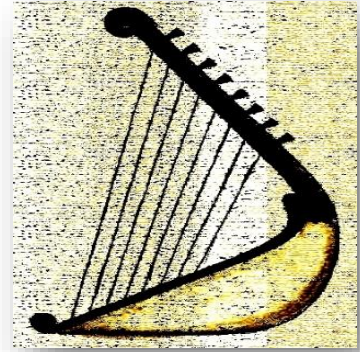


PSALM 41 vs 1

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Title and Subject: To the Chief musician. This title has frequently occurred before and serves to remind us of the value of the Psalm, seeing that it was committed to no average songster; and also to inform us as to the author who has made his own experience the basis of a prophetic song, in which a far greater than David is to edify future ages! And how full a type of our Lord did he become! What was bitterness to him has proved to be a fountain of unfailing sweetness to many generations of the faithful. Jesus the Messiah betrayed by Judas Iscariot is evidently the great theme of this Psalm, but we do not think exclusively.



Divisions: The Psalmist describes the mercies which are promised to such as consider the poor, and this he uses as a preface to his own personal plea for comfort (1-3); he states his own case (4-9); and proceeds to prayer (10); and closes with thanksgiving (11-13) – Charles Spurgeon.

To the Chief musician,

A Psalm of David

¹ Blessed is he who considers the poor: in time of trouble, the LORD will deliver him.

² The LORD will **keep him, and preserve him; and he will be blessed on the earth: and You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies.**

³ The LORD will strengthen him on the bed of illness: resting, You will sustain him on his sickbed.

Think about it: The blessing is to the one who considers the helpless, those who are poor in substance, weak in bodily strength, despised in reputation, and despondent in spirit; those who are mostly avoided and frequently scorned. He does not merely toss them a penny and go on his way; but enquires into their sorrow; sifts out their cause, studies the best way for their relief; and practically comes to their rescue. That one has the mark of God's favor on him. This is the language particular to our God of Abraham. The everlasting arms will secure the soul; as friendly hands and downy pillows strengthen the sick body.

⁴ I said, O LORD, be merciful to me: heal my soul; for I sinned against You.

⁵ **My enemies speak evil of me, When will he die, and his name vanish?**

⁶ And if he comes to see me, he speaks deceitfully: his heart gathers trouble to itself; when he goes out, he tells it.

⁷ All who hate me whisper together against me: against me they scheme to harm me,

⁸ saying, an evil disease clings to him: and now that he lies down, he will not get up again.

⁹ yes, my own friend whom I leaned on, who ate my bread, lifted up his heel against me.

Think about it: Here we have a controversy between the pleader and his God. He had been a friend to the poor, and yet in the hour of his need the promised assistance was not forthcoming. Evil tongues are busy tongues and never deal in truth. It was their nature to do and speak evil; the better the man the more likely, and the more venomous the slander. "when will he die and his name perish" They could not be content till he was gone. The world is not big enough for evil men to live in while the right remain. To them if they could have their way, the faithful would have one neck, and that should be on the block.

And here is the nexus "my own friend" a man of peace, the treasurer of the sacred college; not only a guest, but a dependent, a senior at my board; with whom I had no differences, with whom I was in league, who ministered to my peace and comfort; who was admitted to the privacy of the greatest teacher, hearing his secret thoughts as it was, allowed to read his very heart, "in whom I trusted" The kiss of the traitor wounded the Lord's heart as much as the nail wounded His hand.

¹⁰ But You, O LORD, be favorable to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them.

Think about it: How the hunted soul turns to God, clinging to the hope of His mercies; according to the promise of the Father, He was raised in resurrected life, to finish His course. "He will reward them". God is not indebted to anyone; each will be properly repaid, [some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt](#); some will shine like the stars in the firmament, others in outer darkness will gnash their teeth.

¹¹ By this I know that You are pleased with me, for my enemy does not triumph over me.

¹² And as for me, in my integrity, You uphold me, and set me facing You forever.

¹³ Blessed is the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

Think about it: The blessing at the beginning from the mouth of God; is now echoed from the mouth of His servant. We cannot add to the Lord's blessedness, but we can always declare our grateful wishes. These forty Psalms form **the first book**, and relate chiefly to the ministry Messiah prepared those **ruled by God**.

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