

Eleutheros Newsletter

August 2020

News of Interest

Please pray for the following projects:

1. Eleutheros Books has teamed up with David Wood, a Christian film maker, who is working very hard to produce a movie on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We have regular prayer times for this (and other requests) each Wednesday. If anyone cares to join us for an hour long prayer meeting, feel free to contact John at eleutherosbooks@gmail.com to get the details.

2. Eleutheros Books has also teamed up with Dr. Anthony Ponceti, a wonderful ambassador for Christ, who is working very hard to minister to Honduran churches. He has agreed to have *The Ramifications of Our Salvation*, already translated into Spanish, printed and distributed to many people there. In addition, he intends to translate *A Portrait of Jesus* into Spanish so it can be made available as well.

3. Work in progressing on another book entitled *19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*.

Thoughts from the Psalms

[Psalm 3](#)

1. Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! Many are they that rise up against me.

From the time David was a shepherd boy he was fighting one enemy after another. After being sent by his father Jesse to see how his brothers were doing on the battlefield with the Philistines, he found a giant warrior named Goliath and ended up killing him because nobody among the army of Israel was willing to take on the task, not even King Saul (see [1 Samuel 17](#); [21:9](#); [22:10](#)).

One would think that David would have become a hero to everyone in Israel after this event, but King Saul, who had obvious spiritual problems that became worse over time, became angry at David and tried very hard to kill him!

David's son, Absalom, tried to overthrow David's kingship.

There were numerous tribes in the Middle East which did not want friendship with David or Israel. That condition continues to this day!

David begins this Psalm by being very honest with God. He has many enemies.

2. Many there be which say of my soul, there is no help for him in God. Selah.

To make matters more difficult for David, his enemies (and perhaps even some of his “supporters”), questioned whether God was able or willing to help him during these difficult times.

How agonizing it is to think that even a man after God’s own heart should face such ridicule! Our Lord faced similar ridicule even while dying on the cross: “He saved others; Himself he cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him” ([Matthew 27:42](#)).

The word “selah” is best understood to mean “a musical interlude.” The idea is this: one should take a few quiet moments to ponder carefully what was just said. David was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write honestly about his problems; we would do well to pray to God honestly about our problems as well!

3. But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of my head.

David’s attitude changed considerably when he took his focus away from his enemies and began to turn it toward God. He was close enough to God to realize how loving and protective He really is. “But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me.” The same can be said for believers today. God provides the armor we need today in our struggles against “the wiles of the devil” ([Ephesians 6:11](#)). Part of that armor is “the shield of faith” ([Ephesians 6:16](#)).

David also recognized that his respect came from God (“my glory”), not his own accomplishments. The same can be said for believers today. We have been changed from hell-bound sinners to joint heirs with Christ! We also have been made ambassadors and priests! We did not earn all these wonderful things, but by God’s grace we received them the moment we were saved!

David also knew that God gives encouragement when it is most needed in this life. His head was low when he thought about all his enemies, but it was much higher when he thought about God’s love and power (God is “the lifter up of my head”).

4. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy hill. Selah.

How did David have this major change in attitude? He “cried unto the Lord.” Prayer so many times has this amazing affect in lives! Notice in this case that David prayed earnestly and *audibly*.

There are times to pray silently, but there are also times to pray out loud. David prayed “with my voice.”

David was undoubtedly amazed, and we should react the same way, when he realized that God Who lives in “His holy hill” actually “heard me.” This is a great realization! There are billions of people on this earth, and God is the Creator of all things, yet He has the heart and the ability to listen to the problems we face every day! Godly parents are always

willing and able to hear the concerns of their children; and He is always willing and able to hear our concerns! We become “sons of God” at salvation (see [John 1:12](#))! Further, He is powerful enough to answer those prayers in amazing ways!

Notice that David is inspired to write another “Selah.”

5. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me.

What a blessing it is to start with great concerns but then, having prayed, to get a good night of sleep and feel refreshed the next morning!

6. I will not be afraid of ten thousand people, that have set themselves against me round about.

David is not only refreshed, but He is now *confident* that the God of the universe is on His side and victory is certain!

7. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God: for Thou hast smitten mine enemies upon the cheek bone; Thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

David not only feels refreshed and confident. He also remembers how many times God has been faithful in giving victories all through his life. Surely, older saints who have “been there and done that” have learned the same important lessons and rejoice in past victories in their lives also!

8. Salvation belongeth unto the Lord: Thy blessing is upon Thy people. Selah.

God blesses His people!

We will present more thoughts from the Psalms in next month’s newsletter.