

Psalms 70

This evening - we're continuing our overview of the Old Testament book titled Psalms.

With this as our focus - let's open our Bibles to Psalms chapter 70 - and as we make our way to the 70th Psalm...

...I wanna begin by first pointing out that this Psalm - which was written by King David....

...was given to the Chief Musician of Israel - and therefore - created for the purpose of corporate praise.

Not only that - but - it's there in the superscription section of this Psalm...

...where we find King David - describing this short song as a memorial...

...which was presented for the purpose of reminding the Lord - that he was in desperate need of deliverance.

You might also be interested to know that - the content of this Psalm is almost the same as the last five verses of the 40th Psalm.

And so - when David begins this Psalm with the statement - To bring to remembrance...

...it seems to me that he was probably saying - hey God - remember that prayer for deliverance that I presented a few years ago?

Yeah - - um - where are we at with that?

Seeing how the lyrics of this song are almost the same as the end of the 40th song...

...it's by guess that King David created this song - in order to remind the Lord...

...that they were waiting for the Lord to deliver them from their enemies.

And in light of David's example - we will all do well to pray for divine deliverance...

...as we continue to wait upon the salvation of the Lord.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention - to the lyrics that we find - here in the 70th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 1 - where King David declared...

Psa 70:1 To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David. To bring to remembrance.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me!

Make haste to help me, O LORD!

Here in the first verse of this chapter - we find King David - asking the Lord to deliver him - posthaste.

And just to be clear - that word - deliver - was translated from a Hebrew word...

...which speaks of the rescue - and the recovery of those who are in danger.

The same word was also used in reference to the way that the Lord would defend His people...

...from the attacks of the enemy.

One example of this can be found in the 59th Psalm - where David declared...

Psa 59:1 Deliver me from my enemies, O my God;
Defend me from those who rise up against me.

Psa 59:2 Deliver me from the workers of iniquity,
And save me from bloodthirsty men.

Here in these verses - we find David - asking the Lord to deliver him...

...by defending him against the bloodthirsty men who were trying to kill him.

And I have no doubt that this was the same sort of deliverance...

...that King David was praying for - here in the 70th Psalm.

We should also consider how King David clearly presented this prayer request - to the true and living Lord.

Notice with me again - there in verse 1 - where David declared...

Psa 70:1 Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
Make haste to help me, O LORD!

As we take a closer look at this verse - we must not fail to notice that King David presented this prayer request - to God - and the LORD.

Just to be clear - the title - God - was translated from the Hebrew word - Elohim.

And while there are times when this word is used of false gods - and angels - and even human judges...

...this is also the title that Moses used - in reference to our Creator - back in Genesis chapter 1.

And it's here in our text tonight - where we find David using the title - Elohim...

...in reference to the God Who was able to deliver him from his enemies.

At the same time - we should also notice that David used the proper name of God - as he declared: "Make haste to help me, O LORD!"

Notice that the title - LORD - is written in all capitals - and the reason why is because...

...this is the way that translators have decided to inform us that...

...the unspoken name of God - is actually found in the original text.

It was hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus - when the Jews became increasingly concerned about the 3rd commandment - which says...

"...You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain."

In order to avoid breaking this commandment - the Jews began to substitute the holy name of God...

...with the Hebrew word - Adonai - which means - Lord.

Most modern translators of the Bible followed suit - by continuing to substitute the name of God - with the title - LORD.

And it's for this reason that they alert us of this change - by presenting the word - LORD - in all caps.

Therefore - whenever you find the title - LORD - written in all caps...

...you know that this actually represents the holy name of God...

...which is rendered - Yahweh - or - Jehovah.

For example - the scholars who created the American Standard Version rendered verse 1 in this way...

Psa 70:1 Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

Make haste to help me, O Jehovah.

Here in this version of the Bible - we find the scholars - translating the Hebrew - Yod Hey Vav Hey - to Jehovah.

This is actually a hybrid of the Hebrew consonants YHWH and the vowels of the word "Adonai"

And it's for this reason that more recent scholarship prefers - YAHWEH.

For example - the scholars who created the Legacy Standard Bible render verse 1 in this way...

Psa 70:1 O God, hasten to deliver me;
O Yahweh, hasten to my help!

Here in this version of the Bible - we find the Hebrew - Yod Hey Vav Hey being translated YAHWEH...

...which is based on the broad scholarly consensus that has concluded that...

...this was the original pronunciation of God's name.

With all of this in mind - I wanna bring you back to my main point - which is this...

...King David wasn't praying to the false gods of the pagan nations...

...and he wasn't seeking deliverance from angels - nor human judges.

No - instead - he was presenting this prayerful praise to the Elohim Who is named YAHWEH.

We actually find these words - Elohim and YAHWEH - directly connected - 16 times in the Psalms.

For example - it's in the 41st Psalm - where David declared...

Psa 41:13 Blessed be the Yahweh Elohim of Israel
From everlasting to everlasting!
Amen and Amen.

According to King David - Yahweh Elohim is not only that
God of Israel...

...but - He is the infinite One - Who exists from
everlasting to everlasting!

And in the 59th Psalm - King David also cried out...

Psa 59:5 You, O Yahweh Elohim of hosts, the Elohim of Israel,
Awake to punish all the nations;
Do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah

From this - we can see that Yahweh Elohim is not only the
Elohim of Israel...

...but - He is also the One Who will judge - and
punish the nations who reject Him.

We can also rejoice in knowing that - Yahweh Elohim is also the God
Who has promised to deliver those who trust in Him.

And it's for this reason that God the Father sent His only begotten
Son...

...to receive the punishment that we deserve - so that we can
be delivered from the condemnation of the law.

I like the way that Paul explained this - in Colossians chapter 1 - it's verse
12 thru 14 - where he encouraged believers to...

Col 1:12 ...give thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be
partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Col 1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
Col 1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

God the Father sent His only begotten Son - to deliver us from the power of darkness...

...through the redemption that He secured - when His blood was shed for our sins.

And now - those who trust in Him - will be delivered from the wrath of Yahweh Elohim.

I like the way that Paul explained it - in 1st Thessalonians chapter 1 - it's verse 10 - where he encouraged us to...

1Th 1:10 ...wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Jesus Christ was sent from Heaven - to die for our sins - - and not only that - but He was raised from the dead...

...so that He can deliver us from the wrath to come.

And now - those who trust in Him - can rejoice in knowing that we will be delivered...

...by the power of our Redeemer - Jesus.

Not only that - but - the Lord Jesus also has a plan to deliver us from the enemy - each and everyday.

It's for this reason that he encouraged us to pray for this deliverance - in Matthew chapter 5 - it's beginning at verse 5 - where He declared...

Mat 6:5 "...when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

Mat 6:6 “But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Mat 6:7 “And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.

Mat 6:8 “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.

Mat 6:9 “In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

Mat 6:10 Your kingdom come.
Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

Mat 6:11 Give us this day our daily bread.

Mat 6:12 And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.

Mat 6:13 And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Here in this model prayer - we find the Lord Jesus - encouraging His disciples to pray for deliverance from the evil one.

And knowing that the enemy is on the prowl - looking for every opportunity to Kill and steal and destroy...

...we should pray - every day - that the Lord will deliver us from the evil one.

In order to better grasp this prayer - let's consider how King David prayed against the enemy - here in the 70th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 2 - where he declared...

Psa 70:2 Let them be ashamed and confounded
Who seek my life;
Let them be turned back and confused
Who desire my hurt.

Psa 70:3 Let them be turned back because of their shame,
Who say, “Aha, aha!”

Here in these verses - we find King David - praying for divine deliverance...

...and he asked Yahweh Elohim to protect him from those who were trying to destroy his life.

And with imprecatory precision - he prayed that those who wished evil against him...

...would be humiliated - confounded - and put to shame in their failed attempt to destroy him.

Now - as we consider this imprecatory prayer request - I encourage you to realize that...

...David was a leader who came to realize that - it's better to seek the divine deliverance of the Lord...

...than to live in fear of the enemy - with a heart that is filled with anxiety.

And it's my prayer that we will apply this principle to our own lives as well.

Now - there should be no doubt that the Devil and his demons are on the prowl - looking for those who's lives they can destroy.

And it's for this reason that we should remain sober - and vigilant - as we fight the good fight of faith.

At the same time - we must also remember what the apostle John wrote - in 1st John chapter 4 - where he declared...

1Jo 4:4 You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Christian - listen - the almighty God Who dwells in us - is greater than the enemy who wants to destroy us.

Therefore - we'll do better to spend less time
worrying about the enemy...

...and more time praying for the divine
deliverance of the Lord.

In this way - we will become those believers who are able to rejoice - in the way that
King David described - here in the 70th Psalm.

Let's consider how he put it - there in verse 4 - where David declared...

Psa 70:4 Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You;
And let those who love Your salvation say continually,
"Let God be magnified!"

Christian - listen - those who seek the divine deliverance of Yahweh
will not only rest in the freedom of redemption...

...but - we will also rejoice in the Lord - as our hearts are filled with
the gladness of God.

And while those who focus on the attacks of the enemy - will
live in constant fear...

...those who love the salvation of our Savior - will look for
every opportunity to Magnify our Messiah.

That word - magnified - found there at the end of verse 4 - was translated
from a Hebrew word...

...which speaks of the veneration that belongs to the Lord.

This word was used of those who promote the purity and
perfection of the Lord - with proclamations of praise.

And as we consider the way that David magnified the
magnificence of our Messiah...

...we must not forget that - he was surrounded by the enemy on every side.

Remember - it was in verse 2 - where David mentioned those who were seeking his life - - as well as those who desired to hurt him.

And while he could've allowed the stress of that situation to cause him to question the goodness of God - - he didn't.

No - instead - he prayed for deliverance - and then he fixed his focus on the salvation of the Lord.

In this way - he magnified the Messiah - as he rejoiced in the deliverance of God.

In light of his example - we should take a moment to examine our own lives by asking...

...am I a believer who is rejoicing in the redemption of the Lord...

...or - am I constantly complaining about the every bad thing happening in my life.

Is my heart filled with gladness - as I focus on the salvation of our Savior...

...or - am I always anxious about the attacks of the enemy...

...because - I really don't trust in the Lord.

Are we magnifying our Messiah - as we proclaim the praises of the Lord...

...or - are we allowing our fear of the future - to turn us into those who are always grumbling about what God hasn't done?

With these questions in mind - let's consider the challenge that Paul presented in Philippians 2 - where he declared...

Phl 2:14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,
Phl 2:15 that you may become blameless and harmless,
children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and
perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the
world,
Phl 2:16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in
the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

Christian - listen - we've been called to do everything
without complaining and without disputing...

...and yes - even when we find ourselves surrounded
by crooked and perverse people.

And the best way to do this - is by using our
mouths - to magnify our Messiah.

Now - this is not to suggest that we shouldn't present our concerns - -
and our complaints to the Lord.

We most certainly should - - and as we present our prayerful
supplications to the Lord...

...we will do well to leave those concerns and complaints - at
the cross...

...so that we can rest in the realization that - the Lord will
deliver us...

...according to His perfect plan.

Let's consider King David's example - found here in the 70th Psalm.

Look with me - there at verse 5 - where David declared...

Psa 70:5 But I am poor and needy;
Make haste to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay.

Here in the final verse of this Psalm - we find King David - presenting another prayer request.

And as we consider concerns that he presented there in the beginning of this verse...

...I have a hard time believing that David was poor - - and financially needy.

You might not know this - but - David was a conquering king - who amassed incredible wealth.

For example - he acquired a stockpile of gold which was worth over 89 billion dollars in today's commodity markets.

He probably had a huge room filled with gold - you know - like Scrooge McDuck.

He also had vast quantities of silver, bronze, iron, and precious stones....

...let alone livestock and land.

With all of this being the case - I can assure you that David wasn't complaining about being POOR and financially needy.

I like the way that the scholars who rendered the Legacy Standard Bible rendered verse 5 - they put it like this...

Psa 70:5 But I am afflicted and needy;
Hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my protector;
O Yahweh, do not delay.

King David wasn't poor - - no - instead - he was Afflicted and in need of deliverance.

That being the case - David reminded the Lord of this prayer that he already prayed.

And as he patiently waited on the deliverance of the Lord...

...he continued to magnify our Messiah - as He called on the name of the Lord.

In similar fashion - Paul was also a man - who magnified our Messiah - as he sought the deliverance of our Savior.

For example - it's in 2nd Corinthians 1 - verses 8 thru 10 - where Paul declared...

2Co 1:8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

2Co 1:9 Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

2Co 1:10 who delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us...

Here in these verses - we find Paul - describing the way that he - and his missions team - were constantly under attack.

But rather than complaining about his situation - Paul reminded the Christians in Corinth about the deliverance of the Lord.

And according to Paul - our deliverance has been accomplished in the past - on the cross of Christ...

...our deliverance is experienced by believers - here in the present...

...and our deliverance will be enjoyed in eternity future.

With all of this being the case - we will do well to pray for the deliverance of the Lord - each and everyday.

And much like David - who was reminding the Lord about this prayer - - we too should continue asking the Lord to deliver us.

Let's consider how the Lord Jesus put it - in Matthew chapter 7 - it's beginning at verse 7 - where He declared...

Mat 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

Mat 7:8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

Mat 7:9 "Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone?

Mat 7:10 "Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent?

Mat 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - encouraging His disciples - to ask for the good things that God has promised.

And listen - we should continue asking - until our Heavenly Father provides us with the good things that He has for us.

In other words - don't just ask once - but keep asking - keep seeking - and keep knocking.

Let's consider how the Lord Jesus explained this - in the parable He presented in Luke chapter 18 - beginning at verse 1 - we read...

Luk 18:1 He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

Luk 18:2 saying: "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

Luk 18:3 "Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'

Luk 18:4 "And he would not for a while; but afterward he said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God nor regard man,

Luk 18:5 'yet because this widow troubles me I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.' "

Luk 18:6 Then the Lord said, "Hear what the unjust judge said.

Luk 18:7 "And shall God not avenge His own elect who cry out day and night to Him, though He bears long with them?

Luk 18:8 “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?”

As we consider this parable - - it's important to remember that - without faith it is impossible to please the Lord...

...and the reason why is because - those who come to God must believe that He is...

...AND that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

And it's by this faith - that we should pray like the widow...

...by continually coming before the Lord - with all of our prayer requests.

Christian - listen - if you've given up - praying for the deliverance from the enemies that continue to surround you on every side...

...then - the chances are - you've lost the joy of Jesus - as you sink into the pit of despair.

And if this sounds like your situation - then - I encourage you to remember king David's example.

And in light of his example - I encourage you to remember the command that Christ Jesus presented in Luke chapter 11.

It's verse 9 where he declared...

Luk 11:9 I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

Luk 11:10 For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

If you're waiting on the divine deliverance of the Lord...

...ask and keep on asking - and it will be given to you...

...seek and keep on seeking, and you will find...

...knock and keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

And as we continue to fix our focus on this promise...

...let's continue to magnify the name of our Messiah...

...as we rejoice in the redemption of the Lord our God - Yahweh Elohim.