

"A NEW SONG"  
Psalm 40

Intro: Many of us are going to spend New Year's Eve together at the Wierson home, but I feel that it would be a mistake for us to spend this last Sunday night of 1985 together and not think especially about praising the Lord. The Lord has been far better to us than any of us deserve. He daily pours out His blessings upon us. And it is obvious that we do not praise Him as much as we should.

In thinking about this, I believe the Lord led me to Psalm 40 where we find that interesting title, "a new song." See v. 3.

I was interested to discover that that expression is found several other times, both in the OT and the NT. See the following:

- 1) Psa. 33:3.
- 2) Psa. 96:1.
- 3) Psa. 98:1.
- 4) Psa. 144:9.
- 5) Psa. 149:1.
- 6) Isa. 42:10.

In the NT:

- 1) Rev. 5:9.
- 2) Rev. 14:3.

We would find it very profitable, I am sure, just to take these verses to examine them and compare them to find out more about this "new song." But tonight I want to confine myself to Psa. 40, with a brief look at the last verse where this expression is found: Rev. 14:3.

But, before we do that, let us make sure that we understand . .

I. THE MEANING OF, "A NEW SONG."

A song is music to be sung. It is not just a melody, but it has words. It is meant to convey a message.

It is "new" because it is distinctly different. It is not like the world's music either in its melody or in its message. Both the Hebrew word for "new" and the Greek word indicate something that is fresh, sometimes, something that has never been heard before. And certainly for the singer it is a song that has never been sung before.

The Bible has a lot to say about music, about songs. Singing really belongs to the people of God, not to the world. The world has taken an instrument that was ordained for the glory of God, and it has been prostituted to express the depraved feelings of man, and is usually produced for

the glory of man. Men love to be praised for the music they have written, and men love to be praised for the way they sing. What a tragedy it is that the Church has turned to the world for her music instead of letting the world learn from the Church what music is actually for.

## II. THE SOURCE OF THIS NEW SONG.

Note what David said: "And HE (the Lord, Jehovah) hath put a new song in my mouth."

The song came from the Lord, and it was put into the mouth of David. It was divinely inspired. The Lord is the great of all song writers.

## III. THE DEPOSITORY OF THIS NEW SONG.

It was not put in stores to be sold. It was not just put in the hearts of men to be enjoyed only by one person. But it was put "in my mouth," David said. It was put there to be sung by David, and to be heard by others.

But . . .

## IV. THE WAY GOD DID IT.

That is, How did God get it from Himself into the mouth of David? How can such a song get into our mouths?

This is where we need to look at Rev. 14:1-3, and then back to look at Psa. 40:1, 2.

Now let me give you my personal opinion about Psa. 40.

- 1) In the first place, we know that this is a Messianic psalm, and some are inclined to forget that David wrote this under the guidance of God, and that it gave expression to his own thoughts, his own experiences.
- 2) I do not think that David, in the first two verses, was speaking of his salvation. I believe rather that he was talking about some overwhelming experience which almost cost him his life, from which God delivered him.

So, both Rev. 14 and Psa. 40 indicate that God teaches us to sing certain songs as a result of the trials through which we pass. We can all join in singing the hymns that we sing, but there comes a time in our lives when we can sing certain songs like we have never sung them before! That is what David had in mind when he said, "And HE hath put a new song in my mouth."

Now we come to the best part:

## V. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW SONG.

Now, mind you, this was a new song to David. It does not mean that the truths it expressed were totally new to him, that he had never sung them before, but parts were undoubtedly new, while he was singing others with a depth of meaning that he had not known before.

Psalm 40 gives us the characteristics.

A. It was a new song of praise to God.

Many songs are sung for people. Sometimes we do not sing because we are afraid of what people might say or think about our singing. David undoubtedly had a beautiful singing voice, but he was not singing to or for people primarily; he was singing praises to God.

That ought to be the dominant characteristic of every song that we sing. Cf. vv. 4, 5.

B. It was a new song because it was useful.

The people of the world write music that is useful, too. Sometimes it enables the musician to display his talents. Music is often used to seduce into sin.

But notice what David said about this new song: "Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

Now you hear a song. What did David mean that many would "see it"? He meant that they would understand it, they would get the message. The truth that he was expressing in song would get through to their hearts. As a result they would be overcome with the majesty and glory of God (the fear of the Lord), and they would put their trust in Him and be saved.

You see, the singing of the people of God is not only for the building up of the saints, but it is for the salvation of sinners.

C. It was a song of submission to the Lord.

Vv. 6-8 are verses which belong to the Lord Jesus. But they were first in the mouth of David. David learned through his trial, whatever it was, that the Lord did not primarily want his service; the Lord wanted him!

David had made some real advances as far as doing the will of God was concerned.

D. The new song was a bold song. See vv. 9, 10.

When we have seen the Lord do something in our lives,

no one needs to tell us to sing. No one needs to tell us to tell what the Lord has done for us. Just the opposite is true: NO ONE CAN KEEP US QUIET! God's work in us and for us gives a boldness which comes in no other way.

Let me mention two other things about this new song.

- E. This new song was a song with a low self-image. It was a song which expressed humility and humiliation. You see, you cannot exalt God and exalt man at the same time. In fact, when you exalt God you can only humble man. There is no other course to follow.

Look at vv. 11, 12, 17.

Finally,

- F. This new song is a song of faith. See vv. 13-16, 17b.

David had experienced a great deliverance, but more troubles were upon him. Our troubles will not be over until we get home in heaven. Where will we turn for help? To David there was only one answer: He would turn only to the Lord Who had so marvelously delivered him before.

And he wanted to the Lord to work for his own glory. See v. 16.

Concl: As you look back over 1985 has the Lord given you some singing lessons? Are you singing, and are you singing like you have never sung before? I do not mean has the quality of your singing improved, except that it comes from deeper down in your soul. You are noticing words that you never noticed before. The song service is not a preliminary to the ministry of the Word, but it is a part of that ministry. You may sing old songs (which to my mind are the best songs), but the way you are singing them they are NEW!

David's cry turned to a song, but in between the two, the Lord took him out of the miry clay and put his feet on the rock, to establish his goings.

1986 will have its testings too--for all of us! But remember Psalm 40: The purpose of all testings is to lift us up higher, and to make us sing as we have never sung before.