

Wil Owens
Lived by David, Fulfilled by Christ; Psalm 41
GPBC
11.10.19

Introduction – The unity of the OT and NT is seen in many ways. Prophecy in the OT is fulfilled in the NT. Promises made in the OT are made good in the NT. Another way we see unity is called typology. Typology refers to persons, things, or events in the OT that prefigure or foreshadow that which occurs in the NT.

An example of an OT event type would be the Exodus of Israel from Egyptian bondage as it foreshadows God's deliverance of His people from sin's bondage. An example of an OT thing type would be the sacrificial system of atoning for sin as it foreshadows how the sacrifice of Christ will be the final, perfect sacrifice for sin. An example of an OT person type would be Adam for just as Adam represented all humanity in falling away from God, Christ represents all believers in being made right with God. In fact, Paul uses this very language in Romans 5:14.

Concerning Psalm 41, David is also a type of Christ because just as David is chosen of the Lord to be king of Israel so Christ is the chosen One who is King of all. As David pens his psalms, while he is referencing his own life experience, he is also many times pointing to Christ. The experiences of David take on their fullest meaning and expression in the life of Christ. In fact, Jesus quoted the psalms throughout His ministry as referring to him. When Jesus said in John 13 that the Scripture will be fulfilled, "He who ate my bread has lifted up his heel against me," He was quoting Psalm 41. Let's study Psalm 41 under these 3 headings – David's experience, Christ's fulfillment, and application for us today.

- I. David's Life Experience in Psalm 41
 - a. David is a good and kind king – v1 – "Blessed is the one who considers the poor!" David was not a tyrant king who crushed those beneath him in order to promote his own comfort and status. An example of an unkind king is Rehoboam, David's grandson. When he became king instead of alleviating the burden of the people he pledged to increase it, and as a result the kingdom was divided.

- i. But David was not so. He was kind. He was generous. David showed kindness to Mephibosheth, the grandson of Saul, who tried to kill David. He practiced love your neighbor as yourself.
- b. Yet, even though David was a good and kind king, he was perplexed because the Lord tarried in delivering him from his troubles. David knew the Lord blesses those who live for Him. He says in v1 “In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him.” And yet, David finds himself in a hard and difficult season of life where his enemies seem to triumph over him and even his friends seem to betray him.
 - i. V5 – My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die, and his name perish?”
 - ii. V9 – Even my close friend...
- c. David also knew full well that even though he was a kind king and even though the Lord delivers His people, David was not innocent. David was a sinner in need of grace.
 - i. V4 – As for me, I said, “O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!”
- d. Lastly, we see here in Psalm 41 that David along with recognizing his ways of living for the Lord, his sins against the Lord, and his present hardships, he places his total confidence and trust in the Lord to deliver in due time.
 - i. Vv10-12 – “But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them! By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.”
- e. David knew that while God’s deliverance wasn’t present today, it would eventually come because God will not fail or forget His people! He will sustain David through this hardship, and He has set David in His presence forever.

II. Christ’s Fulfillment of Psalm 41

- a. If David is an example of kindness to the poor, Jesus is the epitome of kindness to the poor! If David is an example of a kind king, Jesus is the ultimate kind King.
 - i. In Luke 4, Jesus enters the synagogue of Nazareth and he opens the scroll to Isaiah 61:1-2, reads it and then

says, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled." Isaiah 61:1 reads, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor..." Jesus displayed the greatest of kindness to the poor in that the gospel is meant for all.

- ii. In 2 Cor 8:9 Paul writes, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich." – We are spiritually wretched and poor separated from God, and Christ gave up His eternal glory that we might be eternally, spiritually rich in God.
- b. If David knew what it meant for enemies to desire your death and friends to betray you, how much more did Christ suffer these same hardships?
- i. He was constantly antagonized by the religious leaders who wanted his death. Did they not also wish of Christ v5, "When will he die, and his name perish?" And at the cross, they believed they finally achieved their goal. Pledge v8?
 - ii. And then there was the betrayal of Judas, the fulfillment of v9.
- c. If David knew the agony and guilt of his own sin, how much more did Christ know the agony of bearing the guilt and weight of sin?
- i. Indeed it was the very thought of bearing sin that caused the sinless One to agonize so in the Garden, "Father if there be another way, let this cup pass."
 - ii. Indeed it was the crushing weight of our sin and the agony of paying for that sin that caused Christ to lift up His voice to God and quote Psalm 22 – My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
- d. If David knew the Lord is faithful to His own in their times of trouble, how much more did the Son trust and rest in the faithfulness of the Father during His greatest trial?
- i. V10 – But you, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them! – Is not the greatest fulfillment of this verse to be found in the Son when

the Father raised Him from the dead ensuring His final victory over His enemies?

- ii. V11 – By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. – The Father’s delight in the Son is seen in that on the cross the Son crushes the head of the serpent and in the consummation will be banished to the lake of fire and every tongue will declare Jesus Christ is Lord!
- iii. V12 – But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever. – Was not Christ raised because He fully pleased the Father and is even now at the Father’s right hand?
- e. O dear friend, in David, we see in part, but in Christ, we see in whole. David lived it; Christ fulfilled it!

III. Believers Today and Psalm 41

- a. While David is a great example for us of loving our neighbor, repenting of sin, and trusting in our heavenly Father through the hardships of life, Jesus and the gospel of Christ are our greatest source of comfort and faith for all of life!
 - i. It is because Jesus came and preached to the poor that we have the gospel.
 - ii. It is because Jesus has borne and paid for our sin, that we can know God’s grace is abundant to forgive.
 - iii. It is because Jesus experienced our hardships that we now have a sympathetic High Priest that intercedes for us during our troubles.
 - iv. It is because Jesus has reconciled us to the Father that we know God will sustain us through life’s difficulties.
 - v. And finally, it is because Jesus has made us right with God, by faith in Him we can know that we too have been set in the presence of God forever.
 - vi. O my dear friends, David lived it, but Christ fulfilled it! And because Christ fulfilled it, every promise in the book is Yes and Amen for us who are in Him!

Conclusion – We conclude as David does in v13 – Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.