

**PSALMS**

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 39 as we continue our study through the Word of God. Now this Psalm of David could have been written during the same time frame as Psalm 38, only now David is getting impatient and he wants to feel good again. He is tired of the condition he finds himself in. But in his frustration David does not want to give the wicked an opportunity to come against God because of what he said.

Dean Perowne put it this way. He said, "The holy singer had long pent up his feelings; and though busy thoughts were stirring within him, he would not give them utterance. He could not bare his bosom to the rude gaze of an unsympathizing world. And he fear lest, while telling his perplexities, some word might drop from his lips which would give the wicked an occasion to speak evil against God. And when at last, unable to repress his strong emotion, he speaks to God and not to man, it is as one who feels how hopeless the problem of life is, except as seen in the light of God." I think we all can take heed to that lesson and apply it to our life.

You see, life is short and most people ignore that fact or try to make themselves feel young, feel healthy, but the death rate is still 1 per person and that is with a 100% guarantee! We need to learn how to number our days so that they can be used for God's glory instead of being in that condition that complains about everything. It is just like David, his words of complaining could be heard by those that do not know God and they can get a wrong concept of our God. For those that are saved that hear all the complaining, they can become discouraged. If we truly believe that God is in control of every aspect of our lives, and He is, then whatever comes our way He will give us the strength to endure! With that said, let's begin reading in Psalm 39, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

### **PSALM 39**

#### **VERSES 1-6**

1. Here we see two important points that we can learn from and apply to our lives. First of all we see that David is not trying to hide what is going on in his life, but he does not want to give the unsaved an opportunity to come against God by what he does say. He does not want to complain before the unsaved. That is an important lesson for us to learn because if we have lost hope, if we are seen as a complainer all that time, those that don't know the Lord will be repelled from the Lord and not drawn to Him! We need to be careful in what we say, for when we speak foolishly, we make God look bad, and in a sense, we make ourselves look good. May we follow Job's example that "**In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.**" Job 1:22.

And make no mistake about it, David was not happy to be in the position that he was in. I think you can see that David is really upset. He was boiling inside, ready to explode. But before he exploded and shot his mouth off in front of the wicked, he turns to God and is going to bare his soul to the Lord. That is exactly what he should have done and what we should do. Really, what are the unsaved going to give to us? Nothing but we can give them an earful with all our complaining instead of bringing all our requests to the Lord and trusting in Him.

It is as Paul said in Philippians 4:6-7, **“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”** You see, let your requests be known God and with thanksgiving not complaining, and God will replace that anxiety with His peace! May we learn that lesson!

2. And what David was going through was probably chastening from the Lord and he is asking the Lord to help him learn these lessons quickly so that he might move on. Life is too short to be dealing with the consequences of sin for long periods of time. David wants to get beyond this. So he will repent and try to learn the lesson so he can move on. You see, God is molding and shaping our lives, preparing us for eternity! In Amos 4:12 the Lord said, **“... ‘Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!’”** And that is exactly what God is doing with us down here, preparing us to meet our Maker, to meet our God!

3. Now let's think about this for a minute. Here in verse 5 David is speaking of how brief our life is. When compared with eternity, our life is but a vapor. In fact, that Hebrew word for "**vapor**" is Hebel and it can mean "vanity" or "meaningless." How can our life be meaningless, empty? That does not seem right! It is if you live your life doing your own thing instead of doing what you were created for, worshiping the Lord, serving Him! And notice how verse 5 ends, speaking of life being meaningless, empty, vain, like a vapor and then the word "**Selah**" or pause, think about this for a minute, don't pass it up because you need to reflect on this before you move on!

And think about this, how many people are preparing for eternity? The mentality is grab for all the gusto you can, but that is tragically wrong. Do what you want, grab for all you can because you deserve it, it is your right to do those things and no one is going to stop you!

And yet, listen to what Jesus said in Luke 12:15. He said, "**... 'Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.'**" You see, that kind of lifestyle, "eat, drink and be merry" is vanity. It is foolishness when you compare the brevity of this life with eternity. It is not the abundance of what you possess, but who possess you and it needs to be the Lord, He is the One you need to put your trust in and rest in Him! We are going to see that as we move on in the next verse of this Psalm. Listen to what David says!

VERSES 7-11

1. David understood this chastening was coming from the Lord and it can be overwhelming at times. And we can be so focused on what is going on around us, what others are doing to us instead of doing what David did, **“My hope is in You.”** Where is your hope tonight? Is it in what you can do, how you can get out of this situation? It needs to be in the Lord because even at our best, we are empty, the things we try to do apart from the Lord are vain, they are meaningless, they will not benefit us but they will surely hurt us!

Thus, if you are in sin, like David was, repent and get right with God. You see, the best thing and really the only thing we can do is to put our trust, our hope in the Lord! Look at this again. David asks the question, **“What do I wait for?”** And notice his response. It is not focused upon this life, but upon the Lord. That is what we must do, give it to the Lord and rest in Him, wait upon Him for deliverance instead of getting in the way and messing things up. It is as David said in Psalm 27:14, **“Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”**

VERSES 12-13

1. Again, David understood that this was the chastening of God upon his life, and thus, he kept quiet, he did not complain before the unsaved or the people in general. The one he goes to is the Lord and he asks God to deliver him from this chastening. David wants to live his life as a witness to others that they may look to eternity and not the brevity of this life. That they would be prepared to meet their Maker! He does not want to live his life in such a way that it would cause people to turn from God but that they would be drawn to the Lord by his actions, the way he lived out his faith. And think about it, our lives are doing one or the other. They are either drawing people to the Lord or they are repelling them away from the Lord!

2. Now this Psalm ends kind of on a downer you might say. He says, **“Hear my prayer, O Lord, And give ear to my cry; Do not be silent at my tears; For I am a stranger with You, A sojourner, as all my fathers were. Remove Your gaze from me, that I may regain strength, Before I go away and am no more.”** We don’t see many Psalms like that but please understand that as we move into Psalm 40, what we see David praying about here we see the Lord answering in Psalm 40! So there truly is the hope, hope in the Lord!

**PSALM 40**

David begins this prayer with praise unto God and ends with petition to God to intercede and deliver him from this situation. David did his part in this situation, which was to wait upon the Lord and to praise the Lord and now God is answering that prayer of David.

How did David come to that conclusion? As you read this Psalm you can break it down into three sections. In verses 1-3 we see David reflect back on God's past deliverance from difficult situations that he was in. It is important to remember what God has done in the past to help you in the present. Then, in verses 4-10 we see David reflect on the goodness of God. When you know who God is through His Word then you will know that He is good and you can praise Him and trust in Him because of that. And then we see David end this Psalm in verses 11-17 with a prayer that God would deliver him from present and future troubles. It is a cry for help unto the Lord and we all have done that, maybe we are doing that right now and we will all eventually do it and probably many times in our life. So let's pick up in verse 1 of Psalm 40 and see what the Lord has for us.

**VERSES 1-3**

1. We don't know the situation that David is speaking of but whatever it was it was bad. David felt like he was in a horrible pit and sinking in the mud with no way out. But the Lord heard his cry and picked him up and placed his feet upon a solid rock. It was out of all that we see David sing out a new song unto the Lord for His great deliverance. David was, by his life, an example to others of how great is our God!

2. How does this relate to us today? God has done this with each of us. He has brought us out of the pit of sin we were in. A pit that was horrible and we were sinking into the mud with no way out. And then, as we cried out to Him, to the Lord He heard our cry and He has placed our feet on the solid Rock, Jesus Christ. He then will guide our steps as we continue on in our walk with Him. This brings joy to our heart, a new song you might say. And God then puts us on display for all to see, and as they look to us and what God has done, many will turn to the Lord, they will get saved. When people see how God delivered you from the pit you were in, that is a powerful witness to the unsaved and an encouragement to the saved!

#### VERSES 4-5

1. David is speaking of the goodness of God and if we were truly honest, we are so blessed. And in saying that, this should give us great comfort, that God blesses us exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think. You see, God's thoughts towards us are innumerable. The Bible tells us that the Lord knows every hair of our head. Now if He is that concerned about things that are small, nonessential, how much more is He concerned about the big things in our life. Never lose sight of that. We tend to focus on the bad things, the difficult situations we face and they eclipse what God has done, is doing and even will do in our lives. In other words, if God is for us who can be against us!



VERSES 6-8

1. These words, “**My ears You have opened**” seem to be referring us back to Exodus 21:6 and Deuteronomy 15:17. David may be speaking of a person who becomes a bondslave. A bondslave was a slave who served his 6 years and in the 7th year he was free to go. But if he wanted to remain with his master because he loved him, he would be taken to the doorpost and there his ear would be pierced and a gold ring placed in it. That told everyone that this man freely has given his life to serve his master. That is what God wants from us, our life! It is easy to light a few candles, throw some holy water on, go to church, and-so-on, but God is not interested in that. He is interested in your life, that it would be a sacrifice unto Him, a sweet smelling sacrifice.

2. Now here in verse 7 it would be better translated without the punctuation marks. It should read, “**. . . Behold I come In the scroll of the book it is written of me.**” From Genesis through to Revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Think about that. Every page, every story, every illustration, everything in some way speaks of Jesus; it is a picture of Him.

Remember what Jesus said to the Jewish religious leaders in John 5:39-40, **“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”**

You see, they searched the Scriptures looking for abundant life, but the Scriptures spoke of Jesus, where that abundant life is found and they missed it! And we are no different today. Look at the people who have read the Scriptures and they miss Jesus in them. How they do that I don't get it, they have to willfully reject what is being said. But from the very beginning of the book, in Genesis all the way through to the end we see Jesus. Don't miss Him!

3. One more point here and that is Paul quoted verses 6-8 of this Psalm in Hebrews chapter 10 and Paul is pointing us to Jesus, the ultimate example of One who had submitted completely and totally to the Father. He gave His life for us so that we may live with Him!

#### VERSES 9-10

1. David is just finishing up speaking of the goodness of God and how that he is not ashamed to make Him known to others, to let his light shine you might say!

2. Now let me ask you this question. “Why do we have to go through these trials in life?”

Because without a test there is not a testimony! Noah Webster in his 1828 dictionary wrote this regarding the definition of this word, “testimony.” He wrote, “A solemn declaration or affirmation made for the purpose of establishing or proving some fact.” In other words, what you have experienced is a testimony of what you believe, you are living out your faith and it is a witness to those around you! We need to let others know what the Lord has done for us, the things He has done and is doing in our life. In other words, we need to let our light shine!

#### VERSES 11-15

1. In the rest of this Psalm David is praying that God would deliver him from present and future troubles. It is a cry for help unto the Lord. And you can see that David is overwhelmed by all that has come upon him and even his sin, his iniquities has caused him to look down because he is so broken. That is a humble and broken spirit that God will lift up. He does not lift up the proud, but the humble, as we see here with David! And thus, David seeks the goodness of God, His grace and mercy to be poured out upon his life because apart from the Lord, there is nothing that he can do!

2. Now here is where we need to be careful. You see, it is easy to understand when your enemies come against you, but for David and us, many times it is friends and family that can strike a blow at you. I saw this with my mom when I first got diabetes. She knew my faith in the Lord, and when I developed diabetes she said to my wife, “I bet this is a real blow to his faith!” Instead of reaching out she was striking against my faith. I know where she was coming from, she thought that this disease would destroy my faith; she thought it was just a fad I was going through. But it did not destroy my faith, it did not weaken my faith and she saw that it only made my faith stronger.

3. Now in verse 15 when David quotes what others are saying about him, those words “**Aha, Aha!**” don’t seem too bad. But you have to understand that there are no swear words in the Hebrew language. And so these words were a real put down when they were spoken. And David is praying that his enemies will get their just punishment for what they have done to him!

#### VERSES 16-17

1. David starts out by saying that those that seek God should rejoice and be glad, and they should sing out “**The LORD be magnified.**” What a lesson for us. Keep in mind that David is still praying about the situation, he knows that the Lord has heard his hearts cry but the situation is still before him. And yet, he is able to praise the Lord in the midst of all this. What a great lesson for us to learn and apply to our lives!

Remember Paul's letter to the Philippians. He was in prison when he wrote this and yet, while in this prison he was able to write, "**For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**"

Philippians 1:19-21.

Paul was willing to magnify the name of the Lord no matter what the cost was. The big question for us is this, "Are we willing to magnify the name of the Lord no matter what we are going through?" That is a question each of us will have to answer on our own, between you and the Lord. He has saved us and really, what more is there for us? That alone should cause us to praise Him and lift Him up. Don't lose sight of what God has done, don't let situations cloud the picture that God has painted for us to see – ***THE CROSS!***

### **PSALM 41**

Here in this Psalm David is speaking of God's blessings being poured out upon those who minister and care for the poor. Ultimately it is Jesus who looks upon us poor, broken people and preserves us!

VERSES 1-3

1. Make no mistake about it, God is the defender of the underdog. He is concerned for those in need. And thus, as His representative, we should also be concerned. Isaiah 1:17 says, **“Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.”** And as we do, we are blessed by God. And don’t think that when God speaks of the poor He is only talking about a lack of wealth, a lack of money. He is also speaking of the powerless, the helpless. As Proverbs 19:17 says, **“He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, And He will pay back what he has given.”**

And what about those that are poor in spirit, what can we do for them? We are to point them to Jesus, the only One who can truly fill their lives and satisfy them! It is not only money, even though that is how many portray it. It is our time, our effort, our sharing and-so-on that we can truly bless people with!

2. Now there is another principle here and many don’t like to talk about it because of the abuse that is seen in some churches. The principle is this, what we sow is what we will reap. And if we reach out to those in need, God says He will preserve us, bless us, deliver us from our enemies, and strengthen us physically. Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 9:6-7, **“But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”**

Yes it is important to give but it is more important of where your heart is at when you give. If you give because you feel like you have to or that you are forced to give or that you even think there is a good return if you give, then that is the wrong motivation and God will not honor that! Give cheerfully, give because you want to give, give because you love the Lord because God loves that kind of giver! That is the principle and one that they were very familiar with since they had an agrarian society. If you planted just a little corn then that is what you would get in return. If you planted a lot of corn then that is what you get in return. In other words, what you sow is what you will reap!

#### VERSES 4-6

1. It is amazing that when you are down there are those vultures that will prey upon you and wait for you to, in a sense, die. Here, during this illness of David, whatever it was, his enemies had come to him like they were really concerned. But their words were empty, vain; they spoke out of both sides of their mouth you might say. You see, as soon as they left David, they would go and speak to others what was really in their heart. They wanted David dead and they were only pretending to be concerned about his condition. And like David, we need to just bring these things to the Lord, that was the best thing for David and I believe it is the best thing for us many times!

VERSES 7-9

1. In front of David they would be speaking flattering words that David saw right through, he saw they were empty. But away from David they were saying that this illness was “a thing of Satan.” It is truly amazing, but when you go through difficult times, you can easily see who your friends are.

2. Now I want to focus on what David wrote in verse 9 because this verse helps us to date this Psalm. This Psalm must have been written after David’s sin with Bathsheba, and during the time of his son, Absalom’s rebellion. You see, David’s friend that came against him was Ahithophel. This man was not only David’s close friend, but his counselor, his advisor. They were very close. And the way this verse is constructed, it had to be a close friend that did this to David. You see, that phrase “**has lifted up his heel against me**” speaks of betrayal. And you can’t be betrayed by a stranger, only someone you are close to. And, as I said, David was a very close friend to Ahithophel.

You may remember the story out of II Samuel when David’s son, Absalom, led a revolt to usurp the throne from his father David. Now why did Ahithophel join forces with Absalom and turn against David? One reason may be that Ahithophel was Bathsheba’s grandfather. And when David committed adultery with her and had her husband killed in battle, he could not forgive David for destroying their marriage. He let bitterness grow until it was manifested in this action of betrayal. And in the end, when Ahithophel saw that Absalom’s reign was coming to an end, he went out and hung himself. (II Samuel 16, 17).



3. Many times in the Scriptures you will find a near application to what was written and then a distant application, one that would take place down the road. As we have seen the near application or the present application was speaking of David's friend Ahithophel, but it also has a future application.

You see, these words were spoken by Jesus of His friend Judas Iscariot, one of His men. In John 13:18 Jesus said, **“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.’”** Judas was a friend to Jesus and on the night of the last supper, Jesus gave Judas the place right next to Him, on His left side, the place of honor. And as they were lying down to eat this meal, they would recline on pillows. You see, they did not sit at tables, as the paintings portray. They reclined on these pillows and the table was a low solid U- shaped block. And as they reclined on their left side, resting on their left elbow, their right hand was free to reach for the food.

And Jesus knew exactly what Judas was going to do, and He still gave him every opportunity to change, but he didn't. God could have struck him dead, but Jesus continued to love him and reach out to him, giving him the seat of honor, and also a piece of bread, which again was a mark of special affection.

Peter, in Acts chapter 1, spoke these words regarding Judas, **“for he was numbered with us and obtained a part in this ministry.’ (Now this man purchased a field with the wages of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his entrails gushed out.”** Acts 1:17-18. Like Ahithophel, Judas went out and hung himself after he betrayed his friend.

VERSES 10-12

1. David is looking to God to deliver him from his enemies, just as he did with Ahithophel. God will take care of our enemies if we let Him. May we not get in the way of what He is doing because there will be times when God makes our enemies our friends!

VERSE 13

1. Keep in mind that we have seen that this Psalm that began by blessing the man who considered the poor now ends by blessing the Lord. And as we conclude we now come to the end of the first of the five books of the Psalms. And each section will close with a doxology or this ending of praise unto God. Remember, the book of Psalms is the praise and worship book of the Temple. In this first section, 1-41, all were most likely written by David, even though a couple we are unsure of, for Psalms 10 and 33 are untitled. Book 2 of the Psalms goes from Psalm 42-72. So let's continue on and see what the Lord has for us this evening as we begin book 2 of the Psalms.

**PSALM 42**

Some feel that this Psalm, written by the sons of Korah, was written through the eyes of David during the time his son, Absalom was rebelling against him. And if anyone has ever been depressed before or if you are tonight, this Psalm is one of those that can lift your spirits and get you focused back on the Lord. You see, this person, as we go through this Psalm, was depressed and he is seeking after the Lord to lift up his spirits because the world has him downcast!

**VERSE 1**

1. God has built into our bodies powerful desires and they are not necessarily evil or bad. The most important being the hunger for air, for within a few minutes without air you will die. Second is a thirst for water, for in a few days without water, you will die. And thirdly is a hunger for food, for you may be able to last only a few weeks without food. Now this picture of thirsting for water may not mean too much to us in this part of the world, for we have plenty of water. We turn on the tap and out it comes!

But in the Middle East, water is a precious commodity. So let's try and get the right perspective here, try to remember a hot summer's day when you were involved in some strenuous activity, and how much you thirsted for water, or the Marathon that they had to cancel because of the heat in Green Bay back in May. The runners were getting so dehydrated that they were passing out, one man did not even know where he was or that he was even in the Marathon. That is the picture that is being painted for us.

Now let's take this out of the picture of the physical body and its need for water and let's think about our soul, it too has a thirst. What is that thirst? It has a thirst that will only be quenched in God. We may try taking in other things, but it will not satisfy; only God will. Until we come into a relationship with Him through Jesus, we will never be satisfied!

As I have said before, our physical body has 3 powerful drives; that of air, water and food. But so does our spiritual bodies. You see, the Hebrew word for spirit is *RUACH*, which can be translated breath or air. We need the Spirit of God to fill our lives. There is that void that only God can fill and just as our physical body needs water so too our spirit needs the refreshing waters of the Holy Spirit.

Remember what Jesus said in John 7:37-38, **“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”** So He can satisfy our thirsty souls.

Also, in John 6:48 Jesus said, **“I am the bread of life.”** He will feed our hungry hearts. All three of these needs are met in Christ as He breaths new life into us, fills us with the refreshing waters of His Spirit, and feeds our hungry hearts with His Word. As Jesus said in John 6:35, **“...‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.’”** We are satisfied in Him!

VERSES 2-3

1. Here is the good news and the bad news. First of all the good news, God will not leave us in this condition. Now the bad news, God will wait until we reach the end of ourselves, until we are done trying to fix it on our own, and until we reach this point, God will not act. Why? Because we are not thirsty yet! In other words, we just don't see that need.

Remember what Jesus said to the woman of Samaria in John chapter 4. He said to her, “. . . ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’” He will not only fill that thirst but He will flow through us and touch the lives of others. He is satisfying, He is refreshing. When we focus on Him and allow Him to fill us, that emptiness will be gone.

2. It is amazing that as we are going through difficult times there are those who want to jump all over us, pointing their finger and saying, “‘Where is your God now?’” They love to mock our faith, especially when times get tough. Don't allow them to confuse you, God is still there. In Psalm 115:2-3 we read, “‘Why should the Gentiles say, ‘So where is their God?’ But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.’” God is still in control, He is still on the throne. Never lose that perspective no matter what people may say to you. God is for us! And are you really going to listen to what man has to say over what God has told us in His Word? I hope you listen to God, He loves you so much!

VERSES 4-5b

1. Here is the problem for us many times. We think that because we are Christians we never have a bad day, we never get down, we never get depressed. Is that true? No it is not true, we do have days like that. Look at David here, he is reminiscing about the good days he had. What joy those times brought him! But now David is down. He is depressed over the situations that he is in. He is discouraged. And some of the greatest Christian leaders had times like this. But what can we do to overcome these times. Do we call our therapist for help? Go to drugs to ease our depressed state? We don't have to guess what we should do, for David is going to tell us how we can overcome these times. And obviously this is for every one of us here, listening on the radio, on the Internet, on television, this is for us!

VERSE 5c-d

1. What I want you to notice is that this is a choice in our part. We can be downcast, depressed or we can look to the Lord and have our spirits lifted up to the only one who can help. Our hope must be in God! Remember what David said in Psalm 27:13, “**I would have lost heart, unless I had believed That I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.**” If he believed that he would not see the goodness of God in people's lives, he would have just given up. But because he believed he would see God work, not only in his life, but in the lives of others, it brought him hope, that was, of course, centered in the Lord.

The situation may not change but here is a sure thing in your life. The Lord will never change, He is the same yesterday, today and forever and His love for you is everlasting! That should lift your spirits because your focus has changed off yourself and back onto the one that can help, the Lord!

#### VERSES 6-8

1. We might say, “When it rains, it pours!” In other words, these times will come upon your life. It is not a one shot deal here. Trouble will come and what you do with that when it comes will determine if you will be downcast or lifted up. Now if this Psalm was written with David on the run from Absalom, when David fled to the Trans- Jordan area, we see that even during this time, on the run, he looked to God for his strength. That should never stop. He should always be the focus in our life no matter what we are going through. And just because we can’t see what is happening to the end or why it is happening, how this will work out, He knows everything and thus, look to Him, let Him lift your spirits!

#### VERSES 9-11

1. Make no mistake about it, there are times when God seems distant from us, like He is not listening to our hearts cry, that He has forgotten us or even worse forsaken us. Is that true? Absolutely not and thus, our feelings are wrong because God’s Word tells us He will not forsake us, He will not leave us! If you lose that perspective, you will be depressed!

2. Now notice how this Psalm ends. We don't see David walking down the street on a bed of roses with the sun shining down upon him. Mr. Bluebird sitting on his shoulder singing, but he did leave him a little gift on his shoulder you might say! We have been there and the same is true for David. The trial is still going on. David is still down and he is trying to get re-focused. Friends are still mocking God during this time. The thing we must remember is that God never promises to deliver us from all our problems, but He has promised to be with us through them all. Thus – ***HOPE IN GOD!***

### **PSALM 43**

Now as you read this Psalm and Psalm 42 they seem very similar and that leads some to believe that Psalms 42 and 43 were one continuous Psalm. In fact, some of the ancient manuscripts have them together. And David's cry in this Psalm is to return to Jerusalem where he can worship and praise God. He is tired of being on the run. So again, this may speak of the time when he fled Jerusalem when his son Absalom rebelled against him.



VERSES 1-2

1. Have things ever looked very black, very dark in your life? As you looked at this nation, has it ever seemed very dark, very black? Absolutely that happens and may be happening right now in your life and certainly in this nation! But here's the thing. As much as evil may permeate this land, don't give up. Paul said in I Corinthians 15:58, **“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”** We may never see revival in this nation again, but that doesn't mean we won't see changed lives, our work for the Lord is never in vain!

2. Now the problem comes when, like David, we let life's circumstances confuse us about God. God is not fighting against us, He is for us. Never forget that!

VERSES 3-4

1. David is asking God to send his light that he may gain understanding; he may see the truth of God that is found in His Word. Jesus said in John 8:12, **“Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.’”**

It is not that the light is not there, we just don't always agree with what God has said and that is what gets us in trouble. That is what gets us off course and in a mess. His Word is there for us to follow if we want but to negate it causes us to walk in darkness and that is never good! There is joy that is found in the presence of God and David wants that joy back. He has allowed the situation of life to take him away and yes, his situation was very difficult, but God is bigger than anything that may come our way if we would only trust and rest in Him!

#### VERSE 5

1. Make no mistake about it because we have all been there. It is so easy to let life's circumstances overwhelm us. It is easy to become discouraged, to feel like there is no hope. But there is, and that hope is found in the Lord. But we can block Him out of our life with the simplest of difficulties. The creator of heaven and earth can be obliterated by our small problems.

Think about it this way. The sun's diameter is approximately 865,000 miles and yet, I can block it out completely by placing my fist, my hand, next to my eyes. Just move it close enough and the sun is completely gone!

We can do the same with the Lord by focusing so much on self, on our situations, putting our problems so close that that we lose sight of Him. Hope in God. Look to Him! Remember what Peter said in I Peter 1:3-4, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”**

2. As we close tonight let me say this. I find it interesting that David keeps repeating this phrase, **“Hope in God.”** Why did he need to do that? Because he kept losing sight of God through the situations he was facing. And keep in mind that the situations were still there, but now his perspective has changed. It is as Morgan wrote, “Not yet has the answer come. The darkness and the mystery are still about him, but the shining way is seen; and again the soul is forbidden to despair and hope is encouraged in God.” And so, may we learn to **“Hope in God.”**