

PSALM 71

The author of this psalm is not known, but he appears to be a man of old age. Throughout his life he has trusted in the God of Israel, and he does so again in this time of distress.

- 1 In You, O YAHWEH, I have taken refuge; let me never be ashamed.
- 2 In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline Your ear to me and save me.
- 3 Be to me a rock of habitation to which I may continually come;
You have given commandment to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress.
- 4 Rescue me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked,
out of the grasp of the wrongdoer and ruthless man,
- 5 for You are my hope; O Lord GOD, You *are* my confidence from my youth.
- 6 By You I have been sustained from my birth;
You are He who took me from my mother's womb; my praise is continually of You.

- 7 I have become a marvel to many, for You are my strong refuge.
- 8 My mouth is filled with Your praise and with Your glory all day long.
- 9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength fails.
- 10 For my enemies have spoken against me;
and those who watch for my life have consulted together,
- 11 Saying, "God has forsaken him;
pursue and seize him, for there is no one to deliver."

- 12 O God, do not be far from me; O my God, hasten to my help!
- 13 Let those who are adversaries of my soul be ashamed *and* consumed;
let them be covered with reproach and dishonor, who seek to injure me.
- 14 But as for me, I will hope continually, and will praise You yet more and more.
- 15 My mouth shall tell of Your righteousness *and* of Your salvation all day long;
for I do not know the sum of *them*.
- 16 I will come with the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD;
I will make mention of Your righteousness, Yours alone.

- 17 O God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still declare Your wondrous deeds.
- 18 And even when *I am* old and gray, O God, do not forsake me,
until I declare Your strength to *this* generation, Your power to all who are to come.
- 19 For Your righteousness, O God, *reaches* to the heavens,
You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?
- 20 You who have shown me many troubles and distresses will revive me again,
and will bring me up again from the depths of the earth.
- 21 May You increase my greatness and turn to comfort me.

- 22 I will also praise You with a harp, *even* Your truth, O my God;

To You I will sing praises with the lyre, O Holy One of Israel.
23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You;
and my soul, which You have redeemed.
24 My tongue also will utter Your righteousness all day long;
for they are ashamed, for they are humiliated who seek my hurt.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, with mercy look upon our infirmities, especially now that we are old. You have been our strength and refuge when health has prospered, and we trust in your might and mercy as health declines. May we serve you in holiness and purity of living to the honor and glory of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.