

This Psalm ends the first book of the Psalms. See the Doxology in v. 13.

Psalm 41

7/28/64

Divisions: 1-3
4-9
10-13, or 10-12
13

This Psalm and Psa 45 "have this feature in common, viz. that the complaint concerning the Psalmist's foes dwells with special sadness upon some faithless bosom-friend" (Delitzsch II, 44)

v. 1, 2
7-11 -
to pronounce happy, to be made happy

v. 13
7-11 -
to praise, to adore
Lit., to bow as in Psa. 95:6

Opens with men; closes for God.

Our Lord's use of v. 9 in John 13:18 establishes this as a Messianic Psalm. Cf. also Jn 17:12; Acts 1:16. Background of the Psalm is David's persecution by Absalom. Ahithophel was an ally with Ab. in this - the faithless friend. 41:1 This principle is confirmed by the Lord in Mt. 5:7. Cf. Prov. 11:17; Psa 18:25. See also Psa. 35: 10-17 for an explanation of how David had treated them.

"Considereth" - to show sympathizing attention so that life is preserved and prolonged. Cf. Psa. 22:29; 30:3

"Poor" - weak and sickly in body or mind.

41:2

4φ:3 Delitgah says here that the Lord "gives a complete turn to the 'sick-bed' towards recovery, so that not a vestige of the sickness remains behind" (II, 46).

4φ:4 Instead of being treated according to vv. 1-3, he receives just the opposite treatment. The Psalmist does not deny that he deserves what he gets. However, he pleads for God to be merciful. "I" - emphatic in Heb.

4φ:5 Men wish that he would die.

4φ:6 - "He speaketh vanity" - hypocritically expresses love. At the same time he is gathering information to use against the Psalmist.

4φ:7 Conspiracy. whispering is a precautionary measure because the plot is not out as yet.

41:8 An evil disease - an incurable evil.
~~Condemned.~~

41:9 "mine own familiar friend" - the man of my peace, suggesting harmonious relationship. Cf. Obadiah 7; Jer. 20:10; 38:22. (All of these references suggest treachery: that ^{is} a friend who pretends, but in reality is an enemy.

2 Sam.
 15:10-
 18:19

"which did eat of my bread" - cf. 2 Sam 9:11; 19:33, "the practice of kings admitting honoured subjects to eat at their table" (Fausset, III, 191).

"he hath lifted up his heel" - to kick.

David here speaks of Ahithophel who typified ~~the~~ Judas (2 Sam. 15: ¹²~~11~~; 17:23; cf. on Judas, Mt. 27:5).

What Judas was to Christ,
Ahithophel was to David.

41:10 This resumes the petition from v. 4.

"Requite" - different from revenge which is personal. This is official, as having received the office from God, to maintain the honor of God. David refuses to use this privilege in 2 Sam. 19:21-23. ~~1~~ K. 2:46, the kingdom is established under Solomon.

41:11 Practical evidence of the blessing of God.
 "Triumph" - lit., shout in triumph. David was "cast down, but not destroyed".

41:12 David's integrity was established in vv. 1-3 as well as by the whole character of his life.

"and possess me before thy face forever." Cf. 2 Sam. 7:16. This guarantees the throne to David and to his family forever.

41:13 Doxology. David is established forever in v. 12; the Lord is praised as being eternal in this verse.

See the doxologies ending the other books: 72:18, 19; 89:52; 106:48; 150:6. There are 13 ~~doxologies~~ in Ps. 150.