

**In Christ Alone
Seeing Christ in the Psalms
Contagious Praise in Christ Alone
Psalm 40**

Quote from C.S. Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*

Pastor Brent Aucoin's Summary: Humanity naturally praises and invites others to praise that which they value, delight, enjoy.

The Messianic Psalms are OT songs written about the experiences of God's anointed Davidic king (primarily King David) that God uses to point prophetically toward the Ultimate King—Jesus Christ. The experiences of the Davidic king in the OT are “heightened” or “escalated” or “contrasted” in the greater person and work of the final Davidic King—Christ. These Davidic experiences form theological patterns of which Christ brought to completion.
– Pastor Brent Aucoin

Psalm 40:1-17 - For the choir director. A Psalm of David. - King David's Experience in Trusting in the Lord Alone

¹ I waited patiently (or relied completely on) for the Lord; and He inclined to me and heard my cry. ² He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay, and He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many will see and fear and will trust in the Lord.

King David's Conclusion about Trusting in the Lord Alone

⁴ How blessed is the man who has made the Lord his trust, and has not turned to the proud, nor to those who lapse into falsehood. ⁵ Many, O Lord my God, are the wonders which You have done, and Your thoughts toward us; there is none to compare with You. If I would declare and speak of them, they would be too numerous to count.

King David's Response in Offering to God not Sacrifice but His Self

⁶ Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; my ears You have opened; burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. ⁷ Then I said, “Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. ⁸ I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart.”

King David's Praise Shared

⁹ I have proclaimed glad tidings of righteousness in the great congregation; behold, I will not restrain my lips, O Lord, You know. ¹⁰ I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great congregation.

King David's Continued Need for Deliverance From Sin and Sin-Caused Calamities with an Expectation of Another Great Deliverance for Trusting in the Lord Alone

¹¹ You, O Lord, will not withhold Your compassion from me; Your lovingkindness and Your truth will continually preserve me. ¹² For evils beyond number have surrounded me; my iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to see; they are more numerous than the hairs of my head, and my heart has failed me. ¹³ Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; make haste, O Lord, to help me. ¹⁴ Let those be ashamed and humiliated together who seek my life to destroy it; let those be turned back and dishonored who delight in my hurt. ¹⁵ Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, “Aha, aha!” ¹⁶ Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; let those who love Your salvation say continually, “The Lord be magnified!” ¹⁷ Since I am afflicted and needy, let the Lord be mindful of me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.

Psalm 40 leads us to understand four truths that instill in His people the greatest delight in God and therefore the greatest Praise in God.

1. God's Beautiful Plan for the His Earthly King and His People—Deliverance Creates Praise

- A. In distress trust in God Alone--I waited patiently on the Lord (cf. v. 4—"How blessed is the man who has made the LORD His trust and has not turned to the proud nor to those who lapse into falsehood;" Isaiah 40:31)
- B. Trusting in God alone results in God hearing the cry of faith and deliverance from the near death experience
- C. God's deliverance shows that God is the ultimate delight (v. 5)
- D. Our response to God's deliverance is—my life offered to Him for delivering me—I exist to do God's will not mine (cf. of the king Deut 17:15–20)

Sacrifices, in general, were substitutionary symbolic offerings, indicating that the life of the animal was given to God as a symbol of the worshipper giving His life to God.

- E. With our life breath given to God, we use it to consummate our joy by praising God and sharing it others in place of my cry of distress (vv. 3, 9-10)

The man whose life was delivered by the greatest delight—God—gives his own life as a praise offering public witness to God.

2. The Ugly Problem in His Earthly King and His People—Sin Creates the Need for the Greatest Deliverance

3. The Hopeful Cry for a Greater Deliverance for God's earthly King and His People.

4. God's Provision for a Greater King and His Greatest Deliverance—Creating the Greatest Praise!!!

Jesus Christ gave his body—not because He had been delivered—but in order to deliver as a sacrifice according to God's will!

Romans 12:1 - *Therefore I urge you, brethren in view of God's mercies, present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*