritual vision!!

We are delivered from...

C. The Death Of The Unregenerate State Eph. 2:1

“A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” (Ezek. 36:26) * We were dead- but now, through Christ, we are alive!!!

D. The Devil’s Family John 8:44 - “ye are of your father, the devil.” When we get saved- we are adopted into God’s family by way of the new birth!!! We were once bound in Satan’s kingdom of darkness and doom- now we have been delivered by our Redeemer to walk in His Kingdom of light and liberty. “Who hath delivered us from the power of dark-ness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” (Col. 1:13)

E. The Degradation Of Sin “the miry clay” He Cleaned Me Up

We are set free from the **guilt of sin** and the **grime of sin!**

Sin is “miry clay.” Through the precious blood of Christ-

we have been set free from **the condemnation of sin** and from **the**

contamination

of sin!

HE BROUGHT ME UP! HE CLEANED ME UP!

“In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;” (Eph. 1:7)

Because He is My Redeemer- I Have Salvation

2nd Description of His Deliverer

2. He Is My Rock

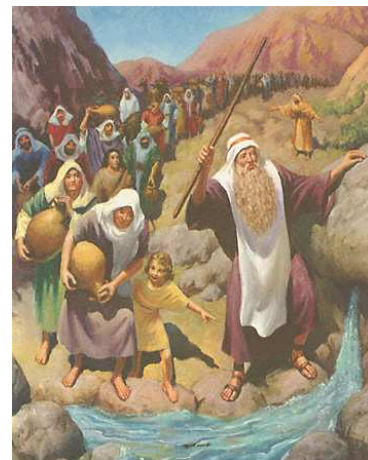
“...and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.”

He Brought Me Up He Cleaned Me Up Now- He Set Me Up!

A. Christ is The Smitten Rock Verses 6-10 here in Psalm 40 are Messianic!! (In fact, Hebrews 10:4-10 is a classic passage about the sacrifice of Christ- these verses are quoted there!!)

Christ is the Smitten Rock- Isa. 53:4- “smitten of God,

and afflicted.”



Moses struck a rock in Exodus 17. Listen to Paul's commentary on that Old Testament event- "And did all drink of the

same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ." (I Cor. 10:4)

B. Christ is The Solitary Rock

*The same Book of 1st Corinthians tells us in- 3:11- "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." * He is the Solitary Foundation All other ground is sinking sand: religion, church membership, baptism, good works, etc.!*

C. He is the Solid Rock *When our lives are set upon the Rock, Christ Jesus- the floods can come- and the winds can blow- but, we will still be secure on Our Rock. (Matthew 7:24-27) If you aren't saved, your foundation is Sand!!*

He is the Smitten Rock/ The Solitary Rock/ The Solid Rock

Because He is My Rock- I Have Stability

David's 3rd Description of His Deliverer

3. He Is My Road *"and established my goings"*

He Keeps Me Up

What is the significance of this phrase?! Now that we are saved, we are on the right road!! We are on the narrow way that leads to life. (Matthew 7:13 & 14) We are on the Road to Glory.

*When Paul was blinded on the Road to Damsascus he was led by the hand by his companions into Damascus. The Lord appeared to Ananias and said, "Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth." **STRAIGHT!** That's the street we are on!!*

Christ is My Road. We are to follow in His steps. He goes before us. Christ calls Himself the Good Shepherd in John 10. Listen to verse 27- "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." We are now on a path that leads to true satisfaction. So many are wandering aimlessly through life- without purpose, without contentment. But, when we know Christ, and follow in His steps we have purpose, contentment, satisfaction, and true joy.

Let Christ be "your road"...

This road will be...

- *A path of righteousness Ps. 23*
- *A road to the abundant life John 10:10*
- *The road to glory Jn. 14:6*

Unsaved friend—Christ is Who you have been looking for!! You thought it was riches/ fame/ the bigger home/ the more expensive car/ the illicit affair/ the delusive diversion of drugs and alcohol None of those things can meet the needs of the soul!!

Christ leads us! He directs us.

- *“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.” Psalm 37:23.*
- *Prov. 16:9 tells us, “A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.” Let the Lord direct your steps.*
- *“The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.” (Prov. 16:17)*

The Holiness Highway- that's the Path of Satisfaction

REVIEW:

Because He is My Redeemer- I Have Salvation

Because He is My Rock- I Have Stability

AND—

Because He is My Road- I Have Satisfaction

Now the 4th and last Description of David's Deliverer

4. He Is My Rejoicing He tuned me up

He put a new song in my mouth!

Once a cry—now a celebration;

Once a horrible pit—now a house of praise;

Once we were sinking in miry clay—now we sing a merry chorus.

Because He is My Rejoicing- I Have A Song

He is My Song—Continually Quote— *Philippians 4:4/ 1 Thessalonians 5:16 Psalm 40:16!! Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The LORD be magnified.*

He will be My Song—Eternally

Revelation 15:3 *And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.*

Close Your Bibles Please and Turn In Your Hymnals to “And Can It Be”

Our message title is The Song of a Soul Set Free—I want to share with you the story of a group of prisoners who went to their public execution with a song, because they had been set free by the power of God.

This classic hymn by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was written during the time that he conducted a ministry to death row prisoners in England. At that time in British history, those convicted of a capital crime were sentenced to death by a public hanging. With a great burden for these men, Wesley went into death row and brought these hopeless men to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. They were only held on death row a short time before their execution, so Wesley wasted no time in ministering to them and teaching them the truths of salvation and their hope in Christ.

It was during this time that Wesley wrote the words and music (a different tune than in our hymnals today) to “And Can It Be.” He had taught his new song to his “little congregation.” He rode with these newly saved men in the horse-drawn death wagon. As they approached the nooses suspended from the trees and the waiting crowd, he rallied the men to join him in song. With the joy of salvation on their faces they sang out,

*And can it be that I should gain
An interest in the Savior’s blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain-
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?
Amazing love! How can it be,
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?*

*Long my imprisoned spirit lay,
Fast bound in sin and nature’s night;
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray-
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
My chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.
My chains fell off, my heart was free,*

I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

The crowd gathered for executions was usually hostile and rowdy, but now they are hushed and almost reverent! The execution takes place, and while these men are suspended by ropes between heaven and earth, Wesley—standing in the death wagon—sings a solo on the last verse.

*No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;
 Alive in Him, my living Head,
 And clothed in righteousness divine,
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 And claim the crown, through Christ my own.*

He then preached to the crowd gathered around the trees of execution. He declared to them that marvelous truth of 1 Peter 2:24:

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” He pointed them to another execution on a hill called Calvary.

Is Christ your Redeemer?

Is Christ your Rock?

Is Christ your Road?

Is Christ your Rejoicing?

Come to the Cross—and be a soul set free!