

PSALM 69

The Messianic character of this psalm cannot be overlooked. Next to Psalm 22 and Psalm 110, this psalm is the one most frequently cited in the New Testament. The implacable hatred borne to the Messiah is described by images which, however forcible, can hardly convey to our minds adequate conceptions of the persecutions he underwent for our sakes, or of the sorrow which our sins brought upon him.

The psalm may be divided into two sections of eighteen verses each. Each section may again be subdivided into three parts. David, in verses 1-4, spreads his complaints before God. In verses 5-12 he gives his zeal for God as the cause of his sufferings. In verses 13-18 he pleads for God's help and deliverance. In the second portion, verses 19-21, David details the injurious conduct of his adversaries. Calls for their punishment is recorded in verses 22-28. Then David returns to prayer and a joyful anticipation of divine interposition and its results in verses 29-36.

Footprints of the Messiah throughout this sorrowful psalm have been pointed out by the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. Yet while he gives us personal types and shows the likeness to the firstborn which exists in the heirs of salvation, he also sets forth the disparities between the best of men and the Son of God.

Let this Psalm encourage meditation on the great work of our redemption. Let it kindle in our minds the most ardent love toward our Saviour, a love exemplified by the life of David.

For the choir director; according to Shoshannim. A Psalm of David.

- 1 Save me, O God, for the waters have threatened my life.
- 2 I have sunk in deep mire, and there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters, and a flood overflows me.
- 3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God.
- 4 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head;
those who would destroy me are powerful, being wrongfully my enemies;
what I did not steal, I then have to restore.

- 5 O God, it is You who knows my folly, and my wrongs are not hidden from You.
- 6 May those who wait for You not be ashamed through me, O Lord GOD of hosts;
may those who seek You not be dishonored through me, O God of Israel,
- 7 because for Your sake I have borne reproach; dishonor has covered my face.
- 8 I have become estranged from my brothers and an alien to my mother's sons.
- 9 For zeal for Your house has consumed me,
and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.

10 When I wept in my soul with fasting, it became my reproach.
11 When I made sackcloth my clothing, I became a byword to them.
12 Those who sit in the gate talk about me, and I *am* the song of the drunkards.

13 But as for me, my prayer is to You, O YAHWEH, at an acceptable time;
O God, in the greatness of Your lovingkindness, answer me with Your saving truth.
14 Deliver me from the mire and do not let me sink;
may I be delivered from my foes and from the deep waters.
15 May the flood of water not overflow me nor the deep swallow me up,
nor the pit shut its mouth on me.
16 Answer me, O YAHWEH, for Your lovingkindness is good;
according to the greatness of Your compassion, turn to me,
17 and do not hide Your face from Your servant, for I am in distress; answer me quickly.
18 Oh draw near to my soul *and* redeem it; ransom me because of my enemies!

19 You know my reproach and my shame and my dishonor;
all my adversaries are before You.
20 Reproach has broken my heart and I am so sick.
And I looked for sympathy, but there was none, and for comforters, but I found none.
21 They also gave me gall for my food and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

22 May their table before them become a snare;
and when they are in peace, *may it become* a trap.
23 May their eyes grow dim so that they cannot see,
and make their loins shake continually.
24 Pour out Your indignation on them, and may Your burning anger overtake them.
25 May their camp be desolate; may none dwell in their tents.
26 For they have persecuted him whom You Yourself have smitten,
and they tell of the pain of those whom You have wounded.
27 Add iniquity to their iniquity, and may they not come into Your righteousness.
28 May they be blotted out of the book of life
and may they not be recorded with the righteous.

29 But I am afflicted and in pain; may Your salvation, O God, set me *securely* on high.
30 I will praise the name of God with song and magnify Him with thanksgiving.
31 And it will please YAHWEH better than an ox *or* a young bull with horns and hoofs.
32 The humble have seen *it and* are glad; You who seek God, let your heart revive.
33 For YAHWEH hears the needy and does not despise His *who are* prisoners.
34 Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.
35 For God will save Zion and build the cities of Judah,
that they may dwell there and possess it.
36 The descendants of His servants will inherit it,
and those who love His name will dwell in it.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give us grace to contemplate this great mystery of our salvation. Fill us with an awful sense of the heinousness of sin, of your unbending justice toward hardened sinners, and of your great mercy toward all who sincerely repent and turn from their sins. Let us be zealous in proclaiming Jesus as the only way to be reconciled with an offended God. Draw sinners, we plead, by your Holy Spirit that they may flee to Christ this very day, for no one can be assured that another morning sun will rise before they are summoned to give an account of their works. Hear us now, in Christ's name, who washed us from our sins in his own blood. Amen.