

RESCUE ME, O LORD

Psalm 140

I. WHY DO A SERIES ON HOW TO PRAY?

A. TO SERVE GOD MORE EFFECTIVELY

1. FIVE GOALS

- Share the gospel
- Disciple the next generation
- Touch the city
- Train ministers
- Reach the world

2. EFFECTIVENESS

- **Ph 4:13**—*I can accomplish all things through Him who strengthens me.*
- **Jas 5:16**—*The effectively powerful praying of a righteous person can accomplish much*

B. FOR OUR BENEFIT

1. To know God better
2. To meet our own needs
3. To help others

C. BEING CHRIST-FOLLOWERS

1. Obeying His command—**Lk 18:1**—we should **always pray**—and never lose heart
2. Becoming like their Master—Christ-like
3. Following His example—He prayed continually

II. WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT PRAYER

- ❖ **DRAW CLOSE TO GOD—WE HAVE SPECIAL ACCESS—TO “OUR FATHER”**
- ❖ **INTERCEDE URGENTLY FOR AND WITH EVERYONE WE KNOW**
- ❖ **FOR GOD’S PEACE UPON OUR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORS**
- ❖ **BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE AMIDST TURMOIL**
- ❖ **OUR WITNESS WILL BE GODLY AND DIGNIFIED**
- ❖ **FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM CHRIST AS THE TRUTH**
- ❖ **WORK WE WILL EFFECTIVELY RECLAIM THE LOST**
- ❖ **THAT THE FATHER WILL SHOW HIMSELF IN A MIGHTY WAY**
- ❖ **BE HUMBLE—“NOT TO US, O LORD”—GLORIFY HIM ABOVE ALL**
- ❖ **STAND BOLDLY FOR HIS SUPERNATURALITY**
- ❖ **TESTIFY TO HIS HOLINESS—BE HOLY LIKE HIM**
- ❖ **HELP CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THE HOLY AND THE HUMAN**
- ❖ **CALL UPON NAME OF THE LORD—PROVISION—PROTECTION—SALVATION**
- ❖ **URGENCY ABOUT CHRIST’S RETURN—BEING READY AND WORKING**
- ❖ **HELP BUILD HIS UNIVERSAL KINGDOM—NOT PETTY FIEFDOMS**

- ❖ **BECOME** WHO HE MADE US TO BE—AND **DO** WHAT PLEASES GOD
- ❖ BE AWARE **HIS HEAVENLY WILL** IS FOUNDATIONAL, ETERNAL AND SUPREME
- ❖ ASK GOD TO KEEP US IN HIS **PERFECT WILL** EVERY STEP OF THE **WAY**
- ❖ ASK GOD TO REVEAL HIS **SPECIFIC PURPOSE** FOR EACH OF US HERE AND NOW
- ❖ HELP GOD ACCOMPLISH HIS **HEAVENLY WILL** ON EARTH
- ❖ WE DON'T WORRY, BUT **RELY** ON GOD FOR **ALL** OUR PROVISION
- ❖ WE DISCOVER WHAT OUR REAL **NEEDS** ARE
- ❖ WE TRUST THAT **GOD TRULY CARES** AND WANTS WHAT IS BEST FOR US
- ❖ WE EXPERIENCE A **SALVATION** THAT **BEGINS** WITH AND IS **SECURED** BY GOD
- ❖ WE **HUMBLE** SEEK GOD'S **FORGIVENESS** TO CANCEL OUR **DEBTS**
- ❖ WE DESIRE GOD'S **PRESENCE** TO CLOSE THE **GAP** AND RESTORE OUR **JOY**
- ❖ **NO SIN IS TOO GREAT—NO DEBT TOO BIG**—IT CANNOT BE FORGIVEN
- ❖ BECOME **FORGIVING** PEOPLE—BECAUSE WE CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS
- ❖ **INTERCEDE** WITH THE FATHER FOR **OTHERS'** FORGIVENESS
- ❖ **LEAD** US LORD ESPECIALLY THROUGH OUR TRIALS
- ❖ ENABLE US TO **GO WHEREVER** YOU WISH, NO MATTER THE **DANGER**
- ❖ HELP US **GROW** THROUGH ADVERSITY AND SUFFERING
- ❖ HELP US **NOT FALTER** IN THE FACE OF TEMPTATION
- ❖ HELP US **LEAD OTHERS** TO JESUS EVEN WHEN UNDER ATTACK

III. DELIVERANCE IN THE LORD'S PRAYER—verse 13b

Mt 6:13b—But deliver us from evil

REMARKABLE DELIVERANCE—EXAMPLES

1. **Darlene Etienne—deliverance from natural evil**
 - January 2010—Haitian earthquake killed over 200k
 - 16 yr old Haitian girl—rescued under Port au Prince rubble—after 15 days!
2. **Jessica McClure—deliverance from accidental human evil**
 - Oct 1987—18 month old—fell down abandoned 8” well—22 feet deep
 - Survived while singing ‘Winnie the Pooh Songs’—rescue took 58 hours
 - Collected \$800k trust fund in 2011 at age 25
 - Married with 2 children—lives 2 miles from site in Midland
3. **Ingrid Betancourt—deliverance from moral evil**
 - 40 year old presidential candidate in Colombia
 - Kidnapped by revolutionary guerilla group (FARC) in 2002
 - Captive six years in jungle—beaten, underfed, hepatitis
 - Rescued in 2008 by Colombian army 2008—she calls it a ‘miracle’

A. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

1. After Jesus' own confrontation with evil—and deliverance—**Mt 4:1-11**
 - Deliverance—also involves personal preparation
 - Jesus prepared: knew **Scripture**—and **prayed** as He fasted [40 days]
2. In Lord's Prayer—kingdom context: *Thy kingdom come . . . For Thine is the kingdom . . .*
 - a. Eternal perspective—the now *and* then—looks beyond just daily danger
 - b. Urgency—of Jesus' general message
 - “*The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the good news!*”
 - o Connects with previous prayer of repentance—*Forgive us our debts*
 - o When Lord returns—be found doing good—not waylaid by ‘evil’

B. ‘THE EVIL’—WHY WE NEED DELIVERY

1. DEFINITION

- a. **τους πονηρος** = ‘the evil’
 1. Remember—‘evil’—does not exist by itself as a ‘thing’
 2. Two NT usages—of adjectives
 - Descriptive adjective—shows characteristic of a person or action
 - Substantive adjective—identifies originator of action
 3. Here—not just ‘evil’ in general—but substantive
 - ‘**the** evil’ = ‘the evil’ one—some kind of evil ‘thing’ or ‘person’
- b. Three possible meanings—the ‘evil one’ that causes
 - o Hardships
 - o Bad physical conditions—like blindness
 - o Wickedness—intentionally immoral results

2. IMPACT OF THIS ‘EVIL’—COMPARED TO OTHER ‘EVILS’

- α. More than just ‘evil’—as in—**φαιλος**
 1. ‘**worthless**’—does not accomplish its purpose
 2. Implies—action that brings **shame**—just one aspect of more profound ‘evil’

Jn 3:19-20—19 *This is the verdict: light has come into this world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil [πονηρος].* **20** *For everyone who does evil [φαιλος] hates the light and does not come into the light, for fear that his deeds will be exposed*

β. More than just ‘evil’—as in—**κακος**

1. Meaning = ‘**bad**’—defective—unpleasant—harmful
2. Usually contrasted with ‘good’—rather than with ‘kind’ or ‘righteous’
3. Sometimes interchangeable with ‘evil’
 - *For out of men’s hearts come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder . . .*
 - **Matthew 15:19**—uses **πονηρος**
 - **Mark 7:21**—uses **κακος**

χ. But *this* ‘evil’ here—**πονηρος**—means

1. Malicious character—intentionally set on hurting others
2. Perverse delight—in causing others’ misfortune
3. ‘Evil’ is different from ‘bad’
 - a. Evil is *drastic* badness—[**Ammonius**—3rd cent BC Alexandrian philosopher]
 - b. Rotten inner character—that generates external badness
 - c. Evil persons always reveal themselves in ‘bad actions’—[**Euripides**—play-writer]
 - d. ‘Bad’ people perish alone; ‘evil’ people want to drag others down with them!

3. IDENTIFICATION = THE EVIL ONE

- a. Originator of evil action—personal agent
- b. Obviously—‘the Evil One’
 - One who actively seeks our downfall—Satan!
 - **Mt 5:31**—[oaths]—anything beyond a simple yes or no—*comes from the evil one*
 - **Eph 6:16**—[take up the shield of faith] *with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

C. HOW WE ARE DELIVERED

1. DEFINITION

- **σωμαι** = rescue—take away—but also → draw to oneself
- Aorist = do it completely
- Not just deliver ‘from’—but also ‘to’ the Lord
- Meaning here = rescue me *from* and deliver me *to you*—*totally*

2. WE **CANNOT** DELIVER OURSELVES

a. **Limited vision**

- o We don't see it coming—until it's too **late**—need a '**look-out**'
- o Satan's evil is charming—**blinds** us—so we don't see danger!

b. **Limited knowledge**

- o We don't know *how* to deliver—don't know any way to '**escape**'
- o "In every temptation"—but God will provide a way of escape—**II Cor 10:13**

c. **Limited power**

- o Our **impotence** facing stronger opponent—we need a *stronger* Deliverer

3. IT IS **GOD** WHO DELIVERS

a. 'Deliverer'—in New Testament—divine and omnipotent

- o **God**—**II Cor 1:10**
- o **Father**—**Col 1:12-13**
- o **Jesus**—**I Th 1:10**
- o **Lord**—**II Tim 4:17**

b. 'Redeemer'—in Old Testament

- o Identified by Paul's quotation of **Is 59:20**
Rom 11:26—*And so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come down from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob.*
- o **Is 59:20**—used the term 'Redeemer'—**like kinsman-redeemer of Ruth**

4. GOD DELIVERS AT **TWO LEVELS**

a. **Immediate** danger—saves here and now

b. **Ultimately**—for '**redemption**'

1. Remember definition—'from/to'
2. Remember 'kingdom' context
3. From domain of darkness—to kingdom of redemption

Col 1:13-14—*For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

5. **PROMISE** OF DELIVERANCE—**II Cor 1**

a. Paul's experience—**vv 8-9**

- o Their **affliction** in Asia
- o **Burdened** excessively beyond their strength
- o They **despaired** of life
- o Had **sentence of death** within themselves
- o They **could not trust** in themselves—but only in God who raises the dead

b. Paul's confidence in God—**past—present—future**

I Cor 1:10—*who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and does deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope; and He will yet deliver us.*

5. DELIVERED FOR **TWO PURPOSES**—**II Tim 4**

a. Paul's experience—**vv 16**

- o At his first defense
- o Nobody supported him
- o Everyone deserted him
- o But the Lord stood with him and strengthened him

b. Two purposes

1. For **temporal service**—to do the Lord's will here—to preach

verse 17—*But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear; and I was rescued out of the lion's mouth.*

2. **Ultimate** delivery **home**—to heaven

verse 18—*The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom—to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

IV. DELIVERANCE IN PSALM 140

1 Rescue me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men **2** who devise evil things in their hearts; they continually stir up wars. **3** They sharpen their tongues as a serpent; poison of a viper is under their lips. **4** Keep me, O LORD, from the hands of the wicked; preserve me from violent men who have purposed to trip up my feet. **5** The proud have hidden a trap for me, and cords; they have spread a net by the wayside; they have set snares for me. **6** I said to the LORD, "You are my God; give ear, O LORD, to the voice of my supplications."**7** "O GOD the Lord, the strength of my salvation, You have covered my head in the day of battle. . . . **12** I know that the LORD will maintain the cause of the afflicted and justice for the poor. **13** Surely the righteous will give thanks to Your name; the upright will dwell in Your presence.

A. BACKGROUND

1. EVIL **PERSONIFIED**

- **v1**—evil men
- **v1**—violent men
- **v2**—evil-hearted [men]
- **v4**—wicked and violent men

2. DAVID'S URGENT AND DESPERATE **SITUATION**

- **v2**—Rebellion—they stir up wars
- **v3**—Slander—they sharpen their tongues
- **v4**—Seek downfall—purpose to trip him up
- **v5**—Deceit—set traps and snares for him
- **v9**—Isolation and total opposition—surround him—David can trust nobody else!!!

B. DAVID'S **CONFIDENCE** ONLY IN GOD—**verses 6-7**

1. Acknowledges only God can save Him

a. Three appeals to God

- o The Lord—**v6** = **Jehovah**
- o My God—**v6** = **El**
- o O God the Lord—**v7** = **Jehovah—Adonai**

b. Identified Him as savior = **v7**—*the strength of my salvation*

2. Based on past experience—**v7**

- *You have covered my had in the day of battle*

C. **THREE ASPECTS OF DELIVERANCE**

1. **RESCUE** ME—**v1**

a. Primary meaning = '**take out**'—remove from danger

b. Secondary meaning = '**equip**'—'arm'

c. **APPLICATION**

- o Don't just a *retreat* from danger—but *prepare* to meet new ones
- o As Jesus prepared for His trials and temptations

2. **KEEP** ME—**v4**

a. Meaning = **guard**—keep charge—take charge of [me]

b. Protect—shelter—**cover** from all harm *during* deliverance

o Like ‘cover-fire’ during withdrawal—a moving shield

c. APPLICATION

o Most dangerous time—while withdrawing from Satan—he fights jealously hard!

o Need God’s *continued* protection—even after rescue—Satan never gives up!

o Take charge—keep me from straying—“*all we like sheep have gone astray*”

3. **PRESERVE** ME—**vv1, 4**

a. Meaning = *continue* ‘watching over’—*continue* ‘protecting’

b. Applies to *both* situations—‘rescue’ **v1**—and ‘keep’ **v4**

c. David is surrounded by ‘violent men’

1. Literally—‘those who seek to do wrong’—‘oppressors’

2. Same kind of ‘violence’ covering the earth in Noah’s day—**Gen 6**

d. **APPLICATION**—need for continuous protection implies two things:

o **Danger constantly** surrounds us

o **Continuous prayer**—is the only remedy

D. PURPOSES OF DELIVERANCE

1. **NOT EXCLUSIVELY** FOR DAVID PERSONALLY

a. But for David as **king**

b. To keep kingdom unified and protected

2. TO HELP OTHERS—**PEOPLE IN NEED**—**v12**

a. Maintain cause of **afflicted**

b. Bring justice for the **poor**

3. TO **GLORIFY** GOD

• **v13**—*the righteous will give thanks to Your name*

4. TO BRING US INTO **GOD’S PRESENCE**

• **v13**—*The upright will dwell in Your presence*

V. APPLICATION

A. GOD CAN AND WILL DELIVER—THAT’S A PROMISE!!!

B. GOD DELIVERS FOR PURPOSES BEYOND OURSELVES

1. TO **SERVE** HIM

- Zechariah's prophecy—after John the Baptist's birth
- **Lk 1:68, 74**—*Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people . . . To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear.*

2. TO **LEAD OTHERS** OUT OF DANGER TOO

- Jesus' prayer is **corporate**—and **intercessory**
- *Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.*

C. GOD DELIVERS IN TWO WAYS

1. DAILY **PROVIDENCE**—SUSTAINING

- As we slept last night—as we take each breath—as we drive down the highway

2. TAKING **SPECIAL ACTION**—INTERVENTION

a. God delivered Israel 'from evil' many times—but it always cost something

1. From evil *circumstances*—immediate **obedience**—**EX: Exodus**
2. *Repentance*—sin offerings—always required **animal sacrifice**
3. *Discipline*—sometimes God **punished** Israel—before rescuing them

Example: Rescue Exacts a Price—Jesus Garcia

- **7 Nov 1907—engineer on train—2 cars filled with dynamite**
- **Train caught fire headed into Nacozari—Mexican town of 5000**
- **Jesus drove it into foothills—explosion felt 10 miles away—killed him**

b. God's greatest deliverance = **Redemption**

1. NT 'Deliverer' = OT '**Redeemer**'
2. Redemption required payment—**ransom**—that **cost God** dearly
3. Payment already made through His Son—for 'delivery' now available to us

VI. INVITATION

MY FAITH HAS FOUND A RESTING PLACE

My faith has found a resting place,
Not in device or creed;
I trust the ever living One,
His wounds for me shall plead.

Refrain

**I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
It is enough that Jesus died,
And that He died for me.**

Enough for me that Jesus saves,
This ends my fear and doubt;
A sinful soul I come to Him,
He'll never cast me out.

My heart is leaning on the Word,
The living Word of God,
Salvation by my Savior's name,
Salvation through His blood.

My great physician heals the sick,
The lost He came to save;
For me His precious blood He shed,
For me His life He gave.