

BETRAYED! (Ps. 41:9)

Ps. 41:1 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. **2** The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. **3** The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness. **4** I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee. **5** Mine enemies speak evil of me, When shall he die, and his name perish? **6** And if he come to see me, he speaketh vanity: his heart gathereth iniquity to itself; when he goeth abroad, he telleth it. **7** All that hate me whisper together against me: against me do they devise my hurt. **8** An evil disease, say they, cleaveth fast unto him: and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more. **9** Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me. **10** But thou, O LORD, be merciful unto me, and raise me up, that I may requite them. **11** By this I know that thou favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me. **12** And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever. **13** Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.

I'm sure you see how this psalm presents the betrayal of the Lord Jesus. The background though, relates to the heart-breaking rebellion of King David's son, Absalom, - that is the psalm's original context. ... It is the fugitive David fleeing the threat from his son and his enemies who speak evil of him, who seek his demise (v.5), who whispered their 'behind-the-back' plans to bring about his downfall (v.7). However, there is one particular individual at the fore of betraying him, **8** and now that he lieth he shall rise up no more. **9** Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

In fact, Psalms 38-41 belong to this period in David's life, for example, **Ps. 38:6** I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long ... **12** They also that seek after my life lay snares for me: and they that seek my hurt speak mischievous things, and imagine deceits all the day long. ... It began after David committed adultery with Bathsheba. Nathan the prophet came to him and prophesied concerning how the King had set up Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, to be killed in battle (II Sam. 11), **II Sam. 12:1** And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. **2** The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: **3** But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. **4** And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. **5** And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: **6** And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. **7** And Nathan said to David, *Thou art the man*. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; **8** And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. **9** *Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.* **10** Now therefore the

sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. **11** *Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house*, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. **12** For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun. **13** And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. ... David had cruelly desecrated another man's marriage, and God, - being no respecter of persons, - dealt with him by using someone from inside his own family, his son Absalom. ... David had wrecked a family, and what he sowed in the wrecking of that family, he reaped in the wrecking of his own family.

... And he knew he had sinned. He knew he deserved whatever the Lord brought to punish him, **Ps. 39:8** *Deliver me from all my transgressions: make me not the reproach of the foolish. 9 I was dumb, I opened not my mouth [... David, the psalmist]; because thou didst it. 10 Remove thy stroke away from me: I am consumed by the blow of thine hand.*

Indeed, these were horrible times for King David (II Sam. 15) when his beloved son turned against him ... listen to how David loved him and wept for him when he heard of his death, **II Sam. 18:33** *And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son! ... Absalom means 'my father is peace', but he was a young man who was allowed by his father to get away with just about anything. He conspired with one of his father's best friends, Ahithophel. Ahithophel had been King David's most trusted advisor but he turned traitor and sided with Absalom. ... Ahithophel was the grandfather of Bathsheba, and he had come into David's court and made such an impression ... but that is often how the enemy works ... You can read all about what happened with King David, his son Absalom, and Ahithophel in II Samuel 11-18 ... and how, in its original setting, Ps. 41:9, - Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted [*confided, relied upon*], which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me, - referred to Ahithophel's treachery against David.*

And it is this Old Testament psalm Jesus quoted from as He arose from the table at the last supper to wash His disciples' feet. He came to Peter, and Peter said, "No, Lord, You're not washing my feet", but Jesus answered him, **Jn. 13:7** *What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. 9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. 10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. 11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean ... 18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me. ... He is referring to Judas. Notice Jesus omitted to say, in whom I trusted in Jn. 13:18. He never trusted Judas Jn.*

13:11 For he knew who should betray him. (*Ps. 41:9* *Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.*) ... Incidentally, do you know how Ahithophel died? He hung himself, **II Sam. 17:23** And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his household in order, and hanged himself, and died ... And how did Judas Iscariot die? He hung himself too (Mt. 27:5).

In Psalm 41 King David was referring to Ahithophel, a trusted and faithful companion, but who had committed treason against his king. Similarly, Jesus quoted from Ps. 41 to refer to the treachery of Judas Iscariot. Jesus was not taken unawares, as David was, for Jesus knew Scripture would be fulfilled by the traitor's betrayal ... God's Word was coming to pass, as it had been prophesied one thousand years earlier.

When it comes to prophecy, the simplest means to understand is by accepting what God's Word simply says, unless we are expressly told otherwise. In these words of King David, the Lord Jesus simply anticipated how Judas Iscariot would betray Him, as Ahithophel had betrayed King David.

We could look in more detail into the life of Judas Iscariot [*see <http://www.kirkcaldy-pathheadbaptist.co.uk/page67.html>*], but what one of the most important lessons we are being taught again is to take God at His Word. Believe it and receive it! ... Judas was the very man to whom the Saviour was referring when He introduced His conversation with the words, **Mt. 26:21** *Verily I say unto you [i.e. all the disciples], that one of you shall betray me* ... And one after another they all **22** were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? **23** And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. **24** The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! it had been good for that man if he had not been born. **25** Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, *Master, is it I?* He said unto him, *Thou hast said.* ...

Jesus knew all His Father had planned would take place ... and He also knew sin cannot avoid or escape God's judgment. And so, just before the Lord Jesus broke bread and offered the cup in the upper room, Matthew and Mark tell us Judas was up and out and *away* to meet and plot with the Jewish leaders. Jesus later, - speaking to His Father about His disciples, - said, **Jn. 17:12** *While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.* ... Judas was replaced, as another psalm also prophesied, **Ps. 109:8** *Let his days be few; and let another take his office.*

The spirit of Judas Iscariot continues, and it will come to its conclusion, as described in II Thess. 2, where Paul refers his readers to another 'son of perdition', **3** ... *that man of sin [who will] be revealed, the son of perdition [cf. Jn. 17:12];* **4** *Who opposeth [... that is*

what Judas Iscariot did ... but the future son of perdition will go further ...] and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. ... Cast your mind back to how Judas was portrayed, **Ps. 41:9** mine own familiar friend ... the word 'familiar' is the translation of the word 'shalom', peace ... The treachery of Judas was made all the worse because he pretended to be 'at peace' ('shalom') with the Lord ... and that is how the future 'son of perdition' will portray himself ... as a man of peace, and that is how he will deceive the people of Israel. He will impress them so much he will establish his place where they can worship him, even as their 'God', i.e. their 'Messiah', their 'Saviour'. He will deceive them with many great works and great proclamations [*also see Rev. 13*] ... and he will do more than Judas ever did ... but just as Judas failed, ultimately, he, - the 'man of sin', the 'son of perdition' - will also fail.

The victory is the Lord's and even though David was hounded by his own son and his son's conspirators, his trust in the Lord did not waver, **Ps. 41:11** *By this I know that thou [O God] favourest me, because mine enemy doth not triumph over me. ¹² And as for me, thou upholdest me in mine integrity, and settest me before thy face for ever. ...* The enemy was *never* going to triumph. From start to finish the battle is the Lord's, we are more than conquerors through Him, we are His children, and with confidence David concludes his psalm with a beautiful preview, - a foretaste, - of the Saviour's glory, **¹³ Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.**