



# GOD, MY EXCEEDING JOY

## A JOYFUL JOURNEY THRU THE PSALMS

November 22, 2020

### Psalm 70 & 71 – EVERLASTING SHAME ON THE ENEMIES

#### I. GENRE: Laments of the Individual

- A. Ps 70 & 71 are both laments of the individual. Ps 70 is a mournful lament with sense of reprieve. Ps 71 starts off mournfully but alternates with words of hope and ends with a great sense of confidence.
- B. Ps 70 is an adaptation of **Ps 40:13-17**. Ps 40 is a mixed genre psalm where the first half is a recollection of thanks for previous deliverance. The remaining half (reproduced with slight changes in Ps 70) is a lament and plea for new deliverance. The portion of the lament not reproduced is David's confession of sin (Ps 40:11-12).
- C. Ps 71 is the lament of an older man who's seen many deliverances in ages past (vv. 5-6, 9, 18). It borrows lines from **Ps 31:1-3** (vv. 1-3), **Ps 38:21-22** (vv. 9, 12) & other pss.

#### D. SETTING & USAGE

- A. **AUTHOR:** David (Ps 70) and an anonymous older man (Ps 71).
- B. **BACKGROUND:** There are no known events to attach to either poem.
- C. **PLACEMENT**
  - 1. Pss 70 & 71 placed together.
    - a. Pss 70 & 71 share urgent pleas for help (70:1, 5; 71:1-3) and imprecations for shame on the enemies (70:2-3; 71:13,24).
    - b. In some ancient copies of the Hebrew Bible, Pss 70 & 71 are linked together and counted as a single psalm.
    - c. It is more likely that these poems have been placed together intentionally.
  - 2. A Theory of the Psalms Larger Structure
    - a. The compiling of the Psalter into 150 psalms which were then divided into 5 books (1-41, 42-72, 73-89, 90-106, 107-150) is somewhat shrouded history.
    - b. Each psalm has its own message written for its own purpose, but there may have been secondary purposes in arranging them as they are.

- c. In a general way, the five books move from the era of David to Solomon (Books 1-2) to the glory of the kingdom (Book 3), to the exile and the return (Books 4-5).
- d. Book 2 ends by suggesting the troubled end of David's life (Pss 70-71) before the rise of Solomon, followed by songs of the kingdom (Pss 72-89).

#### III. STRUCTURES

- A. The structure of Ps 70 is easy to outline (see visual outline chart below).
- B. Ps 71 is quite challenging to outline due to its frequent alternating between prayer requests and statements of confidence. These alternating lines seem to flow around 3 cycles.

#### IV. NOTES:

##### A. Superscriptions

- 1. The reference to "a memorial" in Ps 70 may refer to a memorial offering.
- 2. The lack of a superscription in Ps 71 is extremely rare in Book II. Such "orphan psalms" are much more common later in the psalms.

##### B. Special References

- 1. **Shame:** Both Pss 70 & 71 are concerned that social shame function properly. Ps 70 prays for unrighteous shame to be reversed, and Ps 71 mentions shame at the beginning, middle, and end of the prayer.
- 2. **God's Righteousness:** Ps 71 mentions God's righteousness more than any other OT passage. In this prayer, it often refers to God's justice in action & vindication.
- 3. **Always:** Ps 71 use the term "always/continually" (3, 6, 8, 14, 15) more than any other psalm, stressing God's unending care & the ongoing praise that it inspires.
- 4. **Old Age:** Ps 71 is written with old age in view, with its natural challenges made more challenging by the work of enemies. Diminishing abilities does not indicate a diminishment in God's presence.
- 5. **Marvel:** Ps 71:7 describes his situation to be a wonder, a term often used for frightening signs. The troubles he faced were shocking, but that made God's deliverance only seem that much greater.
- 6. **The Holy One of Israel:** Ps 71:22 uses this special title for God. It is a favorite of Isaiah (who uses it 25 times), but it only appears in 6 other places in the OT.

<p><b>PSALM 70</b> © M. Scott Bashoor 2010</p>			
<p><b>PURPOSE:</b> David cries out for help in a great plight with his enemies who threaten both him &amp; other godly ones. He longs to offer public thanks with them after deliverance from this time of trial.</p>			
<p><b>Type:</b> Lament    <b>Author:</b> David <b>Date:</b> After the Sanctuary's Move to Zion, 1003 BC <b>Note:</b> Ps 70 is a later version of Ps 40:13-17</p>			
<p><b>HEADINGS</b></p> <p>Authorization of the Choir Director</p> <p>Author David</p> <p>Usage To Accompany a Memorial Offering, or To Remind God to Act</p>	<p><b>INITIAL PLEA FOR DELIVERANCE</b> v. 1</p> <p>Opening Appeal to God for Deliverance v. 1a</p> <p>Urgent Appeal to Yahweh for Help v. 1b</p>	<p><b>IMPRECATION FOR EXPLOITIVE ENEMIES</b> vv. 2-3</p> <p>Divine Disgrace on Those Seeking His Downfall v. 2</p> <p>Reversal of Shame on Those Who Shame Him v. 3</p>	<p><b>REQUEST FOR CORPORATE DELIVERANCE</b> v. 4</p> <p>A Cause for Multiplied Joy v. 4a</p> <p>A Cause for Ongoing Offerings of Thanks v. 4b</p>
	<p><b>CONCLUDING PLEA FOR DELIVERANCE</b> v. 5</p> <p>Confession of Neediness v. 5a</p> <p>Urgent Entreaty for Divine Help v. 5b</p> <p>Confession of Trust v. 5c</p> <p>Final Entreaty for Deliverance v. 5d</p>		

<p><b>PSALM 71</b> © M. Scott Bashoor 2020</p>		<p><b>PURPOSE:</b> After many years lived in the fear of God, the psalmist cries to God for help yet again in a trial of opposition. He composes 3 cycles of lament &amp; petition with confidence &amp; praise as he looks expectantly for God's deliverance once more.</p>		<p><b>Type:</b> Individual Lament    <b>Date:</b> Unknown <b>Author:</b> An Anonymous Older Man <b>Note:</b> Ps 71 is combined with Ps 70 in some Heb. MSS <b>Note:</b> Vv. 1-3 adapt Ps 31:1-3; Vv. 9 &amp; 12 adapt 38:11-12</p>	
<p><b>CYCLE ONE: THE CRISIS INTRODUCED WITH PRAYERS TO THE ROCK</b> vv. 1-8</p>		<p><b>CYCLE TWO: THE CRY OF LIFELONG FAITH IN THREATENING TRIALS</b> vv. 9-16</p>		<p><b>CYCLE THREE: THE BLESSED OUTCOME WITHIN VIEW</b> vv. 17-24</p>	
<p><b>Petition over Wicked Enemies Interwoven with Trust</b> vv. 1-4</p> <p>Confession of Trust in Yahweh as Fortress v. 1a</p> <p>Requests for Deliverance from Disgrace &amp; Danger vv. 1b-3a</p> <p>Confession of Trust in Yahweh as Fortress v. 3b</p> <p>Cry for Deliverance from Enemies v. 4</p>	<p><b>Confidence in God's Deliverance Interwoven with Praise</b> vv. 5-8</p> <p>Confession of Hope v. 5a</p> <p>Praise for God's Lifelong Faithfulness Vv. 5b-6</p> <p>Praise for the Wonder of God's Deliverance vv. 7-8</p>	<p><b>Petitions over Wicked Enemies Interwoven with Lament</b> vv. 9-13</p> <p>Petitions for Help in Life's Later Years v. 9</p> <p>Lament over Enemies Conspiring to Take Advantage of His Vulnerability v. 10-11</p> <p>Petition for God's Help v. 12</p> <p>Imprecation of Shame on Threatening Enemies v. 13</p>	<p><b>Vow of Praise Interwoven with Confidence</b> vv. 14-16</p> <p>Confession of Trust v. 14a</p> <p>Promise to Praise God Continually v. 14b</p> <p>Vow to Publicly Thank God for Deliverance vv. 15-16</p>	<p><b>Petitions for God's Presence Interwoven with Confidence</b> vv. 17-18a</p> <p>Confession of Trust throughout Life v. 17</p> <p>Plea for God's Continued Presence v. 18a</p>	<p><b>Praise Interwoven with Confidence</b> vv. 18b-24</p> <p>Vow (Implied) to Instruct the Next Generation I God's Faithfulness v. 18b</p> <p>Declarations of Praise with Petition vv. 19-21</p> <p><i>Praise for God's Great Righteous Deeds &amp; Incomparable Faithfulness</i> vv. 19-20a</p> <p><i>Confidence in Future Deliverance</i> v. 20b</p> <p><i>Petition for Restoration</i> v. 21</p> <p>Vow to Publicly Thank God for Deliverance vv. 22-24</p> <p><i>Praise Promised with Hand on Harp</i> v. 22</p> <p><i>Praise Promised with Songs Sung</i> vv. 23-24a</p> <p><i>Anticipation of Victory to Come</i> v. 24b</p>