



Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – January 26, 2023

The Lord be with you.

Have you noticed that God's timing often does not coincide with our timing, so that we often find ourselves waiting? Waiting for God, but you know what God does in you and me as we wait is as important as what we're waiting for. We see that today in the life of David, as David is yet again, waiting for God.

I am looking at Psalm 40 or Psalm of the David... Well, let's take just the first few verses... A line at a time. Psalm 40, Verse 1, David says, "I waited patiently for the Lord." Now, there are several different Hebrew words translated by our one word wait., That shows you that waiting for God is big in the life of faith. The Hebrew word here translated wait is the word quavah, and this quavah waiting, it's not a passive waiting, we're not passively biding our time whether quavah is active, it is crying out, it is hopefully looking to God to act in love and faithfulness. So quavah waiting is anticipation, it is expectation that God is going to answer, and so it is waiting on tip toes to see like God is going to do... Well, I think of baby birds in the nest, they're crying out early, waiting, looking for Mama Bird on, come back with the goodies. That's quavah. David says, I waited patiently for the Lord. So this is not a single momentary act of waiting for God, but David continues earnestly crying out, praying, believing.

David knows that God's timing does not always coincide with His timing, so he waits patiently for the Lord. I waited patiently for the Lord, He inclined to me. And heard my cry. He inclined to me. Picture this, the idea is God bowing down his ear. Bowing down his ear, close to David's mouth to listen. So from David's mouth to God's ear. He inclined to me and heard my cry, he drew me up from the... Despite the Hebrew word translated pit is sometimes in Scripture translated grave. It gives an idea of the mess that David was in, He drew me up from the desolate pit out of the miry bog. You see, David felt like he was sinking in quick sand, he couldn't get out, he was stuck. I waited patiently for the Lord. He onclined to me, he heard my cry. He drew me up, and David says, he says, He set my feet upon a rock. This is a very visual picture, the Lord drew me up from the miry bog was sinking in no sure footing, no place to stand, and God set my feet upon a rock.

God gave me a place of security, of sure footing in life. A rock under my feet. He set my feet upon a rock. David says, making my steps secure. God delivered me, enabling me to walk on



water from rock

solid ground, he gave me sure footing in life. Listen to what David says next, he says, the Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Now, when David talks about God putting a new song in his mouth, David, David is not talking about a song that he's never sung before. A new song is David talking about expressing his new experience of God's love and power in his life. A new song, it calls for a new telling, a new declaration of how wonderful God is for David, that what David has experienced is so wonderful that he has to tell others in new ways, that that's why in a superscript on of the Psalm that introduces a psalm David addresses this psalm to the choir director, David wants others to know and to join in his new song of God's grace and compassion. The Lord has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

And really, that's why record these Selah podcasts three times a week, because of what God has done for me. He's put a new song in my mouth, and I would tell others... And if it were not for the pits we've been in, we wouldn't have the new song. God has put a new song in David's mouth, and David says, he says, many will see and stand in awe and put their trust in the Lord. You see, people will see how God reached down in love, how he drew David out of the pit and delivered him, and when people see what God did for David, they will worship, they will be moved to also put their trust in God and to wait patiently for Him.

The great Christian writer, the late Henry Nouwen said that our best gift to the world is our story, it's our story of what God has done for us, it's our new song that we tell others what God has done in our lives, how God has blessed us, how God has delivered us. The times we were sinking and God reached down and He saved us. And many will see and hear and stand in awe and put their trust in God. I wonder... Are you waiting today? Waiting for God. Waiting for him to act. God will act at the perfect time. The Hebrew word *quavah*, translated as wait here in David's words. You know, it's the same Hebrew word that Isaiah uses in Isaiah 40:31. Those who wait, *quavah*. "Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." So say it is true, that what God is doing in you as you wait, it is as wonderful as what you're waiting for?

I am Tim Smith a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening, until next time.