

Psalms 69

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 69 - and as we make our way to the 69th Psalm...

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

...is the second song that he set to the shôwshannim - which is best rendered - "The Lilies."

And while some believe that - this was the title of a specific melody - or an instrumental tune....

...Others think that this may've been a lily-shaped straight trumpet or possibly a six-stringed instrument.

Well - regardless of what David meant - when he set this song to the Lilies...

...what we can say for sure is that - this song is a Messianic Psalm - which provides us with a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ.

And while I believe that we find Jesus - in every chapter of the Bible...

...the Messianic psalms include information about our Messiah...

...which is applied to the Lord Jesus - in the books of the New Testament.

As we make our way through the lyrics of this Messianic Psalm - we'll soon see that...

...there are several passages that are applied to the Lord Jesus - in the New Testament.

And while it's true that King David was writing about his own trials and troubles...

...it's also true that the Holy Spirit was leading him to reveal important information...

...about the promised Messiah of Israel.

With this as our focus - let's turn our attention to the lyrics found here in the 69th Psalm.

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

Psa 69:1 To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Lilies." A Psalm of David.
Save me, O God!

For the waters have come up to my neck.

Psa 69:2 I sink in deep mire,

Where there is no standing;

I have come into deep waters,

Where the floods overflow me.

Psa 69:3 I am weary with my crying;

My throat is dry;

My eyes fail while I wait for my God.

Here in the beginning of this Psalm - we find King David - crying out to God...

...as he prayerfully sought the salvation of the Lord.

And as he described the way that he was drowning in a deep mire of despair...

...I can't help but to remember the way that the apostle Peter cried out for salvation...

...after he stepped out of the boat - and started to sink.

It's in Matthew chapter 14 - where Matthew tells us that as Peter began to sink...

Mat 14:30b ...he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"

Mat 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

Much like King David's prayer - Peter's cry for help was short - and serious.

And while there's nothing wrong with lengthy prayers - during which we commune with the Lord...

...there are also times when we simply need to cry out for heavenly help.

And so - if you feel like you're drowning in your own tears...

...don't hesitate to cry out - Save me, O God.

And listen - if you feel like you've been targeted by haters who want to hurt you - then - you might like to know that you're in good company.

Let's consider how King David described his situation - here in the 69th Psalm look with me - there at verse 4 - where he cried out...

Psa 69:4 Those who hate me without a cause
Are more than the hairs of my head;
They are mighty who would destroy me,
Being my enemies wrongfully;
Though I have stolen nothing,
I still must restore it.

Here in this verse - we find King David - describing the way that his enemies were trying to destroy his life.

And while it's true that there was a long line of haters - who wanted to hurt him....

...it's also true that they hated him - without having a legitimate cause.

Now - this is not to suggest that David was without sin - and I have no doubt that...

...there were those who were angry about the way that the Lord was using King David...

...to establish the nation of Israel - there in the land of promise.

What this means is that those who were angry with David were really just mad at God.

That being the case - we shouldn't be surprised to learn that this verse is really about Christ Jesus.

Let's consider how the Lord explained it - in John chapter 15 - beginning at verse 20 - Jesus declared...

Jhn 15:20 "Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

Jhn 15:21 "But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.

Jhn 15:22 "If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

Jhn 15:23 "He who hates Me hates My Father also.

Jhn 15:24 "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father.

Jhn 15:25 "But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'

Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - quoting King David - as he declared: "They hated Me without a cause."

Just to be clear - Jesus was referring the religious rulers of Israel - who hated Him without cause.

And what this means is that - the sinless Son of God was free from offense.

That being the case - their hatred of our Savior was entirely unjustified.

At the same time - the Lord Jesus also warned us that a servant is not greater than his master.

Therefore - those who walk by faith with the Lord Jesus - will be persecuted...

...in the same way that they persecuted our Savior.

And there will be those who hate us - without cause.

There will also be times when people hate us - with cause - and the reason why is because - those who trust in our perfect Lord - still struggle with imperfection.

Let's consider how King David explained it - here in the 69th Psalm - look with me beginning there at verse 5 - where he declared...

Psa 69:5 O God, You know my foolishness;
And my sins are not hidden from You.

Psa 69:6 Let not those who wait for You, O Lord GOD of hosts, be
ashamed because of me;
Let not those who seek You be confounded because of me, O God of Israel.

Psa 69:7 Because for Your sake I have borne reproach;
Shame has covered my face.

Here in these verses - we find King David - humbly confessing his foolishness - as he considered how his sins were seen by the Lord.

And knowing how his sins could bring reproach upon the people of God...

...King David prayed for those who wait on the Lord - so that they might not be ashamed - by the sins of their king.

We too should consider the way that our sinful decisions - could bring reproach upon the Christian church.

And it's sad to say that there are many in the world today who insist that...

...they don't go to church - because - the church is full of hypocrites.

That being the case - every Christian will do well to share the concerns that David expressed when he cried out...

...Don't let those who trust in you be ashamed because of me...

...and don't let me cause them to be humiliated,
O God of Israel.

In the midst of these concerns - we can also take comfort in knowing that the Christ was sent to atone for our reproaches.

Let's consider how King David explained it - here in the 69th Psalm - it's beginning at verse 8 - where he declared...

Psa 69:8 I have become a stranger to my brothers,
And an alien to my mother's children;

Psa 69:9 Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up,
And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

Psa 69:10 When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting,
That became my reproach.

Psa 69:11 I also made sackcloth my garment;
I became a byword to them.

Psa 69:12 Those who sit in the gate speak against me,
And I am the song of the drunkards.

Here in these verses - we find King David - being led by the Holy Spirit...

...to prophetically point to the day - when the promised Messiah would cleanse the temple - with zealous anger.

And that's exactly what the Lord Jesus did - at the beginning of His earthly ministry.

Let's consider how the apostle John put it - in the second chapter of his gospel - it's beginning at verse 13 - where John tells us that...

Jhn 2:13 ...the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Jhn 2:14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business.

Jhn 2:15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables.

Jhn 2:16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"

Jhn 2:17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

Here in these verses - we find John - describing the day when Jesus drove the merchants out of the temple.

And as the disciples considered the way that Christ Jesus was filled with zeal for the temple...

...they realized that this was a fulfillment of Psalm 69 - verse 9.

Paul also appealed to this same passage - as he considered the crucifixion of Christ Jesus.

It's in Romans chapter 15 - verses 3 and 4 - where Paul declared...

Rom 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me."

Rom 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

According to Paul - Christ Jesus fulfilled this Messianic prophecy...

...on the day when the reproaches of those who reproached our God - fell on Him.

This of course refers to the day when Jesus was crucified for our sins.

And according to Paul - the prophecy that we find here in the 69th Psalm was written...

...to give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled.

With this as our focus - let's continue to consider how king David prayerfully look forward to that day.

Let's pick up our study of the 69th Psalm - beginning there at verse 13 - where David declared...

Psa 69:13 But as for me, my prayer is to You,
O LORD, in the acceptable time;
O God, in the multitude of Your mercy,
Hear me in the truth of Your salvation.

Psa 69:14 Deliver me out of the mire,
And let me not sink;
Let me be delivered from those who hate me,
And out of the deep waters.

Psa 69:15 Let not the floodwater overflow me,
Nor let the deep swallow me up;
And let not the pit shut its mouth on me.

Psa 69:16 Hear me, O LORD, for Your lovingkindness is good;
Turn to me according to the multitude of Your tender mercies.

Psa 69:17 And do not hide Your face from Your servant,
For I am in trouble;
Hear me speedily.

Psa 69:18 Draw near to my soul, and redeem it;
Deliver me because of my enemies.

Here in these verses - we find King David - prayerfully setting his sights - on the salvation of the Lord.

And as we consider how he asked the Lord to save him in the acceptable time...

...it's important for us to remember that - God's timing - is rarely the same as our timing.

And it's so important for us to remember this - when we pray.

It's possible that you feel like David - who was drowning in despair.

And you might feel like you're surrounded by enemies on every side.

If so - the chances are you've been asking the Lord to save you according to the multitude of His tender mercies.

And as you wait for the lovingkindness of the Lord - don't forget that...

...our Savior will respond - in the acceptable time.

In order to explain my point - let's consider the way that Christ Jesus was crucified at the acceptable time.

Look with me again - there at the 69th Psalm - let's begin reading there at verse 19 - where King David declared...

Psa 69:19 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor;
My adversaries are all before You.

Psa 69:20 Reproach has broken my heart,
And I am full of heaviness;
I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none;
And for comforters, but I found none.

Psa 69:21 They also gave me gall for my food,
And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Here in these verses - we find King David - describing the reproaches - that brought shame and dishonor upon him.

And while I have no doubt that this was true of King David...

...we can also be certain that this paragraph was also a Messianic prophecy...

...which was fulfilled by the Lord Jesus Christ.

As a matter of fact - it's in John chapter 19 - verses 28 and 29 - where we learn that...

Jhn 19:28 Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "I thirst!"

Jhn 19:29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

Here in these verses - we learn about the way that the Lord Jesus fulfilled the prophecy that David presented...

...when he described the way that his thirst was quenched with vinegar

Now - as we consider the way that this prophecy was fulfilled by the Lord Jesus...

...we must not fail to realize that - this plan was put in motion - before the foundations of the world.

But then - this plan was fulfilled at the acceptable time.

That's right - the first advent of the Lord Jesus took place at the acceptable time.

And the same will be true of his second advent.

And it's at that point in time when the enemies of God will be punished.

Let's consider how King David explained it - here in the 69th Psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 22 - where he declared...

Psa 69:22 Let their table become a snare before them,
And their well-being a trap.
Psa 69:23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see;
And make their loins shake continually.
Psa 69:24 Pour out Your indignation upon them,
And let Your wrathful anger take hold of them.

Here in these verses - we find King David - looking forward to the day - when his enemies would receive the just judgment of God.

And while it's true that there's coming a day - when the Lord will answer this prayer - at the great white throne of Jesus...

...it's also true that this prayer was partially fulfilled - shortly after the first advent of Jesus.

Proof of my point can be found in Romans chapter 11 - where Paul used the 69th Psalm - to describe the blindness of Israel.

Beginning at verse 7 - Paul asked...

Rom 11:7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

Rom 11:8 Just as it is written:

"God has given them a spirit of stupor,
Eyes that they should not see
And ears that they should not hear,
To this very day."

Rom 11:9 And David says:

"Let their table become a snare and a trap,
A stumbling block and a recompense to them.

Rom 11:10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see,
And bow down their back always."

Here in these verses - we find Paul - quoting the 69th Psalm - as he described the way in which...

...the Israelites who rejected Jesus were blinded by their unbelief.

And not only that - but - it was at that point in time - when the Roman Empire...

...dispersed the Jews into the Gentile nations.

Let's consider how King David prophetically described that Diaspora.

It's here in the 69th Psalm - beginning there at verse 25 - where he declared...

Psa 69:25 Let their dwelling place be desolate;

Let no one live in their tents.

Psa 69:26 For they persecute the ones You have struck,

And talk of the grief of those You have wounded.

Psa 69:27 Add iniquity to their iniquity,

And let them not come into Your righteousness.

Psa 69:28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living,

And not be written with the righteous.

As we consider the content of this passage - it seems to me that King David was prophetically pointing to the days...

...when the Jews who called for the crucifixion of Jesus - were dispersed into the Gentile Nations.

The reason for why I believe this - is due to the fact that - verses 22 and 23 were fulfilled...

...by the Jews who were blinded by their unbelief.

Then - in the very next paragraph - King David describes a situation...

...that sounds like the desolation that Jesus warned about.

It's in Matthew chapter 23 - beginning at verse 37 - where Christ Jesus declared...

Mat 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Mat 23:38 “See! Your house is left to you desolate;

Mat 23:39 “for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ ”

Here in these verses - we find the Lord Jesus - warning the Jews - about the days when their dwelling place would be desolate.

And it’s in the beginning of chapter 24 - where He informed His disciples that this desolation...

...would include the destruction of the temple - which took place in 70 AD.

And by 135 AD - - the majority of the Jews had been dispersed from the land of promise.

From this - we can see how the prophecy that King David presented - about the desolation of Israel was fulfilled - by 135 AD.

From that point in time - until 1948 - the children of Israel were strangers in a strange land.

And while it’s true that they stumbled over the stumbling stone of our Savior - Jesus...

...it’s also true that the Lord has a plan to use the Gentile church...

...to bring Israel back to the Lord.

Let’s consider how Paul explained it - in Romans chapter 11 - it’s beginning at verse 11 - where he declared...

Rom 11:11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

Rom 11:12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!
Rom 11:13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,
Rom 11:14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.
Rom 11:15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

Christian - listen - the Lord is not done with the children of Israel.

And while it's true that He used the Jews - to produce our Savior - so that Gentiles might be saved...

...it's also true that He has a plan to use the Gentile church...

...to bring the Jews back to the promised Messiah.

And so - we should look for every opportunity to provoke them with a godly Jealousy...

...so that they might trust in Jesus.

With this as the goal - we will do well to remind the descendants of Abraham - Isaac and Jacob - about the faith of King David.

With this as our focus - let's pick up our study of the 69th Psalm - beginning there at verse 29 - where he declared...

Psa 69:29 But I am poor and sorrowful;
Let Your salvation, O God, set me up on high.
Psa 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song,
And will magnify Him with thanksgiving.
Psa 69:31 This also shall please the LORD better than an ox or bull,
Which has horns and hooves.
Psa 69:32 The humble shall see this and be glad;
And you who seek God, your hearts shall live.
Psa 69:33 For the LORD hears the poor,
And does not despise His prisoners.

Here in these verses - we find King David - expressing the humble faith that he had placed in the LORD.

And while David was a man who happily sacrificed both Ox and Bull to the Lord...

...he also realized that the Lord is pleased with those who magnify His name with songs of praise.

And now that the Lord Jesus has fulfilled the sacrificial system...

...the Lord is looking for those who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.

I like the way that Paul put it - in Hebrews chapter 13 - it's verse 15 - where he declared...

Heb 13:15 ...let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Christian - listen - those who truly trust in the Lord - will continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God - as we give thanks to His name.

And while I realize that - we're still surrounded by the enemy...

...and we're still waiting for the day of our Redemption...

...those spend time seeking the Lord - will have a heart that is filled with hope...

...as we sing the praises of our Savior.

With this as our goal - let's consider the final stanza of this psalm.

Look with me - beginning there at verse 34 - it's there where King David declared...

Psa 69:34 Let heaven and earth praise Him,
The seas and everything that moves in them.

Psa 69:35 For God will save Zion
And build the cities of Judah,

That they may dwell there and possess it.

Psa 69:36 Also, the descendants of His servants shall inherit it,
And those who love His name shall dwell in it.

Here in the final verses of this song - - we find King David - encouraging
the universal praise of our almighty God.

He not only commanded heaven and earth to praise the name of the
Lord...

...but - he also directed the seas and everything that moves in
them - to proclaim the praises of the Lord.

I like the way that the Psalmist expanded upon this - in the 148th psalm -
where he declared...

Psa 148:1 Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;

Praise Him in the heights!

Psa 148:2 Praise Him, all His angels;

Praise Him, all His hosts!

Psa 148:3 Praise Him, sun and moon;

Praise Him, all you stars of light!

Psa 148:4 Praise Him, you heavens of heavens,

And you waters above the heavens!

Psa 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD,

For He commanded and they were created.

Psa 148:6 He also established them forever and ever;

He made a decree which shall not pass away.

Psa 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth,

You great sea creatures and all the depths;

Here in these verses - we find the Psalmist - - poetically describing
the way that all of creation declares the glory of the Creator.

And it's in the second half of the same psalm - were he encouraged every person...

...to proclaim the praises of our God.

And so we should.

At the same time - we should take a moment to consider the reason that David presented...

...for why the heaven and the Earth - the sea - and everything that moves in them - should praise the Lord.

And with this as our focus - let's take another look - beginning there at verse 35 - where David declared...

Psa 69:35 For God will save Zion
And build the cities of Judah,
That they may dwell there and possess it.

Psa 69:36 Also, the descendants of His servants shall
inherit it,
And those who love His name shall dwell in it.

Here in the final verses of this Psalm - we find King David encouraging us to praise the Lord...

...and the reason why is because - He is going to
save Zion....

...by establishing them in the land of their
inheritance.

Now - as we consider all of the anti-Zionist conservatives - who claim to be Christian - while simultaneously insisting that - God is done with Israel...

...these people are failing to realize that - the entire creation has been called to praise the Lord...

...and the reason why is because - He is going to rebuild the cities of Judah...

...so that the descendants of Abraham - Isaac - and Jacob -
can possess - and dwell in the land of their inheritance.

And according to King David - those who love the holy
name of the Lord...

...will also dwell in the new Jerusalem.

With that being the case - those who try to convince us that Israel no longer
has a special place in the Lord's heart...

...are failing to realize that - there's coming a day - when the Deliverer will
save Zion...

...as He turns away ungodliness from Jacob.

And it's for this reason that we should sing the praise - of the
One Who will save Zion - from every enemy...

...by the power of our promised Messiah - Jesus Christ.

COMMUNION