

The LORD our God

Psalm 71: 1-8

This is a Psalm of David believed to have been written in his latter years of life. It is just one of the many Psalms that David penned while meditating upon the goodness of the Lord.

I have tried to imagine how David must have felt during the latter days of life. No doubt he reflected on all of the times that God had shown Himself mighty in his life. Few had enjoyed the victories or faced the battles that David faced and yet he was mindful of the Lord. His life was one that had known great joy as well as great defeat.

Our lives are likely not as colorful or dramatic as David's was, but we would all have to agree that God has been good in our lives as well. Nearing the end of life, David realized some things about God that would be beneficial for us to understand as well. I want to look at the text we've read and consider the mighty attributes of: [The LORD our God](#).

I. A God of Peace (1, 5) – [In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. V.5 – For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth](#). Clearly David had found One that he could believe in; One in whom he trusted and possessed hope in. Many even in David's day were putting their hope and trust in other things, but David had learned to rely upon the Lord. He had learned to be confident in God's ability. He had witnessed His mighty hand too many times to doubt the Lord.

- We live in a time where many are seeking for some means of security. They are looking for something they can trust in. They are seeking a means of hope in an ever changing world. Many are trusting in their own abilities or the abilities of others. Few ever find real hope and they lack the one sure thing that they can place their trust in.

- I am glad that I serve One that I can trust today. He has never failed me yet and I have no fear that He ever will. I am confident in my Lord's ability to care for me and secure my needs. I have a blessed hope in the Lord Jesus Christ that this world simply cannot offer. [1 Cor.15:19 – If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable](#).

- We have a hope tonight. [Ps.146:5 – Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God: Titus 2:13 – Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ](#); With such hope and trust how could we not have peace?

II. A God of Protection (2, 4) – [Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. V.4 – Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man](#). David had certainly been delivered before. He knew what it was to face the adversary. He knew what it was to face situations that were beyond his control. It is beyond comprehension that a little, shepherd boy could defeat a

great and mighty giant, but God delivered David while he faced Goliath. Time and again God delivered him while Saul hunted him as an animal. During the time of Absalom's rebellion, God was there to care for David and deliver him from those who sought his life. Now in his old age David remains confident that he serves a God who will protect him.

- We have never faced a giant on the field of battle. To my knowledge an army of the king has not sought our lives. We have not been forced to flee into the wilderness for our very lives, but God has kept His mighty hand of protection upon us. Were it not for the hand of God we would have been consumed already.

- I am certain that it would scare us to death to realize just what the Lord has kept us from. Where would any of us be tonight were it not for the Lord's hand upon our lives. We are kept by His power.

- [2 Chron.16:9a – For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Ps.34:7 – The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.](#) Thank God for His mighty hand!

I. A God of Peace (1, 5)

II. A God of Protection (2, 4)

III. A God of Provision (3) – [Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress.](#) David knew what it was to live life on the run. He knew what it was to dwell in caves and hiding places. In all of the difficult and fearful days, there was a constant in his life. He always found refuge in the Lord. He may have been holed up in a cave, hiding for his life, but there was always peace and security in the Lord. He always found that special hiding place in the arms of God. He was his rock and fortress, a high tower in his times of need.

- Isn't it a blessing to know that we too have such a place? When it seems that our world is falling apart and caving in around us, there is a place that we can go and find shelter from the storm. We can always turn to the Rock that is higher than we are.

- [Ps.61:2 – From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. Ps.121:1-2 – I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. Ps.91:4 – He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.](#) There is a place we can go and know for sure that it will be a place of rest in the midst of the storm. What a mighty God we serve!

I. A God of Peace (1, 5)

II. A God of Protection (2, 4)

III. A God of Provision (3)

IV. A God of Preservation (6a) – [By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels](#): David had not reached his place in life by mere chance or coincidence. He had been held up by the Lord. He had not just stumbled upon good fortune and lucky breaks; God had ordained his life and was guiding his steps.

- The phrase “[By thee have I been holden up](#)” is rich in meaning. It has the idea of leaning or laying upon, resting, supporting, and upholding; to sustain and establish. His life was preserved by the awesome hand of Almighty God. The Lord had kept Him and David was exactly where God desired!
- Do you realize that our lives have been preserved as well? Each of us has been held up by the mighty hand of God from our mother’s womb. We are not here tonight by mere chance. We haven’t achieved the success and joys of life in and of ourselves. We are who we are and where we are by the providence of God. It is He who has brought us safe thus far. He has established our lives and continues to sustain them daily.
- Isn’t that an awesome thought? God knew each of us personally; in fact, He created us individually, just as He desired. We are His workmanship. [Jer.1:5 – Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.](#) [Ps.139:5 – Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.](#)

V. A God of Persuasion (7) – [I am as a wonder unto many; but thou art my strong refuge.](#)

This verse intrigued me more than the others. What is it that God is saying to us? David declared that he was a [wonder unto many](#). This simply means that he was a sign, a miracle; a special display of God’s power. David’s life stood as a clear testimony of the power and provision of God. It was evident for all to see that David’s life had not been lived in the realm of normalcy. His life had been anything but ordinary. His life was one that displayed one miracle after another. When the world looked upon David, they viewed a man who had clearly been touched and led of the Lord.

- Our lives may not have the influence or the impact that David’s did, but we serve the same God of persuasion. He uses our lives as a testimony as well.
- There is no question that we are living in difficult times spiritually. Many today have no desire for the Lord or His people. The Christian is often viewed as a fanatic that believes in some sort of mystic fairy tale.

▪ But, one who lives a consistent life for the Lord does not go unnoticed. The world is watching more than any of us would like to believe. God is using us to bear witness of Him. The world doesn't understand the way that we live and respond to life's adversity. They see something in us that they haven't found in the world. They see something, that whether they will admit it or not, they desire to have. God is using us as a tool in His mighty hand to reach others for His glory. I rejoice that I have the opportunity to be used of God!

I. A God of Peace (1, 5)

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VI. A God of Perfection (6b, 8) – **My praise shall be continually of thee. v.8 – Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day.** As David reviewed his life, he was overwhelmed by what he saw. He realized that his life had been touched and directed by the God of heaven. He was moved that God was mindful of him and that He cared for him as He did. With that realization David had no choice but to praise his God.

▪ May I challenge you to consider your life for just a moment? Think back over it and remember all the times that God was there, even when you didn't realize it. Consider the times that a storm came or tragedy struck and God worked it out just as it needed to be. Think of all the times that you needed wisdom and God provided just what was needed. There has never been a time or situation that God wasn't there and that He wasn't just and right in His dealings.

▪ We serve a God of perfection. Each of us was lost and undone, in need of a Savior. We owed a debt that we could never have paid. We were hopeless apart from the grace and mercy of God. God in His divine plan made a means for our redemption. Jesus gave Himself a ransom for our sin. He took our place and bore our sin. I am sure that you would agree that we serve a God of perfection. Where would any of us be were it not for the Lord?

I trust that you have been encouraged and even challenged by the Scripture this evening. There are none like our God. He alone is the Lord. I rejoice that I know Him in a personal way. He is my Savior and Lord. He cares for me and secures all my needs.

Surely we ought to desire to praise Him for all He has done. Maybe you just need to come and thank Him for all He has done in your life. Maybe you are burdened with care and need to once again discover all that the Lord is. Whatever the need just bring it to Him. He is well able to meet your need.