

Life Is Short. What Is My Hope?

Psalm 39 (Page 408 in the BPB)

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Introduction:

For the choir director, for Jeduthun. A Psalm of David.

Jeduthun – 1 Chron. 16:37-42; 25:1, 3; See also Psalms 62 & 77.

Context:

We are not told all the details as to the events that are going on in David's life but it is clear that he is suffering under the chastening hand of the Lord.

1. The Resolve to Keep Silent before the Wicked (1-3)

¹I said,

“I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue;

I will guard my mouth as with a muzzle

While the wicked are in my presence.”

James 1:19; 3:1-12

²I was mute and silent,

I refrained *even* from good,

And my sorrow grew worse.

³My heart was hot within me,

While I was musing the fire burned;

Jeremiah 20:9

Then I spoke with my tongue:

Verses 4-13 record what he said.

2. A Prayer to Live in Light of the Brevity of Life (4-6)

⁴“LORD, make me to know my end

And what is the extent of my days;

Let me know how transient I am.

Psalm 90:3-12

James 4;13-17

⁵“Behold, You have made my days as handbreadths,

And my lifetime as nothing in Your sight;

Surely every man at his best is a mere breath.

Selah.

⁶“Surely every man walks about as a phantom;

Surely they make an uproar for nothing;

He amasses *riches* and does not know who will gather them.

Luke 12:13-21

3. A Prayer for Deliverance (7-8)

⁷“And now, Lord, for what do I wait?

My hope is in You.

⁸“Deliver me from all my transgressions;

Make me not the reproach of the foolish.

Psalm 14:1

1Samuel 25:2-3, 14-17, 25

4. The Resolve to Keep Silent before the Lord (9)

⁹"I have become mute, I do not open my mouth,

Because it is You who have done *it*.

5. A Prayer for Relief from God's Chastening (10-13)

¹⁰"Remove Your plague from me;

Because of the opposition of Your hand I am perishing.

¹¹"With reproofs You chasten a man for iniquity;

Hebrews 12:5-11

You consume as a moth what is precious to him;

Surely every man is a mere breath.

Selah.

¹²“Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry;

Do not be silent at my tears;

For I am a stranger with You,

A sojourner like all my fathers.

1 Peter 2:11

¹³“Turn Your gaze away from me, that I may smile *again*

Job 7:17-21

Before I depart and am no more.”

Application: How Should Believers Handle Suffering?

Believers should:

1. Watch what they say in the presence of unbelievers.
2. Talk to the Lord.
3. Remember how brief life short.
4. Hope in and wait for the Lord.
5. Seek to understand suffering in light of the sovereignty of God.
6. Turn to the Lord and seek Him for mercy.